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ECMI Kosovo Project Updates

Trainings delivered to Municipal and School Drop-Out Prevention Teams on Identification and Registration, Case Management, and Interventions for Integration of Out-of-School Children

In November, ECMI Kosovo delivered trainings to school and municipal drop-out prevention teams (Prevention and Response Teams towards Abandonment and Non-Registration - PRTAN) of its targeted municipalities Fushe Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Obiliq/Obilić, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Pejë/Peć, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina as well as Gjakovë/Đakovica, which will be included in the future education program.

The purpose of the trainings was to strengthen the capacities of the teams on

ECMI in the Media

Distribution of Certificates in the municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica

<https://kk.rks-gov.net/kamenice/Lajmet/Ndahen-certifikata-per-vijuesit-e-kursit-te-gjuhes.aspx>

<http://www.tvkamenica.com/2014/12/pajisen-me-diploma-te-dy-gjuhesise.html#.VIGm7tLF-go>

Distribution of Certificates in the municipality of Lipjan/Ljipljan

<https://kk.rks-gov.net/lipjan/News/U-pajisen-me-certifikata-nje-grup-i-sherbyesve-civ.aspx>

Staff

In June, we said goodbye to Rakella Krasniqi. We would like to sincerely thank Rakella for her hard work and outstanding commitment and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

responding to cases of children out-of-school and on programming and implementing drop-out prevention and response interventions, as well as monitoring and evaluation. The trainings focused on the mandate and responsibilities of the teams and in introducing a case management system and intervention mechanisms for the integration of out-of-school children.

The school and municipal prevention teams were provided with tools aimed at supporting their work. Discussions were held on when children are at risk of dropping out, how to register cases of children that dropped out or are at risk of dropping out, how to conduct case management and refer cases to other institutions, and which concrete activities are to be undertaken to integrate out-of-school children. ECMI Kosovo is in the process of finalising a manual for the school and municipal PRTAN teams, designed in cooperation with UNICEF, KEC and MEST.



These activities are part of the project "Enhancing Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and

partnership with UNICEF Office in Kosovo which aims at reducing the numbers of out-of-school children in the six mentioned Kosovo municipalities.

Training sessions with the Municipal Assembly Members

On 6th November in Gračanica/Graçanicë, ECMI Kosovo organized the third training for Municipal Assembly members on their roles and responsibilities regarding the protection and promotion of community rights. The following Municipalities participated this time: Gračanica/Graçanicë and Štrpce/Shtërpçë.

This event marked the completion of the activity targeting newly-elected Municipal Assembly members. The activity targeted a total of eight (8) Municipalities, six (6) of which were Serb-majority Municipalities (Gračanica/Graçanicë, Klokot/Klllokot, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš/Partesh, Ranilug/Ranillug, Štrpce/Shtërpçë) and two (2) Albanian-majority (Kamenicë/Kamenica and Viti/Vitina). One of the most interesting elements of this activity was to have different ethnically mixed Municipalities debating openly together on important topics like the implementation of the decentralization process and relations between local and central-level institutions and government.



This event was part of the joint activities within the project 'Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for All Newly-established Municipalities in Kosovo' funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and 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).

Meeting with the Mayor of Leposavić/Leposaviq

On 18th November, ECMI Kosovo staff involved in the project 'Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for All Newly-established Municipalities in Kosovo' met the Mayor of Leposavić/Leposaviq to discuss the possible implementation of further activities in the Municipality.

Various topics were discussed during the meeting. In particular, it was very useful for ECMI Kosovo to hear the Mayor's personal considerations about issues regarding municipal relations with the central government. In this regard, his

of the annual municipal budget.

The Mayor agreed on the importance of offering trainings to local Municipal Assembly members and to increasingly involve the local civil society in capacity building activities. The meeting was concluded reaffirming the commitment of ECMI in providing support to the Municipality according to the organization's capacity and mandate.

Training in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North

From 2-3 December, ECMI Kosovo organised a first training session for youth and women in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North 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 training is the first in a set of trainings foreseen to be developed with the same group, the aim of which is increasing entrepreneurial and employability skills of the participants. The topics resulted from focus group discussions held in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North with youth and women, where the need for self-employment and trainings for increasing entrepreneurial and employability skills were identified as a priority.



Final tests for municipal officials in the official languages

In November, ECMI Kosovo organised final Albanian and Serbian language tests for municipal officials enrolled in the second phase of the six-month official language training courses. The participants in the municipalities of Prizren, Dragash/Dragaš, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kamenicë/Kamenica, Lipjan/Lipljan, Novobërdë/Novo Brdo, Shtërpçë/Štrpce, Vushtrri/Vučitrn and Klokot/Kllokot were tested on their achievement in learning one of the two official languages as part of the project aiming to increase the proficiency of municipal officials to communicate in both official languages.

The second phase of Albanian and Serbian language training courses aimed at improving the communication of municipal officials with members of the public, with central-level institutions and with one another started this February in 14 municipalities and will last until December, as part of the project 'Official Language Acquisition for Municipal Officials in Kosovo' funded by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Office

Office of the Prime Minister.

OLC'S Meeting of Observers

On 6 November 2014, ECMI Kosovo participated in the midterm meeting of observers organised by the Office of the Language Commissioner (OLC). This event was held in the Government Building and it aimed to provide an update on the implementation of the OLC's 2014 working plan, and to present and discuss the main activities foreseen for the 2015 action plan with relevant government, international and civil society stakeholders.

Among the current and future activities that were presented, particular emphasis was placed on the activities that are being implemented by ECMI Kosovo in close cooperation with the OLC, namely, the project 'Official Language Acquisition for Municipal Officials in Kosovo' funded by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Office of the Language Commissioner/Office of the Prime Minister; the project 'Official Language Training Courses for the Office of the Prime Minister', funded by the Office of the Prime Minister; and the project 'Monitoring and Evaluation of Language Rights in Kosovo: Towards Strengthening Institutional Compliance with the Kosovo Law on the Use of Languages', funded by the Office of the Language Commissioner of the Republic of Kosovo through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



The organization of dialogue sessions between CSOs and Municipal Assembly Members

During November, ECMI Kosovo organized a number of dialogue sessions between representatives of minority Civil Society Organisations and Municipal Assembly Members. The aim of the dialogue sessions was to promote the mutual knowledge and communication between the two actors, and open opportunities for cooperation. This activity supported the creation of a transparent and trustful environment between them which will benefit the work of both and have a direct effect on the local citizens. Indeed, local CSOs will act as intermediaries between these and the municipal authorities.

The booklet [Communities: Know Your Rights](#), recently published by ECMI Kosovo, was distributed to the CSO representatives. The implementation of these activities were 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).

Curriculum on Gender Equality and Gender-based Violence for students and teachers

ECMI Kosovo developed a [Curriculum on Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence](#) for students and teachers which will be implemented through 2014 and 2015 in the municipality of Ferizaj / Uroševac, Gračanica/Graçanicë, Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica North (Zvečan / Zveçan, Zubin Potok, Leposavić/Leposaviq) and aims to raise awareness on gender equality among minority high school students.

The development of the Curriculum for students and teachers 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, implemented by ECMI Kosovo in partnership with NRAEWOK, Activ and CLARD.

Recording of promotional videos for the selected CSOs

ECMI Kosovo supported the recording and broadcasting of six (6) promotional videos for the four (4) minority civil society organization and two (2) coalitions [BRIGA](#), [PIRAMIDA](#), [ICEC](#), [OSG](#), [OPA and CZRZ](#), and [SP and CDKD](#) that benefited from a 1.5 year Advocacy Skills & Minority Rights Programme for Kosovo Civil Society developed by ECMI Kosovo. The aim of

possibility to the selected CSOs and CSO coalitions to present their organizations' mission, inform the wider public on their projects, activities and field of interest and aim to reach potential donors.

The development of these videos was supported by the project "Empowering Civil Society to Participate Effectively in Policy and Decision-Making Processes through Dialogue with Government Institutions" funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo and implemented by ECMI Kosovo in partnership with CSD and NRAEWOK.

Gorani Community network: A research on unemployment, school returns and decentralization

ECMI Kosovo and its partner organizations supported the Gorani Community to conduct a research on [unemployment](#), [school returns](#) and [decentralization](#). A questionnaire for each issue was published in Serbian language and distributed by the members of the Network to more than 400 representatives of Gorani community living in Dragash/Dragaši with the support of CSD and NRAEWOK. Findings of the research were presented in three policy briefs which you can find in English and Serbian version. The members of the Network organized a conference in which they presented the results of the three issues and discussed findings with the relevant stakeholders and civil society representatives.

“Empowering Civil Society to Participate Effectively in Policy and Decision-Making Processes through Dialogue with Government Institutions” funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo and implemented by ECMI Kosovo in partnership with CSD and NRAEWOK.

[Serb Community Network: A research on employment and economic opportunities, transparency and accountability in the local government, and Youth activities](#)

ECMI Kosovo and its partner organizations supported the Serb Community to conduct a research on [employment and economic opportunities, transparency and accountability](#) in the local government, and [youth activities](#). A questionnaire for each issue was developed and distributed by the members of the Network to more than 600 representatives covering the municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica, Šilovo/Shillovë, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Parteš/Partesh, Novobrdë/Novobërdë, and Klokot/Klllokot.Gorani. Findings of the research were presented in three policy briefs which you can find in English and Serbian version. The members of the Network organized a conference in which they presented the results of the three issues and discussed findings with the relevant stakeholders and civil society representatives.

This activity was part of the project “Empowering Civil Society to Participate Effectively in Policy and Decision-Making

Government Institutions”ll funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo and implemented by ECMI Kosovo in partnership with CSD and NRAEWOK.

Political Developments

PDK and LDK agree to form a coalition government after a five-month stalemate

Following a five-month stalemate over the formation of the next government, on 19 November PDK and LDK agreed to set aside differences and form a coalition government. The agreement was struck following increased pressure from bilateral partners to end the stalemate after the rulings from the Constitutional Court made it clear that VLAN (LDK, AAK, Nisma, Vetëvendosje) did not have the right to elect a Speaker of Parliament from its own ranks. LDK had tried to re-negotiate the agreement with its partners in the bloc, but was unable to convince them to re-design the agreement which would allow LDK to lead the government. The PDK-LDK coalition guarantees a comfortable majority in Parliament for the next government (67 MPs without “Lista srpska”, also expected to join the government). Working groups from both coalition partners are still working out the details, but it is expected that the government will be led by Isa Mustafa, LDK chairman.

Alarming increase of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians emigration out of Kosovo reported

Kosovo media are reporting on increasing numbers of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians individuals and even entire families emigrating to the European Union through illegal channels. While concrete numbers are hard to come by, reports from the field suggest that the number may be as high as 5,000 individuals from all parts of Kosovo. While Kosovo Police have started investigating cases of fraud and smuggling of persons across the border, emigration continues at a high rate. A majority of those interviewed and reports from the field suggest the main reason for emigration is the poor economic conditions of those citizens emigrating. ECMI Kosovo has developed a report on [Challenges to Kosovo's Integration Efforts: Rising Emigration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities](#). To read the full report in [Albanian](#), [Serbian](#) or [English](#), please visit: <http://bitly.com/1scPRvI>.

"Srpska lista" and its leader Jablanović ready to join PDK-LDK coalition if specific conditions are fulfilled

The leader of "Srpska lista" Aleksandar Jablanović has expressed his readiness—and that of the list of MPs he leads—to become part of the PDK-LDK coalition government agreed on 19 November. Jablanović has spelled out a few conditions that "Srpska lista" has before joining the



include, among others: the immediate establishment of the Association/Community of Serb-Majority Municipalities (ACSM), the return of all displaced Kosovo Serbs to Kosovo, and the cancellation of the privatization process “in Serb areas in Kosovo”. Jablanović has also stated that he expects the Parliament to vote for the establishment of the ACSM first thing after it votes for the creation of the new government.

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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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