

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES

NEWSLETTER

Flensburg, Spring 2011

New Online Newsletter

Dear ECMI-Community,

ECMI is pleased to present its redesigned online newsletter. The newsletter will from now on inform about new publications, projects and initiatives launched by ECMI.

PD Dr. Jan Asmussen, Editor, ECMI Newsletter asmussen@ecmi.de

NEW PUBLICATION

ECMI Issue brief No 25

Jan Asmussen

Cyprus – Should the UN withdraw

Ban Ki Moon's long awaited progress report on the negotiations in Cyprus did not come up with a final recommendation on how long the United Nations will be committed to engage in Cyprus. However, he warned that the UN would not continue indefinitely to spend efforts and money on a process that does not seem to render any progress. Indeed there is not much to suggest that a negotiated solution is anywhere close to be concluded in the foreseeable future. This appears strange as on the onset the past three years have seen the most intensive and most comprehensive negotiation process ever. The UN had spent much effort in reconciliation projects on the island – still both communities were far apart from each other. Recent opinion polls indicated that this gap was widening rather than narrowing.

ECMI's Senior Research Associate, PD Dr. Jan Asmussen, discusses the various options and scenarios that lay ahead for the ongoing Cyprus talks. He calls for a real test of Cypriot sincerity toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus problem based on the UN parameters i.e. a bi-zonal, bi-communal

federation. This test could only be achieved if the UN would follow up to its own covert threats of withdrawal from the negotiation process if these were not producing any tangible results.

The Cypriots would then still be able to find a solution within a process that would be a truly Cypriot owned one. Finally, Dr. Asmussen urges the Greek and Turkish Cypriot political parties, civil society actors and media to engage in honest discussions as to what they perceive as the preferable vision for the future of the island. If a multicultural and bi-communal federation was not the preferred option, alternative models had to be seriously considered.

To read the full issue brief (pdf) please [click here](#).

Visit

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities visited the ECMI



On 2 and 3 May 2011, the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), Ambassador Knut Vollebæk visited the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg, Germany. The ECMI has a long-standing cooperation with the High Commissioner on projects and policy analysis. The aim of the visit is to review ongoing cooperation and discuss potential new areas of initiatives. While in the region, the High Commissioner also met with representatives of the four national minorities in the Danish-German border region as well as with public authorities. For the programme, [click here](#).

Conferences

International Conference on Minority Languages 13, 22-24 June 2011 Flensburg-Sønderborg

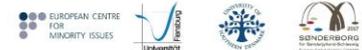
The general theme of the conference is “The Institutional Arrangements”.

ICML 13 will be taking place in the German-Danish border region for the first time in its long history (see the review of past conferences on the webpage) as a collaborative endeavour between ECMI, University of Southern Denmark and University of Flensburg.

The ICML is an informal network of minority language scholars, who on voluntary basis organize consecutive conference every 2nd- 3rd year.

Besides discussing issues related to the institutional settings for many minority languages in Europe and rarely described in publications, the conference will allow the participants and interested public to acquaint themselves with ways of addressing minority languages policies and practices in other parts of the world.

The local institutions in the border region of Schleswig-Sønderjylland, with four active minorities of Danish, Frisian and Roma/Sinti in North Germany and the German in Southern Denmark, will be presenting their own institutions to support, develop and promote respective languages.



For more information visit the website at www.icml13.org

European Expert Seminar : Cultural Education and Civil Society – How can Languages Contribute?



Organised jointly by the “Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning” and The Basque Country Education Board in Leeuwarden, 25-27 May

ECMI expert Ewa Chylinski participates with a presentation on “Cultures and Languages “to go”” addressing the issue how languages can contribute to the improvement of the cultural education on minority languages and cultures, making both available to all members of the societies. The discussion on European multilingualism is presented as an added value but often in practice, reduced to a functional skill. In particular minority languages are perceived as belonging to the minorities rather than being regarded as part of culture for all, and be taken with as many other cultural goods. The role of civil society, minority organizations will be discussed in terms of lifelong education.

For more information visit www.mercator-research.eu

Training

ECMI Course on "Minorities in Conflict Zones"

The ECMI offers for the first time a course on "Minorities in Conflict Zones" from 20-22 July 2011 in Flensburg, Germany. The course is designed to assist young diplomats in the understanding and assessment of the role of minorities in internal conflicts prior to deploying to countries experiencing internal strife. This will include training in conflict management as well as an introduction to current minority protection regimes.

The course is aimed primarily at young diplomats but all interested are welcome to apply. A minimum of 10 participants are required to establish the course. Applications are accepted on a first come basis. The price is EUR 2.000 per participants.

Deadline for applications: 31 May 2011

For more on the course, please visit our website at <http://www.ecmi.de/trainings/>

Contact: Ms. Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen at hansen@ecmi.de

Summer School

ECMI sets up the Summer School 'National Minorities and Border Regions'

For the first time, ECMI launches a summer school in Flensburg. The main focus of the school is put on minority issues and cross-border cooperation. The distinguishing feature of the programme is the balance between theory and practice. Participants will not only learn about the theoretical aspects - taught by researchers - but also about practical aspects, as administrators dealing with everyday problems of border regions and national minorities are expected to participate.

The summer school takes a multidisciplinary approach and the different topics are approached from several disciplines. Topics in the summer school include language, cross-border institutions and further cooperation, conflicts and reconciliation and minority rights protection. The disciplines approaching these topics include linguistics, political science, history, sociology and international law.

The classes will be conducted by researchers from the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), University of Southern Denmark (SDU) and the European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC), who are responsible for researching of minorities from different perspectives. In addition, both

representatives of local minorities and administrators dealing with the border region will share their experiences of practical problem-solving.

The school takes place on September, 4-10, 2011 in Flensburg, Germany.

Please visit the summer school's website at www.nmbr.de

For more information please contact Ulrike Barten at summerschool@ecmi.de

Roundtable

ECMI hosts Minority Roundtable on Volunteering

2011 has been designated by the European Union (EU) as the "European Year of Volunteering." According to the European Commission, almost 100 million citizens of all ages in the EU invest their time, talents and money to make a positive contribution to their community by volunteering in civil society organisations, youth clubs, hospitals, schools, in sport clubs, etc. To put this initiative in perspective, the ECMI invited representatives of the minorities in the Danish-German border region to participate in a roundtable discussion about volunteering within the national minorities. The Roundtable took place on 11 May 2011.

For the press release, please visit our website at:

<http://www.ecmi.de/press/details/ecmi-hosts-minority-roundtable-on-volunteering-384/>

For more information, contact info@ecmi.de

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