

ANNUAL PROGRAMME



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

2017



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Dr Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our Annual Programme 2017. The European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) is entering its third decade of work with a number of new skills and enhanced knowledge acquired to meet the demands of the ever-changing landscape of minority issues and protection in Europe. The rise of populism in a number of countries across Europe requires us to focus more on democratic education and awareness raising as well as media ethics, while the processes of EU association and in/direct conditionality calls for institution building in transition countries. Through knowledge transfer, we will continue to disseminate good practice examples and teach the European legal framework on minority protection. Eastern Europe will be our main focus again in 2017 with intensified activities in Ukraine. We have also returned to the Western Balkans with a special focus on social rights, and this initiative will be developed further in 2017. As always, we welcome dialogue with our partners and look forward to cooperating with you.

HIGHLIGHTS 2017

HERE ARE THE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FOCI FOR THE NEXT YEAR:

THE ECMI EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (EPP)

will continue fostering diversity management in the three Programme countries. In 2017 we will be organising a special seminar on Roma issues, along with our final conferences and presentations disseminating Programme's results.

THE NEW-OLD MINORITIES NEXUS: INVESTIGATING EMERGING MINORITY INTERACTIONS IN EUROPE

is a new research project within the Conflict & Security Cluster. With the support of the Deutsch-Italienisches Zentrum für Europäische Exzellenz, and in partnership with EURAC, we will be organising an academic conference entitled "What's in a name? Extending the existing scope of protection for national minorities to migrant communities in Europe".

THE ERASMUS+ STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP "TEACHING IN DIVERSITY"

project will be launched in 2017 and implemented over the next 2 years by the Culture & Diversity cluster.

THE SOCIAL SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

project, implemented in partnership with GIZ, the State of Schleswig-Holstein, and FUEN will continue transferring knowledge and positive practices from Schleswig-Holstein to the region.

ECMI KOSOVO

devoted to fostering minority rights in the field of education, will launch two new projects in 2017: **Support to Education in Serbian language in Kosovo** and **Scaling Up the Results in Enhancing Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children**. Through its participation in the EU supported **Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC)**, ECMI Kosovo will continue actively supporting the protection of the fundamental human rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including minority communities, women, youth, and LGBT.

ECMI CAUCASUS

will address a number of new issues in 2017, among which are the **root-causes of radicalisation and its prevention in Georgia and the impact of the EU Association Agreement and on minorities**.

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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

As issues of norm diffusion and convergence have come to the fore at the macro level, with the EU taking a greater role in Europe's normative regime, aspects of the legitimacy and responsibility of protection schemes at local and regional levels require focused attention. In 2017, through a series of research and action-oriented projects, the Cluster will continue its work in four thematic areas that still have significant gaps and deficiencies in the existing research:

- 'Non-Territorial Autonomy: Interpretations, Forms, and Opportunities' addresses a range of ideas and institutional arrangements related to the notion of autonomy on non-territorial grounds, seeking to describe, compare, and critically evaluate these ideas and their implementation.
- 'Translation of Norms and Ideas into Practice' investigates how the notions of non-discrimination, minority protection, and participation co-exist in national and sub-national legislation, public institutions and public debates.
- 'Deficiencies and Gaps in Minority Protection' seeks to identify the cases where the ideas of minority protection are applied contrary to their substance, to elaborate the criteria for the selection of such cases, and to analyse their causes and consequences.

The Eastern Partnership Programme, developed jointly by all ECMI clusters and field offices, addresses minority issues at various levels, seeking to invest in the development of the expert and practitioner communities dealing with minority issues in the EU Eastern borderland and to facilitate communication concerning minority issues between this region and the rest of Europe.

NEW in 2017

RISKS STEMMING FROM MODERN IDEAS OF DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND THE WAYS THEY CAN BE CURBED

The project is aimed at launching a scholarly discussion on the risks posed in the long run by misinterpretations of minority protection, non-discrimination and related ideas. Identification of potential research topics and objectives and assessment of their relevance must lead to the establishment of a collaborative research network and/or launch of a research project with ECMI's involvement. The practical relevance of the project is the identification of the deficiencies and pitfalls in existing minority-related mechanisms and how these might be overcome.

The cluster seeks to host PhD students and post-docs working on the respective issues.



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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

ONGOING PROJECTS

COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT NON-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY

The scholarly network on the issues of Non-Territorial Autonomy (NTA), established in 2011, continues its work on a series of academic and applied events and publications on NTA issues. Besides ECMI, the network involves the Tom Lantos Institute (Hungary), Institute for Ethnic and National Minority Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary), EURAC (Italy), and the Political Science Department of Babes-Bolyai University (Romania).

DIFFERENCES AND SYNERGIES BETWEEN MINORITY PROTECTION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The cluster aims at exploring the disjuncture and similarities in interpretations and conceptual organisation of equality on ethnic or racial grounds in different theoretical, discursive and institutional frameworks, first and foremost within minority protection and non-discrimination. The project seeks to analyse theoretical and practical linkages between non-discrimination and minority protection; particularly, what kinds of effects result or may result from placement of the issues of culture and group identity into the agendas of social equality.

The project seeks to address issues relevant to diversity policies and jurisprudence, and issues that are still overlooked or insufficiently studied rather than theoretic debates. The major goal is to arrange for a discussion that addresses implications, consequences and potential effects of the (dis)similarities between minority protection and non-discrimination.

The activities are merged into the ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme (EPP). The expert seminars concern the issues of equality with regard to national minorities covering Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The EPP seminar proceedings are to be used for publications within and beyond the Programme's scope as well as for the planning of future events; practice-oriented conclusions reached in the course of the EPP may be transformed into policy recommendations.

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



Picture from EURAC (Italy)



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POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

The capacity of national minority groups to exert influence over decisions taken in the political, socio-economic, or cultural spheres represents a fundamental condition for a peaceful and democratic society. As such, the extent to which political parties and non-governmental organisations of citizens belonging to national minorities are capable of successfully advocating change in favour of the groups they represent is an important indicator of the level of empowerment of national minorities.

Consequently, the Politics & Civil Society Cluster focuses on the analysis and evaluation of the capacity of minority parties and non-governmental organisations to induce desired changes at the local, national, and European levels, with the purpose of identifying the best practices and most appropriate solutions that would lead to improving the level of participation of national minority groups in public life. The theoretical underpinnings of the cluster's activities lie both in the classic understandings of participation, which focus primarily on electoral processes such as voting or participating in election-related campaign activities, as well as on more recent developments in understanding participation, such as non-electoral mobilisation, protest, or participation through new media.

ONGOING PROJECTS

ROLES OF ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE BALTIC PARLIAMENTS

Since 1995 there has been a continuous downward trend in the share of stateless persons and a significant upward trend in the parliamentary representation of ethnic minorities in Estonia and Latvia; however, there has been very little research study investigating whether this numerical (descriptive) representation led to a substantive representation in the Baltic parliaments.

Analysing the roles that ethnic minority representatives play in the parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the aim of this project is to investigate whether the way ethnic minorities enter Parliament makes a difference in the representation and self-perception of their roles. It relies on the original dataset of Baltic legislators and addresses the question of whether entering a parliament on a mainstream party list leads to a different role perception in comparison to gaining representation through the minority's own ethnic party.

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



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CONFLICT & SECURITY

- What are the challenges that the recent rise in right wing populism are posing to minority groups and the protection of their rights? Is there potential for the escalation of such challenges into inter-state conflicts?
- What is the impact of the recent intensification of migration on minority groups, and could policies aimed at the integration of minorities be adapted to migrants?
- Deriving from the above, in what ways can we tackle the intensified hate speech targeting both migrants and minorities today, and what lessons can we learn from the past?

Considering the challenges posed by the rise of right wing populist parties, movements, and individual actors in contemporary Europe and beyond, as well as contextualising it in the framework of the recent intensification of migration prompted in part by violent conflict, the research and action projects developed by the Cluster seek to explore their impact on minority groups, as well as the multiple ways in which migrants and minorities interact in this context. This is pursued both at the level of the existing framework for protection of national minorities and its efficiency in responding to these new and emerging challenges, and at the level of public discourse where both minority and migrant groups are, in certain circumstances, construed as 'Others' to a populist notion of the bodies politic increasingly imagined in national terms.



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CONFLICT & SECURITY





CONFLICT & SECURITY

NEW in 2017

THE NEXUS OF NATIONAL AND DIASPORIC MINORITIES: INVESTIGATING EMERGING MINORITY INTERACTIONS IN EUROPE

The overall aim of the project is to determine the impact of intensified migration on the situation of minority groups in Europe. The objectives of the project are to trace these effects both at the level of policy – following the debates surrounding the relationship between the protection of ‘traditional’ minorities and policies designed with regard to the so-called ‘new minorities’ – and at the level of political discourse, as visible both in mainstream political debates and in instances of social mobilisation outside the sphere of formal politics. More specifically, at the level of policy, the project seeks to analyse the potential for extending certain aspects of the existing legal framework for the protection of national minorities (for example, the provisions on equality and non-discrimination) to recent migrants, and the ways in which these could be re-designed for this purpose. At the level of discourse, it will factor in both academic debates concerning the similarities and differences between historical minorities and recent migrants, and the shared vulnerability of these groups to exclusionary rhetoric coming from sections of the majority population.

Project partners: University of Groningen (Netherlands), EURAC (Italy).

ONGOING PROJECTS

THE CONTEMPORARY RADICAL RIGHT – FROM MARGIN TO THE MAINSTREAM?

In recent years, Europe has witnessed a growth in the popularity of right wing populist parties, often promoting, directly or in veiled form, xenophobic or anti-immigration agendas. The aim of this project is to examine the impact of the recent rise of the radical right in contemporary Europe on the life of minority groups. The project focuses on, on the one hand, the security dimension implicit in the escalating number of violent attacks on members of ethnic minorities and migrants, often carried out or instigated by members of radical right wing groups. On the other hand, addressing the increasing importance of right wing populism in mainstream politics in a number of countries in Europe, the project will also trace the effects of the radicalisation of the mainstream political agenda in some countries on the political participation of minorities to public life.

CONFLICT & SECURITY



HATE SPEECH AND ITS PROLIFERATION IN THE NEW MEDIA

The overall aim of this project is to contribute to a better understanding of the shifting patterns of hate speech in Europe, with a particular focus on tackling its proliferation in new media and the subsequent radicalisation of online space. As such, the specific objectives of this project are to analyse on the one hand the newly emerging patterns of prejudice that are affecting minority groups in Europe, and on the other to address the specific issues pertaining to the propagation of hate speech in the new media of communication associated with Web 2.0. The project thus addresses one of the most complex challenges to policy making in this field, respectively the need to strike a balance between the effective monitoring of online hate speech and the threat posed to individual liberty by the encroachment on personal freedom in the name of providing effective security. This project will be developed in cooperation with the Citizenship and Ethics Cluster at ECMI and will also involve interested international partners.

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



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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 societies. 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.

NEW in 2017

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.

Upcoming in Spring 2017:

Workshop on Alternative Approaches to Non-Territorial Autonomy

CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

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.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Dual citizenship is becoming more accepted among policy makers as modern society becomes more mobile and diverse. Such policies are potentially rewarding to members of ethno-cultural minorities, who have links to more than one national state. The aim of this project is to explore how dual citizenship legislation impacts on members of minorities not only as *de jure* citizens but also as actors in two or more cultural settings. Aspects of trans-border cooperation as well as post-conflict inter-state dialogue may be examined.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

CULTURAL COMPETENCIES AND ETHNO-CULTURAL MINORITIES

Cultural competencies of ethno-cultural minorities are vastly overlooked in the policymaking 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.

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



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CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

BRIDGE BUILDING AND INTEGRATION IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES

The project “Bridge building and integration in diverse societies” on the role of national minorities as bridge-builders was successfully implemented in 2016, in cooperation with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC). Preliminary findings of the research conducted throughout the year were presented at the OSCE’s Supplementary Human Dimensions Meeting in November 2016, and the results of the project were presented at the German OSCE Chairmanship event in December. In 2017, the project will continue under ECMI leadership with the publication of a report in January, and comprehensive academic analysis in preparation for a larger publication. Future activities will also entail further investigation of the impact of bridging activities on stability, the underlying factors in the differences between initiatives, and particularly the correlation between macro-level frameworks and the intensity of micro-level activities.

[For more information, please visit the Project page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/projects/bridge-building-and-integration-in-diverse-societies/]



Bridge Building and National Minorities: OSCE Ministerial Council Side Event. 9 December 2016, Hamburg



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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.

NEW in 2017

TEACHING IN DIVERSITY

Over the next two years, under the ECMI leadership, 10 partners from 7 countries will be implementing 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 will develop 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 envisages the development of a training course and a Handbook, of an online learning platform and of a network of teachers to exchange information and provide self-support to its members beyond the project lifetime.



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 CULTURE & DIVERSITY

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

ONGOING PROJECTS

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.

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.

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 communication 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 possibilities for active interaction between individuals and communities is therefore a particularly 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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CROSS CLUSTER

ECMI ROMA EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Analysing the current 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, 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.

[For more information, please visit the Programme page at www.ecmi.de/programmes/cd-wps0/]

NATIONAL MINORITY INDICATORS

The project aims to develop indicators to assess the levels of implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) in the states parties to these instruments. The main objective is to provide the FCNM Advisory Committee and the ECRML Committee of Experts, as well as states parties and minority groups, with two practical toolkits of minority indicators, on an article by article basis. With the overall goal of improving the implementation of the FCNM and ECRML, the outputs of the project will provide a detailed description of indicators offering a multi-dimensional and multi-domain approach to assessing the performance of states. The indicators will aim at revealing to what extent the instruments’ legal provisions are translated into practical implementation.



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CROSS CLUSTER



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 minorities, minority issues, and minority-majority 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 minority communities. The MMTE utilises a visual and hands-on approach to present data and information for better comprehension of relationships and associations concerning minorities 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 European Centre for Minority Issues. 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 minority communities in a timely, straightforward, and reliable manner. Additionally, the MMTE project is intended to help develop ECMI's own goals and projects to better understand minority issues as well as implement corresponding programmes.

[For more information, please visit the project website at:
www.mmte.eu]

ECMI KOSOVO

ECMI Kosovo has seen its activities expanding in 2016, especially in the areas of human rights protection, minority communities and for the first time in the field of other Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups (VMG). The latter is a reflection of the establishment of the Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC) as of January 2016 for a period of four years. ERAC brings together seven medium sized and grassroots NGOs that work in the domain of rule of law and fundamental rights for selected VMGs. These VMGs include minority communities, women, youth and the LGBT community. This coalition has been established with funding from the European Union.

Support to Education in the Serbian Language in Kosovo is another European Union-funded project launched in 2016. In 2016, this new project successfully supported the Government of Kosovo in establishing a temporary verification mechanism to allow degrees from the University of Mitrovica North to be validated, to allow the applicants of the mechanism to apply for jobs and take part in professional exams and ultimately increase representation of minority communities in Kosovo institutions. Since its establishment in May 2016, and with ECMI acting in a mediating role and offering technical support, the mechanism has verified more than 100 diplomas.

ECMI Kosovo has also entrenched itself in providing the much needed support to public institutions with education in the Albanian and Serbian languages through a comprehensive language acquisition program. Furthermore, ECMI Kosovo is finalising a range of projects by the end of 2016 and the first months of 2017. A major success of 2016 was the increase of self-employment among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities through a recycling collective. Other projects are subject to a prolongation, and are thus taken into a new phase. One of those projects is the 'Enhance Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children' which, among other objectives, is preventing and reducing the drop-out rates among vulnerable children.

NEW IN 2017

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL COALITION (ERAC)

Fundamental human rights for citizens of Kosovo are *de jure* guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is however a considerable gap between legislation and *de facto* access to and protection of fundamental rights. Vulnerable and marginalised groups, including minority communities, women, youth, and LGBT are particularly restricted when exercising their fundamental rights. Thus, a coalition comprising seven non-governmental organisations was established and to develop a project entitled "Equal Rights for All Coalition", which is funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo. The objectives of ERAC are to strengthen the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups.



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ECMI KOSOVO

SUPPORT TO EDUCATION IN THE SERBIAN LANGUAGE IN KOSOVO

The aim of this project is not only to improve Serbian-language education, but also to give greater representation to non-majority communities within public institutions and their ability to hold public professions in Kosovo in order to complement the existing dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. The Government of Kosovo has recently adopted a temporary validation mechanism that allows graduates from the University of Mitrovica North to apply for jobs, professional licenses, and professional examinations within public institutions of Kosovo. Through comprehensive and independent research the project will also seek to map, assess and fully understand the situation of education in the Serbian language in Kosovo at all levels – pre-primary, primary, secondary, and higher education – with a view to exploring possibilities for its continuous improvement.

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

This project is entering into its third phase, which entails a new and different approach and enhanced scope. Hence, it is scaling up its good results in drop-out prevention and non-registration for vulnerable and marginalised children from the previous nine municipalities, to cover 30 municipalities. The newly introduced approach will entail cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) to ensure ownership and sustainability of the project results. The targeted groups are children with disabilities, children from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, children from minority communities and returned children. The project is implementing an Early Warning System, a mechanism which supports the identification and prevention of students dropping out.

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

ONGOING PROJECTS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION IN KOSOVO

The project aims to enhance the ability of municipal officials to communicate and provide municipal services to communities in both official languages by carrying out Albanian and Serbian language courses for municipal officials in 16 target municipalities. The two languages are the official languages of Kosovo and have equal status and equal rights as to their use in Kosovo institutions. The Law on the Use of Languages provides that official languages are used on an equal basis by and within municipal administrations. However, only a limited number of municipal officials interacting with the public currently speak a second official language.

ECMI KOSOVO

This lack of knowledge of both official languages, together with the under-representation, creates a number of problems, especially in mixed municipalities across Kosovo. It also hampers co-operation and integration within the workplace.

EMPOWERING NON-SERB CSOS IN NORTHERN KOSOVO

The international community has directed its focus towards the integration of the Serb community in northern Kosovo within the Kosovo framework. However, non-Serb communities in northern Kosovo are frequently overlooked and not adequately represented at the municipal level nor in civil society. Consequently, the project aims to strengthen CSOs' presence in these communities, so they can effectively participate in policy and decision making and address the needs of their communities, ultimately promoting the inclusion of all communities. All four northern municipalities have a predominantly Serbian population, yet there are a significant number of non-majority communities, namely Bosniak, Albanian, Roma, Ashkali and Gorani communities, residing in these municipalities.

STRENGTHENING THE WATCHDOG ROLE OF MINORITY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN KOSOVO

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the 'watchdog' role of minority civil society in ensuring transparency and accountability of public authorities. Participating CSOs will directly benefit from capacity building activities through a training program carried out in April-May 2016, which included practical, on-the-job coaching, as well as practical experience with conducting monitoring, evaluation and advocacy. In addition to the capacity building training for minority CSOs the project will produce two monitoring and evaluation reports over 18 months in the form of a practical handbook for the use of grassroots CSOs to implement.

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR ALL NEWLY-ESTABLISHED MUNICIPALITIES IN KOSOVO

The project aims to provide the Serb-majority municipalities in Kosovo with sustainable solutions on improving their local socio-economic perspectives by empowering both local governments and local communities. The decentralisation process has thus far re-engaged the Serb community within Kosovo institutions, but important socio-economic issues persist. It seeks to reach northern Kosovo, where the Brussels agreement between Pristina and Belgrade and the local elections at the end of 2013 opened a new era. Hence, the project will promote strong, effective, accountable and transparent local self-government in Serb-majority municipalities, triggering sustainable and inclusive growth as a means to strengthen reconciliation and to contribute to a stable, democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo as envisaged in the Ahtisaari plan.

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



ECMI KOSOVO

UPCOMING

- Conference to present a report on the healthcare situation of Serb-majority municipalities in Kosovo within the project Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for all newly-established Municipalities in Kosovo – January 2017.
- Qualitative and quantitative research report on Serbian-language education in Kosovo – mid/end of 2017.
- Within ERAC project, research policy papers will be developed tackling issues such as women's and youth participation in policy and decision-making processes, and efficiency of procedures and institutions.
- Other policy research analysis will be developed on issues identified during the year by members of the Coalition in cooperation with government institutions and the EU office in Kosovo.
- Public awareness campaigns aiming at promoting and protecting fundamental human rights.
- Workshops and training programs to increase the capacity of ERAC members and associate CSOs to advocate for the protection of fundamental human rights.

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



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ECMI CAUCASUS

With the accommodation of Georgia into the EU association agreement and granted visa liberalisation in 2015, the agenda of human and minority rights has lost its dynamics. Legal reforms, particularly in the judiciary field, have not yet translated into visible improvement of the rights' observance in general practice and in particular in relation to non-discrimination and minority protection. Over 10% of all complaints reaching the Ombudsman office are related to ethnicity, religion or language. The new government assuming its powers at the end of 2016 has only a vague vision of managing ethnic and religious diversity in the country. The most marginalised group – the Roma – are still very much prone to open discrimination by the state and local services to population, despite progress attained in person registration. Despite an elaborated integration strategy in 2015, minority inclusion and governance issues are less visible in the national and international discourses on Georgia's state building project. In response to that slow progress and limited attention to many contemporary threats, ECMI Caucasus plans to collaborate with civil society organisations as well as with local and national institutions to assist in putting minority governance back on the agenda.

NEW IN 2017

RESEARCH ON ROOT-CAUSES OF RADICALISATION AND ITS PREVENTION IN GEORGIA

It came as a surprise to the Georgian and international community that many young Georgians have been involved in the wars in Syria. Many parents realised only when the tragic news reached their homes. Radicalisation of young members of some Muslim communities has been a latent issue in Georgia and received only limited attention with regards to the signals coming from concerned families and schools. For many decades, socio-economic decline and an impoverished environment has influenced the mechanism of social control among Muslim communities. This research aims to uncover various aspects of radicalisation and its prevention in the Georgian context. One of the key hypotheses is the loss of social control by the families and communities, and the intergenerational gap in access to information and modern technologies in marginalised communities.

EU ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON MINORITIES

Visa liberalisation and DCFTA are the main advantages gained by Georgia through the Association Agreement. Visa liberalisation allowing Georgian citizens visa free travel to the EU was granted on the condition of the implementation of human rights, including minority rights. The strategy adopted in 2014 will be under scrutiny to identify fulfilled and unfulfilled commitments. The review of the initiation of DCFTA will uncover how the minority communities – mostly rural – are benefitting from this facility. The exports and remittances transferred in 2016 will be analysed in view of limited improvement of socio-economic conditions in minority regions.



ECMI CAUCASUS

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE – A MIDTERM REVIEW

In 2014, local elections in Georgia were conducted under the promise of decentralisation of decision-making, the transfer of activities to the local authorities and capitalising assets, and greater participation of communities. The process, still ongoing, has disillusioned communities where minority groups constitute a majority and local governance has undergone administrative changes while participation in decision-making and the financial sphere has remained under central authorities' control and the decentralisation has had an impact on few key areas of local wishes and expectations. The next elections are due in 2018 and the midterm status looks back and forward on local democracy through the lens of minority governance.

MAPPING MINORITIES AND LANGUAGES – ANALYSING RESULTS OF THE 2014 POPULATION CENSUS

The new population census conducted at the end of 2014 included a number of specific data related to the ethnic and linguistic makeup of the population. The results for this segment were published in 2016, revealing changes to the demography of the country but also the distribution of minorities across the regions. Ethno-political maps produced since 2009 will be updated in view of the new data, including the fluency in the Georgian language among minority population.

ROMA INCLUSION – A DISMISSED AGENDA?

Since 2007 ECMI Caucasus has been advocating for the development of a special Roma inclusion strategy for Georgia. Roma in Georgia, as a generic term also used in the EU/CoE context, comprise three different groups – Roms, Loms and Doms. The Roma population, which is marginalised like in many other countries, is discriminated against by local authorities, health care and in the educational system. So far the authorities have progressed with issuing personal documents and a small number of schools work for the inclusion of Roma children. Despite many efforts no strategy has been elaborated, although other Eastern Partnership countries such as Moldova and Ukraine can serve as best practice examples. ECMI Caucasus will work with Roma communities to determine how to facilitate a change of approaches.

[For more information, please visit ECMI Caucasus homepage at:
www.ecmicaucasus.org]



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ECMI EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (EPP)

The ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme NATIONAL MINORITIES AND ETHNOPOLITICAL ISSUES: BELARUS · MOLDOVA · UKRAINE (EPP), supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has entered its third and final year. Launched in 2014, the Programme is focused on the dissemination and transfer of information and know-how and capacity building of both the state bodies responsible for diversity management and equality and advisory bodies for minority issues; and the establishment of interactions between governmental representatives, ethnic communities and experts through over 30 seminars, joint discussions, trainings, analytical work and networking events, which have been organised in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine.

In 2017, a number of materials and publications will be prepared, including policy recommendations, a teaching synopsis on the course on diversity management, and outlines for legislation provisions. The programme will conclude with a seminar on Roma issues (April 2017) and two thematic conferences (May 2017) in Ukraine. A round of short presentations disseminating the Programme's results will be organised after the conferences in Belarus and Moldova.

[For more information, please visit the Programme page at:
www.ecmi-epp.org]

FROM SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN TO WESTERN BALKANS: SHARING PRACTICES ON ACCESS TO SOCIAL RIGHTS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

Vulnerable groups, including Roma, are the focus of the new initiative recently launched by the State Chancellery of Schleswig Holstein in cooperation with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). The project implementation partners are the ECMI (European Centre for Minority Issues) and FUEN (Federal Union of European Nationalities), both of them actively involved in sharing Schleswig-Holstein's experience with the target groups. The project aims to introduce the Schleswig-Holstein model to local actors in the Western Balkans and to increase access of Roma to municipal services. The direct target group of the project are members of the (pro-) Roma NGOs and local governments in Serbia, Macedonia, BiH and Kosovo. In 2017 a new round of trainings and seminars in the region will take place.



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ANNUAL EVENTS

MINORITIES ROUNDTABLE

Every year the ECMI invites the local national minority organisations from the Danish-German border region to a roundtable discussion on a topic that has affected all of them in the past year and which is seen as relevant for understanding minority issues and minority politics.

The ECMI Regional Minority Roundtable 2017 will invite the relevant minority organisations to discuss and jointly analyse the events and developments in the area of minority issues that took place in the border region in 2016.

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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TRAININGS



ECMI SUMMER SCHOOL

Minority Rights Regime in Europe

After the successful Lviv 2016 edition and due to the higher interest in the training programme, in 2017 the ECMI summer school will again offer the chance to students from Eastern Europe to deepen their knowledge on minority issues and on international standards and practices regarding the protection and promotion of minority rights. Introducing the framework of the Minority Rights Regime in Europe from the perspective of international relations, politics and culture, the course will critically examine the extent to which national and EU institutions' mechanisms are able to face new challenges. It will build upon existing knowledge to yield innovative approaches and new ideas, with a focus on diversity management as a conflict-prevention mechanism. The intensive programme will include academic lectures, open discussions and interactive seminars organised in thematic modules. The participants will be introduced to various case studies and will enhance their knowledge on these issues. The interactive summer school programme is aimed at Master and PhD students, young researchers and professionals.

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

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/]



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TRAININGS

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/]

'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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LIBRARY

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

ECMI
LIBRARY

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JEMIE

Journal on Ethnopolitics and
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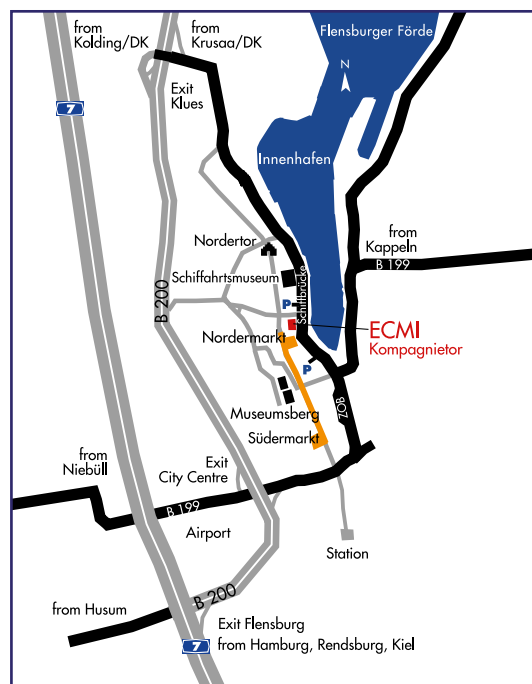
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