

EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES

PERSPECTIVES 2020





ABOUT THE ECMI

ECMI sees human diversity as a European heritage and cultural pluralism as a great asset. Aiming to facilitate respect for diversity in all aspects of society, ECMI is committed to work for the improvement of the situation of Europe's minorities through heightened awareness of minority rights and minority issues among all relevant actors. The Centre maintains active relations with other academic institutions and NGOs involved in conflict resolution and inter-ethnic relations, and engages in collaborative projects in these fields. ECMI's specific purpose is to provide actors with new knowledge and tool-kits that empower and equip them to mitigate differences and exchange views through constructive dialogue about how to build a peaceful and diverse Europe.

The ECMI was founded in 1996 by the governments of Denmark, Germany and Schleswig-Holstein. As an independent research centre it is based in the German-Danish border area and occupies an historic building in the centre of Flensburg. It conducts practice and policy-oriented research, provides information and documentation, and offers advisory services concerning minority-majority relations in Europe. A highly specialized Library on interethnic relations, cultural-linguistic diversity issues and ethnic conflict in Europe with more than 3,000 items in more than twenty languages is affiliated to the centre.

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PREFACE

Prof. Dr. Jørgen Kühl

The year 2020 will be a very special one for ECMI. First of all, Prof. Vello Pettai will take up the position of Director on 1 March, bringing new initiatives and new focus to ECMI's activities and research. Secondly, the recommendations of an External Evaluation, commissioned jointly by the three founders, will be addressed and implemented where possible. Thirdly, ECMI will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Danish-German border and, consequently, the starting point of the minority-majority constellation in this region with a number of events.

In March, ECMI will co-organize a conference at Schackenborg Castle in cooperation with the Schackenborg Foundation, the Danish Foreign Policy Society and the Goethe Institut Copenhagen focusing on the significance of the Danish-German experience. In June, a scholarly conference in cooperation with the Danish Central Library in Flensburg will focus on minorities and self-determination, placing the plebiscite experience of 1920 in a wider European context. Finally, in August ECMI's annual Summer School on national minorities will take place in Flensburg.

All of these events will draw attention to the distinct Danish-German case, which serves as a point of departure for ECMI's work in the region and throughout Europe. On behalf of the Centre's Executive Board, we look forward to furthering research and policy action on minority issues with all of these activities!



PREFACE

Prof. Dr. Vello Pettai

It is with great excitement and ambition that I assume the position of Director of the ECMI on March 1, 2020. The ECMI has been blessed to have had consistent leadership for almost two decades under the prior direction of Marc Weller and Tove Malloy. I look forward to building upon the achievements of these predecessors as well as those of the Centre's staff.

We find ourselves today in a new environment for national minorities and ethnic issues more broadly. These domains are under increasing pressure from a xenophobia that is being stoked by a wide range of forces, often described as populism. Through innovative scholarship and comparative policy analysis, the minority rights agenda needs to deliver new answers to these challenges across the realms of diversity management, legal protection, conflict resolution and political integration.

The ECMI team will hit the ground running with a number of new research associates, cooperation partners and topical fields. We will remain committed to both scholarly research and action-oriented projects. We will expand our outreach with novel communication strategies and on-line resources. We will continue to bring together the special Danish-German model of minority cooperation with the wider international context. We will maintain our presence beyond Flensburg, working with field staff and partners in Ukraine, Kosovo and elsewhere.

This reinvigorated action plan for our long-standing, successful mission will be my roadmap for the years ahead!



HIGHLIGHTS

**International conference
“Minorities and Self-determination –
100th Anniversary of the Post-World War I Plebiscites”
18 - 19 June 2020, Flensburg (Germany)**

In 1920, an important border settlement between Denmark and Germany was achieved through the holding of two landmark plebiscites. This conference, co-organised with the Danish Central Library for South Schleswig, will draw attention to how plebiscites have been used in deciding self-determination issues. It will also show the impact they have had on national minorities in the relevant areas, along with reflection on the notion of self-determination itself and legal frameworks concerning minority rights. A crucial element of the conference will be to enhance the comparative and interdisciplinary perspective in scholarly research concerning these issues.

Keynote speakers

**Prof. Matthew Qvortrup, Coventry University (UK) and
Dr. Volker Prott, Aston University (UK)**

Panels

- Panel 1: Self-determination: the concept and its historical contextualizations
- Panel 2: Plebiscites as a tool for self-determination in 1920-21
- Panel 3: Minority treaties as a consequence of the Versailles Peace Conference
- Panel 4: Post-plebiscitary territories as living spaces between the two World Wars
- Panel 5: Contemporary discourses on the post-World War I plebiscites: interpretations, narratives, identities
- Panel 6: Concluding discussion

HIGHLIGHTS

**The Annual Summer School
on National Minorities in Border Regions
23 - 29 August 2020, Flensburg (Germany)**



In September 2011, the ECMI organised its first Summer School. Ever since, the Annual Summer School on National Minorities in Border Regions has been one of the Centre’s key annual activities. Scholars, PhD- and Master’s students interested in Minority Studies are welcome to apply. Up to 30 people can participate in a unique one-week training course which brings international experts on Minority and Human Rights together. Encompassing a specific umbrella theme each year, the Summer School features a number of excursions to different institutions of topical relevance as well as involving a series of lectures by renowned academics. Previously held in Lviv, Brussels and Berlin, the 2020 Summer School will take place in Flensburg. In conjunction with 100th anniversary of the border settlement between Denmark and Germany this year’s topic will focus on referendums.





CULTURE & DIVERSITY

Dr. Kyriaki Topidi
Head of cluster
Senior Research Associate

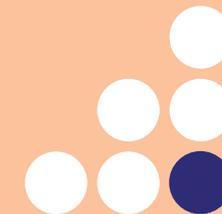
Through a number of research angles, the cluster addresses one of the key challenges that societies and governments face today – the management of cultural diversity. Acknowledging the visibility and variety of cultural conflicts globally, the research programme departs from the assumption that cultural differences such as language, religion, traditions or ethnicity are an integral feature of our societies. At the same, they carry significant potential to fuel tensions if manipulated or abused. The cluster therefore aims to contribute to the understanding of such conflicts and to policy-making processes conducive to intercultural dialogue and societal cohesion shaping contemporary democracies, human and cultural rights.

Special Research Focus in 2020

Minority Rights and Social Movements: Between the Local and the Global

This research track will focus on how minority identity is affected today by globalization and how individuals and groups use the available human rights tools to defend, promote or pursue their minority identities. Whether an ethnic or national minority, a religious or cultural one, a gender one or all the above, the project will explore the possibilities and room for innovation and creativity around minority identity and social rights mobilization. Inherently comparative, genuinely global and unambiguously interdisciplinary, the research aims to map and reflect on ways that minority rights movements in their infinite diversity act as 'translators' between a cosmopolitan awareness of minority rights with local socio-cultural understandings.

CULTURE & DIVERSITY



Minority Identity in the Digital Age

Living in the digital age has given a new dimension to the diversity of cultural expressions on a global scale. This evolution in the quality and quantity of human expressions has also impacted individuals and groups belonging to minorities in analogous, yet understudied ways. From access to cultural expressions and creativity, to the regulation of cultural industries and civil society participation and all the way to hateful speech and the importance of the collection of cultural statistics, we are struggling to fully appreciate and understand the challenges of digitalization for minority identities. The aim of this research track is to explore and map from a variety of angles how local/national digital cultures are/can be connected to minority protection.





CONFLICT & SECURITY

Dr. Marika Djolai
Head of cluster
Senior Research Associate

The cluster works on human security, minority rights and protection, as well as competing discourses of conflict in the new era of security challenges. Our research aims to approach contemporary challenges faced by minority groups in a novel way and to strengthen our understanding of their agency and broader power dynamics in diverse societies.

Special Research Focus in 2020

Securitisation of Minorities and Group Relations: Security from Below

The cluster research will focus on improving our understanding of current security discourses among minority communities, and how they determine group relations with majorities in shared societies in Europe. Inter-group relations are often challenging and volatile, which results either in securitisation of minorities or of the group relations, which leads to conflicts in the societies they share. Based on different case studies, to include post-war, conflict and non-conflict countries, this research will aim to answer the main question: do minorities in Europe feel insecure and what factors contribute to this perception?

CONFLICT & SECURITY



The Role of Minorities in Post-War Societies: Diversity as a Barrier to prolonged Conflict

The roots of conflict in ethnically and culturally diverse contexts can often be traced back to the history of groups inhabiting a certain territory, which is manipulated by nationalist interpretations that emphasise divisiveness and antagonism. These conditions often persist in post-war societies, which reinforces boundaries between minority and majority groups and leads to reoccurrence of conflict. In the coming year the cluster research aims to bring new insights about post-war dynamics in shared and divided societies and how it feeds to cycles of violence using case studies from Ukraine and the Balkans.

To strengthen its network and to exchange ideas with other experts in the field, the ECMI organises expert-workshops on a regular basis. One example was the November 2019 seminar on „Insecurity from below: Minorities, Security and Securitisation of Group Relations“. In 2020 further workshops will be organised and the ECMI will continue its ongoing dialogue regarding the most important security issues for minorities in Europe.





JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

Dr. Ljubica Đorđević-Vidojković
Head of cluster
Senior Research Associate

The Justice & Governance cluster deals with various legal aspects of national minority protection in and throughout Europe. Legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and instruments for protection of national minority rights lay at the core of cluster's interest and work.

Special Research Focus in 2020

Constitutions and Diversity Management

The aim of this stream will be to explore constitutional texts throughout Europe and investigate whether and how the issue of protection of national minorities is regulated. The focus is on the provisions directly relevant for national minorities, but also the provisions that shape a state's attitude towards diversity will be explored. In a second phase, the research will cover the question of constitution-making in diverse societies. Finally, the question of interpretation by constitutional courts will also be addressed: how are constitutional texts used to widen or narrow national minority rights or minority protection more generally?

Measuring the Quality of National Minority Protection: A Tool to Bridge Implementation Gaps?

Here the cluster builds on its previous research on ethnicity data collection and ethnic monitoring. The question now is how to measure and assess the implementation of laws, policies and strategies and its effects on the quality of national minority protection. The focus is mainly on indicators, ethnic monitoring, implementation assessment and similar relevant concepts.

JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

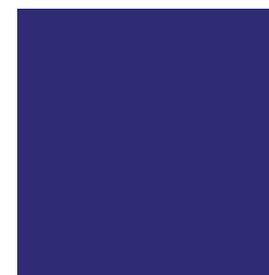


Enhancing Implementation of the European Language Charter (ECRML) through Direct Application

Although the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) is one of the pillars of national minority protection in Europe, it remains somehow neglected and fails to become a fully effective instrument. One of the strategies for supporting more effective implementation of the ECRML could be to promote direct application of some of its provisions, where and when possible. The background inspiration for this approach lies in the fact that several countries interpret some of the ECRML provisions as directly applicable. Against this background, the cluster will explore the potential of direct applicability of provisions referring to the use of regional and minority languages in communication with judicial and administrative authorities (Articles 9 and 10). In this research endeavour, the cluster will cooperate with the Culture & Diversity cluster, which will address the area of education (Article 8).

Non-Territorial Autonomy Arrangements

The aim of the research is to examine existing non-territorial arrangements, their good and weak points, to identify good practices and the possibility to export them or some elements in other, similar, environments. As part of its work on non-territorial autonomy arrangements, ECMI will further contribute to the project "Autonomy Arrangements in the World" and the COST Action ENTAN.





POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

Dr. Sergiusz Bober
Head of cluster
Senior Research Associate

The Politics and Civil Society cluster is focused on the political and civic agency of different types of minority communities (national, ethnic, linguistic), as well as that of their individual members. Therefore, we are looking for answers to research questions concerning both the context in which political and civic activity of these actors takes place as well as the particular details of that engagement. More specifically, we are interested in political and civic organizations established by minority communities; ideas (ideologies) inspiring their political and civic actions; discourses produced by minority communities in connection with their political and civic engagement; their actual influence on economic, political and social reality around them, and lastly the fluctuating nature of their political and civic interactions with majority groups.

Special Research Focus in 2020

Facing Challenges through Discourse

The intention of this research track is to analyse discursive responses produced by minorities and minority media in reaction to challenges resulting from a growing significance of nativist political parties and movements, such as sceptical and authoritarian approaches to diversity.

Minority Communities in the Post-Soviet Space

This research track will focus primarily mechanisms of recognition concerning minority communities. The cluster intends to explore them through a comparative analysis of definitions of minority communities present in legal systems of the post-Soviet countries. In addition, the



POLITICS & CIVIL SOCIETY

Dr. Andreea Carstocea
Senior Research Associate

intersection of legal and political dynamics will be addressed through the scrutiny of cases involving non-recognized minorities.

National Minorities and Regional Development

Linkages between national minorities and regional development will be explored mainly from an economic standpoint. This will entail, a geographic focus on the United Kingdom and Scotland in particular, as well as considerations on the impact of radical redistributive policies, such as universal basic income, on minority communities.

Political Representation of National Minorities

Within this thematic area, the cluster will pay particular attention to issues concerning informal aspects of representation, as well as internal democracy and the transparency of national minority organisations.

Roma in Focus

With regard to Roma, two research areas are going to be addressed in particular: the effects of ethnically motivated bullying on school participation among Roma pupils (also in comparison with pupils of other minority backgrounds) and the participation of Roma women in political life. In addition to carrying out research pertaining to these areas, ECMI will continue to monitor all research and policy developments concerning the Roma ethnic group.





PRESENCE

As in the past, the ECMI will operate two regional offices in Kosovo and Ukraine. In 2020, **ECMI Kosovo** will continue its work and implement action-oriented projects to stabilise inter-ethnic relations and ensure the effective implementation and functioning of the legal, policy and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of minority rights. Mr. Adrian Zeqiri, the Executive Director at ECMI Kosovo has developed a strong reputation for ECMI Kosovo's expertise. His contacts at the highest levels of Kosovo's government enabled ECMI Kosovo to play a key role in the development of key legislation on minority rights in Kosovo.

The **ECMI Ukraine** programme encompasses a wide range of policy- and research-oriented topics. For 2020, the programme will follow up with dissemination of research conducted on the promotion and protection of national minorities in western Ukraine in conjunction with the current reform of local government and enhanced decentralization. The programme also has a research team concerning equality in education and the media. The programme's leader, Nataliia Mekahal, is an Observer at the Expert Council on Ethnopolitical Affairs at the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture, allowing ECMI to contribute directly to minority-government dialogue in Ukraine.



Adrian Zeqiri
Director ECMI Kosovo



Nataliia Mekahal
Director ECMI Ukraine

ECMI PUBLICATIONS



ECMI PUBLICATION FORMATS

Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)

A peer-reviewed electronic journal edited under the auspices of the ECMI. The journal addresses minority issues across a broad range of disciplines. Although some articles are commissioned, unsolicited articles are also welcome and potential authors are encouraged to contact the Editor: Dr Kyriaki Topidi, topidi@ecmi.de

ECMI Research Papers (formerly Working Papers)

Written either by the staff of ECMI or by external authors, the Research Papers propose new questions, uncover novel areas of inquiry and aim to stimulate debates on issues related to minorities and majorities in a European perspective. Editor: Dr Sergiusz Bober, bober@ecmi.de

ECMI Minorities Blog

Multidisciplinary exchanges about challenges faced by communities across the world. The Blog is research-led and engages critically with public policies and laws that concern the protection of minorities and their crosscutting relevance. Editor: Dr Marika Djolai, djolai@ecmi.de

The European Yearbook of Minority Issues

A critical review of contemporary developments in minority-majority relations in Europe. It combines analysis, commentary and documentation in relation to conflict management, international legal developments and domestic legislation affecting minorities in Europe. Editor: Dr. Ljubica Đorđević-Vidojković, djordjevic@ecmi.de

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ECMI Director (1 March 2020)

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Senior Research Associate

Dr. Marika Djolai
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Junior Research Associate

Viktoria Aygül
Research Assistant / on maternity leave

Azizzhon Berdiqulov
Project Assistant

Polina Sulima
Project Assistant

Craig Willis
Research Assistant

Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen
Head of Secretariat / Project Coordinator

Katharina Jürgensen
International Communications Coordinator

Mariana Jimsheladze
Library Coordinator / on maternity leave

Lasse Funk
Assistant to the Secretariat

Roisin O'Mahony
Assistant to the Secretariat

Adrian Zeqiri
Director ECMI Kosovo

Nataliia Mekahal
Director ECMI Ukraine

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Director of the A.P. Møller Skolen, Schleswig, Germany

Vice-Chairperson Dr. iur. Beate Sibylle Pfeil
Legal Expert for Minority Issues in Europe

Johannes Callsen
The Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister's Commissioner for Matters related to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, Border Area Activities and Low German

Stine Jørgensen
Deputy director general in the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education, Copenhagen, Denmark

Christophe Kamp
Director, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Marco Leidekker
Head of the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Petra Nicolaisen
Member of the German Parliament (Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community)

Prof. Garbi Schmidt
Professor at the Department of Culture and Identity at Roskilde University

Linda Pieper
Substitute for Mr. Callsen

Thorsten Afflerbach
Substitute for Mr. Leidekker

www.ecmi.de

ECMI NETWORK

ECMI is an independent and inter-disciplinary institution which draws upon an international core staff and an advisory council supplemented by a number of consultants from all over Europe and beyond.

ECMI Advisory Council

Dr. Jennifer Jackson Preece (Chairperson)
Associate Professor of Nationalism at the European Institute & Department of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science

Prof. Florian Bieber
Professor at The University of Graz and Centre for East European Studies, Graz

Boriss Cilevics
Deputy of the Saeima (Parliament of Latvia) and a member of the Latvian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

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Director of the Observatoire Langues Formation, University of Geneva, Switzerland. Professor of Economics at the School of Translation and Interpretation, University of Geneva, Switzerland

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Professor of International Security, University of Bath, UK

Prof. Rainer Hofmann
Co-Director of Wilhelm Merton Centre, Professor at Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt

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Professor of Political Science at London School of Economics, UK

Prof. Will Kymlicka
Professor, Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Prof. Stefan Oeter
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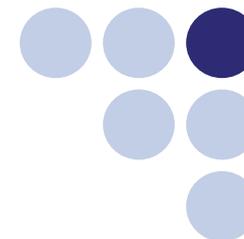
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Ministry of Higher
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