

Can Meskhetian Repatriation to Georgia Begin?

Law Adopted by Georgian Parliament

TOM TRIER

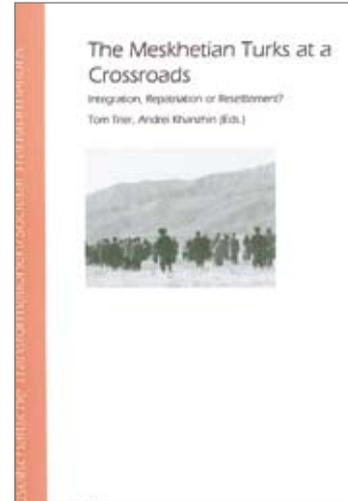
Somewhat surprisingly, the Parliament of Georgia on 11 July adopted a “Law of Georgia on Repatriation of Persons Forcefully Sent into Exile from Georgian SSR by the Former USSR in the 1940’s of the 20th Century”. The law addresses the issue of repatriation of people deported in 1944, i.e. Meskhetians and other smaller groups. Unlike other people collectively deported during World War II, such as the Chechens, Ingush, Kalmyks and others, who were allowed to return from 1956, the Meskhetians were in effect never rehabilitated. As the Soviet Union collapsed and another deported group, the Crimean Tatars, started to return from Central Asia to Crimea in Ukraine, the Meskhetians were caught in the crossfire of the civil wars in Georgia of the early 1990s. Governments in the 1990s and early 2000s actively prevented the Meskhetians from returning, although repatriation was among Georgia’s obligations upon becoming a member of the Council of Europe in 1999. It was only after the coming into power of the Saakashvili government with its strong commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration that the issue again appeared on the political agenda and this important commitment to the Council of Europe now seems to have been, at least partially, fulfilled.

Indeed, it is not with enthusiasm that the government and parliament has revisited the issue of repatriation. As previous governments, the Saakashvili government is concerned with the generally negative public opinion towards repatriation. In the region from where

they were deported, Samtskhe-Javakheti, there is a large Armenian population and both Armenian and Georgian groups have issued strong statements against repatriation. A public opinion poll carried out by the International Republican Institute in Georgia earlier this year showed that 67% of the population was against and only 16% in favour of opening up for Meskhetian repatriation. However, now that the law has been adopted, the Georgian government will clearly have to take steps to open a dialogue with its constituency to allay some of the concerns that exist in society, many of which are based on a lack of factual information.

ECMI continues to play a significant role in advising government structures on the Meskhetian issue. Since 2004, ECMI has conducted a comprehensive research project on Meskhetian identity and migration trends, which has been a valuable source of information for various government agencies as well as civil society. This project has now resulted in the publication of an authoritative volume on the subject: *Tom Trier & Andrei Khanzhin (Eds.), The Meskhetian Turks at a Crossroads, Integration, Repatriation or Resettlement, Berlin: LIT, 2007*. A Russian version of the volume will be published in September by Alethea Publishers in St. Petersburg.

In late 2005 and early 2006, ECMI facilitated an inter-agency expert working group responsible for drafting the law on repatriation. This version of the law envisaged comprehensive mechanisms for state support to repatriates and also mechanisms for regulating the settle-



ment process with regard to deciding on locations for settlements and measures for integration of the repatriates. This draft law had been through a series of consultations with legal experts from the Council of Europe, Meskhetian

continued on page 2 ●●●

Contents

Can Meskhetian Repatriation to Georgia Begin?	1
Treaty of Rome Celebration in Georgia	3
Georgia: an Ethno-Political Handbook	3
Flensburg European Minority Marathon	3
ECMI Activities in Gagauzia & Moldova	3
ECMI Progress in Kosovo: Bringing the Minority Rights to the Political Agenda	4
Clearer Operational Guidelines for the Ministry of Community and Returns in Kosovo	5
Completion of Framework Agreement (FA) under the Danish Foreign Ministry Neighborhood Programme 2004-2006	5
ECMI Political Participation Programme	6
The Economic Dimension of Minority Participation in the EU and the EU Neighbourhood	6
Culture and Linguistic Diversity in the Context of Language	7
FUEN Conference “Basic Right to Education”	7
New ECMI Publications	8
Calendar of Events	8

representatives and other civil society organizations, and it was therefore with some surprise that the government this summer presented a very shaved down version of the draft law for readings in Parliament, which, in effect, encompassed only procedures for application and provisions for granting of repatriate status and citizenship. It was this latter version that was eventually adopted.

Generally, the provisions of the adopted law are vague and leave much space for interpretation by the state officials who will be responsible for the processing of the applications. Hence, it will be easy to turn down applicants on technical grounds. Moreover, the law allows the receipt of applications only between 1 January 2008 and 1 January 2009, whereas the processing of applications will start only in 2009. After 1 January 2009, repatriates will no longer be entitled to *apply* for repatriation. According to statements by government officials, this provision is meant to give the administration a precise idea of the number of repatriates, as nobody knows how many Meskhetians and other deported people actually wish to return. However, it can be envisaged that in response to this provision, a vast number of Meskhetians — regardless of whether they want to repatriate or not — will submit applications for repatriation to “keep the door open”. In this way it may seem that the law will actually work counter to its intentions and possibly even encourage repatriation. Another issue pertains to the question of citizenship. The law is ambiguous on this issue and determines that by 1 January 2010,

Giorgi (Gagi) Pasuri



The ECMI Regional Office in Tbilisi lost a dedicated and knowledgeable collaborator in a car accident on 25 August, while on duty. Gagi Pasuri had been employed at the ECMI Regional Office from February 2004. He was among the Georgia office’s most senior staff and was employed as a Senior Programme Officer, responsible for ECMI Georgia’s regional programme components. He also performed many other important functions over time, most importantly as translator and facilitator of negotiations. His always positive attitude and never failing commitment to all aspects of the work made him an invaluable asset for ECMI’s interventions in Georgia. He was highly esteemed and respected by ECMI staff in the field, in the headquarters and not least by the minority representatives in Georgia with whom he worked very closely. Gagi’s great passion was music and through that he found a common language with many people. ECMI would like to pass its deepest regrets and condolences to Gagi’s family and friends.

a decree on simplified procedures for repatriates should be issued. Hence, it will remain unclear for quite some time to come what repatriates can expect in terms of citizenship.

It seems that with this law, Georgia is buying time as to the resettlement of Meskhetians. Resettlement can start the earliest in 2009. Clearly, the adoption of the law is prompted by the international pressure on Georgia to fulfil her obligations to the Council of Europe more than anything else. But with the adoption of a vague and ambiguous law, it remains questionable whether the state administration will actually facilitate a process of return or interpret the provisions of the law in a way that limits or creates obstacles for the process of repatriation. In the coming years, therefore,

there will be a need for the Council of Europe and other international structures to monitor the implementation of the law, while at the same time the international community can contribute significantly in assisting and encouraging Georgia in the process by providing financial and technical support. To this end, ECMI in partnership with the Council of Europe plan to organize a number of events later this year and in 2008 to enhance government awareness on the issue and to support the implementation process. Other activities that are also envisaged are the elaboration of a resettlement strategy and a public awareness campaign.

www.ecmigeorgia.org

Treaty of Rome Celebration in Georgia

Despite not being member of the EU, yet aspiring to become one at some point, Georgia celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. In Tbilisi, the EC Delegation as well as the embassies and representatives of EU member states organized a display of their engagement in Georgia.

ECMI was also represented with a stand, informing about ECMI office activities, publications and information on minority issues and majority-minority relations. Both minority and majority population visitors were very pleased that there is objective work done on this sensitive topic.



Georgia: an Ethno-Political Handbook

ECMI is currently preparing an ethno-political handbook on Georgia. The handbook, prepared as part of ECMI's interventions within Denmark's Caucasus Programme and co-funded by the foreign ministries of Switzerland and Norway, aims at providing a practical guide to Georgia's wealth of ethno-national groups. The book is organized in two parts. Part I will provide an introduction to the ethno-political landscape from a historical and contemporary perspective, while part II will consist of encyclopaedic entries of all major ethno-national groups in the country. The volume is based on fieldwork and other studies carried out by a team of researchers in a partnership between ECMI and the Tbilisi based Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and is co-authored by Tom Trier (ECMI) and George Tarkhan-Mouravi (IPS). The book will be published simultaneously in English and Georgian and is expected to be available in early 2008.



On 2nd September 2007, the 4th European Minority Marathon (YOU!MM) was held in Flensburg. This year the event, which combines sports and culture, had as its patron the President of the European Parliament, Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering. The aim of the event is to deepen the dialogue between cultures and the protection of national minorities in a majority environment. The Marathon starts in Flensburg, Germany and a section of the route passes through the neighbouring Kingdom of Denmark, of which the southern part holds a special relationship with Germany because of the German Minority situated there. YOU!MM was inaugurated in 2005 under the patronage of the Danish Minister of State, Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the former German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder.

www.flensburgmarathon.de

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

ECMI Activities in Gagauzia & Moldova

OLEH PROTSYK AND VALENTINA RIGAMONTI

The ECMI project "Enhancing the Functioning of the Gagauzia Autonomy Arrangement in Moldova", funded by the German Foreign Ministry/Zivik, aims at enhancing the ability of the Moldova authorities and the Moldova expert community to undertake the task of improving the functioning of the autonomy arrangement in the region. Two main modalities of ECMI work are the drafting of a proposal on improving the system of distribution of competencies between the centre and region and the capacity enhancement trainings for the Gagauzian legislative assembly staff.

By pursuing these modalities ECMI hopes to contribute to the development of a clearer understanding by both parties of the meaning of the 1994 autonomy statute and to the anchoring of this understanding in specific legal provisions about distribution of the competencies between the centre and the autonomy.

In 2007, ECMI has been successful in supporting the work of an international advisory team, which serves

as a principal source of advice on the autonomy matters to the members of the Joint Technical Group (JTG). The JTG includes legal experts and government representatives from Moldova and Gagauzia, whose mandate is to provide a set of recommendations on improving the functioning of the autonomy to the national and regional legislative assemblies. In particular, the advisory team has succeeded in highlighting the critical importance of having an explicitly articulated framework for distribution of competencies in such areas as fiscal relations, education and cultural matters, autonomy representation on the central level, and local self government.

After a series of discussions inside the group and after consultations with international experts, the Moldovan and Gagauzian representatives generated a set of proposals. These proposals became the subject of the seminar 'Improving the Functioning of the Gagauzian Autonomy' held at ECMI Headquarters, Flensburg, on 25/26 April 2007. This seminar brought together international experts and representatives of both the Moldovan Parliament and the Gagauzian National Assembly with the aim



to finalize the issue of distribution of competencies.

The main outcome of this seminar was the "Draft Document of Competencies of the Gagauz Autonomy". This document reflects the consensus that had been achieved so far on the issue of distribution of competencies. It also outlined areas that need further discussion due to continued disagreement between the sides.

ECMI would like to thank both *The German Foreign Ministry / Zivik* for supporting ECMI activities in Moldova until July 2007, and the *Norwegian Foreign Ministry* for supporting the new activities till the end of 2007.

www.ecmimoldova.org

ECMI Progress in Kosovo: Bringing the Minority Rights to the Political Agenda



ADRIAN ZEQIRI

ECMI activities in Kosovo are mainly channelled in two directions: supporting the local communities through the Community Consultative Council (CCC) and sustaining the Kosovan government in drafting the National Strategy for Human and Community Rights (HRSAP). All the activities carried out within these directions are primarily concerned with the rights and interests of the ethnic communities present in Kosovo and their inclusion in the political, social and cultural life of the future Kosovo.

In pursuing the goal of establishing a locus for consultation that would provide communities' equal participation in the political life of Kosovo, ECMI has been continuously involved in developing the CCC into a permanent institution within the President's Office of Kosovo (PO). At the moment, the CCC is undergoing a transition phase. At the beginning it was working as a part of the Kosovo Delegation Structure and now it is being transformed into a functional mechanism within the PO. Numerous activities have been carried out to facilitate this process of transition. One of

these activities was the final agreement between the Presidential Office and ECMI on the inclusion of the CCC into the President's Office. During the last meeting, Dr Marc Weller, ECMI's Director, and the Kosovan President agreed that ECMI would continue its preparatory activities to accomplish the integration process of the CCC within the PO.

ECMI will also carry out research aimed at analysing the gaps and the capacities of the PO. Due to the initial results of this research it has been agreed that an ECMI team will assist the Office of the Prime Minister by providing the necessary support in accordance with the problem areas identified. For instance, an ECMI team will be acting as the CCC Secretariat until the relevant positions within the CCC are filled. In addition to this, ECMI has carried out research focusing on the financial issues related to the inclusion of the CCC within the PO. In accordance with the findings of ECMI's research it was decided to list the CCC Secretariat in the Mid-term Governmental Financial Planning that specifies the expenditures to be financed by the Government. This means that the Government will allocate specific funds for the CCC Secretariat.

ECMI activities are not only aimed at facilitating the process of bringing communities closer to the decision making process but also to entrench the communities' rights into a programme document. In conjunction with this, ECMI has been engaged in providing key strategic support to the Office of the Prime Minister through a project funded by the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SMFA) aimed at the implementation of the commitments made to the communities at the governmental level.

One of the legal obligations related to the protection of minority rights in Kosovo is the Special Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Communities and Persons Belonging to Communities in Kosovo. The Law has been drafted in three languages (English, Albanian, Serbian) in full compliance with Martti Ahtisaari's document. The agreed draft was developed in May 2007 during the workshop in Durres organized by ECMI.

One of the focal points of ECMI activities in Kosovo is the inclusion of human rights issues in the overall development strategy of Kosovo. In May 2007 the Government of Kosovo decided to draft the Comprehensive Kosovo Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan (HRSAP). This strategy seeks to harmonize the various initiatives related to minority issues offered by government bodies in order to form a programme embracing different aspects of human rights, including the rights of the local communities.

To better ensure that the rights of the communities are not only guaranteed but protected through regular governmental mechanisms, the Human Rights Coordination Units (HRCU) were established within all the ministries and government bodies in Kosovo by the Prime Minister of Kosovo. ECMI signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with HRCU to establish co-operation with the Units in terms of drafting HRSAP and providing key strategic support. Therefore, a joint working process has been initiated.

On 7 August 2007, ECMI organized a first workshop with HR offices that marks the launch of in-depth research aimed at identifying systematic gaps in existing government policies on communities. ECMI's intention is to analyse the actions of the government and of international actors, as well as communities'

concerns on the issue of minority rights. This will provide a wide and multifaceted view on existing problems and will thus help to enhance the effectiveness of the HRSAP.

To sum up, ECMI has been working to bring the views and concerns of communities to the daily political agenda in Kosovo and to help the government in implementing effective policies with regard to minority rights. The process involves

integration of the CCC within the Office of the President and the drafting of the National Strategy for Human and Community Rights with a special focus on minorities.

www.ecmikosovo.org

Clearer Operational Guidelines for the Ministry of Community and Returns in Kosovo

ULRIKE SCHMIDT

Since January 2007, ECMI has been assisting activities within the project 'Support to the Ministry for Communities and Returns in Kosovo', undertaken in a consortium of three organizations, and funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR). ECMI has been contributing to the project by drawing on its network of international and local experts to conduct needs assessments concerning different work areas of the Ministry.

The project activities aim at strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry for Communities and Returns

in Kosovo (MCR) in areas defined within the Strategic Action Plan on capacity building in the ministries of Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) for 2006-2007. The first quarterly report, submitted to the EAR in May 2007, reveals the progress achieved so far, as well as issues to be addressed in the next 12 months.

One of the main outputs thus far has been the establishment of an organogram of the MCR, which has rendered its legal framework more transparent, and shall hitherto be the basis of future documentation within the Ministry. With the improvement of vertical and horizontal communication within the Ministry,

the workflow between the departments will increase and deliver better results. Concerning issues of return in Kosovo, the identification of the full range of responsibilities of the MCR and action required will support the development of a targeted operational plan, since it will clarify in detail where the services of the Ministry are needed and expected. Those services shall be based on experiences in other countries with similar return issues. Finally, it is planned to renew the MCR website, which will function as a service-oriented interaction tool and thus will effectively support the process of organisational and operational changes.

Completion of Framework Agreement (FA) under the Danish Foreign Ministry Neighborhood Programme 2004-2006

In late summer 2007 the Danish MFA Neighborhood and ECMI concluded two years and a half of intensive co-operation on several action-oriented and regional activities.

The regions covered were Western Balkans (Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro, Kosovo); Caucasus (Georgia and marginally Armenia) and Moldova.

Three lots of project portfolios were included:

1. Western Balkans ECMI Programme for Interethnic Stabilization

- Kosovo Civil Society;
- Kosovo High Level Initiative;
- Macedonia Regional and National Inter-ethnic NGO Network;
- Serbia-Montenegro Support to the Union Ministry of Human and Minority Rights — Law Reform on Human and Minority Rights, a collaborative venture with Danish Institute of Human Rights;
- Multiregional Ombudsperson Network.

A cross-regional project on the Ombudsman institution role in multi-ethnic societies was aimed to create a sustainable network in the countries where such institution was recently established. The project evolved around human and minority rights particularly sensitizing this institution to minority issues.

2. Georgia

- Enhancing the Capacity of the Georgian Government on Minority Issues;
- Enhancing Minority Governance in Georgia Through Establishing a Representative Stakeholders Forum — The Region of Kvemo Kartli;
- Defusing Inter-ethnic Tensions and Promoting Regional Integration — The Javakheti Region of the Republic of Georgia.

3. Moldova

- Enhancing the Capacity of Moldovan Delegation to the Joint Constitutional

Commission in Designing a Federal Constitutional Framework.

These nine large projects were implemented all together, resulting in a number of immediately applicable recommendations, materials to be used by the recipients and the beneficiaries. The projects produced a number of working papers, monographs and issue briefs published on ECMI website (www.ecmi.de/projects) and on the regional project websites (www.ecmikosovo.org; www.ecmi.macedonia.org; www.ecmigeorgia.org).

ECMI would like to thank the Danish Foreign Ministry Neighborhood Programme for their interest in minority related issues by supporting ECMI activities and for excellent co-operation during implementation of the programmes.

ECMI Political Participation Programme

OLEH PROTYSYK & VALENTINA RIGAMONTI

The ECMI Political Participation Programme seeks to advance expertise on issues related to the inclusion of minorities in decision-making processes. The programme includes the following substantive research areas:

1) Electoral and Party Systems

Research activities in this area are focused on analyzing the programmatic and organizational responses of party systems to the challenges of accommodating ethnic diversity. There exists a very substantial body of research on the effects of electoral systems on minorities' ability to participate in the political process. At the same time, there has been little systematic analysis on how the organizational and programmatic characteristics of mainstream political parties as well as minority parties affect patterns of minority representation and participation in post-communist countries. ECMI research will address the existing gap in this area. Given the rigidity of electoral institutions and the low likelihood of their modification, party systems' responses to minority issues deserve more attention and consideration.

2) Legislative and Executive Representation

Representation is a key aspect of minority political participation. Political systems vary greatly in terms of scope of representation and in terms of opportunities or constraints on minorities' ability to voice their concerns and to have access

to the political arena. Research questions regarding the patterns of minority representation on party lists and in the leadership bodies/organizational structures of parties as well as questions about substantial policy representation by parties are a significant part of the currently developed project proposal "**Representation of minority issues in the political party system**".

3) Inclusion in Civil Service

Representative bureaucracies are one of the important requirements for the establishment of ethnically inclusive societies. Support for the policies and institutions of a state is often directly linked to the extent to which the various groups of citizens feel they are being represented, not only in

politics but also in the state apparatus. A bureaucracy that reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity of the population is more likely to serve the interests of all groups of society. Although a growing number of governments and international organizations, such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe, are already promoting these beliefs through various initiatives and political commitments, these commitments are mostly general in nature and lack concrete recommendations to enhance minority inclusion. ECMI research in this area should thus first focus on examining and describing the current situation with regard to minority inclusion in civil service.

<http://www.ecmi.de/rubrik/80/political+participation/>

ECMI Panel: "Minority Inclusion in Government Decision-Making Processes: Strategies for Evaluation of Existing Practices" at 15th NISPAcee Annual Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine (17-19 May 2007)

The papers presented by Valentina Rigamonti, Konstantin Sachariew, and Ulrike Schmidt were based on several research projects in the area of minority participation and inclusion in public life that are currently being developed by ECMI. The panel was chaired by Dr Oleh Protsyk, who is responsible for the political participation programme at ECMI.

The main objective of the panel was to discuss the utility of various research strategies for analyzing the challenges of minority exclusion from public life. The focus was on strategies for examining and evaluating different institutional arrangements made by governments in Eastern and South Eastern European states in order to encourage the participation of minorities in public life.

In particular, the papers discussed data collection issues related to studying the effectiveness of affirmative actions and other policies aimed at minority inclusion in the civil service. They proposed specific empirical indicators for estimating the extent of minority inclusion in the civil service and methodologies for analyzing minority perceptions of fairness of minority representation in public life. Panel presentations were followed by a lively discussion that featured many experienced public administration and civil service experts.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Economic Dimension of Minority Participation in the EU and the EU Neighbourhood

JONATHAN WHEATLY

The economic dimension of minority protection is one of ECMI's newest programmes and reflects the need for research on an important but hitherto neglected issue within the field of majority-minority relations. Economic inclusion of members of minorities is desirable not only on legal/normative grounds, but also on economic grounds (in terms of the utilisation of the economic potential of the entire population) and on security grounds (in terms of conflict avoidance/resolution).

A two-day workshop on the issue of economic exclusion of national and ethnic minorities was held at ECMI headquarters in Flensburg on 12-13 June 2007 in order to discuss how to carry

out targeted research on economic exclusion of minorities in a number of regions in the wider Europe. Discussions focused on identifying crosscutting issues that are relevant to the economic status of minorities throughout the wider Europe, on indicators that can be used to measure economic exclusion, on the choice of case studies and methodology and on the concrete outputs in terms of scholarly publications.

In order to introduce this topic it is planned to produce a series of working papers on each crosscutting issue by the end of 2007 that will be made available on ECMI's web page. After field research has been carried out, these working papers will feed into a two-volume scholarly publication that will focus both on the crosscutting issues (Volume 1) and on in-depth case studies (Volume 2). In addition, the research will lead to the elaboration of a set of recommendations for policy-makers at national and European level on how to increase the participation of members of national minorities in economic life.

www.ecmiserver.de/eoo/

www.ecmi.de/rubrik/81/economic+%26+social+inclusion/

Culture and Linguistic Diversity in the Context of Language

EWA CHYLINSKI AND ULRIKE SCHMIDT

Within its new strategic context, in the first half of 2007 ECMI began to re-establish its Language and Culture Diversity Programme by developing a concept of minority languages from an international treaties perspective. For many minorities across Europe, language is often the only externally visible marker of their distinct identity. Within the context of the Programme, ECMI is generating an initial in-house study on state languages versus minority languages, as well as language loss and its impact on ethnic (minority) identity. Language shift to a dominant language generally involves a change of values that limits the spectrum of cultural diversity, and may have many implications for the status of a minority in its host country, or support by a kin-state.

In many European countries, minority

groups who have lost their languages are now intensely trying to revitalize and regain that aspect of their identity. ECMI's focus is on obstacles to *participation in political and public life that are based on language barriers* and on how governments can help to overcome such obstacles by implementing effective language planning and protection policies.

In light of this, ECMI is translating its concept on language loss and identity into an action-oriented research project which will further investigate the situation of different ethnic

International Conference on Minority Languages (ICML XI)

The 11th International Conference on Minority Languages (ICML XI), organized from 5-6 July 2007 in Pécs by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the University of Pécs provided ECMI with a comprehensive update of current research on ideologies and practices towards minority languages in the world. The different panels and workshops revolved around various geographical and substantive areas, with a clear focus, however, on issues of multilingualism in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, language revival movements in Western Europe, and the area of language education. ECMI furthermore profited from attending the conference by establishing contact with experts, research institutes, and organizations committed to the protection and promotion of minority and regional languages in Europe.



minority groups throughout Europe that have suffered language loss to discover how identity markers other than language can remain important despite this loss.

FUEN Conference "Basic Right to Education"

On 31 August 2007, the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), in cooperation with ECMI and other organizations, organized the conference "Education as a Challenge for the 21st Century and its Particular Importance for Autochthonous Minorities" in Flensburg within the framework of the 4th European Minority Marathon in Flensburg.

In 2006 the Charter for the Autochthonous National Minorities in Europe was passed, guaranteeing 13 fundamental rights for autochthonous, national minorities/ethnic groups as an integral part of human rights. Each year, the FUEN defines one of these fundamental rights. The 2007 Conference was dedicated to examining the status of the right to education for each minority: all minorities living in Germany and in its border regions were invited to discuss the right to education considering the specific circumstances of each minority, to compare different education systems and to describe the status of the right to education.

ECMI's contribution was focused on analyzing minority formation in a European context in order to deduce essential requirements in terms of education for each minority.

www.fuen.org

Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)

First launched in 2000, ECMI's online Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE) experienced something of a 'hiatus' from 2004 with no issues produced in the next three years. In July 2007 the journal was re-launched with the publication of Volume 6, Issue 1 with a special focus on strategies within the EU and its immediate neighbourhood to promote equality of opportunities for members of minorities. This was intended to coincide with the EU's Year of Equal Opportunities for All. Volume 6, Issue 2 of JEMIE will be published at the end of 2007 with a special focus on language rights.

<http://www.ecmi.de/rubrik/60/jemie/>



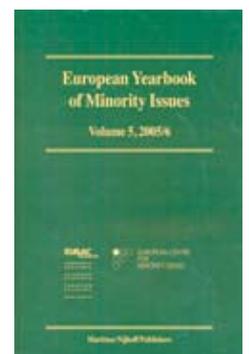
External Publications by ECMI Staff

European Yearbook of Minority Issues,
Vol. 5 (2005/2006)

Edited by the European Centre for Minority Issues and the European Academy Bozen/Bolzano

www.ecmi.de/rubrik/55/european_yearbook/

ECMI and EURAC are pleased to announce the publication of The European Yearbook of Minority Issues, Volume 5 (2005/2006). Part I contains scholarly articles and, in 2005/6, features one special focus section on The Concept of 'Nation' and one special focus section on The Balkan Region. Part II reviews the implementation of minority legislation and international standards at the universal and regional levels as well as new developments in relation to them.



Issue Briefs, Working Papers and Monographs

ECMI Issue Brief #15
Wheatley, Jonathan
The Economic Dimension of Minority Participation in Europe.
 February 2007, 15 pp.

ECMI Working Paper #38
Lohm, Hedvig
Javakheti after the Rose Revolution: Progress and Regress in the Pursuit of National Unity in Georgia. (English/Russian versions)
 April 2007, 45 pp., appendix.

ECMI Monograph #5
European Centre for Minority Issues
Supporting Local Romani Coordinators: A Practical Guide to Integrating Roms in Municipal Government.
 March 2007, 63 pp.

ECMI Monograph #6
Trier, Tom and Medea Turashvili
Resettlement of Ecologically Displaced Persons. Solution of a Problem or Creation of a New? Eco-Migration in Georgia 1981-2006.
 August 2007, 72 pp., appendix.

External Publications by ECMI Staff

Tom Trier and Andrei Khanzhin (Eds), *The Meshketian Turks at a Crossroads. Integration, Repatriation or Resettlement?*, LIT Verlag, Berlin 2007.

Protsyk, Oleh (with Igor Bucatuaru and Andrei Volentir (forthcoming)) *Competitia partidelor in Moldova: ideologie, organiare si arbodarea conflictelor etnoteritoriale / Party Competition in Moldova: Ideology, Organization and Ethnic conflict regulation* (Chisinau) forthcoming.

Rigamonti, Valentina, "Rivoluzione Arancione: Rabbia o Transormazione Socio-Culturale?" ("Orange Revolution: Anger or Socio-Cultural Transformation?"), *Guida ai Paesi dell'Europa Centrale Orientale e Balcanica* 2006, ed. Luisa Chiodi and Francesco Privitera, il Mulino, Bologna, March 2007.

Weller, Marc, ed. (forthcoming). *New Security Threats and the International Law on the Use of Force*, approx. 750 pp., under contract by Oxford University Press for publication in 2007.

Weller, Marc and Barbara Metzger (eds.) (forthcoming). *Settling Self-Determination Conflicts*, 2 volumes, approx. 800 pp., under contract by Brill for publication in 2007.

Activity Plan

March 2007

14 March

Seminar "Governmental and legal control of the activities of Public Administration Institution", Comrat, Gagauzia, Moldova.

April 2007

18 April

Leipzig Zeitgeschichtlicher Forum. ECMI presentation "After EU Enlargement: the Fate of Copenhagen Criteria and the new candidate states in the Balkans", organized by KOMOEL (Kompetenz Zentrum Mittel- und Osteuropa), Leipzig

25-27 April

Seminar "Improving the Functioning of the Gagauzian Autonomy", ECMI HQ, Flensburg, Germany

May 2007

3 May

Visit by 6 Mayors visiting Flensburg in connection with the German "Staettag"

7 May

Lecture on "Final Status Negotiations of Kosovo" by ECMI Director, Dr. Marc Weller, Flensburg on the occasion of the Europawoche 2007, Schleswig-Holstein

16 May

Workshop at the "Landeshaus" Schleswig-Holstein "Competence Analysis: the location value of national minorities in the German-Danish border region", EURAC, Kiel

17-19 May

Work Group on Democratic Governance of Multi-ethnic Communities with an ECMI panel on "Minority Inclusion in Government Decision-Making Processes: Strategies for Evaluation of Existing Practices" at the NISPAcee Annual Conference, Kiev, Ukraine

23 May

Visit / lecture on "Code shifting as part of language loss", by Prof. Rtr. Carol Myers-Scotton of Michigan State University, accompanied by Prof. Elin Fredsted, Chair of the Institute of Danish Language & Literature at the University of Flensburg.

25-28 May

"Drafting Session on the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Communities and their Members", Durres, Albania. Organized in cooperation with Kosovo Ministry of Returns and Communities and the Office of the Prime Minister with the aim to further advance the work on the drafting of *the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Communities and their Members*.

June 2007

12-13 June

Workshop on "Equal Economic Opportunities", Flensburg

24-26 June

Equal Opportunity has no Boundary: International Conference on Cross-border Co-operation to promote equal opportunities, Budapest

25-26 June

Membership Meeting of Specialized Information Network, Bonn

27-28 June

EU DG Enlargement informal meeting. ECMI progress update on minority issues in associated countries of the Balkans and Turkey, Brussels

28 June

External Research Meeting: Prof. Lars Johannsen and Phd Student Nina Dadalauri, Dept. of Political Science, University of Aarhus, "Institutional change and state-building in the aftermath of the 'coloured revolutions' in the former Soviet Union", Flensburg

July 2007

2 July

Regional Cross-Border Co-operation Meeting, Flensburg

4-8 July

11th International Conference on Minority Languages (ICM L11), Pecs, Hungary

August 2007

1-4 August

ICCEES Conference, "Transcending Europe's Borders: The EU and Its Neighbors", ECMI presentation on: "Majority-minority relations in Ukraine and Moldova", Berlin

14-15 August

CoE Caucasus Programme meeting at Danish Foreign Ministry, Copenhagen

29 August

American Political Science Association meeting – ECMI Panel on: "Parliaments in the former Soviet Union, Chicago, USA

31 August

FUEN-Conference within the framework of the 4th European Minority Marathon YOUIMM, ECMI Panel on Language and Culture Diversity, Flensburg

September 2007

2 September

Youmm – Minority Marathon – ECMI Information Stand and Press Office, Flensburg

25-27 September

OSCE-HDIM – ECMI presentation on Equal Opportunities for Minorities