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Publications

[Factsheets on Socioeconomic Conditions in Northern Kosovo](#)

Lars Burema: [Reconciliation in Kosovo: A Few Steps Taken, a Long Road Ahead](#)

Videos

ECMI Kosovo has produced a number of videos promoting equal rights and opportunities for all. The videos can be watched at ECMI Kosovo [Youtube Channel](#).

Staff

We welcome to the team two new colleagues, Lura Pollozhani and Javiera Thais. Our intern Rebecca Darts has completed her work at ECMI Kosovo; we thank her for her valuable contribution to ECMI Kosovo and wish her well in her future endeavours.

In Focus:

ECMI Kosovo's involvement on a domestic violence case decided in the Constitutional Court

On 26 February 2013, the Constitutional Court of Kosovo decided that the Municipal Court of Prishtinë/Priština violated the right to life of Diana Kastrati in its failure to respond to the request for an emergency protection order against domestic violence, subsequent to which, on 18 May 2011, Ms. Kastrati was tragically killed by the father of her daughter. ECMI Kosovo, in cooperation with the Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development (CLARD), played an important part in identifying and supporting this case and believes this clear decision sends out a strong message to Kosovo's judicial system to take more seriously its responsibility in combating domestic violence in Kosovo. For more information, see the [Information Bulletin](#).

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

ECMI Kosovo's work

New project on economic empowerment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women

ECMI Kosovo has started implementing a new 1-year project aiming to promote economic empowerment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women by increasing their professional and entrepreneurial skills and advocating for increased support from local and central level government institutions. This project will be implemented in partnership with the Network of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Women Organizations of Kosovo (NRAEWOK) and is funded by the UN Women, UNDP and European Union.

In February, three information and consultation meetings were held with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women from municipalities of Prizren, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Pejë/Peć, Ferizaj/Uroševac, and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, with a view of gaining a better understanding of their economic situation, capacities and needs. Most of the women are unemployed and of poor economic background but they are skilled in producing valuable traditional clothes, handicrafts or jewelry and many of them are engaged in agriculture and livestock production. ECMI is pleased to assist the women who have expressed their desire to attain further skills on business planning, marketing skills, and applying for grants.



Mainstreaming of minority rights in Kosovo civil service

In February 2013, ECMI Kosovo and the Kosovo Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) established the framework of cooperation for the development of a training curriculum on minority rights for Kosovo civil servants. The goal of this training will be to enhance civil servants' knowledge and understanding of minority rights in Kosovo, their own corresponding roles and responsibilities, and minority rights' relevance for societal development. Within the framework of the 1-year project 'Supporting Effective Governance for Minority Communities in Kosovo', ECMI Kosovo will develop the training curriculum, conduct pilot trainings, and a training of trainers (ToT), in cooperation with KIPA. Adequate modalities to ensure the handover of the training will be sought jointly with KIPA and the other relevant actors.

This project is financed by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

ECMI Kosovo's research on employment of non-majority communities triggers establishment of Working Group

The Office for Community Affairs (OCA), operating under the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), has initiated the process of establishing a Working Group (WG) on Employment of Non-majority Communities, mandated with developing and submitting recommendations for approval to the government. The first preliminary meeting of WG observers, which include ECMI Kosovo, the Swiss, Norwegian, British, US, German, and French embassies, UNDP and OSCE – was held on 7 February 2013. It should be highlighted that the establishment of the WG was triggered by the findings of the ["Policy Study on Employment of Members of Non-majority Communities within Kosovo Civil Service and Publicly Owned Enterprises"](#), conducted by ECMI Kosovo in 2010, under auspices of the OCA and with support from the Swiss FDFA. This shows the impact of ECMI Kosovo's work on community governance. ECMI Kosovo is pleased about this process and looks forward to contributing to it.

Training on business development for SME owners

On 27, 28 February and 1 March, ECMI Kosovo organised a training on business development in Klokot/Killokot. A group of 20 Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian SME (small & medium enterprise) owners from Klokot/Killokot, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš/Partesh, and Ranilug/Ranillug were trained on how to structure their enterprise and how to formulate a convincing business development plan. This successful training was delivered by Mr. Vladimir Dzenopoljac, in partnership with MDA, and supported by

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Training for young people in Mitrovica/ë North

On 22- 24 of February 15 young people from Mitrovica/ë North had been trained on human rights protection and civil society development. The training session was the last to be held under the 'Youth of Mitrovica/ë for a Democratic Society project', and was delivered in partnership with the Association for Peace Kosovo (AFPK). Like the previous sessions that covered topics related to peace and reconciliation, democracy, and citizenship, the training was delivered by Ms. Tanja Petrović and supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kosovo.

Publication of municipal and thematic factsheets about northern Kosovo

In February, ECMI Kosovo published eight municipal and thematic factsheets on socioeconomic conditions in Leposavić/Leposaviq, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Zubin Potok, and Zvečan/Zveqan. These documents aim to summarise the findings of the opinion survey conducted to analyse citizens' perceptions about education, healthcare, social welfare, and economic development in northern Kosovo. The factsheets and the final report are available [online](#), as well as a [media reportage](#) about the final conference held in Prishtinë/Priština on 31 January. These publications are the final output of the project 'Knowledge Increase of Socioeconomic Situation in Northern Kosovo', implemented with the support of the British Embassy in Kosovo and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Institutional Developments

Consultative Council for Communities (CCC)

During the month of February, the CCC Working Groups held meetings. During the meeting conducted on 7 February, the Working Group on Education discussed, among others things, about irregularities with regard to the quota system for public universities, where places reserved for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians communities often are allocated to non-community members. On 8 February, the Working Group on Languages discussed the draft Action Plan for 2013, which will include activities for monitoring the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages and raising public awareness on language rights. Finally, the Working Group on Legislation met on 21 February and compiled a list of draft laws, amendments and strategies which it plans to review. The list includes the foreseen amendments of the laws on Anti-Discrimination, Ombudsperson, and Higher Education.

Committee on Rights and Interests of Communities and Returns (CRIC)

The Kosovo Assembly Committee on Rights and Interests of Communities and Returns (CRIC) met on two occasions to finalise the Action Plan for 2013. The Action Plan will include establishing a Working Group to oversee the Law on the Use of Languages and the Law on Historical Monuments. CRIC also discussed the draft law for creating an Agency for Memorial Complexes, which is currently under revision in the Kosovo Assembly.

Ministry for Communities and Returns (MCR)

The Ministry for Communities and Returns (MCR) established a Working Group for Drafting the Strategy of the MCR. The mandate of the Working Group will be to revise and up-date the existing Strategy for Communities and Returns for the 2014-2017 period. The first meeting of the Working Team took place on 13 February.

Working Group on Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation (WG DwPR)

ECMI Kosovo is pleased to announce that one of our staff members, Gazmen Salijević, has been selected as a civil society member of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation. The Working Group was formally established in June 2012 with a view to dealing with human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian laws in Kosovo's past in order to promote reconciliation, taking into consideration the views of all communities in Kosovo. It comprises representatives of government institutions and civil society; independent institutions, international organisations and embassies are part of the WG as experts and observers.

Political Developments

EU-mediated Pristina-Belgrade dialogue

The 5th round of EU-mediated talks in Brussels between Kosovo and Serb Prime Ministers, Thaçi and Dačić were carried out in February. The primary issue of the Serb run institutions in northern Kosovo has ended without any agreement reached. More specifically, the talks included Serbia's demand for creation of an association of Serb municipalities, which would have executive powers and would be comprised of nine municipalities in which Serbs are the majority. Dačić said that if an Association was agreed upon between, Belgrade would be willing to transfer some of the powers to the Kosovo Assembly. While Thaçi affirmed that he was willing to accept the forming of such an association, he asserted that Kosovo could not grant executive powers to the association. According to the Kosovo legislation, municipalities have the right to cooperate and form partnerships to carry out functions of mutual interest.

February also marked the first meeting of Kosovo President Jahjaga and Serb President Nikolić in Brussels, facilitated by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton. In the meeting, both Presidents assured their commitment and support to the ongoing dialogue between Prime Ministers Dačić and Thaçi. Later in February, Nikolić stated that the parallel institutions in northern Kosovo would be replaced by newly created Kosovo institutions run by Serbs.

Further developments with regard to the implementation of agreements reached earlier in the dialogue include the implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) on the two remaining border crossings at Depce/Muçibabë and Mutivodë/Mutivode. Another agreement reached that is currently being implemented is the handing over of certified copies of civil registry books by Serbia to the municipalities of Gllgoc/Glogovac, Lipjan/Lipljan, Obiliq/Obilić and Fushë Kosovë/ Kosovo Polje.

Developments in northern Kosovo

The security situation in northern Kosovo has deteriorated during the past month.

Several bombs and grenades were set off in Zvečan/Zveçan, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and Leposavić/Leposaviq. More notably, the injuring of two children ages 3 and 9, in the Bosniak Mahalla neighborhood was strongly condemned by local and international authorities.

At the end of February, the mayor of the parallel Kosovska Mitrovica municipality Krstimir Pantić resigned following his appointment as Deputy Head of Government of Serbia's Office of Kosovo and Metohija. At the same time, the Serb Progressive Party (SNS) and the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) coalition dissolved.

Protests against Supreme Court ruling on Visoki Dečani Monastery

A recent Supreme Court ruling granted ownership of 23 hectares of land to the Visoki Dečani monastery. Two socially owned companies in Deçan/Dečani claimed ownership to the land that has been contested since the 1999 conflict. On February 20th, KFOR stopped some 20 demonstrators who were approaching the monastery gates.

Authorities in Prishtinë/ Priština have called for the court decision to be respected.

Kosovo marks the 5th anniversary of Independence

On February 17th, Kosovo marked its 5th anniversary of Independence. A total of 98 countries have recognised Kosovo's independence, over half of the 193 UN member states.

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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.

Our mailing address is:

Str. Nëna Tereze
Nr. 41, Apt. 29
10000 Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo
Tel: +381 (0)38 224473
Email: info@ecmikosovo.org

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