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## Publications

Policy Brief: [What should be remembered from the Jablanović case?](#)

Press Release: [Calls for Reason and Action in light of Protests in Prishtinë/Priština](#)

Information Bulletin: [To promote strong local governments for sustainable growth through trainings on their roles and responsibilities, while also analyzing relations between local and central governments](#)

Policy Brief: [Forging a Working Environment within the Government of Kosovo](#)

Press Release: [ECMI Kosovo calls for calm in light of protests against minister Jablanović's controversial statement](#)

## In Focus

### **New Project: New Project on Increasing Employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities through a Recycling Collective**

On 16 December 2014, a two year project on "Increasing Employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities through a Recycling Collective" was approved by the European Union Office in Kosovo. The project aims to increase self-employment opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo through strengthening and unifying recycling initiatives already present in these communities. Within the project, ECMI Kosovo will target unemployed members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Final beneficiaries of the project are Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, citizens of selected municipalities, and Kosovo society at large.

The targetted municipalities are Prishtinë/Priština, FushëKosovë/Kosovo Polje, Gračanica/Graçanicë, Obiliq/Obilić, and Lipjan/Lipljan.

The project will be implemented from 15 December 2014 to 15 December 2016.

### **In this newsletter, you will find information on:**

- [ECMI Kosovo Project Updates](#)
- [Institutional Developments](#)
- [Political Developments](#)

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## **ECMI Kosovo Project Updates**

### **The Presentation of the Report on Minority Civil Society Organisations and Government Dialogue**

On 17 December, ECMI Kosovo organised a conference and presented a report on Minority Civil Society Organisations and Government Dialogue. The report presents a comprehensive

Report: [The Development Potential of Tourism and Agriculture – A Study of Newly-established Serb-majority Municipalities in Southern Kosovo](#)

Press release: [ECMI Kosovo condemns the violent blockage of entrance to the Serb orthodox church in Gjakovë/Đakovica](#)

Press release: [Tragic Incident in FushëKosovë/Kosovo Polje involving a Roma Child](#)

Press release: [Report on Minority Civil Society Organisations and Government Dialogue](#)

Report: [Minority Civil Society Organisations and Government Dialogue](#)

Press release: [Human Rights Day](#)

Information Bulletin: [A Political Update: The Formation of the New Government of Kosovo, Minority Community Representation and Challenges Ahead](#)

Press release: [Roundtable discussion on the project "How to Breathe Life into Kosovo Anti-discrimination Legislation"](#)

Information Bulletin: [Challenges to Kosovo's Integration](#)

account of the situation of minority community civil society organisations (CSOs) who are operating within Kosovo. This comes as the final report of the two year project Empowering Civil Society to Participate Effectively in Policy and Decision-Making Processes through Dialogue with Government Institutions, funded by the EU and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo, and implemented by the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo), in partnership with Communication for Social Development (CSD) and Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Womens' Organisations of Kosovo (NREWOK).



The conference was attended by Mr. Christof Stock, Head of Operations, EU Office in Kosovo/EUSR, who acknowledged his gratitude for the work and professionalism of ECMI Kosovo during the implementation of the project; representatives from minority CSOs that benefited from the project; and representatives of the local and central level institutions.

### **Closing conference of the joint ECMI Kosovo/UNICEF education program on out-of-school children organised and manuals for drop-out prevention teams published**

On 27 January 2015, ECMI Kosovo and UNICEF closed their joint education program on inclusive education with the conference on "Good practices on out-of-school and drop out children: How to translate legislation on inclusive education into practice?" The conference served as a platform to launch the Baseline Study on the practices of prevention and response to drop out and non-enrolment in school, written by their cooperation partner, the Pedagogic Institute of Kosovo. Additionally, the conference provided a venue for presenting the UNICEF Policy Brief Ensuring all children enroll, attend and complete education. Finally, ECMI Kosovo presented the manuals for school and municipal drop-out prevention teams (Prevention and Response Teams towards Abandonment and Non-Registration in Compulsory Education (PRTANS). The manuals were drafted in cooperation with UNICEF, KEC and MEST. They have been approved by MEST and aim to support the teams to fulfill their mandate on identifying, recording, managing and referring cases of out-of-school, as well as monitoring them.

[Efforts: Rising Emigration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians](#)

## **ECMI in the Media**

[A Reportage on the Final Conference organised by ECMI Kosovo in which it was presented the final report on Minority Civil Society Organisations and Government Dialogue](#)

## **Staff**

In January, we said goodbye to Carlo Giovannone, Sanja Lazarevic and Iva Ulmannova. We would like to sincerely thank Carlo, Sanja and Iva for their hard work and outstanding commitment and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

ECMI Kosovo welcomed the arrival of Vesa Dinarama and Fjolla Dubovci to the team as interns for a period of three (3) months.



A wide range of participants attended the conference, including representatives of MEST, such as the Minister, as well as representatives of the Kosovo Agency of Statistic, the Office of Inspection, and municipal officials from various departments and schools. International Organisations, such as OSCE, Council of Europe, UN Agencies, and the EU Office in Kosovo were also present, along with a variety of civil society organisations. The participants discussed the current situation, progress made thus far, and the most effect path forward to achieve inclusive education.

This conference was conducted as part of the project "Enhancing Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children", implemented in partnership with UNICEF Office in Kosovo and aiming to reduce number of out-of-school children in six municipalities (FushëKosovë/Kosovo Polje, Obiliq/Obilić, Pejë/Peć, Klinë/Klina, Istog/Istok and Ferizaj/Uroševac).

## **Certificate Ceremony for Municipal Officials**

In December 2014, ECMI Kosovo held Certificate Ceremonies for municipal officials that attended official language training courses in 13 target municipalities. Municipal officials who regularly attended the 6-month Albanian/Serbian language training courses from February through December 2014, and passed the final language test, received Certificates for Participation, as well as Certificates highlighting the score of their final test.

These training courses, which aim to improve communication between municipal officials and citizens by enabling all communities to benefit from municipal services, were organised as part of the project "Official Language Acquisition for Municipal Officials in Kosovo" supported by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in Hague and the Office of the Language Commissioner/Office of the Prime Minister in Kosovo.

## **Information and awareness-raising focus groups with VMGs**

During December 2014 and January 2015, ECMI Kosovo

organised two (2) focus groups for relevant VMGs (youth, women, repatriated people, Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities) in each of the targeted municipality (Ranilug/Ranillug, Klokot/Klllokot, Viti/Vitina and Kamenicë/Kamenica) with the objective of delivering relevant information regarding their specific rights, the responsible actors for their protection and their opportunities for participating in public life.

The organisation of the focus groups was part of the project "Promoting Good Governance and Enhancing the Capacity of Kosovo's Newly Established Municipalities in Protecting Community Rights", funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

### **Trainings in Northern Kosovo municipalities**

In December, ECMI Kosovo organised two training sessions for youth and women in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North and Leposavić/Leposaviq on the topic "Basics of Entrepreneurship" within the project "Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of all Newly Established Municipalities in Kosovo", supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The trainings are the first in a set of trainings foreseen to be developed with the same groups, and in each of the four northern municipalities with the aim of increasing entrepreneurial and employability skills of the participants. The topics resulted from focus group discussions held in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North and Leposavić/Leposaviq with youth and women, where the need for self-employment initiatives and trainings for increasing entrepreneurial and employability skills have been identified as priorities.



### **Closing Event of the project "How to breathe life into Kosovo anti-discrimination legislation"**

On 4 December 2014, a roundtable discussion was held in Prishtinë/Priština to mark the finalisation of the project, "How to breathe life into Kosovo anti-discrimination legislation". The roundtable was organised and coordinated by the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo) and saw the participation of some thirty individuals, including the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kosovo, his Excellency Mr. Ivo Šilhavý,

and representatives from a variety of organisations across Kosovo with the common goal of decreasing ethnic, gender and other forms of discrimination in Kosovo. His Excellency Ambassador Šilhavý, greeted the participants and expressed his support and that of the Czech Republic for the project.

The roundtable was organised in order to present the results of Situation Testing cases conducted by ECMI Kosovo over the course of the project. Within this time, five situational discrimination tests were conducted in Kosovo, in Prishtinë/Priština, Gračanica/Graçanicë and Ferizaj/Uroševac. These tests aimed to determine whether individuals in a given situation, such as when applying for accommodation or employment, experience discrimination based on, for example, their ethnic background. Overall, it was found that two (2) test cases involved direct discrimination, two (2) involved no discrimination, and one (1) case involved indirect discrimination. These findings, although not conclusive enough in number to allow generalisation to the prevalence of discrimination in Kosovo, provide a vital insight into the trends that may be in place.



The project was implemented by ECMI Kosovo in association with Poradna pro občanství/Občanská a lidská práva, an NGO from the Czech Republic, and was financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic within the Transition Promotion Program.

### **Dialogue Sessions between Municipal Assembly Members and Civil Society Representatives**

During December 2014 and January 2015, ECMI Kosovo organised several dialogue sessions in each of the targeted municipality (Ranilug/Ranillug, Klokot/Klllokot, Viti/Vitina and Kamenicë/Kamenica) between the members of the municipal assemblies and the representatives of local CSOs. These sessions aimed to promote the mutual knowledge and communication between the two actors, and open opportunities for cooperation. The organisation of these dialogue sessions also supported the creation of a transparent and trustful environment between these two actors.

The organisation of the dialogue sessions was part of the project

"Promoting Good Governance and Enhancing the Capacity of Kosovo's Newly Established Municipalities in Protecting Community Rights", funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

### **The Implementation of the Women's Rights Curriculum**

During December, ECMI Kosovo organised a programme for students in the municipality of Gračanica/Graçanicë and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica on women's rights. The aim of the implementation of the [Women's Rights Curriculum](#) was to increase the awareness of high school students on gender equality.

The organisation of this activity was part of the project "Empowering Minority Communities in Kosovo against Gender-Based Violence", funded by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

### **The Approval of the Annual Work Plan 2015 of the CCC**

On 30 December, the Consultative Council for Communities, within the Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo, held a plenary session during which it unanimously adopted the Annual Work Plan for the year 2015. The Annual Work Plan—which sets forth the objectives, actions, activities, responsible institutions and officials, deadlines, as well as possible risks affecting its implementation—was drafted by ECMI Kosovo, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Consultative Council for Communities. The Annual Work Plan was drafted in accordance with best-practices and technical and legal requirements deriving from normative acts governing work plans. As part of this activity, ECMI Kosovo, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Council, organised several workshops with members of the Council in order to review the work done, gather input from members, as well as discuss and debate the Council's priorities for 2015.

This activity was conducted as part of the project "Supporting Civil Society Members of Consultative Council for Communities", financed by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pristina, and implemented by ECMI Kosovo.

### **Organisation of quarterly women's meeting**

During December, ECMI Kosovo organised several women's meeting in each of the targeted municipality (FushëKosovë/Kosovo Polje, Ferizaj /Uroševac, Gračanica/Graçanicë and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica). The aim of these meetings was to establish a trust-relation between the paralegals and the most important female community leaders; to improve the knowledge of female community leaders on GBV and available prevention and treatment services; and to initiate a regular dialogue between

prominent women from the community which is currently missing within the targeted communities. Specifically, the meetings were used to discuss and find solutions for women's rights issues raised through the activities of the paralegals.

The organisation of these meetings was part of the project "Empowering Minority Communities in Kosovo against Gender-Based Violence", funded by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

### **Municipal Assembly Training Programme**

During December 2014 and January 2015, ECMI Kosovo organised several training sessions for the municipal Assembly Members of the municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug, Klokot/Klllokot, Viti/Vitina and Kamenicë/Kamenica. The aim of the training sessions was to cover the ethnic make-up of Kosovo, the rights of the communities and their members, the relevant legal and institutional framework and the local level government's role and responsibilities in the field. Furthermore, the training sessions focused on the specific situation of each of the targeted municipalities and the particular needs and priorities of the communities present on their territory.



The organisation of the training sessions was part of the project "Promoting Good Governance and Enhancing the Capacity of Kosovo's Newly Established Municipalities in Protecting Community Rights", funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

### **Roundtable discussion with minority women**

During September, ECMI Kosovo organised the first roundtable discussion with minority women in the municipality of Gračanica/Graçanicë. The aim of this meeting was to raise awareness on the "Role of youth in combating gender based violence". Present in the meeting were women active in local institutions and civil society organisations, including the newly elected municipal official for gender equality. The participants emphasised that awareness raising is necessary from early childhood and stressed the importance of targeting both male and female children. Parents and educational professionals should

undertake the responsibility of educating children that violence against women/girls is never acceptable.

### **Steering Committee in North Mitrovica**

An outstanding project "Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for All Newly-Established Municipalities in Kosovo" held its steering committee yesterday January 28th. The Steering Committee was held for the first time in North Mitrovica, and we were happy to see so many participants also from the northern municipalities.



Embassy of Finland's Chargée d'Affaires Anne Meskanen noted in her speech that "It is important that growth is inclusive. This means that not only the winners but also the weakest should profit."

### **Discussion workshops on gender equality with men**

During December, ECMI Kosovo organised four (4) discussion workshops on gender equality with men in the four (4) targeted municipalities: FushëKosovë/Kosovo Polje, Ferizaj /Uroševac, Gračanica/Gračanicë and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. The aim of the workshops was to discuss and challenge the attitude of men towards gender relations and GBV in the targeted communities.

The organisation of these workshops was part of the project "Empowering Minority Communities in Kosovo against Gender-Based Violence", funded by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

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#### **About ECMI Kosovo**

ECMI Kosovo is the principal non-governmental organisation engaged with minority issues in Kosovo, with the overarching aim to develop inclusive, representative, community-sensitive institutions that support a stable multi-ethnic Kosovo. ECMI Kosovo contributes to the developing, strengthening and implementation of relevant legislation, supports the institutionalisation of communities-related governmental bodies, and enhances the capacity of civil society actors and the government to engage with one another in a constructive and sustainable way.

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