



ECMI substantive evaluation Results of the second external appraisal

The years 2006-2007 marked two key cycles in the activities of the ECMI: the 10th anniversary of its establishment and the second evaluation round.

The statutes of ECMI foresee periodic reviews of the Centre's performance. The first review was conducted in 2001 examining the research, action-oriented activities and first and foremost the administrative consolidation of the institute.

As the second administrative-financial assessment was conducted separately in early 2006, this evaluation focused entirely on the substantive aspect of ECMI's activities.

The external evaluation was conducted between March and September 2007 by an international panel of experts and the Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA) responsible for the organisation of the evaluation on request of the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The assessment was undertaken by an international panel of distinguished experts from the academic and practical field of minority-majority issues headed by Prof. Dr Joseph Marko, Director of European Academy in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy and International Law Professor, University of Graz, Austria; Prof. Dr Stefan Oeter, International Law Professor, Hamburg University and Member of the Independent Expert Committee of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages of the Council of Europe; and Ms Birgit Lindsnaes, Deputy Director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Director of the DIHR International Department.

During the face-to-face evaluation session conducted at the ECMI Headquarters in Flensburg, a number of interviews were conducted with ECMI Board members, Advisory Council members, cooperation partners and ECMI staff.

The substantive evaluation examined three defined main tasks of ECMI: research, constructive conflict management, and advisory services and documentation. Furthermore

the evaluation addressed ECMI's networking and co-operation activities; analysed the content and the structure of ECMI's strategy work, staffing and organisation.

Finally, the evaluation provided an account of the Centre's follow-up activities to the recommendations presented in the external evaluation of 2001. The full evaluation report is available at the www.eva.dk.

Self-evaluation as a guiding principle of external evaluation

In preparation of the evaluation, ECMI and EVA agreed on a structured self-evaluation core document and 5 annexes, highlighting the key areas of ECMI competence and tasks starting from ECMI's own perception of strengths and weaknesses, including strategic planning and development, research methods, action-oriented activities and synergies between research and action; information, documentation and publication of the results; ECMI networks and involvement in international, regional and local co-operation; donor co-operation and external project funding. Issues of management, staffing and internal organization were also the subject of a separate chapter, to demonstrate how ECMI structures were adapted to the respective strategies. The self-evaluation indicated difficulties and challenges throughout the years in terms of funding, staff recruitment and retention, as well as adjustments to the changing political contexts of minority-majority relations in Europe. All categories of ECMI staff participated in the preparation of the self-evaluation document.

The evaluation process

The self-evaluation process was designed to provide documentation to the expert panel in connection with the site visit conducted on 10-11 May 2007.

The expert panel and EVA received all documentation more than one month before the site visit in order to acquaint themselves with issues raised and to prepare for the interviews during the site visit. The site visit



had mainly 2 purposes: 1) to allow ECMI to elaborate on potentially unclear sections of the self-evaluation report and 2) to validate the information through interviews with the stakeholders of ECMI, management and staff. Moreover, the site visit had the purpose to motivate discussions on strengths and weaknesses related to the issue of evaluation and to encourage the process of continuous improvement of the quality of ECMI's activities.

After the site visit, further clarifications were delivered to the expert panel and EVA. The draft evaluation report was compiled

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and forwarded to ECMI for comments in mid-August, in order to provide the final report to the founders in early autumn when the state budgetary decisions are made. The final evaluation report was made public in October 2007.

Conclusions and recommendations

The overall conclusion was that ECMI operates according to its mandate as defined by the founding governments; that ECMI produces research of good quality, carries out relevant advisory activities and publishes documentation of its activities. In particular ECMI research results and research output were assessed "at its best, ECMI research is impressive, excellent and groundbreaking". Even though the evaluation was conducted without field visits, "the advisory services (...) in Kosovo/a and in the Caucasus region appear relevant, adequate, research driven and to have had an impact in the field".

The panel of experts indicated that they experienced the evaluation process as an open and professional approach and a source of mutual inspiration. The expert panel and EVA expect the report to encourage the

Post-evaluation Board meeting

On 6 December 2007, the ECMI Board gathered to discuss the outcome of the external evaluation and its recommendations. As a special guest, the chairman of the evaluation panel Prof. Dr. Josef Marko was invited to comment on the evaluation process and the results. He was also available to the board members, including the representatives of the ECMI founders, for follow-on questions and further comments.

The conclusion was to conduct a seminar on 25 February at the Sankelmark Academy to review ECMI current interim strategy and to decide on the future tasks of the institute.

process of further developing ECMI's organisation and strategy, as well as its research, action-oriented projects and publications.

Of the key recommendations, the evaluation indicated:

- the need to increase ECMI core funding and draw better on external funding
 - to recompose the Board to give it a more professional aspect
 - to enhance internal management and governance in terms of leadership and staff development
 - to ensure broader networking for the external promotion of ECMI, knowledge exchange and cross-institutional ventures
- Based on those recommendations, a

seminar is planned for 25 February to discuss ECMI strategy and related issues.

At the time of the publication of this Newsletter issue, there has not yet been a final decision by the founders concerning the amendment of ECMI core funding to close the gap in the absence of the originally planned fourth founder as well as the gap of financial status quo from 1996. Yet, there have been indications that the funding governments are looking positively into the matter, as much as to other constructive steps to be taken according to the evaluation recommendations.

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

ECMI Support to the Government of Kosovo Involving Civil Society in Community Governance

ADRIAN ZEQRIRI

As part of its initiative to support the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Government of Kosovo in developing a comprehensive system of implementing and monitoring the rights and interests of minority communities living in Kosovo, ECMI has carried out a consultation process with individual minority communities, in cooperation with the Prime Minister's Minority Affairs Advisor and Office of Good Governance. The consultations marked the second phase of a three-phase project financially supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

This consultation process was aimed at understanding and identifying priority problematic areas and the specific needs of each minority community, as well as discrepancies between policy and practice by focusing on conflicting laws and regulations,

in order to make sure that the issues identified are constructively addressed through government policies.

Furthermore, the inputs collected from the grassroots level of each minority community were channelled by ECMI to the body drafting of the Kosovo's National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan.

The workshops with Serb, Bosniak, Gorani and RAE (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian) representatives took place in Prishtina on 11, 15 and 23 October, respectively. The workshop with representatives of the Turk community took place in Rečane/Reçan, near Prizren on 18 October 2007. Representatives of all minority communities were keen to ensure their proportional representation in public institutions at all levels as a crucial tool to guarantee access of their members to public services in all sectors. The Serb activists



referred to security, freedom of movement and the insufficient use of their language by public institutions as the main challenges hampering their access to public services. They identified the need for decentralisation and reforming the public institutions and services, such as the creation of mobile outreach teams for key services, which would ensure more targeted delivery and easier access to public services.

For the Bosniak and Gorani communities, education, culture, identity, and language were a priority, with recommendations focusing on the need to establish permanent educational programmes in their languages at all levels within the Kosovo's public educational system, as well as to assist in

the promotion and perseverance of their language, culture and the religion. As for the Turk representatives, education was considered the most pressing need, with the longest list of recommendations. Concerning language, culture and media, the greatest concerns include the insufficient use of Turkish in public institutions, the need for financial assistance to conduct cultural activities and media, while institutional cooperation between Turkey and Kosovo was assessed as an efficient way of addressing the problems in specific sectors. According to the workshop participants, abolishing illiteracy and improving healthcare remain urgent needs for these minority communities. The recommendations pointed to the establishment of secretariats and task forces at both central and local levels which would exclusively deal with the implementation of the existing and planned strategies and minority related legislation in all sectors, as well as proportional representation.

Through this consultation process, ECMI and OPM have identified problematic areas and policy recommendations to be included in the ongoing development of the Kosovo's National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan. The consultations enhanced a rather long-term policy goal, namely reforming the existing government structures dealing with the protection and promotion of minority rights at all levels. All recommendations were included in a comprehensive needs assessment report, with a database of the registered and active NGOs representing all the minority communities. ECMI shared the report to all communities involved, assisting them in further networking, an idea proposed by ECMI and agreed to by all community representatives.

ECMI Annual meeting 2007

On 14 December 2007, ECMI field and headquarters staff met in Flensburg for the annual review of past activities, recommendations of the evaluation and future prospects. Further improvements in daily administration, management and finance were also discussed. In relation to project management, the ECMI deputy director conducted the second round of training in results-based project management, aimed at increased efficiency of project management (action-oriented and research projects).

The power point presentations of individual programme managers were directed towards cross-fertilisation and knowledge sharing. At the end of the review, a number of internal research meetings were suggested to present inter- and multidisciplinary approaches to ECMI thematic work.

The overall consultation process is of particular importance to the upcoming development of mechanisms of regular participation of minority communities in the work of the Community Consultative Council. It also serves other policy goals, such as the drafting process of the Chapter on Rights of Communities and Their Members of the Kosovo Constitution. In October three meetings of this expert sub-group were attended by the ECMI Kosovo Head of Office, Mr. Zeqiri, to ensure the incorporation of all the relevant recommendations of the representatives of the minority communities. Last but not least, this process helped ECMI to collect much needed information for the completion of an Analysis of the Governmental Institutional Framework for the Communities in Kosovo. This report has identified the key government institutions/bodies responsible for the implementation of community policies in the country, major shortcomings and discrepancies in the governmental policies and institutional mechanisms, and presented a set of policy recommendations and reform paths.

From 30 November to 1 December 2007 ECMI organised a joint drafting workshop with the Office for Good Governance within the Office of Prime Minister of Kosovo, which took place in Reçan/Reçane, near Prizren. The workshop succeeded in incorporating specific policy recommendations of civil society representatives into the Chapter on the Rights of Minority Communities within the Draft of the Kosovo's National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan. In terms of 'functional' chapters, ECMI proved to be useful to the implementation of the Strategy, which will consist of strategies for each sector related to minority rights and interests; legislative provisions within respective principal laws; awareness raising strategies; and coordination, reporting, and follow-up mechanisms.

In 2008 ECMI will continue its assistance to the communities and to the government structures in this very important area.

Meskhethians return to Georgia – making informed decisions

TOM TRIER

In July 2007, the Parliament of Georgia passed a law on repatriation, under which deported Meskhethians and their descendants are entitled to obtain repatriation status and later citizenship in Georgia. On 1 February 2008, ECMI officially launched the results of a larger research programme on the Meskhethians — an authoritative volume on integration, repatriation and resettlement of the population that was forcibly resettled to Central Asia from

Georgia in 1944. The launch event took place at Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Tbilisi and was attended by a range of government officials, parliamentarians and representatives of civil society and Meskhethian organizations from five countries.

At the event, both English and Russian versions of the book were presented. The English version of the book is entitled: *The Meskhethian Turks at a Crossroads: Integration, Repatriation or Resettlement?* Tom Trier & Andrei Khanzhin (eds), 663 pp., Berlin: LIT 2007. A Russian version was published

under the title: *Turki-Meskhethintsy. Integratsiya, repatriatsiya, emigratsiya*. Pod red. T. Triera i A. Khanzhina. St. Petersburg: Aleteiya, 456 pp..

The Director of the Research Project and co-editor of the volume, ECMI Regional Representative in the South Caucasus, Tom Trier, said in his presentation that he hoped the book could be of value for practitioners — governments, international actors and Meskhethians alike — as a tool in the process of facilitating the repatriation of those Meskhethians who wish to return to Georgia. The publication based on a comprehensive and comparative study of identity and migration patterns among Meskhethian communities in all the nine countries of their current settlement (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Uzbekistan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and the USA), examines the level of integration in these countries and identifies new approaches in finding durable solutions to the issue of Meskhetian displacement.

The launch event also featured a presentation of a new foundation established in December 2007, the *International Foundation for Repatriation Assistance*. The Foundation has been formed by a group of Meskhetian organizations from several countries. The aim of the foundation is to provide targeted assistance to persons deported in 1944 and their descendants wishing to resettle to Georgia under the new Georgian Law on Resettlement. The Chairman of the Foundation, Suleyman Barbakadze, who is also the Head of the International Meskhetian association *Vatan*, headquartered in Moscow, emphasised in his speech that the foundation will make use of its network of Meskhetian activists throughout several countries in the former Soviet Union to ensure that Meskhetians are properly informed about the possibilities of returning to Georgia. As part of its initial activities, the Foundation is currently compiling a booklet, providing factual information about Georgia for potential repatriates in order for them to make an informed decision about their possible application for repatriation. The *International Foundation for Repatriation Assistance* envisages a range of additional activities in the near future, including a media campaign to prepare communities in Georgia about the prospects for repatriation and resettlement of the Meskhetians.



From the left: Ms. Nazi Aronia, MP and Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia Committee for Human Rights and Civic Integration; Mr. Suleyman Barbakadze, Chairman of the International Foundation for Repatriation Assistance; Mr. Temur Lomsadze, Deputy Chairman of the Foundation, and Mr. Tom Trier, Regional Representative for ECMI in the Caucasus.

New ECMI partnership with the Council of Europe in Georgia

In January 2008, ECMI has commenced a new partnership programme with the Council of Europe, supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two-year intervention, which will be implemented throughout 2008 and 2009, is part of a larger Council of Europe programme on the Rule of Law, aimed at improving the capacity of Georgian institutions to carry out legal reforms that Georgia has committed to in recent years and to put them in line with European standards. The ECMI component of the programme will focus in particular on advancing the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which Georgia ratified in December 2005, and to prepare relevant parliament and government stakeholders for signing and ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as well as preparation of the Law on Minorities, which are among Georgia's remaining commitments to the Council of Europe. The ECMI intervention will also continue efforts started in 2005 under a previous ECMI programme to build the capacity of the Council of National Minorities working under the auspices of the Public Defender of Georgia, and support the process of implementing the Law on Repatriation to facilitate the return of Meskhetians, who were deported from Georgia in 1944.

Moldova/Gagauzia – concluding assistance to the functioning of the autonomy arrangements

OLEH PROTSYK, VALENTINA RIGAMONTI

The project *Enhancing the Functioning of the Gagauz Autonomy Arrangement* in Moldova came to an end with the completion of the work on a unified set of proposals on distribution of competencies between the central government and autonomy.

In the second half of 2007 ECMI held a series of meetings in Moldova with both Moldovan and Gagauzian delegations in order to achieve progress on issue areas that proved still to be controversial. In the course of these meetings the initial "Draft Document on Competencies of the Gagauz Autonomy" was amended and it now contains the outline of the main principles for delimitation of competencies of the centre and autonomy with regards to public administration, management of infrastructure, health, social

insurance, education, culture, and judicial and electoral matters. The document also expresses the willingness of the delegations to address highly controversial budgetary issues by committing the sides to developing specific formulas for calculating budgetary transfers. The document also registers progress in two other controversial areas, namely the relations between the autonomy and bodies of local self-government and the issues of administrative and judicial control over the activities of authorities of the autonomy and the local public administration in Gagauzia.

Besides working to achieve an agreement on the principles of distribution of competencies, ECMI's other important objective was to enhance the Gagauz legislative bodies' capacity in law drafting. Concurrently with the meetings of the Joint Technical Group, training events on law drafting for the legal

personnel of the People Assembly of Gagauzia and various agencies of autonomy were organized. These training events aimed to introduce the local drafters to contemporary methodologies and techniques of law making.

Intensification of cooperation between the national and autonomy legislatures has been one important outcome of project activities. One manifestation of this increased cooperation is the establishment of an internship program for the legal staff of the Gagauz assembly to gain law-drafting experience in the national parliament of Moldova. Another important milestone achieved by ECMI presence in Moldova has been the facilitation of the dialogue between the Moldovan and Gagauzian delegations and other autonomies in Western Europe, such as South Tyrol. ECMI would like to thank the German Federal Government/MFA, IFA-Zivik and the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, for their interest and continued support to this initiative as well as to all international and local experts for their engagement in the process of searching for appropriate solutions to ethno-political issues in Moldova.

ECMI Hosted Negotiations Between Sudan's Opposition Groups in Flensburg

DR MARC WELER

Western Sudan (Darfur) has been subjected to a devastating armed campaign since 2002/3. At that time, opposition movements formed in the three federal states of the Darfur region, seeking greater representation of their region in the central institutions of Sudan, and an ending of its economic marginalization. This rebellion was answered by an armed campaign of the Central government, utilizing mainly local *janjaweed* militias with the regular Sudanese air force acting in support. The armed campaign has resulted in between 150.000 and 200.000 deaths among the civilian population, and the displacement of around 2 million, out of a total population of around 6 million. This conduct has been designated as possible genocide by some governments and is subject to action by the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

The African Union has attempted to broker a peace agreement over the past three years. However, generally, these peace talks (there were seven rounds of several months each thus far) were fundamentally misconceived and poorly run, offering a considerable amount of control to the central government in the negotiation process. In May 2006, the African Union attempted to impose a Darfur Peace Agreement on the parties. That agreement was unbalanced and did not really address the concerns of the opposition groups. Hence, it was signed only by one splinter group of the two major rebel movements, the SLM and JEM. While the government has maintained that there is a peace agreement in force now, the hostilities have continued.

Throughout the peace process, the disunity of the opposition groups in Western Sudan has been a major problem, in addition to the mishandling of the negotiations by the African Union. Under AU sponsorship, several abortive attempts were made to build up the capacity of the SLM and JEM to engage constructively in the negotiations, and to assist the parties in coming to unified positions. ECMI was briefly involved in this in 2005, when its Director contributed to such capacity building during the fifth round of negotiations. It was apparent, however, that the parties could not be expected to form their own (confidential) positions under the spotlight of the



mediators and under observation from the Sudan government.

A new attempt of achieving a peace agreement was to be made at the end of October 2007. This time, the United Nations became involved along with the AU, with the strong support of the USA and several Western European governments. The aim was to generate a more credible negotiation environment and to come to an agreement among all the relevant parties.

In September 2007, ECMI contributed to a preliminary workshop involving both the government and the various groups from throughout Sudan to discuss the functioning of the constitutional order in Sudan. On that occasion, ECMI was invited to take the lead and arrange a meeting between the two main opposition groups from Western Sudan, to assist them in unifying their position, and in developing their negotiation strategy. This workshop was held at ECMI Headquarters in Flensburg in October 2007. For the first time, the main factions of the SLM and JEM addressed in detail the issues to be discussed at the upcoming negotiations and discovered the potential of joint action. Both parties were also encouraged in their cooperation by being exposed to the experience of the German-Danish border region. The minority organizations on both sides of the border briefed the delegation from the Sudan in detail on the paths that had been taken towards reconciliation, integration and peaceful respect for diversity.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

ECMI Political Participation Programme

OLEH PROTSYK, VALENTINA RIGAMONTI

The Political Participation Programme seeks to advance expertise on issues related to the inclusion of minorities in decision-making processes. Programme activities in the second half of 2007 revolved around the following substantive issues: legislative and executive representation of minorities, party responses to the need for minority accommodation, and minority inclusion in civil service. The activities involved research, workshop co-organization, and conference presentations. In terms of research, a large database on minority repre-

sentation in Romania, which contains details on ethnic and socio-demographic characteristics of parliamentary representatives has been constructed. A similar type of data was collected for the analysis of patterns of representation in the non-recognized entity of Transnistria.

Positions on minority issues of major political parties were studied in detail in the Moldovan case (ECMI Working Paper #37). ECMI's work on political representation in non-recognized entities was presented at the conference of the American Association for Advancement of Slavonic Studies in New Orleans in November 2007. The results of this

work are forthcoming in the ECMI Working Papers series.

A coding scheme for content analysis of programmatic positions of political parties on minority issues has also been developed. This methodology could be used for identifying and comparing minority-related provisions in party programs in individual countries and across party systems.

Also in November, ECMI was Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's (FES) partner in organizing a workshop in Skopje, Macedonia on ethnic minorities in political parties in South Eastern Europe. The workshop brought together a number of experts on ethnic minority issues from countries of the region to discuss minority engagement with political parties.

The workshop results will be published in special FES report.

In December, a workshop at ECMI Headquarters in Flensburg on "Democratizing Minority Governance" had the purpose of discussing internal democracy within minority organizations, with particular reference to adequate and transparent patterns of representation.

A further aspect of political participation and minority representation in civil service was taken up for discussion when methodological approaches to data collection were debated. It demonstrated that empirical analysis of minority presence in public bureaucracy is very dependent on reliable data collection. This issue will be presented in the forthcoming ECMI Issue Brief in February 2008.

Workshop on "Democratizing Minority Governance"

A workshop on "Democratizing Minority Governance" was held at ECMI on 7 December, with participation of international experts and representatives of FUEN and regional minority groups. The topic of the workshop was to explore internal democracy issues in minority organizations with specific emphasis on the transparency of representation. Three contributions were discussed: Dr Oleh Protsyk, ECMI, talked about "Politics of Representation", focusing on minority representation in legislative bodies in Romania and Moldova; Petra Granholm, Åland Island Peace Institute, gave an overview of current Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish developments regarding the right to participation for the Saami people and finally, Dr Emma Lantschner, EURAC, informed about "The Commission of Six within the Autonomous System of South Tyrol".

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Improving Romani Integration in the Balkans

Supporting Local Romani Coordinators in Serbia

NATASA MARKOVSKA

The follow on project to the large initiative Supporting Local Romani Coordinators in Serbia continued to build further capacity of ten Romani coordinators and ten municipalities' sector heads from 10 selected municipalities throughout Serbia. Those include Bor, Beočin, Čačak, Čukarica, Lajkovac, Lebane, Kraljevo, Prokuplje, Smederevo, and Zrenjanin. The trainings were supported by the UNDP and the Serbian Agency for Human and Minority Rights (AHMR). The Local Romani Coordinators' positions in local municipalities are part of Serbia's commitment to the Roma Decade National Action Plan on Roma Inclusion.

The trainings expanded on the first set of eight trainings and four networking events organized for 13 Romani coordinators (RCs) and 52 municipal sector heads (SH) from 13 local governments in Serbia. In addition to facilitating integration of the coordinators in their local administration, another major result was publication in three languages — Romani, Serbian and English — of a Practical Guide to Integrating Roms in Municipal Government (ECMI Monograph #5) to serve as a manual in the municipal administrations.

The key outcome of the trainings was the creation of stable ground for the integration of Romani focal points into the local municipal administration. This represents a firm link between the local government and Romani community and serves as an example



of best practices for other municipalities with sizeable Romani populations which have not yet established such positions. The project has been characterized by excellent team work between RCs and their colleagues in municipalities, who have in this way been successful in the establishment of local professional networks.

The initial establishment of contacts with the above municipalities was facilitated by the UNDP and the Agency for Human and Minority Rights, which also provided necessary information and advice throughout the period of project implementation. Training needs were assessed through consultations with the already active RCs, taking into consideration their opinion of areas in which their skills needed additional improvement. The sequence and topics of the training events for RCs and SHs jointly covered the following areas:

- The Decade of Roma Inclusion and Action Plans
- Social Welfare System in Serbia
- Project design and fundraising
- Project management

Good practices

In three topics, Decade of Roma Inclusion and Action Plans, Project Cycle Management, and Social Welfare System in Serbia, ECMI used the RCs from the initial training cycle in administering the content of the relevant training sessions to their peers from the new municipalities to increase the level of networking and sustainability of the cooperation among municipalities.

The gender aspect of training participants and the training content was strongly present. To the extent possible, an equal participation was encouraged. In this second cycle, seven males and three females of the RCs and ten SH, evenly split between men and women were enrolled.

As a participant driven activity, during implementation of the trainings, several new topics emerged, and in agreement with UNDP and AHMR additional sessions were included addressing RCs only and the following issues:

- Prejudices, Discrimination & Equal opportunities
- Human Rights and Gender Equality
- Public Relations and Advocacy
- Human Resources and Action Plans Development and Adoption

Results and Impact

The initial pool of 13 RCs was enlarged with additional 10 RCs and the relationship between the two pools strengthened by introducing some more experienced RCs as mentors to those new RCs. In that respect 23 of 31 municipalities in Serbia had included Local Romani Co-ordinators in their administration, yet to be formalized on a long-term basis.

One of the critical elements of successful implementation of the Roma Decade was to make the RCs and SHs involved in the production of local actions plans.

Seven of the ten municipalities participating, drafted their first local action plan at the training, and all ten won the first micro grant up to € 10.000 EURO submitting proposals prepared according to the Project Cycle Management.

Both the Serbian Agency for Human and Minority Rights and the UNDP Serbia are keen on continuing this initiative in 2008, applying the trainings to the remaining 8 municipalities in order to cover all municipalities with a large Roma population.

Applying Impact Assessment Methodology for Roma Inclusion Decade

MAGDALENA KOUNEVA, KATERINA VELICHKOVA, EBEN FRIEDMAN

ECMI and UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS (RBEC), Bratislava, continued to develop impact assessment methodology for Roma Inclusion Decade (RID) to be applied in the monitoring and evaluation process of the nine committed countries. (See ECMI Newsletter vol.4 issue 1, www.ecmi.de/download/ecmi_NL-vol4_1_March_2007.pdf)

Monitoring and evaluation is an area in which a wide set of actors has its potential role, and therefore development of a comprehensive assessment methodology is the key element of the successful implementation of the RID in the four priority areas: education, employment, health and housing. To test the application of the methodology, a pilot training was conducted in Bulgaria. The pilot training which included representatives of Roma Inclusion Decade secretariat,

representatives of key line ministries of Labour, Health, Education and local authorities, focused on the issues of data collection, data processing, and methods of monitoring and evaluation. All of these elements are necessary for proper progress assessment and assessment of measures undertaken so far. A cumulative session on re-visiting the National Action Plans in view of the progress achieved/absent concluded the training.

Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro and Macedonia expressed their interest in conducting similar trainings based on the Bulgarian pilot.

While representatives of Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia met in Belgrade late October, Croatia cancelled its participation. There was explicit interest on the part of those countries to be involved in trainings. The materials will be translated into Serbian and possibly Macedonian, to ensure accessibility of the methods and concepts for all stakeholders, authorities and NGOs.

Currently ECMI and UNDP RBEC are reviewing the comments and experiences of the methodology training in Bulgaria to prepare for the next round of trainings.

As a result of the application of the methodology, most likely there will be an attempt to bring about revisions in the respective countries' National Action Plans by 2010 through a substantive and geographical broadening of the current phase.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE DIVERSITY

Language and Culture Diversity Programme

EWA CHYLINSKI, ULRIKE SCHMIDT

ECMI has advanced its research on language diversity by analysing the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML) with regard to its particular value to the provisions for the Romani language and with regard to the support the Charter offers to non-kin state territorial languages. The ECRML, adopted in 1992 and since then signed and ratified by a growing number of States, is the most comprehensive European treaty and set of measures for the protection of minority languages. This is an important standard-setting document for the protection and promotion of minority and regional languages, yet its

wording allows opportunities for States to ratify the Charter in a minimalist way, leaving some minority languages in a more disadvantaged position.

The preliminary research will be presented in two working papers soon to be available for consultation on the ECMI's homepage under Language and Culture Diversity subpage.

In November 2007, ECMI followed an invitation by the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning to participate in the conference on *"The future of European policy towards Multilingualism and Language Learning"* in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Fryslân, the Netherlands. In addition to presentations on issues revolving around the promotion of linguistic

diversity by multilingual language learning policies and discussion of the shape of the relevant European standards, the participants were given the opportunity to jointly develop strategies for raising the awareness in the EU and among national policy makers of the benefits of and the need to support and promote bi- or multilingualism that would include minority languages, not only major EU national languages.

At the end of 2007, ECMI had the opportunity to present the Programme, its objectives, aims and research progress to other organizations linked to minority issues from the Schleswig-Holstein and Southern Denmark regions, to receive feedback and to look into possible forms of cooperation.

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Review, Warsaw 25 September – 05 October 2007: ECMI contribution

The OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Review (HDIM) is the largest annual OSCE participating States assessment of meeting OSCE commitments in the area of human dimension — democratization, tolerance, national minorities, electoral process, gender equality and trafficking in human beings, and Roma issues. In addition to presentations and statements made by the participating States delegations, a number of side events were conducted offering space for civil society organisations to contribute.

ECMI's side event on 25 September was related to the proceedings by the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, who assumed his post just a few weeks before the HDIM.

The ECMI presentation outlined a general programmatic approach to minority-majority relations in Europe, focusing in particular on Equal Opportunities for Minorities and the Economic and Social Inclusion Programme. The first part of the presentations was made by the Deputy Director Ewa Chylinski, while the more specific economic inclusion dimension was presented by Dr Jonathan Wheatley. The side event gathered more than 30 participants, including members of the OSCE diplomatic delegations, NGO representatives, OSCE and ODIHR staff.



●●● New ECMI Publications

External Publications by ECMI Staff

Trier, Tom and Andrei Khanzhin (eds.) *Turki-Mesketintsy. Integratsiya, repatriatsiya, emigratsiya*. SPb: Aleteiya.

[Russian version of: The Meskhetian Turks at a Crossroads: Integration, Repatriation or Resettlement]

Weller, Marc (ed.) *Universal Minority Rights. A Commentary on the Jurisprudence of International Courts and Treaty Bodies*. Oxford University Press, 2007.

Weller, Marc and Farimah Daftary (eds.) *Full and Effective Participation of Minorities in Public Life in Accession States. Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative*, Open Society Institute, Budapest, forthcoming 2008.

Weller, Marc and Denika Blacklock (eds.) *The Protection of Minorities in the Wider Europe*. Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2008.

Council of Europe (ed.) *Institutions for the Management of Ethnopolitical Conflict in Central and Eastern Europe*. Strasbourg, Council of Europe forthcoming 2008.

Reports

ECMI Report #60

Malloy, Tove H. and Michele Gazzola

The Aspect of Culture in the Social Inclusion of Ethnic Minorities: Final Report for the European Commission. December 2006, 197 pp., appendix.

Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)

The forthcoming issue of JEMIE (Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe, ECMI peer-reviewed electronic journal) features a special focus on minority languages and includes several articles written by scholars and policy practitioners in this area.

Equal opportunities for national minorities was the special focus of the previous issue of the journal. Both journal articles and manuscript submission guidelines can be found at:



www.ecmi.de/jemie/specialfocus.html
or www.ecmi.de/jemie

General Editors Annual Meeting of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues

On December 06, ECMI hosted the General Editors Annual Meeting of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues. A broad range of topics was discussed, including the current format and status of the production and peer reviewing process for Vol. 6. Pricing issues and marketing relations to the publisher Brill as well as the identification of topics and authors for Vol. 7 was reviewed. Vol. 6 is expected to be published mid-2008.

Activity Plan

October 2007

8-9 October

17th Annual EINIRAS Conference, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

11- 14 October

Preparatory Meeting on Western Sudan – The University of Cambridge – Carnegie Foundation Project on Resolving Self-determination Conflicts and the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), Flensburg,

November 2007

3 November

Festveranstaltung Deutscher Tag 2007 – Minderheit als Mehrwert, Tinglev, Danmark

20-21 November

Conference of American Association for Advancement of Slavonic Studies in New Orleans, ECMI presentation Political representation in non-recognised entities

26 November

Syddansk Universitet – Book Presentation at Alesion, Sønderborg, Danmark

December 2007

6-7 December

European Yearbook Meeting of general editors, Flensburg

7 December

ECMI Workshop "Democratizing minority governance", Flensburg

13 December

Meeting of the Regional Crossborder Cooperation / Arbeitskreis Minderheiten, Integration und Interkulturelle Kompetenz, Flensburg

14 December

ECMI annual meeting

January 2008

30 January

External research meeting: Martina Bielawski, PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge, Centre of International Studies: "Places that don't exist" — Human Rights protection in de facto and transitional entities.

24 January

Dr. Irina Morozova, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, GIGA Institute of Middle East Studies; Hamburg International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University Institute of Asian and African Studies: Ethnicity and the question of minorities in Soviet and present Kyrgyzstan

February 2008

14 February

ECMI review of the recommendations of the research quality assurance and topics for activities 2008

19-22 February

Visit of the EU evaluation team to ECMI (OMC project)

25 February

Seminar on ECMI strategic research areas

●●● Publisher: European Centre for Minority Issues, Schiffbrücke 12, D-24939 Flensburg, Germany
●●● info@ecmi.de • www.ecmi.de • tel +49(0) 461 141 490 • fax +49(0) 461 141 4919
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