



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES KOSOVO



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Recommendations on Job Application Procedures with Public Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo

ECMI Kosovo presents recommendations on job application procedures with public institutions of the Republic

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ECMI Kosovo Project Updates

Women's Activism Week

On Monday 13th of October, the association of women-returnees, Naš Dom, opened the Women's Activism Week. This successful initiative took place in the Cultural Center of the village of Zebince, in the Municipality of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo. It was concluded on Saturday 18th, with a celebration based on traditional Serbian dances and music, together with a speech given by members of the ECMI staff on the importance of women's activism and the centrality of their inclusion in economic activities and public life to improve the living conditions of both their families and communities. Four Serb-majority municipalities, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Klokot/Kllokot, Parteš/Partesh, Ranilug/Ranillug, participated in this event. ECMI Kosovo supported the organisation of this initiative within the framework of the project '*Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of all Newly-established Municipalities in Kosovo*', supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

During that week, each municipality had allocated a day to share their own experience of women activism through cultural shows and discussions. Moreover, this initiative also commemorated three International Days: the International Day of Rural Women on October 15th, World Food Day on October 16th and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17th. The meaningful slogan used during the 6 days of the event was: **I give Word to HER!**



Training sessions with the Municipal Assembly Members

On Wednesday, 8th of October, ECMI Kosovo organised the second training for Municipal Assembly members on their roles and responsibilities regarding the protection and promotion of community rights, focusing on the particular needs

of Kosovo for members of minority communities who hold diplomas from the University of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. Within the framework of the Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded project 'Improving Minority Communities' Access to Higher Education in Serbian Language and Public Employment,' ECMI Kosovo, on 10th October, presented a draft concept paper to the Government Team responsible for job application procedures for public institutions of the Republic of Kosovo for members of non-majority communities who hold diplomas issued by the University of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North (UMN). The UMN is the only Serbian-language university in Kosovo, serving all Serbian-speaking communities (Serbs, Gorani, Bosniaks, and Roma). However, as the university operates under the legal framework of the Republic of Serbia as part of the Serbian higher education system, its diplomas are not recognised by Kosovo public authorities, posing a serious hindrance to the participation and representation of minority communities in Kosovo. ECMI Kosovo's draft concept paper makes concrete and short-term recommendations that will allow UMN graduates to apply for jobs with public institutions of the Republic of Kosovo and thus remove a major obstacle to public employment faced by members of minority communities.

and priorities of the communities present on their territory. The training was held in the municipality of Viti/Vitina, and more than 30 representatives from the municipalities of Klokot/Klllokot, Parteš/Partesh and Viti/Vitina participated. The fruitful debate that came out during the various phases of this training, between representatives of both Albanian-majority and Serb-majority municipalities, was a clear sign of the positive path that Kosovo institutions are treading towards the establishment of a stable multi-ethnic society.



This event was part of the joint activities of 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). In the coming weeks other targeted municipalities will be invited to participate in similar trainings.

Orgnaisation of the Study Visit

During October, ECMI Kosovo in partnership with CSD and NRAEWOK organised a study visit to Skopje, Macedonia for the representatives of the Kosovo minority Civil Society Organisations.

The aim of the study visit was to promote regional cooperation and exchange, and establish useful links to ensure a constructive exchange of good practices on the participation of civil society organisations in policy and decision-making processes through dialogue with local and central government institutions.

Issues that were discussed by the representatives of minority CSOs actives in Skopje and Kosovo are: the cooperation between CSOs and government institutions; minority issues; the relationship between minorities and majority; safety and other relevant issues.



The organisation of the study visit is part of 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.

The recording of four promotional videos with the representatives of the CCC and its Secretariat

ECMI Kosovo on behalf of the project "Supporting Civil Society Members of the

Consultative Council for Communities,” financed by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo has produced four (4) promotional videos with the members of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) and its Secretariat. The aim of these promotional videos is to raise the public’s awareness and understanding of the role and mandate of the Consultative Council for Communities, and to promote and underline the importance of effective civil society member participation in the broader civil society-government dialogue in Kosovo.

The promotional videos are broadcasted on the ECMI Kosovo website and project page, ECMI Kosovo Facebook Page and YouTube Channel, as well as on national media (RTK1 and RTK2).

Please find here the promotional videos with the representatives of [Turk,Roma](#), [Montenegrin](#) communities and the [Secretariat](#).

Evaluation workshop in Northern Kosovo

On 23rd of October, ECMI Kosovo and the NGO Aktiv organised an evaluation workshop attended by representatives of civil society organisations in Northern Kosovo and volunteers who are actively engaged in training sessions and practical activities developed within the project “Community Mobilization – Capacity Building Programme for Civil Society Organisations in Northern Kosovo”. The workshop was organised with the aim of evaluating the outcomes, benefits and contributions of the three training sessions, and the practical activities which followed them, to individual work of the participants, as well as to the work of their organisations. After completing the evaluation, participants shared their ideas, and contributed to the discussion about the following steps to be implemented under the project, which centrally refer to the organisation of social media public campaign.

The evaluation workshop was organised within the project “Community Mobilization – Capacity Building Programme for Civil Society Organisations in Northern Kosovo,” supported by European Union Office in Kosovo, and implemented in partnership with the NGO Aktiv.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Language Rights in Kosovo through the Use of Indicators

On 8 October 2014, the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo), in close co-operation with the Office of the Language Commissioner (OLC), organised a workshop at Vila Germia in Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo. This aimed to present, debate, and coordinate, the data collection of the M&E process on the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages within the work of the central level institutions of Kosovo, and to also raise awareness on the work and mandate of the OLC as well as strengthen the role of the central level Language Policy Network.

This event was organised within the framework of the implementation of 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 (OLC) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is aimed at identifying the shortfalls in the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages, and enhancing the enforcement of language rights in Kosovo. This is done by conducting a thorough and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation study on the implementation of language rights within the work of the municipal and central level public institutions of Kosovo, under the jurisdiction of the OLC, through the use of indicators. Furthermore, this project aims to increase capacities of the OLC and the institutions under its jurisdiction.



The event gathered approximately 40 participants between the central level focal points of the Language Policy Network and other relevant representatives of the central level institutions of the Republic of Kosovo including the all ministries, the Office of the President, and the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo.

Grant Application Support to the Minority Women in Kosovo

ECMI Kosovo contracted a professional consultant with the provision of providing assistance to minority women in preparing and submitting 40 grant/loan applications during 2014 and 2015. The Consultant Company will ensure that after 14 months support, a minimum of 80 women (20 women/municipality) benefit from this activity.

This activity is part of the project "Empowering Minority Communities in Kosovo against Gender-Based Violence," funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.

Political Developments

Members of Parliament representing community parties petition the President for a clarification of Article 127 of the Constitutional Court's decision on the election of the Assembly Speaker

On 20 October 2014, representatives of minority political parties sent a petition to President Jahjaga, where they ask that she request an additional explanation from the Constitutional Court on Article 127 of its decision KO119-14, dated 16.08.2014, on the procedures to elect the Speaker of the Assembly of Kosovo. The letter was signed by 17 out of 20 MPs representing minority communities; Nenad Rašić, Slobodan Petrović and Emilja Redžepi did not sign the letter. On 21 October, President Jahjaga officially replied to the petition, stating that she cannot support their request for a re-interpretation of Article 127 of the said Constitutional Court decision, as her position requires neutrality on issues pertaining to political parties. She also added that any further legal processes would delay the process of creating Kosovo's institutions, and would contribute to an even deeper divide between political parties and actors. She reiterated that a solution should be found within the framework of the Constitution and of the Constitutional Court decision.

Two Kosovo Ministers take part in a conference in Belgrade for the first time after the normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia

On 23 October, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo Enver Hoxhaj, together with Minister of Economic Development Fadil Ismajli, participated in a conference in Belgrade in what was hailed as a historic visit by two Kosovo ministers to Belgrade in an official capacity. The conference was an informal meeting of foreign and economic ministers of countries of the Western Balkans, and came as a follow up to the Berlin Conference on the Western Balkans, held by the initiative of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Both Kosovo ministers expressed their satisfaction with the conference, noting that their

participation is another sign that the normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia was on the right track. According to Minister Hoxhaj, it was agreed that the next meeting of this nature would be organised in Kosovo.

Political stalemate continues as LDK-AAK-Nisma supported by several MPs representing Kosovo's communities prepare to ask the Constitutional Court for additional clarifications

As the political stalemate over the election of the Assembly Speaker and of the new Government continues, the LDK-AAK-Nisma bloc has announced their intention to seek additional clarifications from the Constitutional Court on the procedures to elect the Assembly Speaker. The Constitutional Court issued a decision on 16.08.2014 (decision nr. KO119-14) on a request by PDK MPs to clarify who has the first try at nominating an Assembly Speaker; the Constitutional Court ruled that it was the largest party—in this case PDK—that has that right, but should it fail to have its candidate elected, it was up to MPs to find a solution (article 127 of the ruling). LDK-AAK-Nisma have announced their intention to ask the Constitutional Court to clarify this specific article, as they claim it gives them the right to propose their candidate should PDK fail to garner enough support for its own candidate.

The Assembly of Kosovo voted to dissolve itself on 7 May amid political gridlock and a weakened governing majority, opening the road for early general elections in Kosovo. These elections will test the strengths of both PDK (Democratic Party of Kosovo) and the "Srpska Lista" (Serbian List), newly-unified with the SLS (Independent Liberal Party), which won mayoral elections in the majority of Serbian-inhabited municipalities in local elections held in November 2013. Founded and funded by the Republic of Serbia, "Srpska" is expected to do well in general elections. The previous leading Serb political party, SLS, decided to unify its candidates' list with "Srpska" amid internal disagreements on the way forward. SLS lost to "Srpska" in all but one of the municipalities it held in 2013, but is expected to bring experience and connections to "Srpska", a still-inexperienced political entity.

Institutional Developments

The Consultative Council for Communities elected its chairman and two of his deputies

The Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) met in a plenary session on Thursday, 25 September in order to elect a chairman and two deputy chairmen for the new mandate running from 2014 until 2016. The chairman and his/her deputies are elected annually with a simple majority of votes. The members of the CCC elected Darko Dimitrijević, a representative of the Serb community, as chairman; Josip Blaško, a representative of the Croatian community, and Fergap Zaimi, a representative of the Gorani community, were elected as deputy chairmen. Chairman Dimitrijević was elected with 19 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstaining. Deputy Chairmen Blaško and Zaimi were elected with 11 and 13 votes respectively. The CCC also voted to appoint Avni Mustafa, a representative of the Roma community, as a member of the Steering Council of the joint European Union/Council of Europe project on education of citizens forcefully repatriated to Kosovo. Following the election of its chairman and deputy chairman, the CCC is set to establish its Working Groups and appoint their members in a future meeting.

The first workshop with the new appointed members of the Consultative Council for Communities

The Secretariat of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) within the Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo, supported by ECMI Kosovo,

organised a five-day workshop in Istanbul (Turkey), from 24th October until 29th October. The workshop was organised in order to offer participants the opportunity to, with the assistance and support of ECMI Kosovo, discuss and finalise the proposed amendments and changes to the Statute of the Consultative Council for Communities. The workshop was attended by the Chairman of the CCC, Darko Dimitrijević, deputy chairmen Josip Blaško and Emrin Zurapi, Secretary of the CCC Nafiye Gaş, as well as the Secretary of the Office of the President, together with three other officials of the Secretariat, the deputy Head of the Legal Department of the Office of the President, the Head of Division within Legal Department of the Office of the President, and ECMI Kosovo Legal Expert Shefqet Berisha. Following fruitful discussions and proposals, participants agreed in principle with the proposed amendments. It was also decided to allow the new members of the CCC and other interested parties to submit their final comments to the CCC Secretariat and ECMI Kosovo within 2 weeks and to then proceed with the regular procedures of discussion and adoption by the CCC members.



ECMI Kosovo's legal and technical support to the amendment of the CCC Statute was provided as part of the project "Support to Civil Society Members of the Consultative Council for Communities", financed by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo.

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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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