



Monthly Newsletter

February 2010

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

On the 17th of February, the Republic of Kosovo celebrated the second anniversary of its Declaration of Independence. During this month, the country hosted the visit of the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, who confirmed the commitment of the European Union to Kosovo.

Regarding the Strategy Northern Kosovo, work for the creation of mechanisms for its implementation has made some progress. The first steps for establishment of the new Municipality of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica have been developed, and Ylber Hysa has been appointed as Kosovo government coordinator for the implementation of the Strategy.

The Central Elections Commission (CEC) decided that there will be a third election round in Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality like there had been in Municipalities of Prizren/Prizren and Lipjan/Lipljan. The elections will be held on 14th March.

ECMI KOSOVO PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Municipal Education

ECMI Kosovo conducted workshops on education for minority communities in three municipalities: Prizren/Prizren,

Peja/Peč and Ferizaj/Uroševac. The workshops focused on the role of civil society organisations and municipal officials in ensuring the equal and inclusive delivery of pre-university education to minority communities.



The workshops were attended by officials from Municipal Directorates of Education, Municipal Community Offices and members of civil society organisations of minority communities. Inputs from the workshops are now being included into *Guidelines for Civil Society and Municipal Government Working Together on Minority Education*, which will be published in March.

Consultative Council for Communities

On 3 March 2010, at a ceremonial conference in the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, President Fatmir Sejdiu officially appointed the new members of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC). Members will serve



for a term of two years. After the appointments were confirmed, President Sejdiu spoke about the role and the relevance of the Council, praising its accomplishments to date and attributing these to dedication and hard work of its members. The President reaffirmed his support for the institution, and looked forward to its future successes. A full list of all new members is available from the latest information bulletin on the ECMI Kosovo website.

Independent Commission

ECMI Kosovo continued its support to the Independent Commission for the Review of Serbian Teaching Materials. During the reporting period, ECMI Kosovo provided technical and administrative support to the Independent Commission as it continued its meetings.

Support to the Decentralisation Process

ECMI Kosovo signed MoUs with the Municipalities of Gračanica/Gračanicë, Klokot-Vrbovac/Klllokot-Vërboc and Ranilung/Ranillung. Moreover, in each of these municipalities an ECMI Kosovo Information Consultant started working with the municipal administrations on increasing the citizen awareness and involvement in the work of the municipality.

On 9 February, ECMI Kosovo organised training for civil society actors from the new municipalities. The event aimed to increase the capacity of civil society

actors in the new municipalities to play a constructive role in local government development. The training is meant to be the first step in ECMI Kosovo 2010 program for the support to civil society organisations in the new municipalities.

Enhance and Integrate Community Concerns within the Work of the Government

ECMI Kosovo prepared the ground for several activities which will be conducted in the upcoming months. The methodology and questionnaires for the Office for Community Affairs (OCA/OPM) capacity and training needs assessment were developed. ECMI Kosovo developed an action plan for the update of the EthnoPolitical Map of Kosovo, which will be conducted jointly by the OCA/OPM Public Information Officer. In addition, preliminary meetings between the OCA/OPM, the Language Commission and ECMI Kosovo, took place in order to develop the methodology for the second policy study of the OCA/OPM, which will be dedicated to the use of languages. ECMI Kosovo additionally assisted the OCA/OPM with regards to the Strategy and Action Plan on the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities, providing comments on the Terms of Reference of the two coordination mechanism, as well as in participating in five information workshops on the Action Plan organised by the OSCE.