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## Publications

Working Paper: [Community Rights Monitoring & Evaluation for the Kosovo Context](#)

Information Bulletin: [Lack of Adequate Budget Allocation Seriously Hampers the Work of the Consultative Council for Communities](#)

[Minority CSO Database](#)

## Scholarships for ECMI Summer School

ECMI Flensburg is offering 14 scholarships for students from the Eastern, South Eastern Europe and Caucasus regions for its Summer School on National Minorities and Border Regions (taking

## In Focus

### New Phase of Language Training for Municipal Officials in Kosovo's Official Languages

In June, ECMI Kosovo has started implementing a new phase of provision of language training to municipal officials. This year, up to 300 municipal officials in 10 mixed municipalities will be trained in Kosovo's two official languages, Albanian and Serbian, in order to increase their capacities to provide services in both official languages. This project is supported by the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities (HCNM) and the Office of the Language Commissioner (OLC)/Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). ECMI Kosovo, jointly with representatives of the OLC, has started conducting meetings with Mayors of the 10 target municipalities to inform them about the language training courses.

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

- [ECMI Kosovo's Work](#)
- [Institutional Developments](#)
- [Political Developments](#)

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## ECMI Kosovo's Work

### Improving Implementation of Language Policies on Ministries' Websites

On 21 and 22 June 2013, ECMI Kosovo, in cooperation with the Office of the Language Commissioner (OLC) and the European Union Office in Kosovo/EU Special Representative, held a workshop in Prevalë/Prevalac on the implementation of language policies within the Offices for Public Information and on the websites of the ministries in Kosovo. The aim of the workshop was to identify best practices and challenges concerning the availability and quality of Serbian and Albanian language website presentations of ministries, and discuss recommendations for standard terminology translations and style guidelines.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Thomas Gnocchi, Head of the

place from 19 to 29 August in Flensburg, Germany).

Deadline for applications is 21 July. For more information, please see following [link](#).

## ECMI Kosovo in Media

TV Syri Vision: [Lajme - Promovimi i fuqizimit ekonomik të grave Roma, Ashkali dhe Egjiptiane](#)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [Në Graçanicë formohet Asociacioni i Ndërmarrësve Serbë](#)

OPM/OCA: [Workshop- "Community Rights Monitoring & Evaluation and Use of Indicators"](#)

Office of the Language Commissioner: [Two-day workshop](#)

Gazeta Jeta në Kosovë: [Në rastin e segregacionit dëshmojnë ekspertët](#)

## ECMI Kosovo Vacancies

ECMI Kosovo is looking for Albanian and Serbian language teachers to provide Albanian and Serbian language courses to municipal officials in 10 Kosovo municipalities. The deadline for application is 21 July 2013. For more information, visit [ECMI](#)

Political, Economic and European Integration Section of the European Union Office in Kosovo; Mr. Slaviša Mladenović, Language Commissioner; and Mr. Adrian Zeqiri, Executive Director of ECMI Kosovo. The 25 representatives from Offices for Public Information from the ministries, the Assembly of Kosovo and the Office of the Prime Minister, as well as other participants, actively engaged in discussions.



## Launch of Advocacy Skills & Community Rights Programme for Kosovo Civil Society

On 28-30 June, ECMI Kosovo conducted the first sessions of its *Advocacy Skills & Community Rights Programme* for Kosovo civil society organisations. The kick-off workshop, held in Struga, Macedonia, aimed to present an overview of the community rights legislative and institutional framework in Kosovo, including mechanisms of redress to address potential violations. Participants, from the Serb, Roma, Bosniak, Turkish, Gorani and Egyptian communities, had the opportunity to share their experiences and discuss challenges they face with regard to the use of languages, access to employment, and other areas. Throughout 2013 and 2014, selected civil society organisations will participate in further training sessions to enhance their advocacy skills and capacities to participate in decision-making processes and address issues of their concern. This programme is part of two ECMI Kosovo projects, funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The former is implemented in partnership with the NGOs Communication for Social Development ([CSD](#)) and Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organisation in Kosovo ([NRAEWOK](#)).

## Database of Civil Society Organisations from Non-majority Communities

ECMI Kosovo has developed a database of civil society organisations from non-majority communities in Kosovo, which have previously completed a questionnaire administered by ECMI Kosovo, where they presented the scope of their activity in the

[Kosovo's website.](#)

## Staff

Our Administrative Assistant Esved Ameti left the team; we would like to thank him for his hard work and outstanding commitment and wish him all the best for his future endeavors. Also, Ragan Dueker has completed her internship at ECMI Kosovo, we thank her for her valuable contribution.

In June, ECMI Kosovo welcomed the arrival of Ardian Dushi and our new intern Amanda Berisha to the team.

field, which communities they represent and territory their activities cover. The database is now available [online](#) at the ECMI Kosovo [project website](#).

## Workshop for Consultative Council for Communities

On 7-9 June, ECMI Kosovo organised a workshop in Durrës, Albania, for members of the Consultative Council for Communities and its Secretariat, and representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Legal Office of the Office of the President (OP). During the workshop, the newly appointed Council members and its Secretariat had the opportunity to gain a more thorough understanding of their mandate and responsibilities, as well as of the advantages of being a constitutional body under the OP. Two main issues arose from the discussions. First, there is a lack of clarity regarding the division of responsibilities between the Council' Secretariat and the Council itself due to the absence of Rules of Procedures. As a follow-up, experts have been hired by ECMI Kosovo to develop Rules of Procedures for the work of the Council, as well as a Code of Conduct for Accredited Organisations and a Regulation on Financial Compensation for the Members of the Council. Second, the lack of allocated budget was also identified as a key challenge for the work of the Council (see ECMI Kosovo [Information Bulletin](#) on this issue). The workshop was conducted in the framework of the project '*Supporting Civil Society Members of the Consultative Council for Communities*', funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Supporting Municipalities to Reduce Number of Out-of-School Children

In June 2013, ECMI Kosovo conducted consultation meetings and signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Mayors of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Obiliq/Obilić, Pejë/Peć, Istog/Istok, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Klinë/Klina. These six municipalities will be supported through training and technical assistance in the framework of a new project supported by UNICEF aimed at increasing access to and retention in education. On 18 and 19 June, two initial training sessions were organised in Obiliq/Obilić and Istog/Istok for municipal officials and school representatives from the six municipalities, dealing with the importance of data collection, monitoring and evaluation for addressing the issue of out-of-school children.

Subsequently, on 24-26 June, ECMI Kosovo, in cooperation with UNICEF, organised a workshop in Ohrid (Macedonia) on programming and planning for addressing the problem of out-of-school children for representatives of the six municipalities. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the participants to the methodology of drafting municipal action plans to increase access

to and retention in education. It was attended by 61 representatives of Municipal Directorates of Education, Municipal Offices for Communities and Returns, Centres for Social Work, school directors, teachers and local NGOs, who actively contributed to the discussions and analyses. The workshop represented the first step in supporting municipalities to reduce the numbers of out-of-school children in their municipalities in a systematic way, which will be followed by direct support with drafting plans in form of on-the-job training.

### **Towards Improving Community Rights Monitoring & Evaluation in Kosovo**

On 6 June 2013, ECMI Kosovo held the workshop '*Community Rights Monitoring & Evaluation and the Use of Indicators: Challenges and Opportunities.*' During the workshop, ECMI Kosovo presented the findings of its research on the use of indicators for improving community rights monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in Kosovo, also compiled in a [Working Paper](#) (available in [Serbian](#) and [Albanian](#) as well). The presentation was followed by a fruitful discussion with participants, namely representatives from government institutions – including the Office for Community Affairs (OCA), the Office of the Language Commissioner (OLC), the Kosovo Assembly Committee on the Rights and Interests of Communities and Returns (CRICR), and the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC), various ministries and the Ombudsperson Institution – as well as international organisations and embassies. This workshop was conducted in the framework of the project '*Supporting Effective Governance for Minority Communities in Kosovo,*' funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

### **Mainstreaming Community Rights in Kosovo Civil Service**

On 20 and 25 June 2013, ECMI Kosovo conducted two pilot trainings on community rights for Kosovo civil servants, in cooperation with the Kosovo Institute of Public Administration (KIPA). The goal of the pilot trainings was to test a curriculum developed by ECMI Kosovo to enhance civil servants' knowledge and understanding of community rights in Kosovo, and their own corresponding roles and responsibilities. The first pilot training targeted civil servants from central institutions – including the Office for Community Affairs (OCA), the Office of the Language Commissioner (OLC), the Kosovo Council for Cultural Heritage (KCCH), the Kosovo Property Agency (KPA), the Ministry of Diaspora (MD), and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) – while the second training was attended by civil servants from the municipalities of Prizren, Obiliq/Obilić, Gračanica/Gračanicë and Gjilan/Gnjilane. Participants actively engaged in discussions on issues related to community and human

rights, perception, discrimination and gender equality, and provided positive feedback on the training. These activities are being conducted in the framework of the Swiss FDFA-funded project on community governance.

### **Local Roundtables on Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Economic Empowerment**

Throughout June 2013, ECMI Kosovo, in cooperation with the Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women Organizations of Kosovo ([NRAEWOK](#)), organised five roundtable discussions on the challenges faced by women from these communities with regard to economic security, in the municipalities of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjakova/Đakovica, Peja/Peć and Prizren.

These roundtables were attended by around 25 participants each, including officials from central and local government institutions (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Municipal Offices for Communities and Returns; Municipal Offices for Gender Equality; Municipal Office for Economic Development), beneficiaries and civil society representatives. The goal was to bring all actors together to initiate dialogue and co-operation. Women were given a chance to raise their concerns and learn about existing support schemes and economic opportunities. In addition, ways of promoting women's economic empowerment have been explored. Also, training certificates were distributed to the participants of the Entrepreneurship Training. Eight of the 41 beneficiaries were chosen to receive individual coaching and support for the next five months. The selected beneficiaries will be assisted to develop a business plan for innovative ideas in order to apply for available business grants provided by relevant stakeholders. The roundtables were conducted in the framework of the project '*Promoting the Economic Empowerment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women*,' supported by UN Women, UNDP and the EU.



### **Public Meeting and Training for Repatriated Persons in Parteš/Partesh**

In June 2013, ECMI Kosovo started the implementation of a pilot

activity for repatriated families in Parteš/Partesh. This municipality is among those hosting the highest number of repatriated persons per capita in Kosovo, namely 68 repatriated families, meaning 420 people for a total population of 5 217 inhabitants. On 4 June, ECMI Kosovo organised a public meeting in the municipal building, attended by 40 repatriated persons and representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). Participants had the opportunity to consult with the MIA and the Municipal Officer for Communities and Returns, and gain a better understanding of the conditions to be met to benefit from the Reintegration Fund. In addition, on 25 and 26 June, ECMI Kosovo organised a training session for 20 repatriated persons with the objective to equip them with the basic skills to apply to the Reintegration Fund and potentially receive socio-economic support to start an income-generating activity for a sustainable reintegration. This pilot action was supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

### **Introduction to Project Cycle Management for the Staff of the Mitrovica/ë North Administrative Office (MNAO)**

On 24 June, ECMI Kosovo provided MNAO staff with a training session on Project Cycle Management, with the objective of increasing their capacities to develop projects to fulfill the MNAO annual strategy and work plan. This introductory session is expected to be followed by another one, which will go more in depth and aim at developing concrete project ideas. These trainings were conducted under the Decentralisation Project funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

### **Towards the Creation of a Multi-Ethnic Business Network in Novo Brdo/Novobërdë**

Further to the public meeting held in Novo Brdo/Novobërdë in May 2013 ([see last newsletter](#)), ECMI Kosovo organised several working group sessions with the local business community and municipal officials in order to draft a statute and collect relevant administrative documents to officially register the Novo Brdo Business Network as an NGO. During the Constitutive Assembly held on 25 June 2013, the founding members decided to elect Mr. Zvezdan Vasić as President of the Network, and Ms. Jorgovanka Filić and Mr. Ahmet Govori as Vice-Presidents. These activities were supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

### **Public Campaign on Business Registration**

ECMI Kosovo, with support of municipal officials responsible for economic development and the Association of Serbian Businessmen, developed a leaflet outlining all steps to be fulfilled to successfully register a business in the newly-established municipalities of Gračanica/Graçanicë, Klokot/Kllokot, Novo

Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš/Partesh, and Ranilug/Ranillug. The leaflets have been distributed to the local business community, which can seek help from ECMI Kosovo when registering their business by sending a request to: [business.registration@ecmikosovo.org](mailto:business.registration@ecmikosovo.org).

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## **Institutional Developments**

### **Exclusion of the Egyptian Community from the Strategy**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June, the Assembly of Kosovo passed by majority a recommendation put forward by the Egyptian member of the parliament, Mr. Xhevdet Neziraj. The recommendation foresees the exclusion of the Egyptian community from the *Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in the Republic of Kosovo* (the Strategy) and urges the Republic of Kosovo to take measures to advance the situation of this community concerning education, infrastructure, employment in the public sector, and public media. During a meeting of the Committee on the Rights and Interests of Communities and Returns (CRICR) held on 26 June 2013, the Chairperson of the CRICR Working Group on the Implementation of the Strategy declared that this recommendation was against the principles of the Strategy, and proposed the revision of the mandate of the Working Group.

### **Committee on the Rights and Interests of Communities and Returns (CRICR)**

On 25 June 2013, the CRICR Working Group on Languages held a public hearing on the *Law on the Use of Languages*, attended by representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration (MPA), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), and the Ombudsperson Institution. Issues discussed included the language in which citizens' complaints are replied by institutions, the issue of the reduced number of translators per institution, and titles in public buildings. Ms. Jasmina Živković, CRICR Chairperson, noted the low attendance of ministries' representatives invited to the public hearing and concluded that the level of implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages is not yet satisfactory.

### **Consultative Council for Communities**

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, the vice chairperson of the Council in the plenary session announced the resignation of the chairperson Mr. Oliver Vujović. In the coming month the Secretariat of the Council will organise a plenary session where the members of the Council shall vote for another chairperson. Until then, the vice chairpersons will be responsible for leading the Council's meetings.

The Working Group on Education met on 26 June and discussed the issue of reserved quotas for members of non-majority communities at the three public universities. A representative from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), Ms. Enesa Kadiq, was also present and answered the members' inquiries and concerns in relation to this issue. The Working Group on Language held a meeting on 26 June in order to discuss the implementation of the Law on Languages with regard to the use of the Turkish language in the six municipalities of Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Prishtinë/Priština, Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mamuşa/Mamushë/Mamuša. The chair of the working group, Mr. Taner Güçlütürk, expressed concern in regards to the accessibility of documents in the alphabet of community languages such as Turkish and Bosniak, namely as concerns ID cards, driving licences and tests for obtaining driving licences, as well as other documents issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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## **Political Developments**

### **Kosovo Assembly Ratifies the Brussels Agreement**

The Assembly of Kosovo ratified the Agreement on the normalisation of the relations with Serbia on the 27 June. The ordinary development of the voting process was initially obstructed by the protest organized by the opposition party Vetëvendosje which resulted in clashes with the police with around 30 detentions and several demonstrators and police officers injured. The voting was eventually made possible only after Kosovo Police escorted Vetëvendosje's MPs out of parliament.

The Prime Ministers Hashim Thaçi and Ivica Dačić met in Brussels on 20 June to discuss the progress in the implementation of the agreement based on the plan. The implementation plan foresees that by mid-June both sides will adopt all necessary legal changes, begin with the process of closure of the Serbian security structures and of the gradual integration of the Serbian security and judiciary personnel within equivalent Kosovo structures, as well as initiate discussions related to the holding of municipal elections. During the month of June the Kosovo government appointed Captain Nenad Đurić as the first regional commander for northern Kosovo. The Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia in Leposavić/Leposaviq was closed in accordance with the agreement, marking the beginning of the process of dissolution of Serbian MIA structures. Also, the preparation phase for the establishment of the Association of Serb Municipalities (ASM) has begun with the appointment of the management team composed of representatives from the four northern municipalities. Finally, beginning of June, Serbian Justice Minister Nikola Selaković and

Director of the Office for Kosovo Aleksandar Vulin met with representatives of the judicial institutions in North Mitrovica/Mitrovicë, Gračanica/Graçanicë, Ranilug/Ranillug, Deçan/Deçani and Štrpce/Shtërpçë to discuss about the implementation of the judiciary part of the agreement.

With regard to the other agreements previously reached in the dialogue process, the liaison officers Lulzim Peci and Dejan Pavićević were deployed on the 17 June respectively in Belgrade and Pristina. After Lulzim Peci's resignation, President Jahjaga appointed Valdet Sadiku as new officer, who will start his mission on 17 July. Furthermore, copies of complete registry books for the municipalities of Podujevë/Podujevo and Gjilan/Gnjilane were handed over by EULEX representatives from Serbia to the Civil Registration Agency of Kosovo.

### **EU Opens Negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Kosovo**

Praising both Serbia and Kosovo for the historical successes achieved in the last months in the process of normalisation of their relationship, the European Council endorsed on the 28 June the Council's conclusions and recommendations on future enlargements achieved on 25 June. It agreed on the opening of negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Kosovo and on setting of a date for the start of negotiations for membership with Serbia.

### **Local Elections Date Confirmed**

Following the consultations with the political parties and the Central Elections Commission (CEC), President Jahjaga announced the local elections, which will be held on 3 November.

### **Opening of Public Serbian-language Channel RTK2**

On 3 June, RTK (Radiotelevizioni i Kosovës/Radio televizija Kosova) started broadcasting on the second channel, where 85% of the space will be allocated to programmes in Serbian language, and the remaining 15% to Bosnian, Turkish and Romani languages. RTK2 is based in Pristina and headed by Žarko Joksimović.

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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

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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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