ANNUAL REPORT

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES

2020

REINVIGORATING MINORITY ISSUES

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**EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES**

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Prof. Dr. Jørgen Kühl

The ECMI's Executive Board knew that in 2020 the Centre was set to experience many new things. First and foremost was the arrival on 1 March of a new Director, Vello Pettai. However, by the time the Board was able to have its first official business meeting with Prof. Pettai in April, the world had profoundly changed. Our gathering was thrown into the new era of virtual communication, depriving us of the opportunities for more informal discussions and exchange. However, major decisions were taken, including the creation of a new research cluster – Equality and Inclusion – in order to rejuvenate the thematic structure of the Centre.

An important impulse for the reforms and innovations enacted in 2020 came from the recommendations given to the ECMI by an international evaluation of the Centre carried out in 2019. Among these changes was a reform of the ECMI's administrative structures in order to improve human resource management and financial oversight. During 2020, the ECMI Board decided both to formalize the statutes of the Centre's Equality Unit as well as create a Personnel Council in order to improve communication and collaboration with staff. These institutions proved to be of great value when the Centre began to revamp its system of employment contracts and salary scales – another important suggestion made by the external evaluation.

In autumn, the Executive Board re-examined the Centre's geographic foci, endorsing a continued engagement with Ukraine, but a reassessment of work in Kosovo. Regional offices will remain an important part of the Centre's external activities; however, they will be more linked to the ECMI's own direct research and outreach objectives. The Board welcomed new research being done at the Centre on the nexus between European integration and minority self-determination in places like Scotland, Catalonia and the Basque Country. By the same token, it decided to put a hold on work with the Minority Map and Timeline of Europe (MMTE) project, given the sheer scale of the endeavor amidst other, more pressing tasks.

As the COVID-19 pandemic dragged on through 2020, it began to strain many national budgets, owing to the sudden need for stimulus packages, salary support schemes and revenue compensation mechanisms. Still, the ECMI was very grateful to its three Founders – the governments of Denmark, Germany and Schleswig-Holstein – all of whom were able to increase their contributions to the ECMI's core funding as of 2021. The Board took this as a positive sign that, corona notwithstanding, the ECMI had had a successful 2020. The Centre had proven itself able not only to deal with a major external shock to its work, but also to continue unimpeded its internal process of strategic renewal.

Prof. Dr. Jørgen Kühl
Chair, ECMI Executive Board

Prof. Dr. Vello Pettai

Taking on a new executive position often comes with unexpected challenges. Usually these relate to figuring out pre-existing administrative structures or developing relations with new colleagues. Much more unusual is the need to throw your new institution into lock-down barely two weeks into your term because of an unprecedented global pandemic that we all now refer to as COVID-19. But as I arrived in Kompagnietor on 1 March 2020, this was the 'directorship' that awaited me.

The details of what the ECMI had to cope with during 2020 were in many ways no different from what other research institutions faced during this period. Prolonged periods of home-office, postponed or redesigned research events, speedy appropriation of on-line communication tools, maintaining networks and information exchange through virtual means. All of these challenges were met well, starting with a quick adaptation of our Minorities Blog to cover the effects of COVID-19 on minority groups as well as a special research project on COVID-19 among Roma communities in Eastern Europe. Additionally, the ECMI jumped early into the fray of on-line teaching with a novel Spring School in June and other hybrid learning modes later in the year.

As the first wave of the pandemic began to recede, a certain degree of normality returned with our annual Summer School being held in person, along with a special workshop on non-territorial autonomy shortly thereafter. Still, regular workshops and seminars – very much the lifeblood of the ECMI – had to be suspended. Instead, attention was focused on preparing new research applications, including for the Volkswagen Foundation and the German Research Foundation.

Likewise, the ECMI continued its commitment to action projects, applying for major calls issued by the European Commission, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the German Development Agency GIZ. Two of these applications led to grant agreements with the HCNM and the Government of Schleswig Holstein,

Among other novelties, the ECMI introduced an in-house Research Seminar aimed at both reviewing research work done within the Centre, but also getting input from interesting scholars from other institutions. Another form of communication was developed with our video-interviews "Conversations with Experts" as well as our podcasts "Because Minorities Matter". And naturally our new website continued to attract attention, along with our social media.

By year's end, the ECMI was actually in a much stronger position than before the pandemic. The Centre now had a more professional administrative system, a streamlined salary scale, and a more inclusive governance structure. The ECMI had taken a major turn forward during our big year of corona.

Prof. Dr. Vello Pettai
ECMI Director
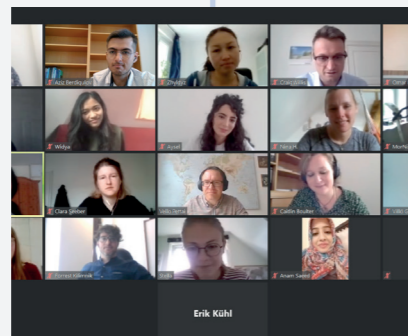
EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
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HIGHLIGHTS 2020

ECMI SPRING SCHOOL
5 – 6 June

The ECMI held a two-day interactive webinar, exploring the ethnopolitical situations of various national minorities in Europe with 18 international participants.
(see Page 17)

NEW DIRECTOR
1 March

Vello Pettai started his Directorship at the ECMI, taking over from interim directors Andreea Cârstocea and Sergiusz Bober
(see Page 5)

MONITORING THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON ROMA
15 June

With funding from the University of Leicester, the ECMI helped carry out a field-work project on *'Marginality on the Margins of Europe – The Impact of COVID-19 on Roma Communities in Non-EU Countries in Eastern Europe'*.
(see Page 18)

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN REPRESENTATIVES VISIT THE ECMI
25 August

During their summer tour of the German-Danish border region, Schleswig-Holstein Minister-President Daniel Günther and Landtag President Klaus Schlie visited the ECMI to learn about the Centre's work.
(see Page 14)

POLICY EVALUATION PROJECT EXAMINES SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN LEGISLATION
14 December

The State Chancellery of Schleswig-Holstein commissioned the ECMI to evaluate the impact of the state's legislation on empowering national minorities in regional and local public administration.
(see Page 11)

ANNUAL SUMMER SCHOOL
23 – 30 August

The tenth edition of the Annual Summer School (special theme: "Minorities and Referendums: Shaping or Being Shaped?") took place in Flensburg.
(see Page 17)

CLUSTER ACTIVITIES

The core of the ECMI's research activity is organized across distinctive analytical-conceptual clusters. This delineation is a trademark aspect of the Centre's approach to minority issues. While some ECMI projects are carried out across clusters (see next section), each cluster itself has a responsibility to craft and implement its own research agenda. Such activities may include in-house workshops, conference organizing, field research, network building or teaching.

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES

CONFLICT AND SECURITY

Dr. Marika Djolai
Head of cluster
Senior Researcher

Violent conflicts with nationalistic or ethnic dimensions have prompted considerable academic enquiry over the recent decades. A common problem in the scholarship is simplification of the concept of ethnicity and a failure to recognise its politicisation as both the main driver of conflict and an obstacle to achieving peace. With an aim to addressing this gap, the Conflict and Security cluster focused on researching pathways to peace in societies with groups that have violently faced each other. The cluster developed targeted case-studies of conflict and post-conflict situations in Europe, including Nagorno-Karabakh, Bosnia and Herzegovina and bilateral disputes in the Western Balkans. The results were presented in several media outlets and will be elaborated in forthcoming academic publications. Likewise on the cluster's agenda was a focus on the securitization of minorities as well as the challenges of human security. In November 2019 the cluster organized an expert workshop, which was followed up in 2020 with work on a special issue of the Journal of Ethnic and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE) devoted to "Minorities, European Security and Securitisation of Group Relations: Approaching Security from a Minor Perspective".

CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

Dr. habil. Kyriaki Topidi
Head of cluster
Senior Researcher

Pluralism has become a beacon of our time: it represents a positive response to diversity that benefits societies collectively, including vulnerable minority groups. It is part of almost every society, and it is increasingly taking shape as an analytical phenomenon. In 2020, the ECMI was invited through its Culture and Diversity cluster to participate in the Global Pluralism Monitor that is being developed by the Centre for Global Pluralism in Ottawa, Canada. The Monitor is an action-oriented tool that aims to examine the treatment of diversity holistically. It focuses on the interplay between institutional and cultural responses to evaluate inclusionary and exclusionary practices across society. The Culture and Diversity cluster contributed to a GPM pilot study on Germany, testing the Monitor's analytical framework with data collection and empirical adaptation. It has provided expertise on the state of national minority protection in the German context, emphasizing a multi-actor approach to the study of ethno-religious diversity. Results from the project, which will continue into 2021, will be shared with relevant stakeholders, including national government institutions. Tools like the Monitor are part of the cluster's broader focus on mechanisms for diversity management within Germany but also beyond.

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

Dr. Andreea Cârstocea
Head of cluster
Senior Researcher

In 2020, the ECMI decided to reconfigure the thematic structure of its clusters by shifting foci from Citizenship and Ethics to Equality and Inclusion. Spearheaded by Senior Researcher Andreea Cârstocea, the new cluster aims to shine a spotlight on the patterns of exclusion and inequality that minorities often have to contend with in their daily lives. National minorities frequently find themselves in a vulnerable position, be it as a consequence of socio-economic underdevelopment, social or geographic peripherality, or a combination of these and other factors. In this context, the Roma minority is perhaps the most, although by no means the only, affected ethnic group. The new cluster therefore took up this issue in part through the "Marginality project on the Margins of Europe" described on page 13. However, it also began laying the groundwork for the more concerted study of inequality in schools and combatting discrimination.

JUSTICE AND GOVERNANCE

Dr. Ljubica Djordjević
Head of cluster
Senior Researcher

Over the years, a consensus has been established among international monitoring bodies and non-governmental organisations about the importance of ethnic data. Accurate and reliable data about individuals' ethnic belonging are necessary not only to support combating discrimination, but also to underpin the effective protection of national minorities: Ethnic data help to explore the position of (national) minorities in various fields of life, they serve as a reference point for adequate legislation and policy, they can also support individual and group rights claims. Yet, despite these benefits, ethnic data are also controversial and challenging, both for methodological and data protection reasons. All of these questions were part of the Justice & Governance cluster's research agenda in 2020. This work resulted in a special issue of the ECMI journal JEMIE (2/2020), two contributions to the BeSEC final publication (see page 24) and dissemination activities via conference presentations and the ECMI's Conversations with Experts (Episode 3). The next stage for this research will include the challenges of artificial intelligence, developments with collecting ethnic data in censuses, and the relevance of ethnic data in the fight against COVID-19.

POLITICS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Dr. Sergiusz Bober
Head of cluster
Senior Researcher

An important lifeblood of any minority community involves minority language media, be it print, broadcast or electronic. In 2020, the Politics and Civil Society cluster institutionalized its study of this important field, both by generating novel research data as well as contributing to new organizational networks. Starting in June, the ECMI began publishing a series of interview blogposts with prominent scholars and practitioners in the field of minority language media. While mainly focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these media outlets, the interviews also touched on more structural challenges of communication within minority communities and languages. Ten in-depth interviews were published covering a wide range of languages and regions, including Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Basque, Catalan, Swedish in Finland, German and Ladin in South Tyrol, as well as German in Denmark and Poland. In organizational terms, the Cluster was part of an inaugural team helping to set up the International Association for Minority Language Media Research (IAMLMR). The Association began holding regular research meetings as well as laid plans for regular conferences in 2021 and beyond.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Comparative Autonomy Arrangements

Exploring and analysing autonomy arrangements is a long-standing research focus at the ECMI. In 2020, the ECMI continued this work, mainly through two projects: "Autonomy Arrangements in the World" and "ENTAN: European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network".

Autonomy Arrangements in the World

Time period: 2015 – present
Funding: joint financing

This project is a joint endeavour of four European research institutions: Eurac Research (Italy), Babes Bolyai University (Romania), ECMI (Germany) and Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (Romania). The core of the project is an online compendium of territorial and non-territorial autonomy arrangements in the world. The website offers several case-studies of autonomy arrangements in the world and tracks a growing trend in this field. During the current stage of the project, a comparative/horizontal comparison of the cases was carried out. The role of the ECMI in the project was to supervise case studies of non-territorial autonomy (NTA) arrangements.

In 2020, two case studies of NTA were published: "The Turkish Muslim Minority of Thrace in Greece" by Konstantinos Tsitselikis, and "Functional Minority Autonomy in Germany" by ECMI Researcher Sonja Wolf.

For more info see
http://www.world-autonomies.info/Pages/default.aspx

Kyriaki Topidi at the First *ENTAN Training School*

ENTAN:
European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network

Time period: 2019 – 2023
Funding: mobility costs

ENTAN is an EU-funded COST Action aimed at establishing a network of researchers studying the concept of non-territorial autonomy (NTA). The ECMI is represented in the Management Committee by Ljubica Djordjević.

On 9-11 September, the ECMI co-organized with the University American College Skopje and the University of Southern Denmark the *First ENTAN Training School on Non-Territorial Autonomy*. The event was held in an hybrid form with a dozen participants present at the workshop venue (the Danish Central Library) and another 20+ participants online. The three-day program featured lectures, roundtables and a separate tour to Sønderborg in Denmark.

ECMI researchers gave lectures on non-territorial autonomy in five different countries (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Estonia) and in relation to religious councils.

For more info see
https://entan.org

EVALUATION OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN LEGISLATION ON THE PROMOTION OF THE NATIONAL MINORITIES

Time period: December 2020 – June 2021
Funding: € 24,856

In 2016, Schleswig-Holstein adopted a law enhancing the rights of minorities in regional administration. The legislation aimed at promoting the use of minority and regional languages in communication with public institutions (such as courts and local authorities) and in childcare facilities. Additionally, the reform sought to increase language visibility in the public space through measures such as bilingual place and topographic signs.

To understand the impact of this legislation, the State Chancellery of the Schleswig-Holstein Government commissioned in December 2020 a policy evaluation study, led by Prof. John Siegel (Universität Potsdam). With the ECMI and the Hochschule für Polizei und öffentliche Verwaltung NRW as partners, the research team developed a three-pronged approach, analyzing policy documents, carrying out interviews and implementing an on-line survey.

The ECMI research team (consisting of Sonja Wolf, Viktoria Aygül, and Ljubica Djordjević) was responsible mainly for data collection and document analysis. This included designing the on-line questionnaire as well as conducting local interviews. The target groups included both regional and local authorities as well as judicial officials and childcare workers -- all in relation to the use of Danish, Frisian, and Low German in these bodies.

CONCEPTUALIZING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION OF MINORITIES

Time period: December 2020 – June 2021
Funding: € 20,650

Over the years, the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) has issued a number of guidelines and recommendations to governments for addressing minority issues. One area, which has received less attention, is how to enhance the socio-economic participation of minorities. The HCNM therefore commissioned the ECMI to produce a policy study looking at not only a conceptualization of what socio-economic participation means, but also cataloguing existing best practice across the OSCE's member-states.

The ECMI put forth a project design encompassing seven relevant areas: education, healthcare, employment, housing, access to public goods, environment, and regional development. Research tasks included identifying drivers (or aspects) of minority participation in these domains as well as policy measures to enhance these opportunities. Based on this initial policy overview, the project leaders Andreea Cârstocea and Craig Willis, will organized further academic research in 2021.

FINALISED PROJECTS

Boosting European Security Law and Policy (BeSEC)

Time period: 2018 – 2020
Funding: € 6,048 (ECMI share)

The BeSEC project was an EU-financed Jean-Monnet Activity led by the Law Department of the University of Siena in cooperation with the ECMI, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, and the Matej Bel University. It was launched with an aim to support the dissemination of knowledge and skills with regard to the phenomenon of security and its role in the process of European integration. After the Lisbon Treaty, security became a key aspect of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, including data processing and ethnic data collection – an area where the ECMI has profound expertise.

In May 2019, the ECMI hosted one of the Project's thematic workshops entitled "Focus on Personal Data, Ethnic Data and Security". One of the two sessions of the workshop focused exclusively on the issue of collection and protection of ethnic sensitive data and possible threats to human security.

In June 2020, the BeSEC project held its final conference event entitled "Boosting European Security Law and Policy". Ljubica Djordjević presented her research on the topic "Processing of Ethnic Data: Juggling between Data Protection and Diversity Management" in the fourth and final session devoted to data security and the protection of privacy. Dr. Djordjević's research tackled the complex issue through the nexus of three aspects:

1) The need for ethnic data in diversity management, what the purpose of ethnic data is and which data is relevant for diversity management.
2) The challenges of protecting (personal) ethnic data as sensitive data. Although data protection regulations are often misinterpreted and used as a justification not to collect ethnic data, the European legal framework opens the possibility to process such data if important conditions and safeguards are met.
3) The methodological challenges of "measuring" ethnicity (the principle of self-identification and the practice of using proxies).

As a collateral outcome of BeSEC, Ljubica Djordjević edited a special issue of the ECMI's *Journal on Ethnic and Minority Issues in Europe* (JEMIE) during second half of 2020. (See page 24.) Entitled "Ethnic Data and Minority Protection", the issue covered ethnic data protection policies and practices in three different countries as well as provided an overview of this evolving field.

As part of its dissemination deliverables, the BeSEC project presented "Shots on Security", a virtual photo exhibition by TerraProject photographers.

The pictures along with more information on the project can be accessed on
https://besec.unisi.it/shots-on-security/

Marginality on the Margins of Europe – The Impact of COVID-19 on Roma Communities in Non-EU Countries in Eastern Europe

Time period: June – July 2020
Funding: € 13,860

With funding from the University of Leicester's QR Global Challenges Research Fund, this joint project between Leicester and the ECMI assessed the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Roma communities in seven non-EU countries in Eastern Europe -- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

Given the double vulnerability of Roma communities on account of their poverty and the pervasive racism targeting them, the project was driven by two main research questions:

1) *To what extent are the Roma communities more vulnerable to COVID-19 because of poverty and poor living conditions, and what could be done to mitigate such vulnerabilities?*
••• The project assessed the impact of the measures put in place to contain the pandemic by focusing on several areas of interest: (a) how the pandemic impacted on their ability to access healthcare services; (b) how Roma communities coped with lockdown situations given their housing situation; (c) how social distancing and lockdown measures have impacted on the ability of Roma children to access education; (d) how these measures affected the ability of Roma people to earn a living; and (e) the impact of the pandemic on Roma women.

2) *Have there been instances of racist incidents and hate speech targeting Roma communities in the context of the ongoing pandemic, including from the authorities responsible for enforcing the social distancing measures? What has been the response of local and national authorities to such incidents?*
••• Among other issues, this project looked into instances of police brutality directed against the Roma communities in the context of the pandemic as well as the extent and nature of the state adopted measures for aiding these vulnerable groups.

Original data were collected through an on-line survey and interviews with Roma stakeholders, involving in total nearly 500 respondents. The collected data confirmed the existing vulnerabilities and socio-economic exclusion already prevalent in Roma communities and the concern stressed by Roma organisations as well as international observers that the pandemic would accentuate and compound these. The main findings of the paper include that almost 73% of the respondents experienced a reduced income and the major reason for this was due to access to or demand for informal work being hindered by the lockdowns.

Some of the collected data were published in the ECMI Research Paper #122 "Economic Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Roma Communities in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine" by ECMI researcher Craig Willis. The project results will also form a basis for a special issue of JEMIE to be published in 2021.

ECMI IN THE REGION

Over the last decade, the German-Danish border region has gone through a major transformation owing to the expansion of European integration as well as certain external challenges like the 2015 refugee crisis or the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. To better understand the impact of these developments on national minorities in the region, the ECMI launched in 2020 a renewed research focus on the Sønderjylland-Schleswig area. This endeavor included high-level engagement with political leaders, as well as policy research on minority issues.

Meetings with regional stakeholders and partners

During an inaugural visit to one of the ECMI's Founders (Schleswig-Holstein), Director Vello Pettai met on 28 April with Minister President Daniel Günther and Minorities Commissioner Johannes Callsen. Director Pettai announced the ECMI's plans to get more involved in regional research and affairs, a plan that was welcomed by the Kiel officials.

Equally welcoming and supportive was Director Pettai's visit to Copenhagen in June, where he met with Stine Jørgensen, Deputy Director General of the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education, and Mogens Blom, head of section at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Director Pettai conveyed the ECMI's interest in continuing our engagement with regional partners like the Schackenborg Foundation and the Danish Foreign Policy Society.

Founding members of the Minority Competence Network.

High-level delegation of Schleswig-Holstein officials at the ECMI HQ.

In August, the ECMI was honored to host a return visit by a high-level delegation of Schleswig-Holstein officials during their tour of the German-Danish border region. Led by Minister President Daniel Günther, the group included the President of the Schleswig-Holstein Landtag Klaus Schlie, Minister of Justice, European Affairs and Consumer Protection Claus Christian Claussen and Minority Commissioner Johannes Callsen. During this meeting, the ECMI laid out its Concept Paper for a new border-area research agenda "Minority Change in an Integrated Region".

Creation of Minority Competence Network

The ECMI's renewed focus on border issues dovetailed with a number of other regional initiatives, including the creation of a new Minority Competence Network (Minderheiten-Kompetenz-Netzwerk) for Schleswig-Holstein and Southern Denmark. Initiated by the Schleswig-Holstein Minorities Commissioner Johannes Callsen, the organization encompasses the four major minority groups in the region (Germans in Denmark, Danes in German, Frisians, and Sinti/Roma) as well as institutions like the ECMI, the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) and the Akademie Sankelmark. The Network operates as an independently registered entity, and proposes projects and activities for supporting national minorities in the German-Danish border region. By year's end, a number of other organizations had joined the network such as the City of Flensburg and the Syddanmark region.
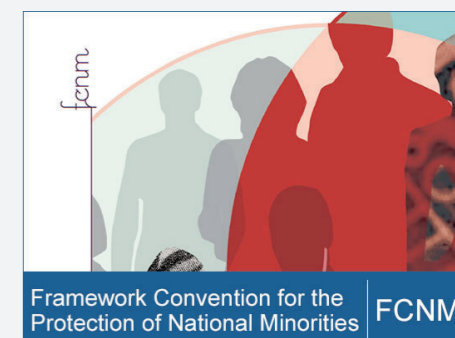
Expert testimony before the Schleswig-Holstein Landtag

A tangible outcome of the ECMI's new initiative was an invitation to offer expert testimony before the European Affairs Committee (Europaausschuss) of the Schleswig-Holstein Landtag on 30 September during a hearing examining the Land's implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The ECMI's Ljubica Djordjević presented a report on issues relating to minority education, the use of minority language in public administration as well as minority media outlets.. Director Pettai likewise briefed lawmakers on the ECMI's new regional research plans as well as developments at the Centre as a whole. The visit to Kiel included another meeting with Landtag President Klaus Schlie and officials from the State Chancellery.

Ljubica Djordjević speaks before the SH Landtag.

ECMI in the SH Landtag.

Shadow Report on Germany's compliance with the FCNM

Every five years state-parties to the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) are reviewed by an Advisory Committee for their compliance with the Convention's provisions. In 2020, Germany was due for its fifth review, which included an examination of reports produced by the German government, minority groups and other relevant organizations. At the request of the Committee of Experts, the ECMI prepared a shadow report on the FCNM in Germany, delivered to the Committee in advance of a virtual site-visit in November. The ECMI report focused on several key provisions of the FCNM, including Articles 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14. These articles covered everything from the scope of application of the FCNM (who should be considered a relevant minority in Germany under the Convention?) to minority language media (the broadcasting of programs in minority languages on public television) and levels of hate-speech (anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Gypsyism). The ECMI's report was well-received by the Advisory Committee during a virtual meeting, held in November.

TEACH

ECMI IN UKRAINE

Nataliia Mekahal
Director ECMI Ukraine

The ECMI has been active in Ukraine since 2014, both as an independent organization and through its local NGO affiliate, ECMI Ukraine. Our work has involved building the awareness and capacity of government institutions and the public about minority issues. These efforts have included preparing handbooks on minority participation and equality, organizing dialogue events among minority groups and stakeholders, as well as producing comparative research on regional governance models for minority communities. All of these topics were of particular relevance during Ukraine's major decentralization reforms in 2018-19.

In 2020, the ECMI sought to deepen its cooperation with regional partners. For example, together with the University of Chernivtsi, a joint application was prepared for a German-Ukrainian centre of research excellence. Drawing on many of the themes the ECMI had already developed in its work, the application focused on enhancing three research domains in particular: minorities in decentralization; societal resilience and security; and the participation of minorities in local development. These topics aimed at opening a discussion about a wider set of inclusive and cross-community considerations and best strategies for civil security and development in Ukraine and around the world. The Chernivtsi region is an especially interesting area for these topics given its multiethnic character and rich cultural traditions. Cooperation with the University of Chernivtsi was set to continue in 2021 with work on joint teaching on minority issues.

Likewise, the ECMI strengthened its connection with Ukrainian civil society organizations by preparing an application to the EU Commission's Ukraine Civil Society Facility. Under the project title "Minority Empowerment and Rights Monitoring", the ECMI and ECMI Ukraine developed a multi-stage programme for not only sustaining minority rights awareness, but also creating regional NGO capacities to engage in minority rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy. The concrete activities proposed in the application were built on five axes:

1. providing advocacy training (learning academy),
2. establishing regional minority rights monitoring systems (independent reporting),
3. developing on-line study tools and follow-up activities (electronic learning),
4. providing opportunities for independent project execution (mini-grants),
5. enhancing local and international networks (study-visits).

The preliminary concept note was approved for a second-round evaluation in 2021.

ECMI Ukraine

Nataliia Mekahal, Director, ECMI Ukraine
Olha Sribniak, Project Assistant
Sergiy Yevteev, Financial Manager

ECMI UKRAINE PROGRAMME

EDUCATION

A core activity of the ECMI is engaging in teaching, be it in cooperation with university partners or independently. In 2020, the ECMI broke new ground by organizing a Spring School with the European University Flensburg, alongside its Annual Summer School and regular graduate-level teaching.

Spring School

As a novel outreach activity for university students, the ECMI held a Spring School on 5-6 June in collaboration with the European University Flensburg. Originally scheduled as an in-person event, the School was eventually shifted to an on-line webinar format. This notwithstanding, the topic "Minorities and Ethnopolitical Situations in Europe" attracted 16 participants not only from the EUF, but also elsewhere. In addition to a series of short lectures by ECMI staff, the School also featured break-out groups and take-home tasks that the participants completed across the two days.

Annual Summer School

The tenth edition of the Annual Summer School on National Minorities and Border Regions co-organized by the ECMI and the Coppieters Foundation was held in Flensburg on 23-29 August. Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, 15 students were able to take part in person and were welcomed personally on the first day by the Mayor of Flensburg, Simone Lange.

Drawing on the theme *"Minorities and Referendums: Shaping or Being Shaped?"*, the focus of the Summer School was on looking back at the 1920 plebiscites in the region, but also at the ways in which borders have impacted the lives of minorities and other segments of the population. In particular, the event featured a panel discussion on the more recent phenomenon of "Refugees and Minorities: the 2015 Border Closure". The Summer School also had focused presentations on minority issues in Catalonia, the Basque country, Crimea, Scotland, Wales, South Tyrol and New Caledonia. Additionally, the programme featured interactive activities, such as a Science Slam and excursions to Sønderburg, Glücksburg and the A.P. Møller Skolen in Schleswig.

Sus participants at the ECMI HQ.

Graduate Teaching

For several years, the ECMI has been an integral part of the European Studies MA programme at the European University Flensburg. Mainly involved with the Culture and Diversity module of the programme, the ECMI has continually offered a course on the European minority rights regime. During the 2020/21 Winter semester, the ECMI offered a new course on *Minorities and Multiculturalism* taught by Director Vello Pettai. The course not only examined the different meanings of multiculturalism, but also profiled a number of countries and their multicultural policies, including Denmark.

NATIONAL MINORITIES IN BORDER REGIONS
ECMI SUMMER SCHOOL

NETWORKING

Sharing expertise, presenting work, networking and partnership building – these are the heart of an intellectual community. By attending, participating in, and presenting at various events (conferences, trainings, seminars), the ECMI is spreading the word about minority issues in Europe and building networks for future cooperation.

Research Seminar

An important innovation during 2020 was the creation of a regular Research Seminar that would serve as a forum for the exchange of research work and ideas. The Seminar was designed with an alternating schedule of in-house and external presenters, thereby allowing ECMI staff to learn about the work of both each other and top scholars in the field. Interns and visiting scholars were also invited to participate and present. The full schedule of presentations during 2020 was as follows:

●●● **Cornelia Klocker**, University of Konstanz
"The European Court of Human Rights, Non-Discrimination and Empowerment: Exploring Collective Dimensions"

●●● **Vello Pettai**, ECMI
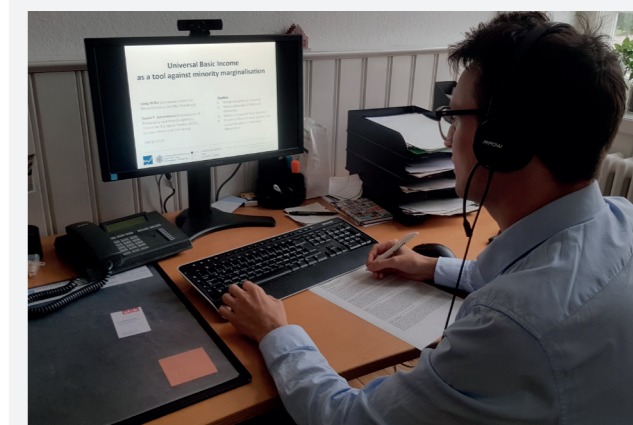"Ethnopolitical situations and the Analysis of Ethnopolitics"

●●● **Zsuzsa Csergő**, Queen's University
"Persistent Minorities and Democratic Political Agency"

●●● **Murad Gulyev**, ECMI intern
"Crimean Tatars Rights, Resistance and National Identity in Post-Stalinist and Post-Annexation Era. A Comparative Perspective"

●●● **Cristian Cercel**, Ruhr Universität Bochum
"From Forced Displacement to Voluntary Migration: The Postwar Resettlement of 2,446 Danube Swabians to Entre Rios (Paraná, Brazil)"

●●● **Akofa Boglo**, ECMI Intern, Universität Hamburg
"Integration and Minority Rights in Times of Crisis: The Case of Irish Travellers during the Covid-19 Pandemic"

●●● **Nick Megoran**, **Will Hughes**, **Matthew Benwell**, Newcastle University
"The emotional geopolitics of contested peace: the austerity crisis and the Danish minority of South Schleswig"

●●● **Andreea Cârstocea & Craig Willis**, ECMI
"Marginality on the margins of Europe – The impact of COVID-19 on Roma communities in non-EU countries in Eastern Europe"

●●● **Marko Stenroos**, University of Helsinki
"The Finnish Roma integration and inclusion: at the intersection of different social orders and desires"

●●● **Kyriaki Topidi**, ECMI
"Minority Identity in Digital Governance and the Challenges of Online Hate Speech Regulation in Europe"

Conferences

In 2020 ECMI staff participated in the following conferences:

●●● **Kyriaki Topidi** participated as an expert in the Eurac Webinar on Minorities and COVID-19 (Episode 4) / "COVID-19 and Religious minorities", 4 June.

●●● **Marika Djolai** participated as an expert in Eurac Webinar on Minorities and COVID-19 (Episode 8) / "Security in times of a pandemic: borders, states and minorities", 30 June.

●●● **Ljubica Djordjević**.gave a presentation on "Processing of Ethnic Data: Juggling between Data Protection and Diversity Management" as part of BeSEC network (Boosting European Security Law and Policy), 18 – 20 June.

●●● **Marika Djolai** served as a panel speaker at the conference "The Western Balkans in the European Union -- Growing Together or Moving Apart?", sponsored by Südeuropa Gesellschaft and held at the Evangelische Akademie Loccum, 7 – 9 September.

●●● **Craig Willis** presented his paper "Universal Basic Income as a tool against minority marginalization" at the UACES annual conference, Belfast, 9 September.

●●● **Kyriaki Topidi** gave Expert Contribution on "Causes, Scale and Impact of Hate Speech Targeting Minorities in Social Media" at the UN European Regional Forum on Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities, 21 – 22 September.

●●● **Sergiusz Bober** presented a paper "A Comparative Look at Development Strategies of Ethnically Diverse Border Regions: Is Diversity Considered Important Factor For the Creation of Better Living Spaces in the Borderlands?" at the Annual meeting in the Danish European Community Studies Association, University of Southern Denmark, 8 – 9 October.

●●● **Kyriaki Topidi** presented a paper "Religious Education as a Socio-Legal Experiment on inclusive plurality: A European example" at the Expert Workshop on 'Migrating Recognition' or 'Constitutionalism(s) Reversed' Colloquium, Sciences-Po (Paris), 19 – 20 November

●●● **Sergiusz Bober** presented a paper "The nexus between sovereignty, globalization, and minority rights. How are these concepts interconnected in the context of territorial conflicts of sovereignty?" at the conference Sovereignty conflicts in Europe: Basis for a solution / Bilbao, Spain, 11 – 13 November.

●●● **Craig Willis** gave a keynote address on "Minority SafePack and Universal Basic Income" at the Annual seminar of FUEN Working Group on Slavic Minorities, 19 November.

●●● **Craig Willis** gave a presentation on "Minority media in Europe and the Covid-19 pandemic" at the 4th European Conference Dedicated to Minority and Local Media, 26 November.

●●● **Sergiusz Bober** participated as a discussant in the conference panel "Representation in Europe's divided nations" at the IPSA Virtual Colloquium: Disruption, Crisis, Opportunity: Whither Democratic Governance?, 14 – 15 December.

Online conferences are the new norm. Craig Willis presenting at the UACES annual conference.

ECMI-HCNM-Eurac Collaboration

The ECMI's new Directorship afforded an opportunity to rejuvenate ties with two strategic partners: the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and Eurac Research in Bolzano. On 13 May, Director Pettai had a virtual meeting with the HCNM, Amb. Lamberto Zannier, that was followed by a broader meeting later that day between the HCNM and ECMI research staffs. The ECMI agreed to offer input on the HCNM's work looking at "Contested Histories and Inter-Ethnic Relations". The two partners likewise agreed to coordinate their activities in Ukraine. These initial contacts helped to pave the way for the ECMI's subsequent research project for the HCNM looking at socio-economic participation by national minorities. (See page 11)

The ECMI's links with Eurac go back equally many years, including the two institutions' joint work on the World Autonomies Project (see page 10) Seeking to expand this collaboration, research staff from both organizations held a seminar on 29 May, during which new themes were explored such as border area studies, socio-economic participation and minority political mobilization.

Lastly, this series of discussions culminated on 18 June with a three-way Expert Discussion between ECMI, HCNM and Eurac researchers on the "Socio-Economic Inclusion of National Minorities". The four-hour online workshop profiled the work that all three institutions are doing in this broad realm.

ECMI and ADI-ROM

For many years, the ECMI has been invited to participate as an expert institution in the Council of Europe's monitoring of Roma and Traveller issues. In 2020, this work was reorganized into the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM). ECMI Senior Researcher Andreea Cârstocea participated in the first two meetings of ADI-ROM. In the course of these gatherings, a range of issues were discussed, such as the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025); the development of a legal instrument on combating hate speech; the development of a study on the causes, prevalence and consequences of anti-Gypsyism; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Roma and Travellers and the member states' responses, as well as relevant recent developments at European level.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

KoFrieS (Cooperation Network Peace Research and Security Policy)

KoFrieS is a network of different academic institutions from Germany and abroad supporting the Peace and Security Studies M.A. programme of the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH). In 2020, the ECMI continued hosting interns from the Institute and participated in the Institute's events aimed at attracting students interested in minority studies.

Partnerships

At the local level we worked extensively with the following stakeholders in the Danish-German border region:

- Dialog Forum Norden
- Europa-Universität Flensburg (University of Flensburg), Flensburg, Germany
- Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), Flensburg, Germany
- University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Sønderborg, Denmark
- DCBIB (Dansk Centralbibliotek for Sydslesvig), Flensburg, Germany
- Akademie Sankelmark/ Europäische Akademie Schleswig-Holstein/ Academia Baltica

At the national and international level, the ECMI continued to work with the following organizations, NGOs and universities involved with the protection of minorities.

- Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland
- American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Coppieters Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
- CSEM (Centre for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism), Tbilisi, Georgia
- EDRC (Ethnocultural Diversity Resource Center), Cluj, Romania
- Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
- ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), Stuttgart, Germany
- OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago, Chile
- University of Bath, Bath, United Kingdom
- University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands
- Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Jena, Germany
- University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia
- University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy
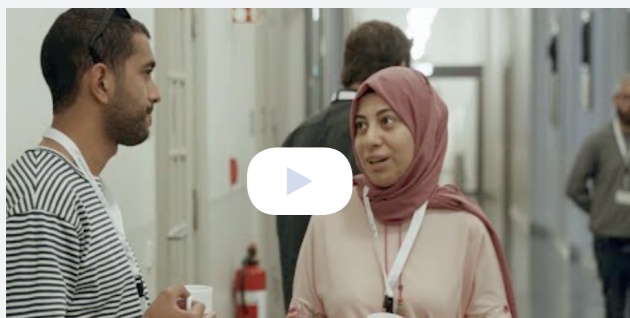
DK

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COMMUNICATIONS & DISSEMINATION

ECMI in the Media

ECMI's work both locally and internationally has been reported on frequently by the three main newspapers in the region, *Flensburger Tageblatt*, *Flensborg Avis* and *Der Nordschleswiger*. The outlets featured interviews with the new ECMI Director, Vello Pettai, and covered the Centre's meetings with Schleswig-Holstein officials. They also profiled the Centre's research on minority language media.

- ••• Flensburger Tageblatt, 8 March: "Vello Pettai: Der neue ECMI-Chef ist ein US-Amerikaner mit estnischen Wurzeln"
- ••• Flensborg Avis, 17 July: "Opmuntrende nyt fra ECMI"
- ••• Flensborg Avis, 17 July: "Langt flere mindretal skal lære af grænselandet"
- ••• Der Nordschleswiger, 2 December: "Forschender Blick auf Minderheitenmedien im Lockdown"

ECMI Image Film

The ECMI's external image promotion got a boost in 2020 with the creation of a new image film produced in collaboration with the production company Bewegbild. The company was on site at the Kompagnietor in early October, talking to staff and filming day-to-day activities. The final version of the image film was released in November and is available on the ECMI YouTube channel and the ECMI website
(under Home / The Centre / About Us).

Video Interviews

Drawing on the dramatic expansion of video communication technology in 2020, the ECMI launched in June a new expert video interview series called **"ECMI Conversations with Experts"**. The series was designed to provide in-depth video interviews with prominent experts in the area of minority issues. The following episodes were published in 2020.

- ••• Episode 1: "Referendums and Ethnic Conflict" with Matt Qvortrup, Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Coventry University
- ••• Episode 2: "Impact of COVID-19 on Roma" with Iulius Rostas, Visiting Professor at the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest, Romania
- ••• Episode 3: "Ethnic Data Collection" with Patrick Simon, Senior Researcher at the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED)

The interviews are available on the EMCI YouTube Channel as well as the website
(under Home / Media / ECMI Video Interviews.)

ECMI Conversations with Experts
Episode 1: Referendums and ethnic conflict
Guest: Prof. Matt Qvortrup

ECMI Podcasts

The ECMI offers the public a wealth of educational materials about minority issues, be it through teaching guides, handbooks or research reports. In December, the Centre added to this repertoire by starting a series of podcats "Because Minorities Matter". Designed to offer basic information and discussion about minority affairs, the first episode involved a conversation with ECMI Researcher Caitlin Boulter on "The dreaded question: What is a national minority?" This and future episodes can be found on Spotify, other podcast channels and can also be accessed on the website
(under Home / Media / Podcast).

ECMI on Social Media

The ECMI is active and regularly interacts with the followers on the following social media (numbers as of 31 December 2020):

- ••• Facebook: 7,295 followers
- ••• Twitter: 1,311 followers
- ••• LinkedIn: 1,390 followers
- ••• YouTube: 170 subscribers
- ••• Instagram: 359 followers

EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

PUBLICATIONS

The ECMI features a multidimensional publications portfolio, through which we as an institution contribute to the development of the academic field. With over 200 publications out under the ECMI name since our founding in 1996, the Centre has a rich heritage of scholarly input into minority studies. In 2020, each of our outlets had either multiple issues or article series. Most are available on the ECMI website.

JEMIE
Journal on Ethnopolitics and
Minority Issues in Europe

Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)

Issue 1/ 2020
Special Issue: Ethnic Issues in Central Asia

●●● Sergiusz Bober, "Introduction: Ethnic Issues in Central Asia"
●●● Malika Abdulbakieva, "'Uyghur' or 'Muslim'? Identity Development Among Uyghur Diasporas: A Case Study of Kyrgyzstan and Turkey"
●●● Olivier Ferrando, "Education Language Policies and Practices in Post-Soviet Central Asia. An Historical Analysis of Ethnic Minorities in the Ferghana Valley"
●●● Arzuu Sheranova, "Kyrgyzstan's 'Uneasy' Diversity after 2010: Community Analysis of Post-Conflict Policy"
●●● Aziz Berdiqulov, Book Review: Uzbekistan's New Face, by S. Frederick Starr and Svante E. Cornell (eds)

Issue 2/ 2020
Special Issue: Ethnic Data and Minority Protection

●●● Ljubica Djordjević, "Introduction: Ethnic Data and Minority Protection"
●●● Andras L. Pap, "Ethnic Data Protection and Collection: The Case of Hungary"
●●● Craig Willis, "An overview of the UK's approach to ethnic data collection in the context of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities"
●●● Ljubica Djordjević, "Legal Aspects of Processing of National Affiliation Data in Serbia"
●●● Andreea Cârstocea, Book Review: Legal Aspects of Ethnic Data Collection and Positive Action. The Roma Minority in Europe, by Jozefien Van Caeneghem

Research Papers

#121: Craig Willis, "Regional Development Performance in Council Areas of Scotland with the Highest Percentage of Gaelic Speakers"
#122: Craig Willis, "Economic Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Roma Communities in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine"
#123: Akofa Boglo, "Inclusion in Crisis: The Case of Irish Travellers during the First Months of the Covid-19 Pandemic"
#124: Sergiusz Bober and Aziz Berdiqulov, "Recognition, Non-recognition, and Misrecognition of Minority Communities. What Lessons Can Be Drawn from a Comparison between European and Central Asian Approaches?"
#125: Nina Henke, "Identity and Nation-Building in Ukraine: Reconciliation of Identities from a Conflict Prevention Perspective"

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Minorities Blog

●●● Craig Willis, "A post-election update on the Brexit implications for Celtic Languages in the UK"
●●● Ljubica Djordjević, "The Symbolic Power of Place Names: Why having multilingual signs can be challenging?"
●●● Vello Pettai & staff, "Corona or Minority Crises"
●●● Sergiusz Bober, "The Spanish Roma community in the time of coronavirus. A narrative perspective"
●●● Andreea Cârstocea, "Pandemics of Exclusion: The Scapegoating of the Roma in Romania"
●●● Akofa Boglo, "Resolving Minority Language Disputes: A New Approach to Language Rights in Northern Ireland?"
●●● Marika Djolai, "Securitising the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact on democracy and minorities"
●●● Niginakhon Uralova and Sergiusz Bober, "A silent response from Central Asia about human- and minority rights violations in Xinjiang"
●●● Andreea Cârstocea, Raul Cârstocea & Craig Willis, "The Impact of COVID-19 on Roma Communities in Non-EU Countries in Eastern Europe"
●●● Marika Djolai & Viktoria Aygül, "Armenia-Azerbaijan at War and New Uncertainties for the Minorities of Nagorno-Karabakh"
●●● Kyriaki Topidi & Fatima Soualhi, "Hate to the Extreme(s): The Distorted Uses of Religion and Culture in Europe"

European Yearbook on Minority Issues (EYMI)

The EYMI is published by Brill, with the ECMI serving as the main editorial institution in collaboration with Eurac Research, Glasgow University, Åbo Akademi, Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Babes-Bolyai University. Volume 18 featured the following articles:

General articles
●●● Kyriaki Topidi, "Religious Pluralism and State-centric Legal Spaces in Europe: The Legacy of the Molla Sali Case"
●●● Eugenia Relaño Pastor, "Recognizing religious minority rights: a key tool to managing pluralism in the European Court of Human Rights"

National Developments
●●● Mariya Riekkinen et. al., "Latinizing the alphabet in Kazakhstan: rationale, legal foundation, and possible impact on the Russian language"
●●● Emma Lantscher, "North-Macedonian language law"

International Developments
●●● Mariya Riekkinen, "Advancing Economic and Social Rights, including Education in the context of European minorities – 2019"
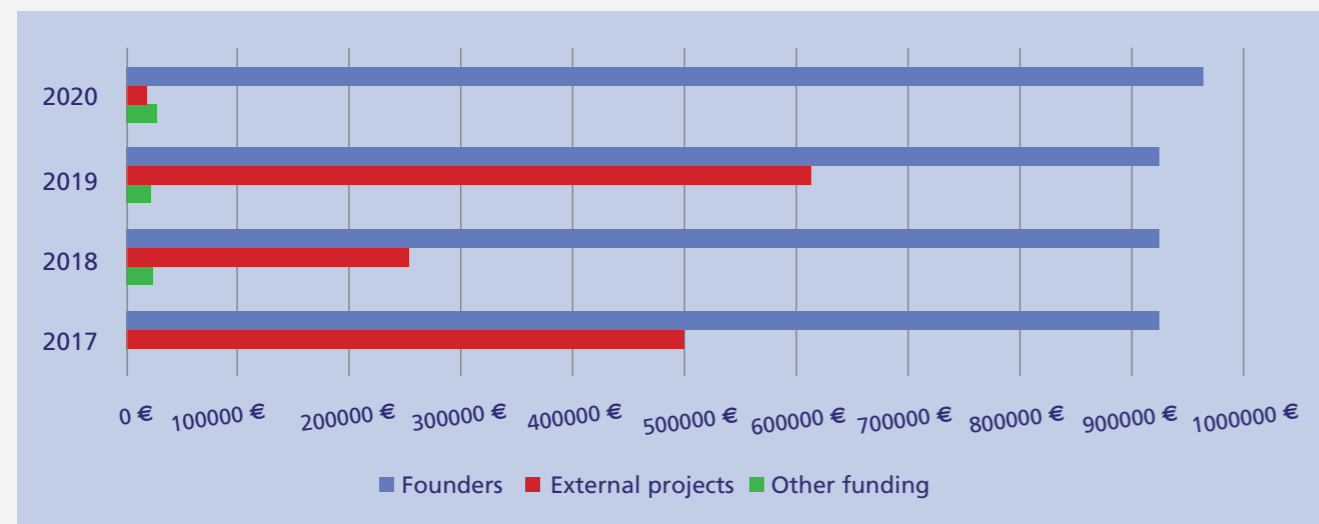●●● Anna Barlow, "Participation, Citizenship and Transfrontier Exchanges – 2019"

Book Reviews
●●● Tibor Toró: Anna-Mária Bíró and Evelin Verhás (eds.) *Populism, memory, and minority rights: Central and Eastern European issues in global perspective*
●●● Ljubica Djordjević: Rainer Hofmann, Tove H. Malloy and Detlev Rein (eds.) *The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: A Commentary*
●●● Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark: Joseph Marko (ed.) and Sergiu Constantin (assistant editor) *Human and Minority Rights Protection by Multiple Diversity Governance. History, Law, Ideology and Politics in European Perspective*
●●● Andrea Carlà: Dorothy L. Zinn *Migrants as metaphor. Institutions and integration in South Tyrol's divided society*
●●● Verena Wisthaler: Chris Gilligan. *Northern Ireland and the crisis of anti-racism. Rethinking Racism and Sectarianism*

FINANCES

After concluding in 2019 major projects in Ukraine with funding from the German GIZ development agency, the ECMI focused in 2020 on preparing new large-scale grant applications. Other funding (including co-funding) came from participation in network projects such as BeSEC as well as cooperation with the University of Leicester.

List of external projects and co-funding:

Funding institution	Title	Amount	Year
Land Schleswig-Holstein	Evaluierung des Gesetzes zur Umsetzung des Verfassungsauftrags zur Stärkung der nationalen Minderheiten und Volksgruppen in Schleswig-Holstein	24,856 €	2020-21
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities	Research Report on the socio-economic participation of national minorities	20,000 €	2020-21
University of Leicester	Marginality on the Margins of Europe – The Impact of COVID-19 on Roma Communities in Non-EU Countries in Eastern Europe	16,000 €	2020
Coppeters Foundation	ECMI Summer School in Flensburg	8,344 €	2020
German development agency GIZ	Career Guidance and Counselling for Vulnerable Groups" (Serbia)	9,000 €	2019
Auswärtiges Amt Germany	Empowering Future Minority Leaders (Moldova)	77,200 €	2019
Coppeters Foundation	ECMI Summer School in Berlin	5,115 €	2019
Erasmus +	Boosting European Security Law and policy, workshop on data protection (BeSEC)	6,048 €	2018-20
German development agency GIZ	Diversity Management for Sustainable Economic Development (Ukraine)	471,000 €	2018-19
Council of Europe Study	"Strengthening the protection of national minorities in Ukraine"	10,000 €	2018
Auswärtiges Amt Germany	Training for Empowerment in Ukraine	44,958 €	2018
University of Swansea	Master Course Module	16,000 €	2018
OSCE Academy of Bishkek	Master Course Module	13,800 €	2018

PEOPLE

Director
Vello Pettai (as of 1 March)

Senior Researchers
Sergiusz Bober
Andreea Cârstocea
Marika Djolai
Ljubica Djordjević
Kyriaki Topidi

Researchers
Viktoria Aygül
Aziz Berdiqulov
Caitlin Boulter
Polina Sulima
Craig Willis
Sonja Wolf

Administration & Communications
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Stanislav Černega, Communications Coordinator (in acting capacity as of 1 May)
Katharina Jürgensen, Communications Coordinator (on maternity leave as of 23 April)
Mariana Jimsheladze-Buschhardt, Library Coordinator
Leopold Lingenberg, Assistant to the Secretariat
Lasse Funck, Assistant to the Secretariat
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