



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – June 2012

Political Developments:

Two Serbs killed

Milovan and Ljiljana Jevtić, two Serb returnees to Kosovo, were murdered on July 6th in the village of Talinovac near Ferizaj/Uroševac. Milovan was a village council representative and an investigation has been launched into his and his wife's deaths. ECMI Kosovo firmly condemns this act which is not conducive to building a stable and multi-ethnic Kosovo and it calls upon authorities to investigate the case thoroughly and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Clashes in North

In June, several clashes in the north of Kosovo occurred. On 16 June, KFOR forces blocked the road that leads to the alternative border crossing in Bërnjakë/Brnjak. Local Serbs have opposed efforts to reopen the road, attacking KFOR barricades to which KFOR reacted by firing shots in the air to disperse the crowds. Also, on 28 June during the Vidovdan celebrations, commemorating the 623rd anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo, clashes between Serbs coming from Serbia and Kosovo Police occurred. Visiting Serbs were stopped by Police for acts of provocations and directed to the Merdare border crossing. During these clashes, at least 35 Police officers and several Serbs were reported injured.

Feasibility study for the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)

The Government of Kosovo submitted answers to the questionnaire for preparation of the feasibility study for the SAA. A fact-finding mission took place in the second half of June with high level officials and experts of the European Commission. The main purpose of the mission will be to collect facts about the current state of affairs with regard to the further development of the Stabilisation and Association process, in particular negotiation and implementation of the SAA.

Dacic to become prime minister of Serbia

Strong reactions have been expressed following the announcement that Ivica Dačić would become Serbia's Prime Minister. Kosovo's Prime Minister Thaçi and Foreign

Minister Hodzaj both said that this development is a cause for concern in the region. Hodzaj said that this is a return to the 90s and that the EU states should do their utmost so that Serbia does not deviate from its European path.

Death of Dino Asanaj

The Head of the Kosovo Privatisation Agency, Dino Asanaj died of knife stabs in his private office in Prishtina on 14 June. The autopsy conducted by the Department of Forensic Medicine concluded Asanaj had wounded himself 11 times to his neck and chest, leading to his death.

At the time of his death, Asanaj was under investigation for alleged bribe seeking during the privatisation process of the Prishtina Grand Hotel. Although neither the public nor the media were convinced of his death, authorities have been cautious in qualifying his death as murder or suicide. An alleged letter written by Asanaj telling "with this act he is trying to enforce law" adds up to his suicide. The Kosovo Government has asked FBI assistance in investigating the death of Dino Asanaj.

Kosovo Recognition

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo has announced that on 1 June the Republic of Chad has become the 91st country to recognize Kosovo's independence.

ECMI Kosovo Project Updates:

Integration Through Learning of Official Languages in Kosovo

In June, ECMI Kosovo started providing Albanian and Serbian language classes to around 70 municipal officials in the three municipalities of Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Obiliq/Obilić, and Štrpce/Shtërpçë. The courses, supported by the Mayors of the respective municipalities, will be held throughout the period of 5 months and are specially tailored to the needs of the municipal officials.



Moreover, a training for teachers of Albanian as a second language for the 3rd grade was held in Prizren from the 15 to 16 June, organized jointly by ECMI Kosovo and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The training was attended by 37 teachers from all of Kosovo's regions and focused on how to use the new textbook that has been developed last year and on how to improve their methodology of teaching Albanian to non-Albanian communities.

The project "Integration through learning of official languages in Kosovo" is financed by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Legal Aid to Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups

In June 2012, legal aid lawyers provided free legal assistance to 326 beneficiaries. The majority of these beneficiaries were former employees of the privatised 'Ramiz Sadiku' company, who had appealed to the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court of Kosovo to be included on the list of people who will receive a share of the privatisation of this socially owned enterprise.

On 22 June, ECMI Kosovo submitted 23 complaints to the Ombudsperson in relation to violations of the *Law on Use of Languages* by Kosovo institutions. These complaints relate specifically to the unequal availability of information, including administrative instructions and





MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – June 2012

regulations, on official websites of Kosovo institutions in all official languages. At the same time, ECMI Kosovo has entered into cooperation with Prizren-based NGO *Relax* and Novo Brdo/Novobërdë-based NGO *UŽP-ND* to conduct research and advocacy on the availability of Bosniak and Turkish language textbooks and access to personal documents by members of minority communities.

These activities were part of the project: *'Enhancing the Positive Impact of the Law for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in Kosovo'*, funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo.

For more information on this project please visit www.kosovo-legalaid.com.

Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process

ECMI Kosovo has finalised and published a report on the perspectives for local economic development in the 5 newly-established municipalities of Gračanica/Gračanicë, Klokot/Kllokot, Novo Brdo/Novobërdë, Parteš-Pasjane/Partesh-Pasjan and Ranilug/Ranillug. This report contains policy recommendations addressed to the municipalities with the objective of improving the business environment for SMEs and to stimulate local investments and growth. The main findings of the report have been presented to the mayors and/or deputy mayors of the municipalities individually. ECMI Kosovo will support the municipalities in implementing these recommendations covering the following aspects: local legal framework; institutional organization; information collection and dissemination; and relations with the business community. To see the report, please visit: <http://bit.ly/OxfvXx>

ECMI Kosovo has also completed a study on "the Socio-economic Analysis of Northern Kosovo: Mapping Local Civil

Society Organisations in Mitrovica /Mitrovicë North, Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zubin Potok and Zvečan/Zveqan".



These activities were part of the project 'Support to Minority Communities during and after the Decentralisation Process', financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Improving the Delivery of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Education

From 5 to 8 June, ECMI Kosovo organised a training workshop for the municipal officials of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje on improving the institutional delivery of education to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Namely, the training addressed the issue of high dropouts that affect pupils from the communities. Altogether, 29 participants composed of representatives of relevant municipal departments, schools and civil society discussed ways of improving identification and prevention of dropouts, reintegrating children that dropped out or that are out of school and enhancing coordination between the relevant stakeholders.

ECMI Kosovo has also assisted municipal officials in organizing the fourth meeting of the Task Force for monitoring the implementation of the MAP education component. During the meeting, municipal officials reported on the activities they had implemented in the previous period: completing a form on



monitoring of dropouts and irregular attendance, conducting supplementary classes and language courses with school children with learning difficulties, finalising a report on pre-primary and preschool education needs, organizing awareness-raising campaigns and preparation of catch-up classes for out-of-school children.

This project has been supported by UNICEF.

Request for donations

ECMI Kosovo is looking for a generous donor for a vehicle to support our extensive activities in the field.

Personnel Changes

Ross Wain and Vullnet Abdyli have completed their work at ECMI Kosovo; we thank them for their valuable contribution to ECMI Kosovo and wish them well in their further endeavors in England and New Zealand, respectively.

We welcome the arrival of M. Alejandra Morena, Jérémie Zeitoun and Sanja Lazarević to the ECMI Kosovo team.

