



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
High Commissioner on National Minorities**

The Hague, 22 March 2016

RE: “Bridge building and integration in diverse societies”

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

As part of Germany’s chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2016, the High Commissioner on National Minorities has tasked the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) with conducting a study highlighting the abilities of diverse ethnic groups and minorities (including national, linguistic, religious, cultural and similar) as bridge-builders and agents of reconciliation between states. The outcome of the project will be to provide OSCE members with recommendations based on positive examples of these diverse groups and their institutions working productively in collaboration with local municipalities and authorities.

In order to gather information for this project, we are asking minority organizations, civil society and regional or local municipalities to participate in a nine-question survey, which will help us build a picture of ethnic groups’ and minority communities’ activity across the OSCE member states. You will find the questionnaire attached to this letter, and we kindly ask that you fill it out and return it to bridgebuilding@ecmi.de by 15th April 2016. Information gathered will be used only for the purposes of this study, and participants’ contact details will be treated confidentially.

The OSCE, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and ECMI would like to thank you for your participation in this ground-breaking project. We aim to promote understanding and recognition of ethnic diversity as an asset to any society, so please support us by distributing this questionnaire to any group, organization or municipality that might be able to contribute to the study.

We are counting on you to help us make your achievements visible!

Yours sincerely,

Astrid Thors
High Commissioner on National Minorities