ANNUAL
PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

2018

EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

CONTENTS

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FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our Annual Programme 2018. This year, you will find some exciting new projects in development. Our research clusters have been refocused with new initiatives that speak to the enduring societal issues that ethno-cultural minorities face. We have also reassessed our cross-cluster themes and added new ones. For instance, check out our new cross-cluster theme on Mainstreaming or Border Region Governance. 2018 is also a milestone year for the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) regarding to our action-oriented projects in Eastern Europe. Our regional programme, the Eastern Partnership Programme for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine came to an end in December 2017. We plan to continue working in Moldova and Ukraine. At the same time, we are very pleased to announce that Georgia is back in our portfolio of priority countries. We have a number of ideas in the making, as you will be able to see in the section on Georgia. Likewise, our regional programme in the Western Balkans has come to an end.

In the first months of 2018, we will assess our potential for continuing work in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. Of course, our operations in Kosovo continue to run at very high speed. I encourage you to check out the Equal Rights for All Coalition project, an awareness raising project that has already gained Europe-wide recognition. In other areas, such as our education efforts and publications, we continue along the good path that has been developed over the years. For instance, our Summer School 2018 will focus on diversity as a driver for change and take place in Brussels in September. We hope to see you there. As always, we welcome dialogue with our partners and look forward to cooperating with you.

Prof. Dr. Tove H. Malloy
ECMI Director

HIGHLIGHTS 2018

NEW RESEARCH THEMES, NEW PROJECT IDEAS
will be developed by all of the ECMI HQ Clusters starting from 2018.
For more information, please visit the respective clusters' sections.

MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMME AND BORDER REGION GOVERNANCE
research projects will be launched as new cross-cluster initiatives in 2018. While the Mainstreaming programme will focus on whether the adopted regulations or public policies are sensitive to the needs of national minorities and how their implementation affect national minorities. The ECMI Border Region Governance Programme aims at multidimensional analyses of cross-border co-operation involving national and ethnic minorities as well as local actors and authorities (see pages 26).

MINORITY ISSUES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND IN CENTRAL ASIA
thematic research and action line, will enable the ECMI team to continue fostering diversity management in Ukraine and Moldova and to expand the analytical perspective by looking into the situation in the wider post-Soviet area (see page 27).

ECMI TRAINING PROGRAMMES GO TO SWANSEA (UK), BRUSSELS (BE) AND BISHKEK (KG)
Alongside the ECMI MA level course delivered annually at the European University of Flensburg, in 2018, the ECMI will export its intensive training programme to Swansea University and to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The 2018 Summer school programme will take place in Brussels, hosted and supported by the Centre Maurits Coppieters (see page 39).

ECMI KOSOVO
continues to be an active member of the cooperative network of 7 medium-sized and 19 grass-root CSOs within the frameworks of the EU supported Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC) project, which supports the protection of the fundamental human rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including minority communities, women, youth, and LGBT. In the course of the diploma verification mechanism, ECMI Kosovo will continue to provide support to the Commission established within the project to receive applications and approve diplomas. In addition to organisation of language courses, ECMI Kosovo will be working on the project which aims at developing new textbooks, along with the associated workbooks, as well as new teachers' manuals for both Albanian and Serbian language courses. New in 2018 is the cross-border initiative Youth Digital Entrepreneurship Academy, funded by the European Commission. The project will promote and foster the digital networking and entrepreneurship aiming to contribute for the socio-economic integration of youth in Kosovo and Albania (see page 31-32).

ECMI Team 2018

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ECMI GEORGIA
with its reformed representation, in 2018 ECMI Georgia will launch a number of initiatives as a part of its strategy for protecting and promoting the minority rights in Georgia and in the region of South Caucasus. The established close cooperation with the Center for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CSEM) will provide the ECMI with the possibility to maintain its active presence in the country and in the region (see page 35-37).

JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

ETHNIC SENSITIVE DATA COLLECTION

Collection and processing of ethnicity data is an important element in diversity management, providing quantitative grounding for policy development and acting as an indicator for the measurement on the effectiveness of minority protection. In addition, such data can be used as evidence in discrimination cases before courts, or as a parameter in developing antidiscrimination policies. Yet, it is not a simple issue, since the collection of such data can collide with the right to protection of privacy and personal data. This is bBecause the data on national affiliation (together with ethnicity, language, religion) are sensitive, as such their misuse can have grave negative impact on persons, their status, and enjoyment of rights. Yet, the threat over misuse of data should not be addressed with the simple prohibition of collecting ethnic sensitive data, which is an approach not unknown in European states. Much more, collection and processing of ethnically sensitive data should be allowed, if the strong safeguards for data protection are in place. The aim of this Cluster is to explore the following: European standards in ethnic sensitive data collection, legal frameworks and practices of European states in this regard, existing problems, new developments, and impacts on minority protection throughout Europe.

NON-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY ARRANGEMENTS

Although not set as a standard in any of the international documents relevant for national minority protection, autonomy arrangements can foster the quality of the implementation of national minority rights and the participation of national minorities in public affairs. More generally, they can foster democracy and a sense of "ownership" among national minorities. The aim of the research is to examine existing non-territorial arrangements, including their good and weak points, to identify good practices and the possibility of exporting them or some of their elements to other similar environments.

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

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

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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION AS A TOOL FOR MINORITY PROTECTION

As the prohibition of discrimination is a central prerequisite for minority protection, the main aim is to examine the effectiveness of existing instruments for protection from discrimination as a tool for minority protection. In a comparative approach, the study should explore remedies, procedures, and institutions, for protection from discrimination throughout Europe and their effects on protection from discrimination on grounds relevant for affiliation with a national minority. Special emphasis should be put on case-law.

MAPPING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MONITORING PROCEDURES (In focus: FCNM and ECRML)

The aim of the research is to explore the effectiveness of the FCNM and ECMR implementation monitoring, as well as the degree to which the state parties comply with the recommendations set. The research is type of a follow-up to the monitoring mechanisms, with the aim to identify which issues appear to be more problematic to comply with, what are the reasons for delays and hesitation to follow the recommendations, and what are the most effective leverages to make state parties to comply with the recommendations.

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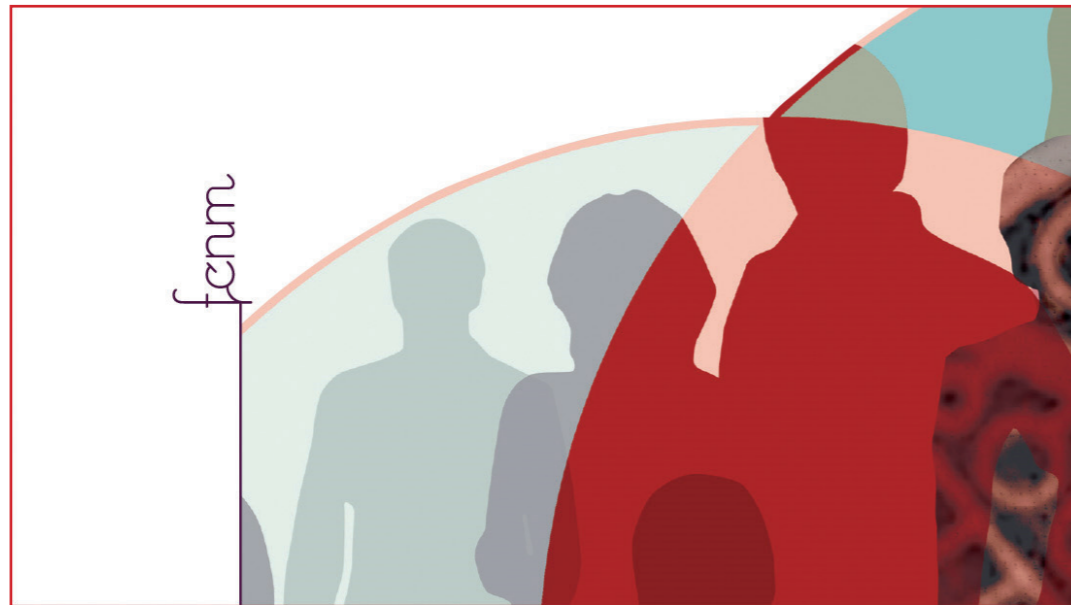
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POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

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

Institutional dimension
- ••• What kinds of institutional frameworks for minority groups' participation and cooperation in both political and civic life are implemented in various countries?
- ••• How, and to what extent, they vary within the context of different political systems?
- ••• At what levels of government (e.g. local, regional, central) is the political and civic activity of minority groups most salient and why is that so?

Organizational dimension
- ••• What are the organizational patterns of minority groups' political and civic engagement (e.g. political parties, civic associations, ad hoc political campaigns)?
- ••• What are the membership patterns of the political parties and civic organizations of the minority groups (e.g. the level of political/civic activism of various age/educational/gender groups among the minority communities)?
- ••• How are the political and civic activities of minority groups funded?

Activism dimension
- ••• What types of political/civic strategies/actions do minority groups employ?
- ••• How, and why, political and civic organizations of minority groups cooperate with each other, with public institutions, as well as with non-minority political parties and organizations?
- ••• In what kind of activities are political and civic organizations of minority groups involved on the international level?
- ••• What are the communication strategies and tools used by minority organizations?
- ••• Which factors contribute to the political and civic mobilization of minority groups?
- ••• What are the patterns of activism of minorities within minorities (intersectional perspective)?

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POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

Ideological dimension
••• Which political ideas (ideologies) inspire the political and civic engagement of minority groups?
••• What types of political discourses and ideologies do minority groups produce themselves and what kinds of ideological and discursive reactions do they cause among the majority?
••• How does political and civic activity affect the collective identity of minority groups as well as the individual identities of their members?
••• How are the institutions of the state and political parties/civic organizations/ pressure groups of the majority justifying the empowerment of minorities or the lack of it?

Economic dimension
••• How has the recent economic crisis impacted on the implementation of minority rights in Europe?
••• What is the impact of contemporary socio-economic inequality on national minority groups, in particular on minority women?
••• How have governments tackled the question of rising socio-economic inequality and its impact on national minorities, and how adequate were their responses?
••• What strategies have national minorities employed themselves in order to reduce the effects of rising inequality?

During 2018, the Politics and Civil Society Cluster intends to focus upon the following specific projects fitting into earlier indicated research areas.

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

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

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

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

CONFLICT & SECURITY

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CONFLICT & SECURITY

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

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

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

••• **Politicisation of minority language rights as a threat to inter-ethnic stability: The Case of Albanian Language Rights and Inter-Ethnic Relations in Macedonia**
In recent years, demands for greater language rights have increased tensions between the Macedonian majority and the Albanian minority in Macedonia and have been used as a political bargaining chip by Albanian political parties. This study aims to map the history of language rights for Albanians since the Ohrid agreement against trends of heightened inter-ethnic tensions to identify correlations.

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

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CONFLICT & SECURITY

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

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

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

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

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

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CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

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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 communities. Research efforts examine frameworks of governance for citizenship action and open, respectful dialogue. The Cluster also explores initiatives taken by ethno-cultural minorities to improve intercultural dialogue, as well as governance networking aimed at improving the lives of both minorities and majorities. Other aspects of Cluster research include citizenship education and methodology of respectful dialogue.

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

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

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CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

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

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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.

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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.

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CITIZENSHIP & ETHICS

THE EU AS A POTENTIAL SUBSTITUTE FOR 'EXTERNAL HOMELAND'

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

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

The positive contributions of minority communities to regional development in (cross-)border regions, is increasing across Europe. How are members of minority communities empowered to participate in regional development, and do they take initiatives beyond governance structures? Is there a factor of civil society engagement and self-empowerment, that drives these actors to participate? The objective of this study is to understand which institutional and political conditions foster the empowerment of minorities in border regions and enable them to actively contribute to regional development. To this end, a theory of minority contributions to regional development will be built, drawing on a number of theoretical approaches from the fields of community psychology, political sciences, and sociology, as well as empirical observations from the Danish-German border region. Following this process, a small-scale comparative study which analyses the political opportunity structure, community organisational structure, and societal participation of various minority communities in border regions across the EU, will be undertaken to test and improve the theory.

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

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CULTURE & DIVERSITY

- ●●● Is diversity a societal asset or a key challenge to integration and social cohesion?
- ●●● What are the mechanisms that foster societal cohesion of culturally diverse societies?
- ●●● What are the challenges to, and the prospects for, ensuring minority rights in education, media, and language policies?

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

DISCURSIVE CONSRTUCTION OF IDENTITIES

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.

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

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

CULTURE & DIVERSITY

In 2018, three sub-projects will start building up the research topic:

Legal Status Of Minorities In Europe

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

The New Minorities Landscape: Between Legal Instruments, Media Discourse And Self-Identification

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

Narrated Self-Identification

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

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CULTURE & DIVERSITY

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 regarding the impact on community, regional and social development.

In 2018, the research will focus on the identification of positive and negative practices in the process of the implementation of the FCNM throughout the European countries. The findings will be presented in a thematic comparative perspective publication.

TEACHING IN DIVERSITY

Under the ECMI leadership, 10 partners from 7 countries will continue the implementation of the "Teaching in Diversity" project funded by the ERASMUS+ KA2 Strategic Partnership programme. In order 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 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.

With the support of Schleswig-Holstein State Chancellery, in February 2018 the ECMI will conduct the pilot trainings in Kiel. The seminar will cover six key modules: introduction to diversity management; minority rights in education; linguistic diversity; religious diversity; non-discrimination and preventing hate-speech at schools. The testing of the course's online platform will be organized in summer 2018 and the final products will be presented at parallel events in all of the partnering countries by the end of 2018.

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CULTURE & DIVERSITY

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.

In 2018, as a sub-project under this thematic line, the topic of **Media Regulation as a Tool for Prevention of Hate Speech** will be explored. The research will aim at exploring to what extent the media laws are effective in counteracting the proliferation of hate speech, and what their applicability is to online communication.

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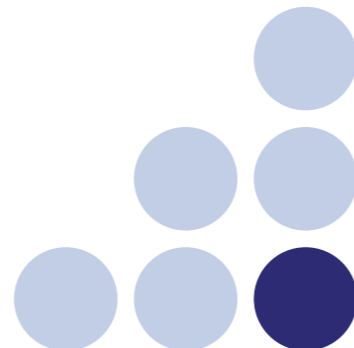
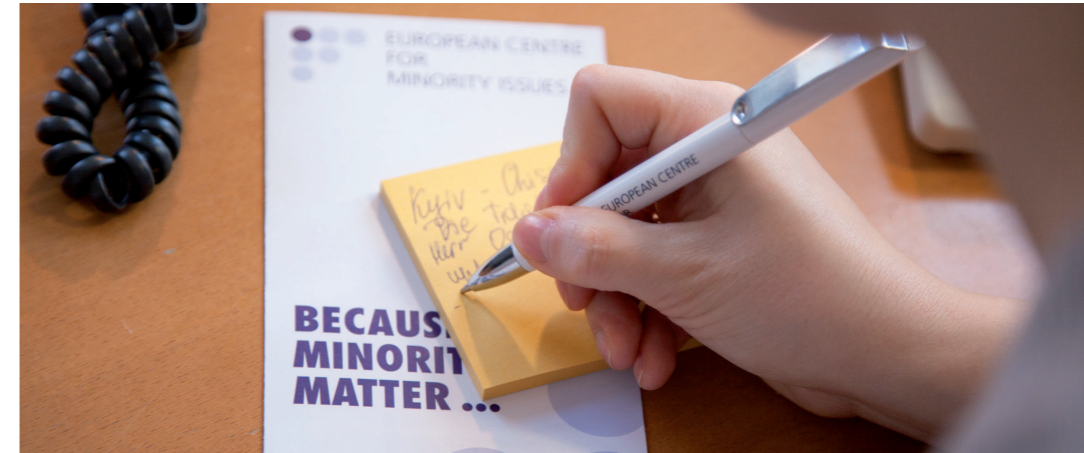**For more information, please visit the Cluster page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/cdhome**

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CROSS CLUSTER

ECMI ROMA EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

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

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CROSS CLUSTER

ECMI MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMME

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

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

For more information, please visit the Programme page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/cross-cluster/mainstreaming/

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CROSS CLUSTER

NON-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY PROGRAMME

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

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

Unfortunately, NTA policy-making is vastly under-explored in academia. While policy studies have focused mainly on territorial autonomy settlements and anti-discrimination policies, with the social sciences having focused on justification of NTA, little has been written about how to design viable NTA policies. The design, functioning, and implementation of NTA policies in public management have been neglected. There exists, therefore, a gap in academic knowledge regarding the public management of NTA arrangements for non-territorial ethno-cultural minority groups. This series of five books seeks to remedy this gap.

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

- ••• Improve academic knowledge of models and policies of NTA through a compilation and description of comprehensive empirical data;
- ••• Assess the good and bad examples of NTA policy through a categorization and critical analysis of the aims of models;
- ••• Explain the challenges of NTAs to policy-makers through a contextualization and critical assessment of contemporary Westphalian discourses on diversity management;
- ••• Assess the potential for new paradigms through examination of alternative and emerging NTA arrangements.

The results will be disseminated through the ECMI publications and a 5-volume series in co-operation with Oxford University Press. Two edited volumes have been published in 2015.
See the ECMI webpage on External Publications.

For more information, please visit the Programme page at www.world-autonomies.info/Pages/default.aspx

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

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

Through this research effort, the ECMI wishes to:

- ••• Improve the application of minority indicators through a conceptualization of policy-to-outcome indicators;
- ••• Design context-relevant minority indicators for specific legal instruments and governance policies;
- ••• Produce toolkits and handbooks that may be of use not only to monitors, but also to public servants and NGOs that are involved in monitoring minority protection;

The results will continue to be disseminated through the ECMI publications.
See further:
- ••• ECMI Report #6, "Evaluating policy measures for minority languages in Europe: towards effective, cost-effective and democratic implementation"

For more information, please visit the Programme page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/cross-cluster/indicators/

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CROSS CLUSTER

BORDER REGIONS GOVERNANCE

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

The ECMI Border Region Governance Programme aims at multidimensional analyses of cross-border co-operation involving national and ethnic minorities as well as local actors and authorities. As a consequence, our research fields will include, but may not be excluded to:

●●● Minorities' contribution to, and influence on, governance in border regions as well as normative frameworks organizing cross-border cooperation;
●●● Minorities as actors in cross-border endeavours;
●●● Discourses and narratives produced by minorities regarding borders, cross-border activities, experiences of the other side of the border, and borderlands as common living and cultural spaces;
●●● Minorities' identities as influenced by border region reality;
●●● Cross-border cooperation as an example of secondary foreign policy and minorities as contributors to initiatives dealing with difficult past.

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

For more information, please visit the Programme page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/cross-cluster/border-regions-governance/

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CROSS CLUSTER

MINORITY GROUPS, IDENTITIES AND RESOURCES IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE: EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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

Minority Issues In Central Asia

Since its establishment in 1996, the ECMI has been very active in the post-Soviet space. After successful projects in such countries as Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (some of those projects are still ongoing), in 2018 the ECMI's team intends to additionally turn its attention towards Central Asian countries, that is Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Apart from strengthening our already existing in-house research and analytical capacities regarding the region, in 2018 the ECMI plans to establish a global network of renowned experts in the field of Central Asian studies, in order to simultaneously broaden and deepen our research and action possibilities in that region. It is important to add that a substantial part of that network will be constituted by local partners. In terms of research, the ECMI's team is willing to focus primarily upon such topics of regional relevance as: (1) border regions, (2) national, ethnic and linguistic minorities, (3) nation building and identity formation, (5) language policies and language rights, (5) the patterns of political mobilization of ethnic communities. In spite of its manifold particularities, Central Asian countries share numerous common features (the most obvious ones are post-Soviet and post-colonial legacies). As a consequence, the ECMI's methodological approach to the region will be a comparative one, aiming at identifying common threads as well as divergences.

In 2018, the research will commence with a comparison between the patters of the Russian and Soviet colonization policies and those employed by the Western states, focusing on the respective impact on ethnic identity formation. The multi-layered comparative analysis will cover Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and will address intertwined subjects as: (1) the dynamics of ethno-national identity formation in the region; (2) the patterns of political mobilization of ethnic communities in the region; (3) the access to natural resources and ethnic tensions in the region.

For more information, please visit the Programme page at www.ecmi.de/clusters/cross-cluster/central-asia/

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MINORITY ISSUES IN EASTERN EUROPE

The successfully completed ECMI Eastern Partnership Programme: Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (2014-2017), implemented with financial support of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, achieved a number of significant outputs in terms of publications, knowledge transfer and establishment of networks. The findings are available on the ECMI website and their dissemination among the stakeholders will continue over the next years.

In 2018, ECMI will focus on Ukraine and Moldova, deepening its knowledge on the region and providing targeted support to the local civil society, public officials, and international organisations.

Ukraine

Thanks to the completed Eastern Partnership Programme, the ECMI was able to found a significant cooperation with the Ministry of Culture in Ukraine and will continue the cooperation in the form of expert support and consultations. Moreover, an ECMI representative in Ukraine received the status of an observing member of The Expert Council of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine for Ethnopolitical Affaires. This allows the ECMI to continue its work as an important monitoring and observing entity in the area of national minorities in Ukraine.

In 2018, the ECMI will organize an important event in the form of a roundtable discussion (February 2018), attended by the representatives of the Administration of the President of Ukraine, Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, The Expert Council of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine for Ethnopolitical Affairs, regional administrations, local umbrella organizations of national minorities, as well as guest speakers from Germany.

For more information, please visit the Programme page at www.ecmi.de/programmes/epp/

Moldova

In 2018, the ECMI plans to continue its work in the promotion and protection of the rights of national minorities in Moldova. Working with the Bureau of Inter-ethnic Relations in facilitating the full implementation of the new Strategy for Enhancing Inter-ethnic Relations (2017-2027), particularly in the four priority areas of linguistic diversity, access to education, participation, representation and consultation of national minorities, as well as developing a more inclusive civic identity, will form the basis of the ECMI's work in Moldova in the coming year.

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Picture from EURAC (Italy)

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, as well as the ways in which these could be re-designed for this purpose. At the level of discourse, it will factor in 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.

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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

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ECMI KOSOVO

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ECMI KOSOVO

During 2018 ECMI Kosovo will sustain its commitment to minority rights by fostering activities regarding human rights, minorities' communities, and other Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups (VMG). The continuous contribution of ECMI Kosovo to the *Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC)* since 2016, will bring significant advances to enhance the human rights respect and awareness. In 2018, the Coalition will continue to provide support to VMGs claiming their rights, develop research policy papers with concrete recommendations to government institutions and assist its implementation to human rights structures, as well as create promotional campaigns and materials to raise awareness of the role of civil society in democracy and human rights.

SUPPORT TO EDUCATION IN THE SERBIAN LANGUAGE
In the project *Support to Education in the Serbian Language*, ECMI Kosovo will continue to facilitate the verification process both as part of their mandate as the mediating party between the Commission and University of Mitrovica North (UMN), and also by providing technical support to the work of the Commission for the Verification of degrees.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACQUISITION FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN KOSOVO
In 2018 within the project *Official Language Acquisition for Municipal Officials* in Kosovo, ECMI Kosovo will continue with the organisation of Albanian and Serbian language courses in different municipalities in Kosovo. Also, the implementation of the project *Developing Teaching Materials to Assist Official Language Acquisition by Municipal Officials in Kosovo* will continue in 2018, which aims at providing new academic material for both Albanian and Serbian language courses.

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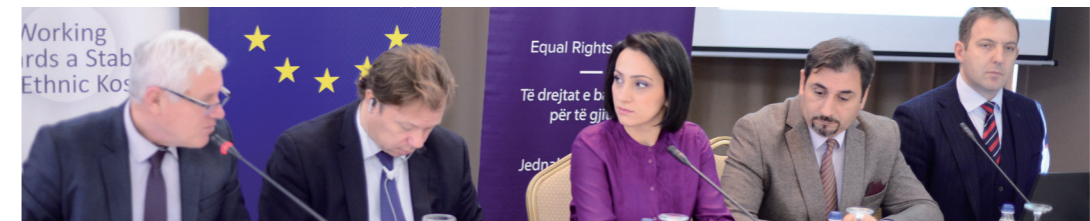
ECMI KOSOVO

SCALING UP THE RESULTS IN ENHANCING ACCESS TO AND RETENTION IN EDUCATION FOR VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN
The actions of the project *"Scaling up the Results in enhancing access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children"* coordinated and harmonized with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), will continue its implementation also in 2018. Within the project, ECMI Kosovo will be able to provide support to PRTAN with regard to the early identification of children at risk of dropping out, and responding in real time to situations where abandoned children will be identified by supporting and empowering school and municipal officials trained to find sustainable solutions to identified cases. Furthermore, project's activities will aim also to provide continuous support to the targeted municipalities for the technical and substantial use of the Early Warning System module.

UPCOMING
●●● Conference to present a qualitative and quantitative report on Serbian language schools in Kosovo within the project Support to Education in the Serbian Language in Kosovo – February 2018.

●●● Within ERAC project; Publication of seven research papers and organisation of five conferences concerning current human rights concerns in Kosovo.

●●● Publication of seven (7) promotional videos on illustrative daily-life of vulnerable and marginalized groups` concerns identified by the Coalition.

●●● Publication of billboards in fourteen municipalities to raise public awareness about the principle of equal access to human rights for all and the role of CSOs in this domain.

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

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

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ECMI GEORGIA

ECMI GEORGIA

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

Drawing upon lessons from past…
The ECMI International division has been present in Georgia through its office in Tbilisi covering the South Caucasus region. Since 2003, the ECMI team has focused its activities and programmes in the niches of Minority-Majority Relations, Dialogue and Consultation, Capacity Building and Policy Formation, Governmental and Institutional Support and Research and Documentation.

For over a decade, the ECMI team in Georgia actively cooperated with local governmental and non-governmental bodies to improve the competencies of minority organizations, assist government in building institutional capacities to develop, and implement policies on national minority issues. Establishing consultative bodies, promoting a fair and dignified repatriation process for the Meskhetians, supporting Roma communities, civil society development, observing elections, and conducting research on minority-related topics, were some of the successfully implemented projects of the ECMI in Georgia.

Reshaping in 2018…
2018 will be a year of reforming the representation and renewing our activities in Georgia. Picking up on the most pressing issues that minority groups currently face in Georgia, the ECMI is going back to the South Caucasus to reestablish its ties and carry on implementing its synergy between standards, research, and action.

As a first step towards new initiatives, a memorandum of understanding was signed with a local NGO, the Center for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CSEM). Based on the memorandum, the ECMI and the CSEM will cooperate on a wide range of areas within the broader field of minority studies and research in Georgia. Among the joint activities to be planned are academic cooperation and research partnership, joint project initiatives, and mutual support in teaching. With the supervision of the ECMI Georgia representative, the CSEM will coordinate the ECMI networks and interns locally, and oversee the ECMI Corner, located at the University of Georgia (UG). The ECMI Corner is a resource center equipped with necessary materials to assist students and interns in research on minority rights.

Together with the CSEM, the UG, and number of old and new partners in Georgia, the ECMI will kick-off new initiatives starting from first half of the 2018 within the priority areas identified at the ECMI Roundtable in Georgia at end 2017 and during the consultations with local partners, minority representatives and experts.

ECMI GEORGIA

Building future strategies…
The ECMI has, together with its partner organization the CSEM, identified the five most pressing issues in Georgia in relation to minority protection: political participation, decentralization, education in and for a diverse society, challenges to the ratification of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML), and gender and minorities.

In 2018, the ECMI team will organize a workshop and establish regular contacts with experts on Georgia, in order to identify major shortcomings in minority protection in Georgia and to develop an initial action plan for support from the ECMI in addressing these shortcomings. The focus in 2018 will lie with the screening of the situation in Georgia and preliminary research on the identified current issues, essential to develop an adequate action plan for Georgia.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
The initial presumption of the research and activity in this area is that national minorities are neither quantitatively nor qualitatively represented in Georgian politics. The electoral system does not provide measures for fostering participation of national minorities and the mainstream political parties do not address the issues of interest for national minorities. Furthermore, forming political parties on ethnic grounds is outlawed in Georgia. The aim of the ECMI is to perform an in-depth analysis of the Georgian electoral and party systems, to identify potential opportunities for the introduction of measures which can promote the political participation of national minorities. As a result, the ECMI will develop a plan of activities and identify the main stakeholders as target of the activities.

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

ECMI GEORGIA

EDUCATION IN AND FOR A DIVERSE SOCIETY
There are several issues in education which need to be addressed: teaching of the state language for students belonging to national minorities in order to overcome still present bad knowledge of the state language among national minorities; increasing the quality of education in minority languages as this is still of lower quality than the education for majority population; monitoring of the outcomes of the measures, programs, and reforms in education, in order to identify their impact on minority education with special emphasis on the sustainability of such measures and programs. Interest will also be put on the content of curricula and the aspect of the education as a tool for the promotion of certain values. In this respect, it will be analyzed to what extent the Georgian educational system promotes diversity of Georgian society and the heritage of the minority groups living in Georgia.

CHALLENGES TO RATIFICATION OF THE ECRML
The problem of the ratification of the ECRML has been persistent in Georgia for many years. The ECMI will identify the current state of affairs with regard to Georgian reluctance to the ratification. It will identify the main reasons for which the ratification is objected and how these can be overcome. Bearing this in mind, the ECMI will develop an action plan for promoting the ratification of the ECRML.

GENDER AND MINORITIES
With respect to a general assumption that women are in a doubly vulnerable position, both because of their sex and of affiliation to a national minority, the ECMI will place some focus on the position of women belonging to national minorities in Georgia. The aim is to perform a sort of gender mainstreaming and analyze how women belonging to national minorities are affected with measures for minority protection. This issue is envisaged as a cross-cutting issue and will be taken into consideration when dealing with all other issues listed above.

For more information, please visit:
www.ecmi.de/fieldoffices/ecmi-georgia/

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EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

ECMI 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 considered 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, as well as a primary sparring partner for governments, international governmental organisations, and the European Union in this field.

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

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

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ECMI EDUCATION

ECMI SUMMER SCHOOL
National Minorities and Border Regions

Theme 2018: Diversity: European heritage and/or driver of change

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.

2018 Brussels
Is diversity a historical feature of European societies and an asset contributing to their enrichment and development? Is it a negative factor and a threat to economic and political stability, to culture, and to societal cohesion? In the context of the current raise of right wing populism, refugee crisis, and referendums for self-determination, the European year of cultural heritage 2018 is the moment to reflect on the European diversity as a value, a practice, and a trigger for socio-political changes. Understanding the impact that the dynamics have on mainstream societies, national (old) and new minorities, and on their interactions, will enable better evaluation of potential risks and planning of adequate pre-emptive measures to address those risks and to foster positive developments in the future.

The one-week training course will focus on cultural diversity as a European heritage and as a driver of change, drawing connections between historical past, current events, and future perspectives. Combining traditional and non-formal education methods, interactive sessions, and networking activities, the interdisciplinary training will foster critical thinking, multi-level exchange of knowledge and experience, and the establishment of a network of young activists and professionals. Through practice-based activities and creative workshops, the ECMI 2018 Summer School will not only equip participants with the understanding of politics of diversity and the related advantages and challenges, but will also foster their civic engagement and interest in policy and decision making processes.

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

Maj-Britt Hansen
Head of Secretariat and
Project coordinator

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ECMI EDUCATION

ECMI INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

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

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

ECMI TRAINING COURSES

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

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

ECMI EDUCATION

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

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

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

Part I: History, International Law and International Relations
•••   The historical emergence of minority rights
•••   European international law and inter-governmental institutions
•••   Inter-state relations and European integration
Part II: Concepts and Theories
•••   Culture, language and ethnicity
•••   Conflict and unity
•••   Ethnographic and anthropological approaches to minority issues
•••   Theories of nationalism
•••   Late modernity
Part III: Politics and Policy
•••   Conflict mitigation
•••   Democracy, participation and empowerment
•••   Minority education
•••   Diversity management

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

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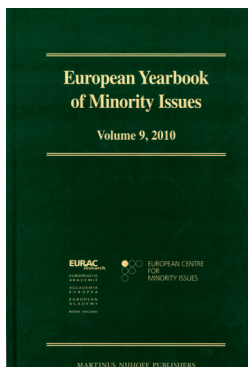**Stanislav Cernega
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JEMIE
Journal on Ethnopolitics and
Minority Issues in Europe

Contact person:
**Dr. Tamara Hoch
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European Yearbook
of Minority Issues
Volume 9, 2010

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MARTINUS NIJHOFF PUBLISHERS

Contact person:
**Sonja Wolf
(wolf@ecmi.de)**

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

Mariana Jimsheladze
ECMI Library
Project Assistant

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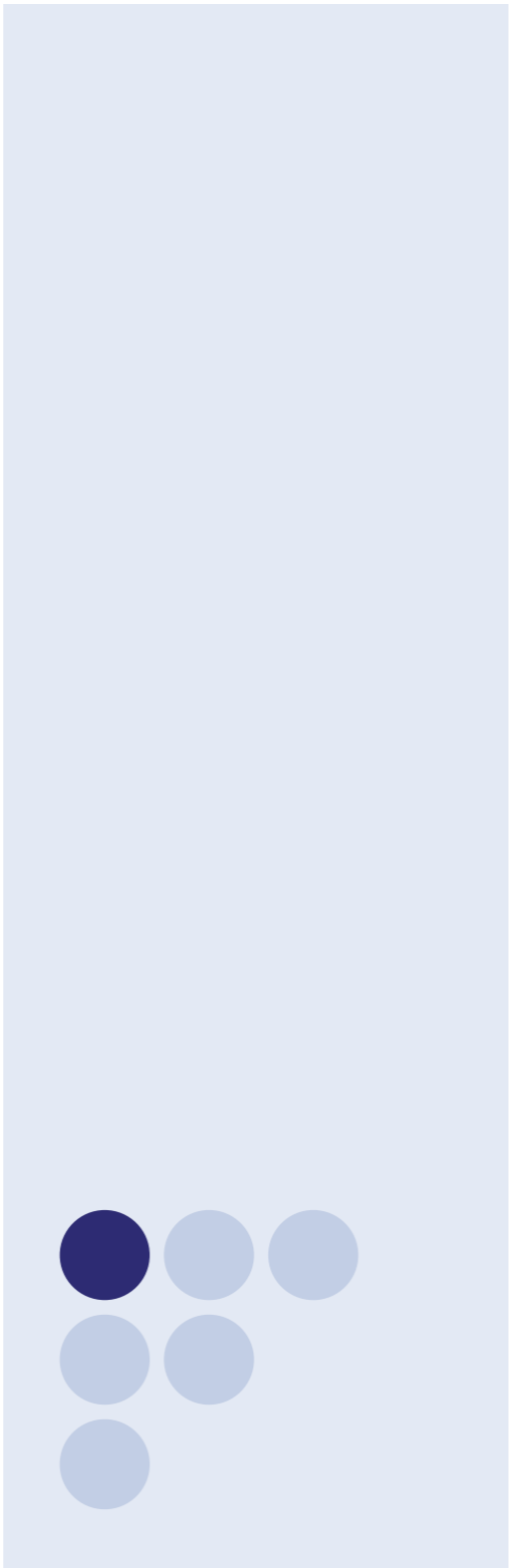
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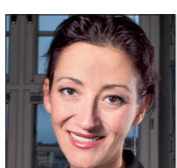Senior Research Associate

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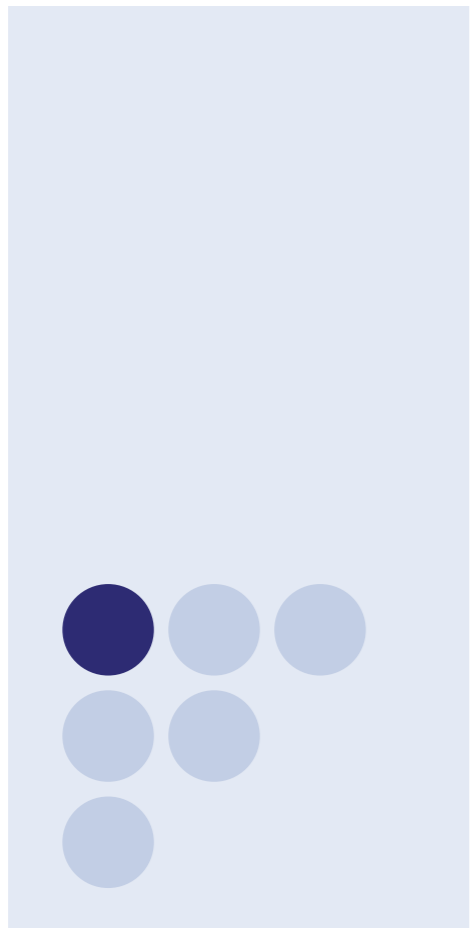Head of Cluster
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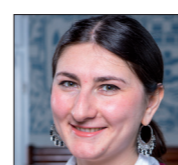Caitlin Boulter (Australia)
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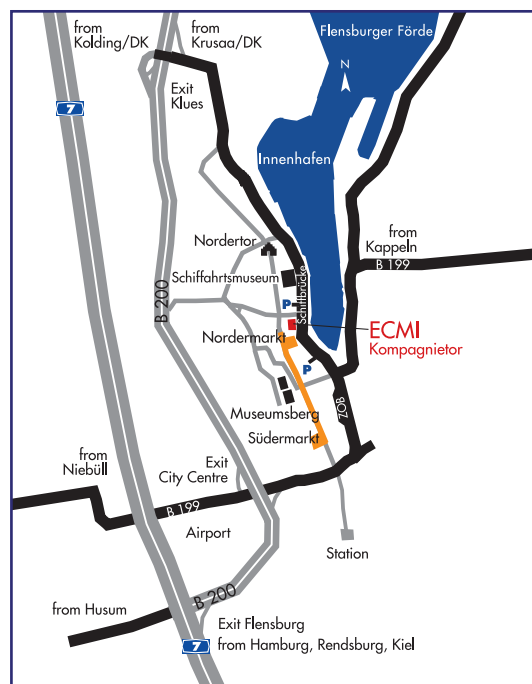european-centre-for-minority-
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