

ECMI

ANNUAL REPORT
2003

European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)

European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)

Director: Marc Weller

© European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) 2004. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI).

Introduction

The year 2003 has again seen a significant expansion of ECMI's activities and staff. The Centre now has operations in over a dozen states, supported by three field offices. While the Centre is carefully managing its own growth, the central focal point of its activities remains of course the delivery of high quality projects that make a real difference in the lives of stakeholders throughout the wider Europe.

ECMI projects have remained diverse, but they are conducted according to a common methodology. This methodology focuses on ways of enhancing the quality of the engagement between minorities and minority representative groups on the one hand, and government at the local, regional or national levels on the other. However, enhancing processes for the participation of minorities in public life in all its aspects is only a first step. What matters are the outputs of such processes. Minority and majority populations alike should be brought to experience in very concrete ways the benefits of life in a diverse society. Whether supporting interethnic projects in South Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, or engaging the concerns of communities of newcomers in Kaliningrad, ECMI projects over the past year have made a real difference. This report gives a flavour of some of these activities.

In addition to its strong focus on action-oriented activities, the Centre has managed to advance its ambitious research and publication programme. The third volume of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues is being prepared for press as this introduction is being written. Two substantive studies have appeared in book form over the past year and a third is in publication. In addition, the Centre has significantly advanced its scholarly research on minority rights, in particular on the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Moreover, ECMI has continued its partnership with the University of Cambridge in a major international research project on the settlement of self-determination conflicts, sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

In addition to its own research profile, the Centre has continued to build networks and cooperative relationships. These include the scholarly community, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are active in the field.

For 2004 ECMI has again set itself an ambitious agenda. Having managed to attract additional high quality staff over the past twelve months, both at headquarters and in the field, the Centre is well placed to continue to support the transformation of minority-majority relations throughout Europe.

Marc Weller
ECMI Director
March 2004

Table of Contents

Introduction

I. Action-Oriented Projects.....	9
A. ECMI Kosovo/a Civil Society Project: The Standing Technical Working Group and Expert Committees.....	10
B. Kosovo/a High Level Initiative: Accelerated Good Governance Initiative and Kosovo/a Prime Minister's Initiative.....	14
C. NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia and Regional NGO Resource Centres.....	16
D. Securing Implementation of the Ohrid Agreement through Concrete Policy Action.....	19
E. Toward Regional Guidelines for the Integration of Roms.....	22
F. Bosnia-Herzegovina: Supporting Non-Titular Minorities, Enhancing Civil Society and Promoting Educational Reform.....	25
G. Supporting Civil Society Involvement in the Reform and Reunification of Mostar.....	26
H. Enhancing Minority Participation through Establishing a Consultative Body in Albania.....	27
I. Enhancing the Capacity of the Union Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro.....	28
J. Enhancing Minority Governance in Bulgaria and Romania in the Context of EU Accession.....	31
K. Stabilizing and Improving Interethnic Relations in the Kaliningrad Oblast', Russia....	32
L. Towards Linguistic Diversity Management in the Baltic States.....	34
M. Cambridge-Carnegie/ECMI Joint Project: Enhancing the Capacity of the Moldovan Delegation to the Joint Constitutional Commission in Designing a Federal Constitutional Framework for the Republic of Moldova.....	36
N. Building a Broader Base of Civil Society Support for Federalization in Moldova.....	38
O. Defusing Interethnic Tension and Promoting Regional Integration - the Javakheti Region of the Republic of Georgia.....	39
P. Network of Specialized Ombudspersons on Minorities in Europe.....	41
II. Practice-Oriented Research.....	44
A. Resolving Self-Determination Disputes through Complex Power-Sharing.....	45
B. Addressing Self-Determination Disputes Using Complex Power-Sharing.....	47
C. Advancing the Efficiency of the Global Structures of Minority Rights Protection on the Basis of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.....	49
D. Full and Effective Participation of Minorities in Public Life in Accession States.....	51
E. Ethnic Democracy.....	52
F. Economic Opportunities for Minorities in Europe.....	53
G. A Joint Methodology on Minority Programming.....	55
H. Facilitating European Integration Through Romani Integration.....	56
I. Between Integration and Resettlement: The Meskhetian Turks.....	58
III. Information and Documentation.....	60
A. Library.....	60
B. Databases.....	61
Framework Convention Database.....	61
Framework Convention NGO Parallel Reports.....	62
Database of Jurisprudence on Minority Rights.....	63
Ethnopolitical Map of Europe.....	64
IV. Publications.....	65
A. Books.....	66
B. Internally Produced Publications.....	69

C. Chapters in Books and Scholarly Articles by ECMI Staff.....	72
D. The Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)	73
V. Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Other Events.....	75
A. Conferences.....	75
B. Delegations and Visitors at ECMI.....	79
C. Papers and Lectures given by ECMI Staff at Conferences and Academic Institutes	80
D. Attendance of ECMI Members at Conferences and Events.....	82
E. Teaching and Training.....	84
VI. Staff and Board	85
A. ECMI Staff.....	85
B. ECMI Board.....	88
C. ECMI Advisory Council	89
VII. Financial Development.....	91
List of Acronyms	95

I. Action-Oriented Projects

In 2003, ECMI has continued the previous years' rapid development of its portfolio of action-oriented projects in relation to each of its principal areas of interest: full equality and participation of minorities, a rights-based approach to good governance, and stabilization of societies in crisis. Divided in five zones of operation in the wider Europe (South Eastern Europe, Roma, European Union and Accession States, Former Soviet Union – North, and Former Soviet Union – South), ECMI initiated or continued a total of 16 projects during the year.

In South Eastern Europe, ECMI's existing projects in Macedonia (NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations) and Kosovo/a (Kosovo/a Civil Society project) still range among the Centre's most prominent activities, while 2003 saw a significant development of new activities, including the establishment of a political negotiation project in Macedonia to support efforts to implement the provisions of the Ohrid Agreement through policy action, and a high level initiative in Kosovo/a aimed at accelerating good governance. Yet another project, initiated on the request of the Kosovo/a Prime Minister, aims to provide expertise in devising a strategy to achieve and monitor compliance with the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo's (UNMIK) standards across all governmental agencies in 2004 and 2005. Assessments and pilot initiatives were also conducted in Serbia and Montenegro, where a large-scale project on the enhancement of the capacities of the Union Ministry of Human and Minority Rights in Belgrade was negotiated as a collaborative project with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Ministry itself. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, a project was prepared in support of non-titular minorities to enhance civil society and to promote educational reform, while in Albania, an initiative to enhance minority participation as a response to the recommendations of the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on the Framework Convention for National Minorities was developed.

A comprehensive needs assessment based on innovative methodological approaches of the Romani population in Macedonia was conducted in the second half of the year. This assessment also takes account of gender issues and pays particular attention to the position of Romani women in relation both to Romani men and to the non-Romani population. It is envisaged that additional assessments in 2004 and 2005 can be

conducted in Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo/a and Albania. The assessments are to lead to larger programs to promote Romani integration into society.

In advance of the accession of the “second wave” of countries to the European Union (EU) envisaged for 2007, ECMI has embarked on a path to facilitate the improvements in the situation of minorities in future accession countries. In the past year, an ambitious project for Romania and Bulgaria was developed, while a similar initiative is under preparation on Croatia for implementation in 2004. Turkey is also being considered as a new area of relevance in the EU accession process. A cross-regional project to expand the availability and effectiveness of ombudspersons institutions dealing with minorities in the wider Europe was also continued and developed throughout the year.

The Centre continued its focus on management of linguistic diversity in Latvia and Lithuania, while the existing project on stabilization and improvement of interethnic relations in Russia’s Kaliningrad Region was significantly expanded.

The year also saw a geographical expansion of ECMI’s project activities to Moldova and Georgia. In Moldova, the Centre established a program to further the negotiations on a federalized constitution for the republic as part of international efforts to resolve the decade-long dispute over the status of the break-away republic of Transdnistria. In Georgia, a project to defuse interethnic tension and promote integration of the ethnic Armenian region of Javakheti was begun. With the “Rose Revolution” in Georgia in November 2003, new opportunities for active conflict-resolution have emerged, and ECMI is planning additional support to the stabilization of minority-majority relations in 2004.

Below is a presentation of each of the action-oriented projects, with an emphasis on activities in 2003:

A. ECMI Kosovo/a Civil Society Project: The Standing Technical Working Group and Expert Committees

Aims

The overall idea of the Kosovo/a Civil Society Project is to foster progress in good governance, transparency and accountability in the politics of Kosovo/a, thus making

progress towards an ethnically inclusive policy, defined by democratic debate about real issues of concern to local stakeholders rather than by ethnic barriers.

From its outset, the Kosovo/a Civil Society Project established the mechanism of the Standing Technical Working Group (STWG), an inter-ethnic forum, in which policy was debated and evaluated, while formulating recommendations for alternative policies, which would enhance good governance in Kosovo/a. The instruments of the STWG were the Expert Committees, thematically organized working groups and public civic forums in which STWG experts discussed relevant issues with a public audience consisting of local politicians, NGOs, and the media. The results of these discussions were considered in the recommendations produced by each expert committee.

The ECMI Kosovo/a Civil Society Project thus remains unique. In fact, it has developed into an institution of its own and enjoys high respect among local and international actors alike. While other organisations in Kosovo/a are focusing on capacity building of NGOs at the grassroots level, often being based on a single group (youth, women, etc.) or on monitoring the work of government institutions, ECMI's Civil Society Project has developed a threefold approach:

- *Inter-ethnic dialogue.* The participants of the expert committees/working groups have different ethnic backgrounds. While this remains an issue and the project seeks to foster the dialogue between ethnic groups, discussions in the individual groups have developed towards exchange of contents-based views on issues of mutual interest rather than being based on declarative statements of various ethnic groups.
- *Dialogue between civil society and government institutions.* The discussions in the working groups have a transmitter function. Ideas and recommendations from civil society participants are picked up by the political representatives and brought to the knowledge of their institutions. At the same time, civil society representatives receive direct information about developments in the political sector. Cross-fertilisation happens even prior to the drafting of formal recommendations.
- *Capacity building.* Through the dialogue between the members of the working groups themselves, the capacity of civil society representatives to formulate and

address issues at a high political level is being enhanced. The results of this dual capacity building element will become more tangible in the 2004 action-oriented phase of the project.

Relevance

The political tradition of the entire South Eastern European region, including Kosovo/a, is not that of an inclusive, dialogue-oriented, transparent and accountable debate between elected representatives and their electorate. While information has been treated in the past as an instrument of power, a growing civil society sector is demanding more access to information and to mechanisms of power-sharing. ECMI focuses on the inclusion of minorities in the process of political decision-making. All working groups are composed of persons with different ethnic background and the inclusion of issues of high relevance to the minorities (such as, for example, the return of refugees) has been a precondition for the work of the groups.

The year 2003 has seen a polemic debate about standards of good governance and the future status of the province. The international position clearly states that standards have to be fulfilled before a discussion about the future status can begin. A gradual transfer of competencies to the Provisional Institutions of Self-Governance (PISG) is meant to enable them to make way on the standards issue. The opening of an official dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade in October, although having had a difficult start, represented a step forward in the process of finding a solution to the future of the province.

Project Activities

Following the schedule of meetings, a total of five civic forums were held in 2003 (the final one for the year took place in January 2004). These forums publicly discussed in detail the draft recommendations that have been generated by the Expert Committees, thus broadening the debate to a wider audience. The themes covered were integration and returns; public health, health law and health service; decentralisation; human rights, legal infrastructure; privatisation; education. The recommendations will be finalised and taken into the action-oriented phase in 2004.

In co-operation with the Council of Europe, a joint "Schools of Politics" initiative was launched, focusing on good governance and European policy standards. Seminars and meetings were held in Kosovo/a, Macedonia and Strasbourg. In December 2003, a group

of ECMI expert committee members paid a study visit to the ECMI headquarters in Flensburg, Germany, in order to learn about the situation of minorities on both sides of the German-Danish border.

Most of the recommendations emerging from the work of the expert groups are of relevance for the standards discussion, since they relate to most of the issues described in UNMIK's document on standards issued in December 2003. The translation of these recommendation into concrete policy during 2004 will thus help to improve the PISG record on good governance.

In 2003, ECMI also launched a new project in Macedonia regarding the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement (see below), which to a great extent profits from the experience gained and the methodology developed by the work in Kosovo/a.

The Kosovo/a Civil Society Project underwent a thorough evaluation in October 2003. The evaluation was conducted by Dr. Richard Caplan (University Lecturer in International Relations, University of Oxford) and Prof. Tom Gallagher (holder of the Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies at the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford). In December 2003, another evaluation was carried out by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) office in Prishtina and Sida/Swedish Foreign Ministry, Stockholm. The evaluator was Sven Öhlund.

Future Activities

The action-oriented activities during 2004 will concentrate on three fields. Early in 2004, the individual Expert Committees will finalize their recommendations covering six areas of practical policy of equal relevance to all communities. These recommendations will be discussed in public fora throughout all regions of Kosovo/a. While these consultations are on-going, the Expert Committees will collect examples of good practice of governance that have been generated within Kosovo/a. Throughout the year, the Expert Committees will engage the PISG, supporting the adoption of legislative and implementation measures compliant with the recommendations and international standards.

Links with other Institutions

The project continues to closely co-ordinate with the international structures present in Kosovo/a: UNMIK, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) and the EU, and enjoys support from the Office of the Special

Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for Kosovo. In 2003, co-operation with the Council of Europe proved to be especially fruitful. Given the nature of the project, it engages in close dialogue with all layers of Kosovo/a's Provincial Institutions of Good Governance. Co-operation continued with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and several activities were locally organised in co-operation with the Nansen Dialogue Centre in Mitrovica and "Schüler helfen Leben" in Orahovac.

Funding Details

During 2003, project funding came from the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Minister President of Schleswig-Holstein and the Foreign Ministry of Switzerland.

B. Kosovo/a High Level Initiative: Accelerated Good Governance Initiative and Kosovo/a Prime Minister's Initiative

Aims

The Kosovo/a High Level Initiative seeks to encourage the relevant actors to engage in genuine attempts to start delivering good governance in areas of policy that matter to local constituents, as well as to engage seriously in the implementation of the defined standards, as the beginning of a longer process of approaching European structures. The High Level Initiative seeks to address these needs through two distinct strands of operation: the Accelerated Good Governance Initiative and the Prime Minister Initiative.

Relevance

The Kosovo/a High Level Initiative aims at responding to a number of factors, which have been dominating the political situation in Kosovo/a. The efforts of Kosovo/a's ethnic Albanian political parties to increase the competencies of the PISG were not backed by a particularly good performance of either the PISG or the Assembly. The amount and quality of legal initiatives coming from the two bodies was less than satisfactory, leading to a situation in which most of Kosovo/a's legislation passed in 2003 was generated by international advisers. The fervent discussions around standards of good governance as precondition for discussions about the future status of the province, as advocated by the international community, and opposed by many of the local political players, who would like to see the status resolved before investing effort in improving government performance, have not contributed to improving the atmosphere. In December 2003, a document was published by UNMIK, defining standards in eight areas of policy

(functioning democratic institutions, rule of law, freedom of movement, sustainable returns and rights of communities, economy, property rights, dialogue with Belgrade, and the Kosovo Protection Corps), which need to be fulfilled by mid-2005, when an assessment and review process is supposed to commence.

Activities

At the end of 2003, the preliminary phase of the Accelerated Good Governance Initiative was concluded. The leadership of the three major ethnic Albanian parties, as well as representatives of the ethnic Serbs and Turks agreed to the plans for drafting five laws as an example of good governance for UNMIK's standards evaluation scheduled for mid-2005. At the moment, five legislative working groups are running and the legal initiative has been brought to the attention of the Prime Minister's office.

ECMI's agenda foresees that the laws will be passed before the 2004 summer break of Parliament, in an accelerated procedure. Following the promulgation of the laws, the implementation phase will begin. ECMI will seek to support the implementation by additional expertise, awareness-raising and other activities within ECMI's reach.

The assessment phase of the Accelerated Good Governance Initiative will be carried out in late 2004 and early 2005. In order to ensure maximum transparency and accountability, but also to enhance the political dimension of the project, the Council of Europe may be invited to conduct a review of the legislation and implementation action. Afterwards, a design for broader enhancement of good governance according to standards of good practice will be developed, with an agreed and transparent review process according to an agreed time-line.

Another component of the Kosovo/a High Level Initiative, the Prime Minister Initiative, entered its preliminary phase in late 2003. In response to the Prime Minister's request for assistance, ECMI will support his office in devising a strategy to achieve and monitor compliance with UNMIK's standards across all governmental agencies in 2004/5, concentrating on the issues of Human Rights and Minorities Rights.

Future activities

Throughout 2004, ECMI will first identify the areas to be addressed through the initiative. These will focus on three levels: assessing the needs; proposing action; and developing a system for monitoring the implementation of the standards produced by the

UNMIK/PISG working groups. An action plan with clear result expectations and timelines will be developed. As soon as the general strategy is developed, five international experts and a number of local experts will be assigned to respective areas of policy, working within the structures of the Prime Minister's Office. They will focus on the legislative, structural and political levels of intervention. In this way, ECMI will aim to enhance the performance of central and local government institutions in view of the envisaged standards implementation process until mid-2005 and the subsequent assessment process.

Links with other Institutions

The project is carried out in coordination with the relevant offices in UNMIK, including its EU and OSCE pillars. Coordination with the Council of Europe Office is sought on a number of issues. Furthermore, the High Level Initiative will make use of the expertise and recommendations emerging from the Civil Society Project, thus making maximum use of the resources generated by that project. Coordination and cooperation with the ECMI projects in the region (Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro) will be sought and developed.

Funding details

The preliminary phase of the project in 2003 has generously been funded by Norway, which is expected to fund the project activities in 2004 as well.

C. NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia and Regional NGO Resource Centres

Aims

The overall aim of the ECMI NGO Network is to enhance the cooperation of NGOs towards the improvement of interethnic tolerance, respect for differences and dialogue among all those living in Macedonia and to demonstrate in very concrete ways that interethnic cooperation yields positive results for all communities. The project operates at three levels.

1. *Generating interethnic cooperation in a visible and relevant way.* The Network fosters the creation of cooperation amongst NGOs on a fully interethnic basis. The cooperation is highly visible and is conducted in dialogue with the wider civil society.

2. *Enhancing the capacity of the NGO sector.* The Network ensures that interethnic projects can be funded rapidly and that they can be implemented in a professional way according to agreed standards of quality control, thus yielding real results that can be experienced by everyone.
3. *Strengthening the credibility of the NGO sector in Macedonia.* The Network builds up a sustainable base of NGOs based on reliability and performance. Additionally, the Network provides a focal point for asserting a role for NGOs in relation to local, regional and national political structures.

Relevance

ECMI considers that the achievement of the objectives of both the Ohrid Framework Agreement and the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe are highly dependent on the role of the local NGOs, especially in the field of inter-ethnic relations. Actors at all levels, and especially local NGOs, should be encouraged to cooperate and to serve as an integrating force of the various ethnic groups living in the country rather than to reflect ethnic differences and to reinforce the separation between the various ethnic communities.

By increasing the capacity, credibility and performance of local NGOs and by focusing on inter-ethnic projects, the Network contributes to the longer term aim of shifting local interest from ethnic division towards cross-ethnic, common interests.

Project Activities

During 2003, ECMI maintained its principal office in Skopje. From this base, ECMI facilitated training events as agreed by the participants in the annual action plan and supported the development of projects by members of the national Network and through several Regional NGO Resource Centres in various areas of the country, established in 2002. The impressive statistics of the activities generated by the members of the Network during 2003 speak for the relevance and timeliness of this initiative:

Number of generated projects	62
Number of implemented projects	43
Number of National Initiatives	8
Number of debates, round tables, open forums	60
Number of workshops, trainings, courses and seminars	140
Number of consultative meetings	30
Number of visits	72
Number of meetings of the members	152

During 2003 the activities and impact of the Network have been widely covered by local, national and even international media. A 30 minute documentary film on the ECMI NGO Network was telecast on the European television channel ARTE.

In the course of 2003, Network members have formed their own interethnic issue-oriented coalitions and have developed country-wide action plans. A trilingual (Macedonian, Albanian, and English) website supports the members' networking activities: www.ecmingonet.org.mk. The Network also brings out a monthly electronic newsletter reflecting its activities.

The six ECMI Regional Centres around the country have turned into hubs of activity, where open fora, workshops, consultative meetings, trainings and cultural events are hosted, while particular attention is paid to the representation of smaller, often neglected groups.

At the end of 2003, the membership of the individual Regional Centres approached the envisaged 15 per Centre, with the Network-wide total nearing 70. In December 2003, the General Assembly of the Network approved the enlargement of the Network's membership in 2004 as further NGOs have been added through their applications to the Regional Centres.

A significant development in project implementation during 2003 has been the emergence of four expertise-based multiethnic intra networks, namely Youth, Education, Environment, Minority and Human Rights, which are expected to define the sustainability of the ECMI NGO Network in Macedonia.

Future Activities

As in 2003, the primary foci of the project in 2004 will be developing and implementing Network members' projects at the regional and national level. The development of the sustainability of the NGO Network will continue throughout the year.

Links with other Institutions

This project was designed in close cooperation with the Centre for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies at the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research of the Sts. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. More recently, ECMI has developed cooperation with the South East European (SEE) University in Tetovo. In addition to its

links to local research institutes, ECMI has enjoyed sustained contact with the President's Office, Parliament, Ministries of Health, Education, Foreign Affairs, several municipalities and their mayors. ECMI has also maintained regular consultative contact with the representatives of the international community in the country, including the OSCE Mission to Skopje, as well as with the local offices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Council of Europe and the European Union. ECMI also maintains a close relationship with the Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in Brussels.

Evaluations

During 2003 internal evaluations of the project were performed by the Director Marc Weller, Administrative Director Astrid Voss and Research Associate Dr. Eben Friedman in three separate field visits. ECMI also commissioned an independent external evaluation of the project by Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer of the University of Graz. In December Sida commissioned a nine day long field evaluation:

"... the ECMI Network in Macedonia achieved to establish a strong network of NGOs that are committed to improving interethnic relations in Macedonia...Despite the heterogeneous membership, co-operation between the member NGOs proceeds well and without major conflicts. The decentralised and democratic structure of the network makes sure that member NGOs can properly represent their interests, and that they feel to have a stake in the success of the Network. All member NGOs which have been visited showed a high commitment for the mission of the Network and a high level of identification with it..." – Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer, April 2003

".....The Project leadership, both in Flensburg and Skopje, has a deep insight in the ethnic situation and the quality and position of the NGO sector in general in Macedonia..... The ECMI Network is well organised, works well and is worthy of continued support....." - Sven Öhlund, Sida Evaluation, December 2003.

Funding Details

In 2003, this project received funding from the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Secretariat for Peace and Stability), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, the Royal Norwegian Foreign Ministry, and Sida.

D. Securing Implementation of the Ohrid Agreement through Concrete Policy Action

Aims

This project seeks to achieve concrete political action to implement the Ohrid Framework Agreement signed in August 2001 among Macedonia's main political parties. By

establishing a standing and fully interethnic forum for dialogue and the development of practical policies related to the requirements of the Agreement, this project contributes to the establishment of routine cooperation among civil society organizations, local independent experts, and political parties reflecting a wide range of views and ethnic communities. This cooperation will serve in turn to ensure that the Agreement is implemented in such a way as to bring direct and concrete benefits to disenfranchised communities. At the same time, the credibility of the Framework Agreement as an effective means of advancing Macedonia towards stability, economic prosperity and possible EU integration will be enhanced among all segments of the population, including its majority elements.

Bringing concrete and direct benefits to all parts of the population requires that all of Macedonia's ethnic communities be involved in the implementation process. Providing reassurance to ethnic Albanians that the Framework Agreement is preferable to guerrilla warfare and to ethnic Macedonians that the document does not mean the loss of "their" state is essential in this process. It is also crucial to involve Macedonia's smaller ethnic communities in the dialogue and give these communities a stake in implementation while providing them with reassurance that their rights will not be neglected in a regime in which the rights of the ethnic Albanian population figure prominently.

Also critical in ensuring that implementation of the Framework Agreement brings concrete benefits to real communities is the participation in the implementation process of standing consultative bodies outside of the formal governmental framework. On the one hand, such bodies allow their members to relate to one another in a non-adversarial setting. On the other hand, the requirement that consultative bodies charged with implementing the Framework Agreement be multiethnic means that the members of Macedonia's various ethnic communities will meet in a forum emphasizing technical issues affecting all communities.

Relevance

Thus far, the Framework Agreement and its implementation have satisfied neither ethnic Macedonians nor ethnic Albanians and frustrated the smaller minorities. On the one hand, many ethnic Macedonians – including a considerable number of their representatives in parliament – view the document as a bitter pill foisted on them by pro-Albanian Western actors. As a result, implementation of the Agreement has been stalled

repeatedly as ethnic Macedonian deputies have set new conditions to be fulfilled before implementation can proceed. This very stalling, on the other hand, has led many ethnic Albanians to question ethnic Macedonians' commitment to implementing the Framework Agreement at all. Moreover, some representatives of Macedonia's smaller minorities (e.g. Macedonian Muslims, Roms, Serbs, Turks, Vlachs) have expressed concern that many of the provisions of the Agreement effectively exclude them by placing them at an increased risk of discrimination in a regime emphasizing the rights of the ethnic Albanian population while neglecting other minority populations.

Project Activities

Underway as of autumn 2003, the project's initial phase involved recruiting the personnel necessary for project implementation, procuring necessary equipment, preparing background material for the four Implementation Committees, and finalizing the composition of the Committees themselves through intensive and extensive negotiations and consultations with representatives of political parties and state organs, as well as with academics and unaffiliated experts. The four multi-ethnic and expertise-based Implementation Committees are composed of independent experts, representatives of the major political parties, and government/parliament officials. Their composition reflects expertise in the following areas of policy: economic reform; education; health care and human rights; and security. During 2004, they will analyse the implications of different policy options in their areas of expertise and make concrete and achievable policy recommendations. The firm commitment of all major political factors as well as of a number of renowned local experts to participate in the project underlines the necessity of a mechanism to coordinate creative input and propose policy measures going beyond the roster agreed between the Macedonian Government and the facilitating powers, the EU and the USA. The project is offering an appropriate forum for these ideas to be developed and their implementation to be monitored.

Future Activities

During the main phase of the project, lasting from January through December 2004, each Implementation Committee will meet twelve times. Following each meeting, the Implementation Committee in question will produce a recommendation paper for presentation to Parliamentary Committees, political parties, pressure groups, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors, government institutions, and representatives of local government. Integral to the maintenance of contacts among members of the Implementation Committees as well as between the Implementation Committees and the

regular recipients of their recommendations will be the creation of electronic mailing lists. Additionally, a project website will serve as a trilingual resource for members of the Implementation Committees, as well as for those interested in the Implementation Committees' work. The four Implementation Committees will also participate in various networking activities among themselves, coordinated through the Regional Office in Skopje. At the end of 2004, the four Implementation Committees will meet to review their activities to date and to coordinate on possible follow-on initiatives for 2005.

Links with other Institutions

The current project builds on ECMI's activities in Macedonia to date and shares the central aims of those activities. Consistent with the aims of the *ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia*, the Implementation Committees established through this project are multiethnic in composition and consist largely of prominent experts from Macedonia's NGO sector. At the same time, the current project moves beyond ECMI's earlier work in Macedonia by seeking to establish an ongoing dialogue with government at the level of the state as a whole. To this end, the Implementation Committees also include government officials, as well as representatives of the four political parties which signed the Framework Agreement.

Funding Details

Ireland Aid currently funds the project, and additional funding is expected from other sources.

E. Toward Regional Guidelines for the Integration of Roms

Aims

The immediate aim of this short-term project that took place in the second half of 2003 was to conduct an assessment of the needs of the Romani population in the Republic of Macedonia. Reflected in the design and implementation of the assessment is the need to attend not only to the situation of the Romani population as a whole, but also to the position of Romani women relative both to Romani men and to the non-Romani population.

The needs assessment was designed with the intention that the evaluation report could serve in turn as the foundation of a strategy aimed at increasing Roms' level of integration into Macedonian society as a whole by equipping them with the resources needed for playing an effective role in a democratic society based on the rule of law, as well as for participating successfully in a competitive labour market. Although the project deals only with the Republic of Macedonia, where much of the organizational infrastructure necessary for a comprehensive project aimed at addressing the needs of the Romani population is already in place, the issues identified are broadly applicable to other countries in the region. This being the case, similar needs assessments could be conducted elsewhere in the region, with follow-on activities designed accordingly. Listed in order based on the apparent potential for such activities to generate positive results, the candidate countries for inclusion in a regional initiative designed to increase Romani integration into the societies in which they live might include:

- Serbia and Montenegro;
- Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- Kosovo/a (contingent on return of a substantial proportion of the territory's Romani population from Serbia proper, Macedonia, and elsewhere); and
- Albania.

Relevance

Since their arrival in Europe roughly one thousand years ago, Roms have almost always (if not invariably) lived in worse situations than the surrounding non-Romani population. While the situation of Roms in post-Communist Eastern Europe suggests broad continuity with the Roms' past, there is nonetheless considerable variation in the state of Romani political integration across the region, with the degree to which the Romani population is integrated in the Republic of Macedonia perhaps higher than the degree to which Roms have been integrated as a distinct group anywhere else and at any time. Although improvement in the Roms' administrative status since 1989 and the absence of policies drafted for the purpose of excluding Roms distinguish Macedonia from numerous other post-Communist countries, the fact that the post-Communist period has been characterized by a continuation of the overall practice of neglect characteristic of the Yugoslav regime leaves a considerable vacuum to be filled by actors outside government.

Project Activities

In the project's first phase, the project team gathered the most recent data available on the situation of Roms in the four core areas to be addressed: education, health, civil rights, and employment. In addition to conducting an analysis of this data, the project team prepared summaries for presentation to the members of the focus groups held in each of the core areas. Also part of the first phase was the design of the focus groups which constitute the heart of the project's second phase. This phase spanned the month of September 2003.

The second phase of the needs assessment consisted primarily of meetings of the focus groups formed to address the four core areas. Each of the eight focus groups convened once in a six-hour meeting divided into three sessions to discuss the picture painted by the data gathered in the first phase, as well as focus group participants' ideas and experiences for improving the situation in the core area in question. Following the eight focus groups organized around the four core areas, a ninth focus group on Romani women and girls was held, drawing on the proceedings of the previous focus groups. Additionally, two further focus groups on health were held in order to gather information from the experiences of healthcare professionals who work with Roms.

The proceedings of the focus group meetings were compiled and analyzed in the third phase of the project, which ran throughout the month of November 2003. Also part of the third phase was the gathering of additional data from state organs and international organizations with a presence in Skopje.

Future Activities

Planned for 2004 are both a follow-on project in Macedonia and additional needs assessments in neighbouring countries. Before embarking on any initiative based on the findings of the needs assessment, however, the soundness of the analysis and the appropriateness of the solutions outlined in the evaluation report will be discussed with local stakeholders at a meeting to be held in Skopje in March 2004. Also scheduled for March 2004 is an informational and organizational meeting with international donors with a presence in Macedonia.

Time Frame and Funding Details

This project was commissioned and financed by Sida in June 2003 and carried out by ECMI from September to November 2003.

F. Bosnia-Herzegovina: Supporting Non-Titular Minorities, Enhancing Civil Society and Promoting Educational Reform

In late 2003, assessments were conducted in preparation of a project to be implemented during 2004-2005, under which a sustainable state-wide *Association of National Minorities and its Working Groups* will be established. In 2004, ECMI will hold a series of conferences and working groups in which potential members can be identified. The new members will receive training in project management, lobbying and other skills needed to ensure sustainability and ownership of the process. The *Association of National Minorities* will be based in a project liaison office in Bosnia-Herzegovina, that will serve as a focal coordination point for all national minority issues in the country. After the Association has been set up, several individual working groups will be set up to address the different goals of the Association. The goals of the Association in the initial phases, are:

- 1) Monitoring the state-level Law on National Minorities;
- 2) Liaising with official government bodies;
- 3) Information gathering and dissemination;
- 4) Education of the population on the role of national minorities, and
- 5) Participation in regional networks of national minority associations in South Eastern Europe.

In 2005-2006, the over-arching goal will still be to monitor the implementation of laws related to national minorities, support the involvement of national minorities in policy-making, and raise awareness of Bosnia-Herzegovina's national minorities throughout the population in general.

In particular, there will be a focus on continuation and consolidation of the Association, and the potential expansion of its monitoring and policy development activities as the Association matures in capacity and organization. The first goal in this second phase will be the formal establishment of a *Council of National Minorities*, complete with mandate, representation rules and procedural guidelines. The second goal is to increase the capacity and expertise of the *Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees*. The Association will work with the government to identify and embed an expert into the Ministry to ensure that national minority issues are mainstreamed into all policy debates.

Finally, ECMI will facilitate the process of the Association to become an independent civil society organization dedicated to ensuring the rights of members of national minorities. On the regional level, ECMI will explore best practices and lessons learned throughout the region. As this project itself can draw on the experience of the already existing NGO Network in Macedonia, it can be an example for others.

G. Supporting Civil Society Involvement in the Reform and Reunification of Mostar

In late 2003, preparations were made and assessments carried out for a new project to be implemented in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Starting in 2004 and running for three years, ECMI will support the development of a network of NGOs and citizen activists that will serve as the core of an independent monitoring and assessment team to track and report on the progress of the reform effort. This initiative, and the reform and reunification of Mostar in general, is relevant to many aspects of post-conflict development, democratization and transition. The NGO network will develop and implement a series of confidence building measures aimed at building trust and increasing goodwill, to create a community environment more amenable to reform. Additionally, the network will lobby for the development of a position of an independent Civil Society Advisor, to work in the office of the city administration and ensure that the civil society perspective is mainstreamed into all local government policy efforts, rather than neglected as it has been for the past eight years.

The first phase will start in 2004 and last one year. In this phase, the focus will be on building and establishing the structures needed to ensure that civil society is actively involved in reform, and initiating the effort. After the establishment of a Project Support Office, ECMI will organize an initial constitutive conference to bring together society actors interested in supporting the reform process. This group will set mutual goals and objectives, and develop focused working groups and concrete confidence building measures in support of these objectives. Information on reform and the reform process will be collected and published on a website and in hard copy. Local and international authorities will be engaged in a discussion on the potential for establishing the position of the Civil Society Advisor within the city administration. Public opinion polling throughout the project will measure citizen involvement, understanding and perceptions, and will facilitate research.

During phase two, likely to start in mid-2005, the focus will be on continuation and consolidation, as the nature of reform in Mostar is such that it will be a long-term political process that could move backward as well as forward, and therefore will need continued support and monitoring. The specific objectives will be developed by the network members themselves, in response to the changing political and social environment in which reform is occurring. This phase will last one to two years, with the network assessing progress and identifying new civil society needs as it monitors reform and implements its projects.

H. Enhancing Minority Participation through Establishing a Consultative Body in Albania

Albania underwent a rather tumultuous political transition during the 1990s. Despite these difficulties, successive Albanian governments have made some efforts to enhance minority governance. Albania has also participated in the monitoring process provided for by the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

In 2003, the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention issued a detailed Opinion on Albania's performance, including recommendations for the enhancement of minority-majority relations in the country. These concern the exclusion of some minority groups, such as the Egyptians, from benefits that appertain to minorities, the provision of language rights and educational opportunities for the Montenegrin, Roma, Aromanian/Vlach, Greek and Macedonian minorities. The Opinion also noted that there is no provision for mechanisms to encourage participation of these minorities in public life. There were also no significant minority consultative bodies.

While there is an expectation that state parties to the Framework Convention act to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, echoed by the Committee of Ministers, there is no means to achieve this. A follow-on mechanism beyond the possibility of holding a joint seminar with the Council of Europe does not exist. ECMI will develop, in cooperation with the government of Albania and minority representative organizations in the country, an action plan to address the concerns that were voiced by the Advisory Committee. As a first step towards this end, it will be necessary to generate

the minority consultative body that has been recommended by the Advisory Committee. The minority communities will be encouraged to articulate their concerns and requirements. These will then be presented to the government and an action plan with concrete targets for legislative change and for governmental programming will result. ECMI will support the government in consultations with international development agencies with a view to obtaining funding for the implementation of the action plan. ECMI will also conduct on-going evaluations of programme performance according to set targets and will work with the government and the minority consultative council on the reporting of achievements to the Advisory Committee in its next reporting cycle.

In the period 2004-2006, ECMI envisages providing a valuable contribution to the implementation of the recommendations given by the Council of Europe for the enhancement of minority-majority relations in Albania.

The project will draw from the experience of and seek synergies with a projected joint Danish Institute for Human Rights/ECMI project, which aims at enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Human Rights and Minorities of Serbia and Montenegro, as well as to a certain degree from the ECMI High Level Initiative in Kosovo/a (see above), which has as a core part of its mandate the role of advising the Kosovo/a Government on issues related to Human and Minority Rights.

I. Enhancing the Capacity of the Union Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro

Aims

This collaborative project between ECMI and the Danish Institute for Human Rights aims to enhance the capacities of the Union Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro. The key issues to be addressed by the project aim at assisting the Ministry in enhancing its effectiveness in accomplishing the tasks assigned to it by the Constitutional Charter and legal framework of the State Union.

An inception phase carried out in late 2003 and early 2004 sought to:

- Assess the possibilities of strengthening the organisational and institutional capacity of the Ministry within its mandate;
- Identify areas of strategic interventions or focus areas within the mandate of the Ministry; and

- Assess to what extent assistance can be provided to the Ministry within the framework of the Stabilization Process with the EU in regard to *inter alia* the realization of the Copenhagen Criteria.

The overall long-term objective is to enhance the legislative commitment to human and minority rights in Serbia and Montenegro.

Relevance

The project rationale is that by strengthening legal compliance with the Charter of Human and Minority Rights and Civil Liberties and by meeting obligations towards international treaty bodies, the situation of human and minority rights in Serbia and Montenegro will improve. The Ministry is responsible for the collection of data on human and minority rights from other selected ministries. Yet it is also in charge of securing the integration of human and minority rights protection based on the Charter and international treaties to which the Union is party to into other ministries. The Ministry therefore plays an important role in the Union's goal of fulfilling the Copenhagen Criteria. The project will therefore contribute to the EU Accession Process for the Union. The importance accorded to human and minority rights is reflected in the fact that of only five ministries at the state union level, one is exclusively devoted to this domain. Integration into EU structures has a high priority both for the new Serbian government and the Montenegro government, as well as for the Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Components of the project relate directly to the Ministerial mandate and therefore both enhance the Ministry's fulfilment of their mandate as well as provide the Ministry with capacity in their duties.

Project Activities

The inception phase of the project consisted of two visits to Serbia where meetings were held with the Minister, Mr Rasim Ljajic, and members of his staff, as well as meetings with the Ambassador of the Danish Embassy and supporting meetings with NGOs and other stakeholders.

Future Activities

The project strategy consists of three components: law review, reporting to international treaty bodies and legislative monitoring, and a strategic plan, as follows:

1. Law review

- Develop a structure for the law review process while ensuring the necessary political commitment and adequate working and management principles.
- Ensure the inclusion of the necessary knowledge and expertise to carry out an effective law review and reform.
- Develop an awareness strategy that ensures the needed input and information into the law review process from key Ministries.

2. Reporting to international treaty bodies and legislative monitoring

- Develop an indicator system as a mechanism for timely and effective reporting to international treaty bodies as well as for regular monitoring of the legislative processes based on this indicator system.
- Develop an information retrieval system based on the indicator system in cooperation with relevant member state ministries.

3. Strategic plan

- Develop a strategic plan with the Ministry to be used as a communication and management tool for the Ministry

The first activity will be to establish an implementation model for all three components, followed by the establishment of a working group for the reporting and monitoring component. Thereafter, further working groups and issue groups will be established.

Links with other Institutions

The project is based on an overall principle of partnership. Implementation will principally involve ECMI, the Danish Institute of Human Rights and the Ministry itself. However, key state institutions will also be involved, including the Ministry for the Protection of Minority Rights in Montenegro, the Provincial Secretary for Regulations, Administration and National Minorities in Vojvodina, Ombudsperson institutions, national minority councils, committees for interethnic relations, and civil society.

Funding Details and Time Frame

The Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department for Neighbourhood Programmes will fund this project. The project period is 21 months from May 2004 to January 2006.

J. Enhancing Minority Governance in Bulgaria and Romania in the Context of EU Accession

Aims

The project aims at supporting the efforts of Romania and Bulgaria to achieve genuine improvements in the situation of minorities in both countries in advance of accession to the EU envisaged for 2007. It seeks to enhance the legislative framework for minority policy in both countries; generates a mechanism for deep and lasting stakeholder involvement in the design and implementation of programmes intended to address minority issues; and enables governmental authorities and local stakeholders to monitor, assess and adapt the performance of such programmes.

Relevance

Very significant resources have been poured into minority programmes in Bulgaria and Romania, at times with limited effect. This deficiency can be explained by a lack of deep and sustained stakeholder involvement in needs assessments and programming and by inadequate provision for project monitoring and evaluation.

Project Activities

The project establishes representative stakeholder fora in both countries. Within each stakeholder forum three Working Groups will be established covering three priority areas: 1) enhanced participation of minorities in public life; 2) discrimination; and 3) access to economic, social and educational opportunities.

Local partners will receive training in needs analysis and project evaluation. On this basis the three Working Groups will systematically review legislation and practice in the three priority areas, conduct needs assessments, and engage the government in dialogue about better programming and evaluation of projects. The stakeholder fora will also generate new project initiatives on the basis of the evaluation of past project work.

The project will generate sustainable minority representation in programming, monitoring and evaluation at an enhanced level of competence. In addition to serving as a funnel to enhance the substance of minority programmes relating to the three priority areas, the project will enhance the competence of governmental and minority actors,

raise the profile of minority issues in both countries, and assist in the building of a lasting partnership network among the relevant actors.

Although the project is primarily focused on minority issues, it will establish standards of good governance in a larger range of policy areas, including policing, labour markets, economic reforms, gender issues, the tackling of corruption and dealing with issues of transnational organized crime (especially trafficking in humans). In addition, the methodology employed in this project to achieve a direct and positive impact on minority governance and through it on a larger range of policy areas, has model characteristics and can be applied subsequently to other EU candidate countries (such as Turkey) or countries with which the EU develops a special relationship (such as Moldova and Ukraine).

Time Frame and Funding Details

The project was launched in 2003 with a detailed assessment followed by several rounds of stakeholder consultations and discussions with the governments. The project is planned to run from 2004 to 2007. ECMI has submitted several proposals and is still awaiting commitments from donors.

K. Stabilizing and Improving Interethnic Relations in the Kaliningrad Oblast', Russia

Aims

This project seeks to encourage the authorities in Moscow and in the Kaliningrad Oblast' (region) to engage constructively with migrant and minority communities. The project enables civil society organizations representing these communities to voice their views and interests effectively in relation to the government. It also aims to enhance the support available from international institutions to enhance this process.

Relevance

The Kaliningrad Oblast' constitutes one of the most important areas of contact between the Russian Federation and the EU. Given its exclave position, its affairs are viewed as particularly sensitive. The recent large-scale influx of migrants and the position of other non-dominant groups of longer standing in the Oblast' deserve careful consideration in the context of maintaining the stability of the region.

Project Activities

In 2003, ECMI continued with the work done in 2001 and 2002. In 2003, ECMI organized in Kaliningrad meetings of experts on minority issues and migration problems, initiated and supported project related research by local scholars and experts, initiated and supported the collection and publication of legal documents and materials that help migrants in solving their problems in the process of settlement in the region and while applying for citizenship of the Russian Federation, launched a project website (www.ecmi.ru) to provide information on the project for local users in Russian, and conducted a concluding project conference in Kaliningrad.

ECMI organized six expert meetings to determine issues which need clarification through research and/or where the action can be taken to support local initiatives; and to work out recommendations based on the results of the research. The expert meetings were organized with the participation of representatives of the administration of the region, the regional legislative body (Duma), and minority and migrants- organizations. These recommendations were discussed at a final conference in December and presented to the regional administration and the Duma.

The expert meetings focused on the following issues: problems for migrants to obtain citizenship; access to minority language teaching; accommodation of migrants; enhancement of fundraising capacities of minority organizations; public participation of minority organizations; and problems of migrants in Kaliningrad Oblast. Finally, a training seminar organized together with the Kaliningrad Ombudsman's Office was organized for voluntary legal consultants who give free consultations to migrants on their citizenship and other registration issues.

Parallel to the expert meetings, a group of local experts and scholars carried out research to respond to the needs of the project. The results of the research were regularly reported at the expert meetings and made available on the Internet.

The concluding conference "Migrants and National Minorities in the Kaliningrad Region", the final event of the ECMI project in 2003, took place in Kaliningrad on 9 December. Mr Ezhikov, Member of the Regional Duma, made the keynote speech in which he proposed organizing parliamentary hearings on the issues of migrants and minorities and to organize a Duma committee on interethnic issues.

The conference recommended continuing research on migration processes in the Kaliningrad Region; improving the quality of consultations for migrants; organizing parliamentary hearings on the problems of harmonization of relations between different national, religious and cultural groups among the population of the region and on the migration policy in the region in collaboration with federal and regional state authorities and NGOs; and improving and updating the information brochure for migrants. The conference also recommended that the Kaliningrad Regional Duma create a committee on interethnic issues. The conference called on the mass media to oppose resolutely all attempts to incite interethnic or inter-confessional conflicts.

Links with other Institutions

ECMI cooperated with the regional Duma, and with different branches of the regional administration. During the project period, ECMI also worked in close contact with relevant NGOs in Kaliningrad. In November, Mr V. Frolov, the Vice-Speaker of the Kaliningrad Regional Duma gave a positive evaluation of the ECMI project and expressed his hope that ECMI will carry on its project in 2004.

Time Frame

The project was executed from 1 July to 31 December 2003.

Funding Details

The project was funded by the Federal German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Lannungs Foundation, Denmark.

L. Towards Linguistic Diversity Management in the Baltic States

Aim

The seminar "Towards Linguistic Diversity Management in the Baltic States" sought to encourage the authorities and experts in the Baltic States to deal constructively with the management of growing linguistic diversity in view of the prospective EU membership of these countries. The seminar enabled the participants to voice their views, concerns and interests in relation to the use and functioning of different languages in the spheres of education, public life and the business environment of the Baltic States. It also enhanced the support available from international institutions to regulate this process.

Relevance

The Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have conducted independent language policies since 1989. After independence and during the period of accession to the EU, the linguistic landscape of the Baltic States became more diversified. The current language policies, which focus merely on the protection of the respective official languages, are facing the need to manage more effectively the growing linguistic diversity by finding a satisfactory balance between the promotion of official languages and the protection of minority languages.

Activities

In April 2003, ECMI organized a two-day seminar in Vilnius, Lithuania on linguistic diversity management in the Baltic States. The 17 participants represented the state authorities, language expert communities and minority NGOs of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. With the support of international experts, the participants discussed how to improve the situation with the use of different languages in various spheres of public life.

At this seminar the feasibility of different steps towards managing the linguistic diversity were evaluated. A special emphasis was put on the possible signing and ratification by the Baltic States of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The participating experts from the Baltic States evaluated the existing legal acts of their countries and related practices by going through the Charter article by article. The results of this evaluation, published in ECMI Report #49, show that the actual practices would allow the signing and ratification of the Charter. However, there is a political difficulty. As the Baltic States do not wish to extend any protected status to the Russian language, there was no political will in the Baltic States to sign and ratify the Charter before the referenda on EU membership. The experts agreed to consider the issue again after the enlargement of the EU in 2004.

Future Activities

ECMI plans to organize a follow-up seminar after the enlargement of the EU in 2004.

Links with other Institutions

During the preparation of this seminar, ECMI cooperated with the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages and with the Department of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on National Minorities and Lithuanians Living Abroad.

Funding Details

The project was funded by the Lannungs Foundation, Denmark.

M. Cambridge-Carnegie/ECMI Joint Project: Enhancing the Capacity of the Moldovan Delegation to the Joint Constitutional Commission in Designing a Federal Constitutional Framework for the Republic of Moldova

Aims

This project seeks to enhance the ability of the Moldovan Delegation to the Joint Constitutional Commission to undertake the task of designing a new constitutional framework for the Republic of Moldova as a complementary project to the Cambridge-Carnegie/ECMI research project on *Resolving Self-Determination Disputes through Complex Power-Sharing* (see Chapter II, Section A). By supporting the functioning of a small network of leading legal, political, and civil society experts involved in efforts to design a draft federal constitution, the project seeks to contribute to the progress in the constitutional talks. To achieve this goal, the project also pursues the strategy of engaging international experts with knowledge and expertise on the issues of constitutional design in divided societies. By fostering cooperation of local and international experts in the process of drafting a new federal constitution, the project hopes to enhance the capacity of the Moldovan delegation to prepare a high quality constitutional document. Such a document is perceived as an important vehicle for the reintegration of what is now a deeply divided country.

Relevance

Constitutional talks were recently initiated with the goal of solving ethno-political conflicts in Moldova. The Transdnistrian conflict, as well as the issue of Gagauz autonomy, have not been satisfactorily resolved since the demise of the Soviet Union. The current constitutional negotiations, which are the first to explicitly focus on the prospects of federal institutional arrangements, represent an important breakthrough in the stalemate over achieving a political settlement in Moldova. Although securing the success of these talks is very important for the efforts to reintegrate the country, progress in the talks and in the actual work on a constitutional draft has been slow. The weak institutional capacity of the Moldovan delegation to the Joint Constitutional Commission responsible for developing the federal legislative framework, is among the

key factors contributing to the lack of progress in producing well-elaborated, legally and politically sound constitutional draft documents.

Project Activities

The project has established an expert group under the umbrella of the Moldovan Delegation to the Joint Constitutional Commission. It consists of a small number of leading local experts in law, political science, and civil society issues and also includes a number of presidential, cabinet, and parliamentary advisors dealing with the issues of constitutional design and the problems of the reintegration process. The core membership of the expert group includes 15-20 participants. The project also brings major international experts for short-term consultations on the key issues of the constitutional design and negotiation process. Participation in the *Carnegie Project on Complex Power-Sharing and Self-Determination* (see below) allows ECMI to utilize the substantial intellectual and organizational resources available in this Cambridge University-based international practice-oriented research project.

The activity of the expert group evolves around regular meetings. Recommendations on the specific issues of the constitutional design and background research notes prepared by local and foreign experts will constitute a key element of a strategy directed at enhancing the capacity of the Moldovan Delegation. The experts are asked to produce a number of reports related to their areas of expertise for the Constitutional Commission. These reports deal with controversial legal aspects of constitution drafting; they address specific details of key constitutional norms; analyze various political and socioeconomic implications of a choice of alternative constitutional provisions; address the problems of mobilizing popular support for the idea of a constitutional settlement through federalization; and discuss mechanisms and challenges of implementing a new constitution. As an average, two or three expert reports are discussed and commented upon during the regular meetings of the reflection group. Expert reports also serve as grounds for consultations held on an individual basis between reflection group experts and policy makers outside of the reflection group.

Links with Other Institutions

ECMI cooperates on this project with the *Carnegie Project on Complex Power-Sharing and Self-Determination*. The goal of the Carnegie project is to present and analyze novel ways of overcoming apparently irresolvable self-determination conflicts through complex power-sharing arrangements, concluded and implemented with international

involvement. The network includes international experts with practical experience in the various aspects of institutional design and complex power-sharing arrangements.

Time Frame and Funding Details

This project was started by ECMI in December 2003 with an initial financial contribution by the Carnegie Project on Complex Power-Sharing and Self-Determination. The project is envisaged to run over at least 12 months, depending on the progress of the Moldovan constitutional negotiations. Project activities can be sustained on the proposed scale if additional funding is secured in 2004. ECMI is in the process of applying for additional funding.

N. Building a Broader Base of Civil Society Support for Federalization in Moldova

Aims

The project seeks to strengthen the level of civil society support for the current talks on federalization in Moldova. Through concrete actions directed at intensifying societal level contacts between Moldova and Transdnistria and increasing the level of understanding of ideas of federalization, the project aims to help consolidate what is now a very ambiguous, diffused, and insufficient level of societal support for the idea of federalization in Moldova. The project will support the functioning of a broad civic society network that will bring together civil society organizations from the different parts of the country and engage them in a constructive dialogue about the challenges and solutions for addressing the country's reintegration.

Relevance

Following the 1990-92 military conflict between the Moldovan central government and the Transdnistrian secessionist forces, Moldova remains a divided state. The idea of a federative solution is being integrated into the draft of a new constitution currently being negotiated between the central government and the authorities of the Transdnistrian region. Federalization is also seen as a solution for securing genuine autonomy for Gagauzia, which constitutes another long-standing, albeit less salient, ethnopolitical issue for Moldova. While the current high-level talks signal that a significant level of progress in negotiating a federal arrangement has been achieved, numerous public opinion polls, newspaper articles, and expert reports indicate that there is a substantial

level of opposition to the idea of federalization in the different segments of civil society across Moldova and the Transdnestrrian region.

Project Activities

The project assists in building greater societal support for the idea of state reintegration on the principles of federalization in three main ways: (1) by intensifying societal level contacts between Moldova and Transdnestrria through support of ethnocultural conferences, student and academic meetings; (2) by facilitating the dissemination of popular information about the advantages of federalism through civil society publications and the press; (3) by contributing to efforts to democratise Transdnestrria through support to the work of Transdnestrrian NGOs dealing with issues of civil society development, democracy, and human rights.

ECMI is well positioned to undertake this project due to the fact that the Centre has already established a substantial presence in Moldova with its project to facilitate the constitutional negotiations (see above). ECMI's involvement with key domestic players in the process of reintegration provide the Centre with valuable knowledge, experience, and expertise for launching a large-scale civil society project in Moldova.

Funding

The project is planned to run in parallel with the constitutional negotiations in Moldova. Project funding is currently being sought for this project.

O. Defusing Interethnic Tension and Promoting Regional Integration - the Javakheti Region of the Republic of Georgia

Aims

This project seeks to defuse interethnic tension and promote regional integration in the Javakheti region of Georgia. By establishing a network consisting of civil society actors that includes representatives for most ethno-religious groups as well as government officials in Javakheti, the project seeks to improve interethnic relations, to broaden the consultative process of decision-making, and to increase effective public participation and public awareness on local governance. The project will promote regional integration of the region by involving province- and state-level policy-makers in the network, thereby creating firmer links between regional actors and central levels of authority. In

conjunction with the network, the project will enhance the capacity of less advanced regional communities, through capacity building training and community mobilisation efforts, in order to encourage broad participation in the consultative process.

Relevance

Topographically, sociolinguistically, economically and politically isolated from the rest of the country, the predominantly Armenian Javakheti region draws increasing attention as a potential conflict zone with all the ingredients for ethno-political conflict. The serious decline in the population's living standards over the last decade, combined with widespread corruption and poorly developed legislative and administrative standards at times discriminatory towards ethno-religious minorities, raises concerns that popular unrest may erupt on social and economic grounds and translate into ethnic conflict. With no tradition of civil society involvement in governance and poorly developed relations between the regional and state levels of government, the need for a network to conduct an informed political dialogue on issues of concern for all communities as well as government structures is prevalent.

Project Activities

In 2003, ECMI has carried out assessments and stakeholder consultations with civil society structures in Javakheti and government institutions at the local, regional and central levels. The project initiation was slightly interrupted in late 2003 due to the revolutionary events in November 2003, which led to the end of the Shevardnadze era, and the coming into power of Michael Saakashvili and a new Georgian leadership. In 2004, ECMI will establish an interethnic dialogue network through the organization of a "Javakheti Citizen's Forum" to convene on a monthly basis. The forum will work to address technical issues of relevance to all communities in Javakheti, and will present their recommendations to policy-makers at the state level, governmental institutions at the regional, province and central level as well as to NGOs and international actors in Georgia. On-going research of political and socioeconomic developments in the region will be an integral part of the project. In addition, the project will enhance the capacities of local NGOs as well as ethnic and religious communities and provide resources to improve their participation in civil society. Moreover, the project will support mobilization and development in local communities to ensure their active participation in the activities of the interethnic network.

The project will establish a dialogue and negotiation network that cuts across ethnic and religious lines and which is capable of focusing on technical issues affecting the population of Javakheti. The recommendations and support offered by the network, as well as the much-needed dialogue in itself, will contribute to the long-term improvement of interethnic relations and regional integration of the Javakheti region into the Georgian state.

Time Frame and Funding Details

The project is scheduled to run over at least three years. Funding is provided by the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Federal German Ministry of Foreign Affairs is expected to join the circle of funders in 2004.

P. Network of Specialized Ombudspersons on Minorities in Europe

Aims

This project aims to expand the availability and effectiveness of ombudsperson institutions addressing minority issues in Eastern and Central Europe. The project supports the establishment of new institutions where there are none at present and it strengthens capacities for minority protection and human rights work in existing mechanisms.

The project has realized its aims in three main ways:

1. By developing a network of relevant institutions and encouraging cooperation and exchange amongst ombudsperson offices in the wider Europe;
2. By compiling resources on best practice and providing opportunities for information sharing through the project website and a best practice publication; and
3. By providing expert advice and support to governments or institutions, for example, through staff training programmes.

Relevance

As a key institution for protecting citizens' rights in a democratic society, an ombudsperson is an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, able to offer free,

confidential, non-judicial and flexible complaint-handling services, highly relevant for protecting the most vulnerable within society. These institutions play a unique role in promoting good practices in minority governance. They contribute to the advancement of minority rights standards, they monitor and correct governmental and administrative conduct in relation to non-dominant groups, and they provide an informal remedy for cases of individual complaint. With the recent establishment of national Ombudsperson institutions (or the passing of establishment legislation) in several countries, for example in Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Bulgaria, it is crucial to encourage a solid basis for dealing with minority issues within the institution from the beginning of their operation, supporting best practice and enabling a sharing of experiences and information from more experienced institutions through the project network.

Project Activities

In accordance with the project aims and objectives, ECMI established over the course of the year a Network of approximately 30 relevant ombudsperson-type institutions dealing with minority issues. The Network provides a forum for the sharing of information and experience, and fosters the strengthening of institutional capacities for dealing with minority protection.

Additionally, an international team of experts (Alan Phillips, Andrea Krizsan, Robert Dunbar, Bjarke Bøtcher, Kristin Henrard, Dzenana Hadziomerovic and Birgitte Kofod Olsen), established to provide expert guidance for the project, reviewed ombudsperson institutions throughout Europe and derived from this study a detailed *Guide to Good Practice for Specialized Ombudsperson Institutions on Minorities in Europe*, intended for publishing during 2004. The team of experts held their initial meeting in Flensburg in June 2003. The inaugural Full Network Conference was held in October 2003 in Berlin at the seat of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and was attended by high-level representatives of over 20 institutions. The project's website was also unveiled at the First Network Conference. The dedicated site contains a collection of resource materials, together with a thematic database of minority case law from Ombudsperson investigations and decisions, and news, developments and information contributed from Network institutions. The website will be continuously reviewed and updated during 2004.

The final event for the project in 2003 was a training event for mid- to senior-level staff of ombudsman institutions, which took place in Copenhagen at the premises of the Danish Institute for Human Rights with participants from seven institutions.

Future Activities

Building upon the project's experience from its pilot year, the Network will be enlarged with the inclusion of additional target countries. There will be capacity enhancing training events, the possibility of formalized exchanges of staff between institutions and the further development of the web-based information and best practice resource that can be used by interested institutions within and outside of the Network. ECMI will also publish in hard copy a *Guide to Best Practices* (researched and prepared by the project's team of experts) in English and Russian.

Links with Other Institutions

This initiative enjoys the support and cooperation of all its Network member institutions. In particular, it is supported by the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, who offered its legal advisor, Ms Dzenana Hadziomerovic, to contribute substantively to the project. The training event in December 2003 in Copenhagen was carried out with the support and practical cooperation of the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Time Frame and Funding Details

The project began on confirmation of funding from the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Ministry of the Interior and the Minister President of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein in early 2003. Applications for extended funding to continue activities in 2004 are under review.

II. Practice-Oriented Research

ECMI's research focuses on scholarly projects, which are practice-oriented, timely and politically relevant, responding to emerging or on-going developments generating a need for academic support through research and analysis on the parts of governments, international organizations and others. Through the research projects, ECMI seeks to offer in-depth information, evaluations, recommendations and policy options to decision makers, political observers and others involved with minority-majority relations and ethnopolitical issues.

In the past year, ECMI has continued several long-term projects begun in 2001 and 2002, while at the same time expanding its portfolio of research projects. The large-scale collaborative research project on complex powers-sharing arrangements conducted in partnership with the University of Cambridge was continued. The first part of this three-year project was concluded in April 2003, and the findings of the research will result in a volume to be published in 2004. The second phase began in August 2003 and will apply the experience generated through the first project phase in current efforts to settle interethnic conflicts in six chosen conflict regions.

The research project on minority rights protection based on the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities also continued in 2003, and resulted in the elaboration of an analytical digest on state practice and a commentary on the Convention. The projects on political participation of minorities and ethnic democracy also continued, both resulting in publications to be completed in 2004.

Four new research projects were developed in 2003. A project to research the economic dimension of minority rights, which seeks to accomplish a multidimensional study of the economic rights compiled by an inter-disciplinary team of experts, was prepared.

A new, innovative project seeks to develop a methodological framework for needs assessment, governmental programming and project evaluation in the area of minority issues and interethnic relations. By conducting an audit among international actors, through case studies and development of novel approaches, the project will provide a much-needed methodology for projects aimed at regulating minority-majority relations, enhancing integration of minorities such as for example the Roms in Europe, and promote stabilization in conflict zones.

A third project seeks to identify the state practices most effective in overcoming Roms' alienation from decision-making processes at the local, regional and state levels. The findings of case studies to be conducted in several East Central European countries will constitute the basis for subsequent national roundtables on Romani political participation and training seminars on national election laws.

Finally, a project has been designed which aims at conducting a comparative cross-border study of the last of the population groups that were deported by Stalin in the 1940s, and which has not yet been allowed to resettle in their native region, the Meskhetian Turks. This project will research Meskhetian Turkish identity patterns and seek to gain an understanding of the current and future migration trends on the crossroads between resettlement and integration. The research aims at providing a basis for novel approaches in finding durable solutions to the problems of the population group.

A. Resolving Self-Determination Disputes through Complex Power-Sharing

Aims

This collaborative project between ECMI and the University of Cambridge sought both to present and analyze novel ways of overcoming apparently irresolvable self-determination conflicts through complex power-sharing arrangements. A key emphasis was on the role of international actors. Situated at the interface between international law and politics, this project considered eight recent cases of attempted settlements: Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo/a, Macedonia, Gagauzia/Moldova, South Ossetia/Georgia, Bougainville/Papua New Guinea and Mindanao/Philippines. The overarching aim of the project was to understand how complex power-sharing arrangements operate and on what conditions their success and failure depends. On the basis of these conclusions, the project generated practical policy recommendations for future negotiators of complex power-sharing arrangements which are being tested and applied in a follow-on project. The project advanced existing power-sharing theory beyond the traditional consociationalist-integrationist divide and highlighted the multi-level complexity of contemporary power-sharing practice.

Relevance

Over the past decade the number of self-determination disputes throughout the world has grown rapidly, and various international actors have been deployed to help resolve them. These international actors tend to rely on a toolkit of various theories and

institutional designs to help overcome prolonged conflict. Traditionally, these designs have aimed to either bring about effective proportional representation of the conflicting groups or seek their integration. However, over the last decade attempts to resolve such disputes have become more complex, seeking to construct multi-layered regimes of power-sharing across a broad range of public authority and in response to varying circumstances. The project tried to bridge those different approaches and to draw up policy recommendations for policy makers in similar situations.

Project Activities

The project held three workshops bringing together practitioners and academic experts. Thanks to Wendy Miles, from the London-based Law firm Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, two international lawyers compiled a vast database of legal documents and information on legal practice covering all structural issues. This unique database is available on the project website.

Key Findings

A crucial discovery of the project was that all settlements under investigation featured a mixture of consociational, integrative, and autonomy-based elements. Across all the case studies the project has detected a subtle mix of structures of co-decision by ethnic groups (consociation), areas of principal decision by ethnic groups (autonomy, territorial or functional), mechanisms that are meant to encourage public decisions on the basis of interests rather than appurtenance to an ethnic group (integrative), the application of safeguard mechanisms (human and minority rights), the application of dispute settlement mechanisms in cases of contested hierarchies of authority, and the involvement of the international layer of decision-making.

The international involvement varied greatly in all eight case studies. However, certain aspects featured prominently when evaluating the impact of international involvement on a complex power-sharing situation. The lack of democratic scrutiny of the international administration in the case of Bosnia and Kosovo/a, for instance, seemed to explain some of the obstacles for a successful implementation of the respective complex power-sharing arrangement. This prompts the question whether local ownership of the drafting process is at risk when international involvement is too prominent and what long-term effects this has.

Project Outputs

The project yielded two books. The manuscripts are currently under review from the publishers. The first book covers the eight case studies. Each individual case study analyses the genealogy of the complex power-sharing agreement and its implementation across various layers of public authority. The second volume takes a comparative approach to key structural issues which cut across all case studies and include, *inter alia*, democratic practices, the administration of justice, economic policies and the protection of human and minority rights. A dedicated website has also been developed as a forum for researchers.

Links with other Institutions

This project was a joint initiative of the Centre of International Studies of the University of Cambridge, the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law, Cambridge, and ECMI. The project has created an active network of internationally renowned scholars and practitioners in the field of complex power-sharing.

Funding Details

The project was funded by the Carnegie Foundation of New York. The project began in January 2001 and ended in April 2003.

B. Addressing Self-Determination Disputes Using Complex Power-Sharing

Aims

This Carnegie funded co-operation between ECMI and the Centre of International Studies, Cambridge, follows on from the initial collaborative research project on “Resolving Self-Determination Conflicts through Complex Power-Sharing,” as described above. The key aim is to identify political entities involved in negotiating, concluding or implementing a complex power-sharing arrangement where the Carnegie ECMI/Cambridge expert team appears to be well-placed to provide targeted assistance. The choice of cases has been informed by the question of whether Carnegie assistance can make a difference in unlocking a stalemate in negotiations or in facilitating implementation. The selection of cases tries to cover three categories – the pre-settlement phase, the negotiation phase and the implementation phase – in order to apply the lessons drawn from the initial project across a broad variety of cases. The current project draws upon a network of leading international experts that was developed during the first phase of the project.

Relevance

The experience gained during the first Carnegie project showed that a targeted political intervention in a post-conflict situation can make a substantial difference to the successful conclusion and implementation of a complex power-sharing arrangement. Even if a political consensus has been found, often certain groups who are essential to the arrangement feel disenfranchised and unable to make their voice heard. Negotiation assistance and support can make a decisive difference to the whole process of concluding an agreement. Equally, providing targeted assistance during the post-settlement phase can facilitate implementation and help overcome obstacles to a sustainable peace agreement. In all the six cases identified, there exists a form of stalemate, which could benefit from assistance of the Carnegie ECMI/Cambridge expert team.

Project activities

In August 2003 a group of leading experts on complex power-sharing met in Flensburg to discuss the criteria and methodology for the project and to finalise the selection of cases. Among the participants were Marc Weller (Director ECMI), Prof Brendan O'Leary (University of Pennsylvania), Dr Wolfgang Danspeckgruber (Liechtenstein Centre, Princeton University), Dr Stefan Wolff (Bath University) and Tom Trier (ECMI). Presenting their policy relevant experience with post-conflict reconstruction all over the world, the participants settled on six cases which fall into the three identified categories. Cyprus was chosen as the case where pre-settlement support was made available. Moldova, Sri Lanka, Somaliland/Puntland and possibly Sudan were decided upon as cases where assistance can be provided in on-going negotiations. Kosovo/a was selected as the pertinent case for providing advice on the implementation of a complex power-sharing arrangement.

In January 2004 a Senior Research Associate was appointed to conduct background research, liaise with experts and co-ordinate the project. An assistant researcher has also been engaged to work on the project website tracing relevant legal documents and reports. Further, he is compiling all activities of international organisations/government agencies operating in the respective countries, thus making the website a very useful site for researchers and policy makers alike.

The project draws upon a network of leading international experts that was generated during the first phase of the project. Expert teams have been formed for the countries under investigation to identify issues that obstruct the peace processes and to help negotiate and implement complex power-sharing arrangements.

Funding Details

The project is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. However, the project has obtained additional government funding for individual cases. The project duration is August 2003 to July 2005).

C. Advancing the Efficiency of the Global Structures of Minority Rights Protection on the Basis of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Aims

This project seeks to study and accelerate the development of legal and political structures governing minority-majority relations and ethnic coexistence at the European level. In particular, it intends to significantly advance the interpretation of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The Framework Convention is the first and so far only binding and comprehensive international treaty on minority issues. As its provisions are invariably general in nature, it appears necessary to fill in the gaps and generalities in the individual provisions through advanced interpretation. Such an interpretation can only be derived from the relevant state practice. The aim of the review of state practice will be to attach to the provisions of the Convention more specific meaning, to examine the process of its implementation and to study how it influences the development of substantive rules and standards at the global level.

Relevance

This project constitutes a reaction to the enhancement of the work in the field of minority rights of international organizations such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE since 1989. The Framework Convention itself is one of the most important outcomes of this trend and has come to be considered a document of reference and a crucial tool for stabilization. The first cycle of implementation of the Convention is now approaching its end and its outcomes merit a structured presentation and an analysis at a scholarly level.

Project Activities

During the preparatory phase of the project (2001/2), the necessary data on state practice was assembled and an analytical digest of this material was created with the generous financial support of the Council of Europe. The research phase of the project has yielded a Commentary on the Framework Convention, co-authored by a team of leading experts in the field. The team of authors has opted for an article-by-article approach for the Commentary that will allow the commentators to cover both the substantive and procedural provisions of the Convention. In this respect, the interrelationship between the Framework Convention and other relevant universal treaties will be taken into account by including comparative sections on implementation procedures and their functioning in practice.

An initial workshop took place on 14-15 July 2003 in Flensburg, Germany. It served as a forum for the presentation of the results of the initial research activities, the coordination of the scholarly analysis and a discussion of the on-going process of implementation of the Convention. Over the remainder of the year, the international team of experts compiled the substantive contributions for the commentary.

The analytical digest produced during the first phase of the project was updated and was launched on the Internet on the occasion of the Council of Europe Conference on the 5th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention in late October 2003 in Strasbourg, France.

Future Activities

The Commentary will be submitted to Oxford University Press for publication in mid-2004. The team of commentators will utilize the period until the beginning of the 2004 to advance their research agenda for the project. A second commentators' workshop will take place on 19-21 March 2004 in Cambridge, U.K. This workshop will give the team an opportunity to present individual research results, discuss remaining question relating to the overall structure of the commentary and address general features of the commentary as well as editorial issues.

The final drafts of the individual sections will be submitted to the lead commentators by mid-May 2004, who will then initiate the editorial phase scheduled to be completed by mid-July 2004, when the final manuscript could be submitted to the publisher.

Funding Details

The second phase of the project was funded by the Volkswagen Foundation for the duration of 18 months.

D. Full and Effective Participation of Minorities in Public Life in Accession States

Aims

This research publication project will examine the question of the effectiveness of existing instruments and the emergence of novel mechanisms to promote the participation of members of ethnic minority groups in political life within the overall framework of EU enlargement.

While the primary focus will be on the participation of ethnic minorities in conventional forms of political activity in the accession states, it will also seek to highlight the extent to which political participation has evolved outside these conventional arenas, such as through ethnic minority mobilization and civil society organizations.

Recognising that the right to effective participation goes beyond political participation, also covering the economic and social dimensions, the studies will examine the degree to which minorities participate in the economic and social life of their countries, and what steps the respective governments are taking to create equal opportunities for persons belonging to minorities in areas where they face particular obstacles.

Since intergovernmental organizations and the EU accession process have played a significant role in shaping the framework to ensure the rights of minorities in general, and the right to effective participation in public life in particular, the research will also seek to assess the impact of these external actors in enhancing the participation of minorities and in shaping institutions and structures which seek to give a voice to the interests and concerns of minority communities.

The publication will consist of an edited volume combining empirical studies with the development of a conceptual framework for understanding the ways in which minority identity impacts on political participation and democratic institutions in the EU accession countries at the local, subregional and national levels. The empirical studies are mainly presented as comparative case-studies in order to draw out different

approaches that have been deployed to enhance effective participation. The comparative approach may also help identify factors that contribute to success or failure where similar techniques have been used with different results.

Relevance

At the Copenhagen meeting of the European Council in 1993, the EU committed itself not only to the enlargement of its membership but also to ensuring that applicant states seek to guarantee the respect for and the protection of minorities. To promote the stability of its neighbouring countries, most of which possessed significant minority populations, the EU initiated a process of integration which included explicit and implicit conditionalities, and adherence to international norms and instruments of minority protection, while seeking to ensure the consolidation of democratic and inclusive governance.

Nevertheless, while much attention has been paid to cases of violent ethnic mobilization, much less attention has been paid to instances of ethnic mobilization that have aimed to promote peaceful representation through inclusion in the normal political process. There is therefore a need for a comprehensive study of the changing forms of minority political inclusion (and exclusion) and the ways in which ethnic minority political mobilization and its role in shaping the integration of minority communities is understood.

The need to ensure full and effective minority participation will not, however, stop after EU accession nor will it stop at the new eastern border of an enlarged Europe. Thus, an additional need arises to examine the political processes that are shaping the ways in which ethnic minority communities in candidate countries are evolving strategies for participation, and influencing democratic institutions, as well as to enhance the understanding of policy makers and practitioners of the mechanisms and processes which have best contributed to peaceful and effective political mobilization within minority communities.

E. Ethnic Democracy

Aims

The aim of this ECMI research project is to produce a scholarly volume consisting of a series of case studies of European countries whose political systems display tendencies

towards ethnic democracy. This type of political regime combines the extension of civil and political rights for all permanent residents with an institutionalized ethnic ascendancy. The core ethnic nation controls the state and uses it to further its national interests and to grant its members a favoured status. The volume aims to familiarize academics, political observers and activists with the evolution of a certain type of a political regime in Central and Eastern Europe and to alert them to problems associated with this kind of regime. ECMI has designed this research project on ethnic democracy in cooperation with Professor Sammy Smooha, a sociologist at the University of Haifa, who has developed a theoretical model of ethnic democracy. He has applied the model of ethnic democracy in detail to Israel, which served as an archetype and a springboard for the project's initial formulation.

Relevance

The project is relevant for democratic theory as well as for practical management of ethnopolitical tensions in newly democratizing societies in Europe. It is assumed that the model of ethnic democracy is particularly valid for democratizing states that attempt to manage their divided societies without giving up structured majority dominance.

Activities

During 2003, case studies on Estonia, Latvia, Georgia, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo/a, and Bosnia and Herzegovina were completed and copy-edited. Professor Smooha has written a chapter on his model of ethnic democracy and has also written conclusions in which he draws lessons for the model and its applicability as these follow from the case studies.

Future Activities

In 2004, the project will result in the publication of Smooha, Sammy and Priit Järve (eds.), *The Fate of Ethnic Democracy in the Post-Communist States of Europe*, in ECMI's Series on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues.

F. Economic Opportunities for Minorities in Europe

Aims

The project on Economic Opportunities for Minorities in Europe advances the question of the economic dimension of minority rights, especially in relation to Article 15 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The project seeks to

accomplish a multidimensional study on the economic rights of minorities, compiled by experts specializing in the fields of economy, post conflict reconstruction, social policy, social inclusion, gender and international law.

Relevance

The economic situation of minorities often earns low priority among policy makers in European states. Members of national and ethnic minorities may experience difficulties and limits when exercising their economic rights. Language requirements, registration regimes as well as other obstacles of an administrative or legal nature are only some of the challenges facing minorities.

This is not to say that governments have not signed up to international documents protecting the economic rights of minorities. Economic rights are of course part of the human rights regime and granted by international legal and political instruments, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Council of Europe's Social Charter, the Revised Social Charter and especially Art. 15 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Indeed, the prevailing view holds that human rights are indivisible, with economic rights seen as the precondition to enjoyment of civil and political as well as social and cultural freedoms and rights. But the implementation of economic rights has been inadequate if not neglected. This may not always be due to political ideology but could also be caused by lack of methodology in terms of monitoring and assessment. Indeed, scientific research analyzing the possibilities for minorities to have access to economic opportunities is scarce. While poverty alleviation in terms of development receives much attention, economic opportunities in terms of the right to effective participation of minorities in public life appears less explored by scholars.

Project Activities:

While preparations and research has been conducted in 2003, an expert workshop is scheduled for 2004 to be followed by an edition of essays on the economic aspects of minority entitlements from multilayer perspectives. The publication of articles on the economic dimension of minority governance will also appear in the upcoming issue of the 2003/04 European Yearbook of Minority Issues.

Funding Details

Funding is currently being sought for the project.

G. A Joint Methodology on Minority Programming

Aims

This project generates an advanced methodology for needs assessment, governmental programming and project evaluation in the area of minority issues and inter-ethnic relations. The methodology will be made available to national and international policy-making bodies in this area. On this basis, the performance of projects and programmes for minorities, be they funded nationally or internationally, can be sustainably enhanced. The methodology will also be made available to minority representative groups, to help enhance their influence in the definition, delivery and evaluation of projects aimed at their constituents.

Relevance

Over the past decade, very significant funds have been deployed by the EU and its member states, and by other actors, towards the enhancement of inter-ethnic relations in the wider Europe. Large sums have been made available in support of ethnic stabilization in the conflict regions of South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. The first and second wave candidates for EU accession, too, have mounted major programmes on minority issues to help meet the Copenhagen criteria. Quite vast sums have been poured into support for specific groups, especially Roma communities in Eastern/Central Europe. However, it is not always clear that the outputs of such activities have justified the very considerable expense. In relation to Roma issues, in particular, there has not been an improvement in the situation commensurate with the funds expended. Hence, it appears timely to review the methodology that is used for needs assessments, governmental programming and end-of-project evaluations. In addition to its strong methodological component, this project also seeks to broaden access to these tools of minority programming, making them available not only to governments and intergovernmental organizations, but also to minority representative groups.

Methods

This project is organized in three phases. During the first phase, major international actors in the field of inter-ethnic relations and minority issues are invited to conduct an internal audit, obtaining clarity about their own assumptions, methods and practices relating to needs assessments, programming and evaluation. Some governments and minority representative organizations are also invited to record their experiences. On

this basis, a comparative background paper revealing the “state of the art” in this area is being compiled. That background paper will be used to identify areas where methodology needs strengthening and to refine further the specific questions that need addressing. On that basis, in phase two, a number of case studies will be commissioned, reviewing the assessment, programming and evaluation cycle in relation to a number of major recent projects. During the final phase, a team of experts will draw on these lessons when developing a joint methodology for needs assessment, programming and evaluation.

Project Activities

The project commenced late in 2003, with initial bilateral discussions relating to methodology among key institutional actors. Work has also commenced on an initial background paper in support of a high level meeting of the relevant institutions, to be held at ECMI in 2004. Following this event, the case-study phase will commence, to be followed by the development of the joint methodology. This methodology will be published as a web-based resource, along with supporting explanatory materials and practical case examples. There will also be a shorter brochure in hard copy for distribution to governments, international organizations and minority representative groups. If funding permits, joint training seminars with national and international actors may be provided. Finally, a more scholarly exposition of the methodology will take the shape of an edited book.

Funding Details

Funding for expansion of the project in 2004 is currently being sought.

H. Facilitating European Integration Through Romani Integration

Aims

This project seeks to promote the participation in public life of Roms (‘Gypsies’) in the candidate countries of the EU through a set of studies identifying the state practices most effective in overcoming Roms’ alienation from decision-making processes at the local, regional, and state levels. The findings of these country studies will in turn constitute the point of departure for national roundtables on Romani political participation and training seminars on national electoral laws.

Relevance

Of the ten countries slated to join the EU in 2004, five (i.e., the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia) have sizeable Romani populations. Notwithstanding differences among state policies and the Romani populations affected by them, Roms throughout the region face a set of similar problems. Prominent among these problems is a general lack of representation which manifests itself as both cause and effect of low Romani participation in the electoral process. By exploring the possibilities for increasing Romani political participation at both popular and elite levels, this project will contribute to ensuring that Roms are directly involved in addressing the concrete issues affecting them most.

Project Activities

Drawing on an international network of scholars specialized in minority rights in general and Romani issues in particular, the project will commission studies examining the possibilities of active political participation available to Roms in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Meeting once at the initiation of the project and once to discuss the preliminary findings of the investigation, the authors will submit their studies for compilation in an edited volume. The findings of the country studies will also be used as background materials for national roundtables on Romani political participation, to be attended by representatives of Romani NGOs, Romani political parties, non-Romani political parties, and government officials responsible for minority and/or Romani issues. Additionally, the Romani participants of the national roundtables will form the core of standing working groups to be established in each of the countries included in the project for the purpose of devising and implementing realistic strategies to increase Romani representation. These groups will receive instruction on national electoral laws in training seminars organized in each country.

Outcomes

The book resulting from this project will serve not only as a comprehensive overview of state practice with respect to Romani political participation, but also as a reference work for states both within and outside the EU with an interest in improving the integration of their Romani populations. Additionally, the national roundtables and training seminars will place actual and potential Romani representatives in a better position to devise realistic strategies for increasing the Romani presence in parliament.

Funding Details

Funding is currently being sought.

I. Between Integration and Resettlement: The Meskhetian Turks

Aims

The project aims to produce a comprehensive and comparative cross-border study of today's Meskhetian Turk communities and strives to develop an alternative discourse to the framework maintained by international actors addressing the problems of the Meskhetian Turks, based on an *a priori* assumption that Meskhetian Turks desire to return to their region of origin. The project, through the conduct of multi-disciplinary research in eight countries (Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey), seeks to grasp the complexity of the subject by obtaining a thorough understanding of Meskhetian Turkish identity, migration processes, concepts of "home" and social organization, which can provide a basis for new approaches to finding durable solutions to the problems of the Meskhetian Turks.

Relevance

The Meskhetian Turks are the last among the national groups of the Soviet Union deported under Stalin in 1943-44 that has not yet been able to return to their native region (in southwest Georgia). Consisting of some 270-335,000 people today, the Meskhetian Turks, following pogroms and multiple displacements, find themselves scattered throughout vast territories in the former Soviet Union and Turkey. In some of these countries, the Meskhetian Turks face ethnic persecution and even expulsion, while independent Georgia effectively blocks resettlement to their native region. International actors seeking to address these problems encounter severe difficulties in finding solutions, *inter alia*, because of a lack of consistent knowledge on Meskhetian Turks' own perceptions of their displacement and their visions for future settlement.

Project Activities

The project will consist of three research workshops, eight country case studies (including 30 cases of mainly ethnographic fieldwork), five thematic and two legal studies, and the compilation of an authoritative research volume on the topic.

Links with other Institutions

The project will be implemented in cooperation with several higher educational institutions, think-tanks, human rights institutions, international organizations and

scholarly establishments both in Western Europe, the former Soviet Union and Turkey. As a by-product, a comprehensive network of scholars on the issue will be created.

Time Frame and Funding Details

The project will run for 20 months. Funding is currently being sought. While assessments were conducted in 2003, the project will be initiated in 2004 and run for two years.

III. Information and Documentation

A. Library

The ECMI Library has continued its development as an integral part of ECMI's function as a documentation centre. Thus the gradual build-up of the hard copy and grey literature collection continued in 2003. This included books and journals dealing especially with the field of international law and international relations, ethnic conflict and minority protection.

A new library service in 2003 consists of the provision of a monthly internal acquisitions list which includes incoming books as well as relevant reports from other institutes in the field. This is a useful complement to the provision of monthly tables of contents of ECMI journals to Centre staff. A yearly staff meeting to ensure staff participation in selection of materials as well as a library brochure for all staff members were also introduced in 2003.

Electronic resources continue to be a particular strength of the Centre, as they represent a valuable resource at the disposal of ECMI's researchers as well as scholars visiting the Centre in pursuit of their own research.

Cooperation with other institutions in the delivery and management of information retained its significance for the ECMI Library in 2003. The ECMI Library continues its membership and database contribution to the Consortium of Minority Resources (COMIR). COMIR is an informal association of key research centres and NGOs active in the field of minority-majority relations. COMIR was founded specifically with the aim of fostering cooperation, especially where databases are concerned. In this way, unnecessary duplication of effort can be avoided. COMIR also engenders joint projects among member institutions. The ECMI Library was invited in Autumn 2003 to become a member of the *Specialized Information Network International Relations and Area Studies*, a consortium of eleven independent German research institutes aimed at the establishment of common information resources. The database of more than 630,000 references is made up of journal articles and chapters of books, monographs, reports, and official publications in English, German, French and other languages. The *Specialized Information Network* is a participant in the *European Information Network on*

International Relations and Area Studies (EINIRAS Database Network), which also includes the Council of Europe, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, the *Centre d'Informació i Documentació Internacionals a Barcelona*, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

B. Databases

In 2003, ECMI launched three new databases available on ECMI's web site (www.ecmi.de): the Framework Convention Database, the Framework Convention NGO Parallel Report Database, and the Minority Jurisprudence Database, which are hoped to become a major tool for researchers and minority practitioners. In 2004, ECMI plans to present its databases through computer-training seminars in South-Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Framework Convention Database

(www.ecmi.de/doc/CoE_Project/)

The aim of the *ECMI Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities Database* is to provide a comprehensive collection of materials on the negotiation and implementation of the Convention. This project is placed in the context of a further major ECMI venture: a scholarly article-by-article commentary of the Convention produced by eminent specialists in the field of minority rights.

This digest covers the negotiating history of the Convention, other international instruments (treaties, declarations and recommendations) adopted by the Council of Europe, the UN and its specialized agencies, the OSCE, the EU, and other international organizations, as well as the most significant secondary documents produced within these regimes and pertaining to the implementation procedures and the interpretation such as the state reports submitted by member states, the opinions of the Advisory Committee, the responses by states, and the Recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

The materials are presented on an article-by-article basis. The Database in its present form on the Internet contains pdf-files for each Article/Paragraph of the Convention as well as a file for the Preamble. The same structure is followed for all articles. The

Database covers the evolution of monitoring up to July 2003 and will be regularly updated to incorporate recent events.

The imminent conclusion of the first cycle of monitoring makes this a particularly auspicious time to review progress. The Database enables scholars and practitioners to gain rapid insight into the practice of governments in the implementation of the commitment they undertook when becoming parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Framework Convention NGO Parallel Reports
(www.ecmi.de/doc/Parallel_Reports_Database/)

As a follow-up to ECMI's Framework Convention Database, constituted from official reports of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities' monitoring mechanism, ECMI has created a second database consisting of NGOs' parallel or "shadow" reports to the state reports of the countries, which have ratified the Framework Convention. This database presents the materials on an article-by-article basis, following the model of the state reports under the Framework Convention. NGO reports are invited to address all the issues discussed in the state reports, to focus on submitting data, which is lacking from the state report, as well as give information which is missing. NGOs provide a forum for minorities to address issues to the Council of Europe since the drafting of "shadow" reports involves minorities. These NGO reports are then closely considered by the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe during its preparation of opinions on the state reports.

The aim of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities NGO Parallel Reports Database* is to present to minorities and practitioners an article-by-article approach of the inputs of NGOs to the reports submitted by the states, as provided for by the Framework Convention. This Database further enables a constructive criticism of the state reports, as well as of the way in which the NGO reports were drafted. The compilation of such reports also illustrates the unfortunate fact that only eighteen NGOs have submitted alternative reports and few have followed the guidelines given.

Database of Jurisprudence on Minority Rights

The *Database of Jurisprudence on Minority Issues* gives access to jurisprudence relevant to minority rights, as it has emerged from five judicial regional and international bodies (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, European Court of Human Rights, European Court of Justice, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, UN Human Rights Committee). The cases (a total of 170) are classified alphabetically on an article-by-article basis according to their relevance to respective articles of the Framework Convention for National Minorities. Each case-link gives relevant information about the case (case title, case number, judgment date, findings of the Court). The relevant abstract from the Court's judgment is linked to the respective Framework Convention for National Minorities article, which is followed by judges' individual opinions when provided. Cases which deal with different issues will therefore be attached to different articles of the Framework Convention. In addition, an annex to this database provides a summary of each case.

The Jurisprudence Database seeks firstly to provide possible guidance on the interpretation of minority rights as contained in the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, EU legislation, the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Secondly, the Database will present a comprehensive listing of jurisprudence of international and regional bodies on minority rights. Moreover, it will provide a thematic classification of minority rights case law. Furthermore, the Database will contribute to the advanced interpretation of minority rights global standards. Eventually it will promote the comparative approach to the study of minority rights jurisprudence. The Jurisprudence Database will be of particular use both to legal practitioners due to its highly legal approach, as well as to the academic community, scholars, and students attending human rights and minority law courses.

At present, this Database exists as an internal working source for ECMI also available on CD-ROM. However, ECMI intends to make this database accessible with a search function via its website. This latter project would be completed and fully accessible to all users by Spring 2004. In addition, ECMI is currently considering the publication of an *Analytical Digest on Minority Rights*, which would provide an analytical classification, according to a number of rights enshrined in international human rights treaties.

Furthermore, these case-entries would be complemented with commentaries by human rights experts, who would provide a useful analysis of the courts' interpretations of minority rights.

Ethnopolitical Map of Europe

The *Ethnopolitical Map of Europe* is a major documentation project that will over time highlight minority issues across Europe. The map is designed to offer quick and easy access to comprehensive information on background, population and socioeconomic statistics, international responses to crisis management, as well as offering links and a bibliography.

In 2003, the *Documents on International Involvement* section of the Ethnopolitical Map of Europe underwent technical changes to make it more user-friendly, allowing for quicker and more transparent access to the documents. This improvement can be seen in the first chapter of documents of the Kosovo/a entry which went online in autumn 2003. In this first chapter of documents on Kosovo/a are to be found, amongst many others, documents related to changes in the autonomy status of Albanians in Kosovo/a in the years 1990-1992, as well as the full text of the Rambouillet Interim Agreement, in addition to the Military Technical Agreement of 9 June 1999, along with extracts of relevant OSCE documents. Documents on the consequences of the Kosovo/a conflict can also be found here, such as the full text of a report by the High Commissioner on Human Rights of 31 May 1999. In addition to this first chapter on documents, the following sections on Kosovo/a were made available online in 2003: an extensive bibliography, a section on relevant links, and a statistics section. The Northern Ireland entry was completed in 2003, documenting the rocky path of the peace process in that troubled country. Added to the Macedonia entry several weeks after its adoption in September 2003 was the full text in English of the Ombudsman law, a key piece of legislation according to the Ohrid Agreement.

In addition to the Kosovo/a entry mentioned above, documents and further information on the following countries is intended to go online in 2004: Chechnya, Abkhazia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania, Moldova, South Ossetia, Estonia and Latvia.

IV. Publications

ECMI's publications are a major channel through which the Centre reflects both its research and its action-oriented project work in the area of civil society building in transition and post-conflict situations, and makes ECMI's work available to an international community of researchers and practitioners. Through its manifold and interdisciplinary publication activity, ECMI endeavors to make a valuable contribution to the analytical and informational resources that help us to understand and transform relations of minorities and majorities throughout Europe.

ECMI has continued on the course outlined in its five-year strategy and has achieved a number of important milestones. A decisive strategic shift, commenced already in 2001, was the increase of book publications and their publication by commercial publishers to ensure high quality products as well as professional handling of distribution and marketing. In order to pool resources and secure the sustainability of its publications, the Centre has sought and been successful in establishing cooperative ventures with partner institutes for the realization of its ambitious publications projects.

While in 2001 much of the preparatory work was done – such as identifying suitable publishers and partners, and negotiating contracts – in the year 2002 three large publication ventures bore their first fruit. Thus ECMI launched its two new book series: the *Series of Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues*, published by the Soros funded Local Government and Public Research Initiative, and the *Handbooks on Minority Issues*, for which ECMI has won the cooperation of the Council of Europe. The publication of the first volume of each of these in late 2002 created considerable interest.

Another major success is the *European Yearbook of Minority Issues*. The Yearbook is edited in collaboration with the Minorities and Regional Autonomies Department of the European Academy in Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC) and the first volume was published by Kluwer Law International (see section A for further details).

In addition to strengthening its book publications, ECMI has continued the generation of its internally produced Working Papers, Reports and Issue Briefs, publishing a total of

two Working Papers, nine Reports and one Issue Brief. For a description of the profile of each of these and full listings, see section B.

Section C covers the academic writings of members of ECMI's research staff in the form of books, monographs, and chapters and articles in external scholarly publications.

Finally, section D presents ECMI's electronic *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)*, an innovative venture that has been highly successful since its launch in autumn 2001 in fostering scholarship and stimulating academic debate.

A. Books

1. Handbook Series

With the establishment of the series of Handbooks on Minority Issues, ECMI provides practical guides to specific aspects of minority-majority relations, in particular the applicable standards and international implementation mechanisms that exist at the national, regional and international level for the protection of minorities.

The Handbooks are aimed at practitioners, minority rights advocates, government officials, legal experts and journalists. They also serve as valuable introductions to minority issues and ethnopolitics for students of International Relations, International Law, Political Science and related disciplines. The series is published by Council of Europe Publishing.

The first volume of the series was published in December 2002 (Pentassuglia, Gaetano, *Minorities in International Law*), and volume two on *Mechanisms for the Implementation of Minority Rights* is forthcoming. This handbook exhibits the mechanisms for implementation of the ever-denser structure of minority rights. In doing so, it seeks to provide members of minorities with detailed information of mechanisms that can be invoked effectively to secure access to political participation, non-discrimination and to help facilitate the full expression of their collective identities.

2. Studies

The *Series on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues* provides a highly visible and accessible platform for ECMI's studies. These are multi-author works that result from the Centre's

cooperative research projects, often ranging over a number of years. The series enables ECMI to strengthen the link between its action-oriented work in all parts of the wider Europe and the development of practice-oriented scholarship.

Through these studies, ECMI draws attention to cross-cutting issues of minority-majority relations that arise in its area of operation and provides analysis of such new issues or practices. In this way, the volumes in this series will advance the practical understanding of new challenges concerning minority issues while at the same time adding a dimension of theoretical understanding.

ECMI has won the cooperation of the Local Government and Public Reform Initiative (LGI) in Budapest, Hungary, for this venture. While the contents of the series have been generated by ECMI and its project collaborators, LGI's responsibility lies with the publication, marketing and distribution of the books. In 2003, one volume was published and another is forthcoming in 2004:

Vol.2: Grin, François and Farimah Daftary (eds.), *Nation-Building, Ethnicity and Language Politics in Transition Countries*

This edited work examines the role of language legislation and politics in the state and nation-building process of Eastern European countries in the post-communist era. Budapest: LGI/Open Society Institute (OSI), 2003.

Vol.3: Järve, Priit and Sammy Smooha, (eds.), *Ethnic Democracy in Europe: Models and Reality*

This study explores novel theories of 'ethnic democracy'. The study draws on examples of the organization of governance according to the interests of dominant ethnic groups in Eastern Europe since the post-Cold War transition (forthcoming).

3. Individual Book Publications

Besides publishing books within the framework of an established series, ECMI reserves the option of offering individual manuscripts to commercial publishers. 2003 saw the publishing of:

Daftary, Farimah and Stefan Troebst (eds.), *Radical Ethnic Movements in Contemporary Europe*. New York/Oxford: Berghahn, 2003.

This edited volume analyses the causes of ethnopolitical violence based on case studies drawn from both Western and Eastern Europe, ranging from the Basque Country and Northern Ireland to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Chechnya. Its comprehensive conclusion offers a theoretical framework for the development of strategies to deal with violent ethnic conflict.

4. European Yearbook of Minority Issues

The European Yearbook of Minority Issues is a joint venture of ECMI and the Minorities and Regional Autonomies Department of EURAC, and the first volume of which was published by Kluwer Law International, The Hague. It is envisaged that additional institutions will be added as full or junior editorial partners, and/or will be asked to contribute as guest editors of sections in coming years.

The principal goal of the Yearbook is to provide a critical and timely review of contemporary developments in minority-majority relations in Europe. It combines analysis, commentary, and documentation in relation to international standards for the protection of minorities and the management of conflict and ethnic relations in Europe. The editors have set as their standard that the Yearbook shall consist of original and up-to-date contributions (articles and practice reports) of high scholarly quality reflecting an interdisciplinary approach.

Contents

The Yearbook is divided into two major parts:

Part I contains scholarly articles and routinely features several special focus sections accompanied by an extensive general articles section.

Part II reviews the international and national practice in the fields of standard setting and implementation of minority rights.

The Editorial Process

A creative process has been put in place which bases the final product on a scholarly research plan tailored to ensure that the Yearbook covers exactly the topics that are of the highest interest in a given year. With input from the general editors and an informal network of experts, the managing editors seek to identify special focus topics of extraordinary interest and relevance as well as to cover in the general articles section a

range of topics and geographical regions. Authors contributing to special focus sections or writing articles on related topics are encouraged to coordinate their work and to cooperate as closely as they deem feasible – a process supervised and facilitated by the managing editors at all stages. In the developments sections, the managing editors establish a network of rapporteurs who are assigned the task of continually reviewing the progress of minority protection within specific institutions and to maintain a well-structured dialogue amongst themselves and with the editorial team to ensure a minimum of overlap and a maximum of consistency of the various reports.

The aim of the Yearbook's creators' idea to develop a top-quality annual scholarly and information-providing publication in the field of minority issues in Europe has been put into practice and significantly advanced. The target audience is academics, legal and political practitioners, government and international officials, minority activists, and the interested general public.

Outlook

The editors seek to firmly establish a network of permanent rapporteurs to cover most of the developments reports sections; with that, the process of putting together these sections will be streamlined and resources will be freed to focus on the editorial work needed with respect to the scholarly articles section. The Yearbook shows great promise to become one of the flagship publications of both institutions involved. However, the efforts to ensure quality and a solid foundation on which the Yearbook can be built in the coming years are only successful because of an extraordinary input of time and energy by both the involved research and professional staff at ECMI (the Yearbook requires and will continue to require the involvement of the managing editor, the publications officer, an editorial assistant, and an external proof-reader). Efforts to secure external help during the "hot phase" of the editorial process (February through June), as well as external funding, are underway.

B. Internally Produced Publications

1. Working Papers

Working Papers are original in-depth analyses of emerging or on-going developments and are intended to stimulate further debate. In the light of comments and criticism, they will subsequently be revised and may be published in their expanded form in the ECMI

Yearbook or other ECMI publications. Working papers are an important element in ECMI's strategy of promoting interdisciplinary research on ethnopolitics and minority issues.

In the year of review, ECMI published:

Stefan Wollf: *The Ethnopolitical Dynamics of Elections*. ECMI Working Paper #17, September 2003.

Valery Perry: *Reading, Writing and Reconciliation: Educational Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. ECMI Working Paper #18, September 2003.

2. Reports

Reports are mainly the products of ECMI's constructive conflict management work, and reflect exchanges during workshops, roundtables and seminars. As these activities aim to foster dialogue in a way that will lead to concrete policy recommendations, these publications are made available soon after the event (normally within three weeks). They aim to give a synopsis of the panel presentations and discussions, and highlight recommendations that were adopted. Where appropriate, they also seek to outline any follow-on procedures that may be developed to support implementation of these recommendations. This category of ECMI publication also includes extensive background reports resulting from fact-finding visits to the region in question in preparation for a new project. In 2003, ECMI printed:

#42 Valery Perry: *ECMI Civil Society Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Supporting Annex 8 of the Dayton Peace Agreement: Development of a Cultural Heritage Association and an Education Programme, Workshop 14 December 2002, Sarajevo, February 2003, 47 pp., appendix.*

#43 Florian Bieber and Emilija Stefanov: *ECMI Montenegro Negotiation and Capacity-Building Project: EU Accession and Minority Rights in Serbia, Montenegro and Sandzak / Sandzak as Part of a Euro-Region?, Training Workshop 5-8 December 2002, Kotor, March 2003, 32 pp., appendix.*

#44 Robert Curis: *Kosovo/a Standing Technical Working Group, Thirteenth Meeting: Integration & Returns, Grand Hotel, Pristina, 6 June 2003*, July 2003, 21 pp., appendix.

#45 Robert Curis: *Kosovo/a Standing Technical Working Group", Fourteenth Meeting: Kosovo/a's Health Care System: Invasive Procedure Needed, Grand Hotel, Pristina, 17 July 2003*, August 2003, 34 pp., appendix.

#46 Vadim Poleshchuk: *National Integration in Estonia and Latvia: 2002-2003*. August 2003, 46 pp., appendix.

#47 Graham Holliday: *Kosovo/a Standing Technical Working Group, Training Workshop and Study Visit - Council of Europe*, August 2003, 28 pp., appendix.

#48 Stefan Wolff: *Kosovo/a Standing Technical Working Group, Training Workshop: Regional Integration in the European Union and Western Balkans*, August 2003, 12 pp., appendix.

#49 Vadim Poleshchuk: *Towards Linguistic Diversity Management in the Baltic States*, August 2003, 25 pp., appendix.

#50 Vadim Martynuk: *The Role of the Interethnic Factor in the Development of the Kaliningrad Region*, August 2003, 43 pp., appendix.

3. Issue Briefs

Issue Briefs are shorter pieces offering analytical commentary on topical issues or crises of wider interest and provide a critical primer to a wider audience. In addition to publication on the ECMI website, they are distributed through other appropriate channels, such as mailing lists and placement in appropriate journals and periodicals. Issues briefs published in 2003:

#9: Eben Friedman: *The Spectre of Territorial Division and the Ohrid Agreement*, July 2003, 7 pp.

C. Chapters in Books and Scholarly Articles by ECMI Staff

Settling Self-determination Conflicts, approximately 400 pages, under review by Oxford University Press, Co-editor (Weller).

Complex Power-Sharing in International Practice, approximately 550 pages, under review by Oxford University Press, Co-editor (Weller).

New Autonomies, 340 pages, Routledge, in production, Co-author/Co-editor (Weller).

Political Participation of Minorities, *International Journal of Minority and Group Rights*, forthcoming (Weller).

Article 15 of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, in Weller, ed., *Commentary on the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*, forthcoming (Weller).

“Addressing Self-determination”, in Weller & Metzger, eds., *Settling Self-determination Conflicts* (Weller).

“Complex Power-sharing in Kosovo/a”, in Weller & Metzger, eds., *Complex Power-Sharing in International Practice* (Weller).

“Enforced Autonomies in the Balkans”, in Weller & Wolff, eds., *New Autonomies* (Weller).

“Human Rights in Weak, Divided and Threatened States”, in Lyons & Mayall, eds., *Human Rights in the 21st Century*, 141-168 (2003) (Weller).

“Enhancing Effective Participation in Public Life — Five Years of Practice under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities”, Council of Europe, (2003), 22 pages (Weller).

“Interest and Disinterest in Roma Political Support: Macedonia and Slovakia”. *Analysis of Current Events* 15(1) (2003), 17-20 (Friedman).

“The Slovak Minority Language Law: Internal or External Politics?”, in *Nation-Building, Ethnicity and Language Politics in Transition Countries*, Farimah Daftary and François Grin (eds.), LGI/ECMI Series on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues, Volume 2, Budapest: Open Society Institute, 2003, 31–71 (Daftary and Gál).

"The Matignon Process and Insular Autonomy as a Response to Self-Determination Claims in Corsica", in *European Yearbook of Minority Issues 2001/2002*, 299–326 (Daftary).

"Minority rights: recent developments in the Baltic States and Russia" in F. J. M. Feldbrugge (ed.), *Law in Transition*, The Hague: Kluwer Law International, 2002, 41-54 (Järve).

"Language Battles in the Baltic States: 1989 to 2002" in Farimah Daftary and Francois Grin (eds.), *Nation-Building, Ethnicity and Language Politics in Transition Countries*. Budapest: LGI/OSI, 2003, 73-105 (Järve).

Review of Tālavas Jundzis (ed.), *The Baltic States at Historical Crossroads*, Riga, 2001, in *Journal of Baltic Studies*, vol. 24, Number 4, Winter 2003, 489-490 (Järve).

D. The Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe (JEMIE)

The *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe* (JEMIE) is a peer-reviewed electronic journal edited under the auspices of ECMI. Since its launch in autumn 2001, JEMIE has acquired the backing of some of the world's most prominent specialists in minority issues and ethnopolitics – most of whom now make up its International Editorial Board – and is widely cited in academic journals and fora.

JEMIE is a multi-disciplinary journal, which addresses minority issues across a broad range of specialisations, including ethnopolitical conflict management, good governance, minority participation and minority rights. It is devoted to the analysis of current developments in minority-majority relations in the wider Europe, and aims to stimulate debate amongst academics, students and practitioners on key issues of integration and democratisation. As an electronic journal, JEMIE also operates an open access policy that aims both to broaden debate and make available literature that would otherwise only be available in more specialist libraries.

Every quarter, a Special Focus section highlights a topic of particular interest to students of minority issues and ethnopolitics. This aims to provide cutting-edge analysis of the latest issues and debates, bringing together both younger and more established

academics from all regions of Europe. The quality of contributions in JEMIE is ensured by its International Editorial Board, which reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the Journal, and a growing pool of external reviewers.

In 2003, JEMIE published a special issue on 'EU Enlargement and Minority Rights', which has since become a standard reference point for researchers on this topic. This was followed by special issues on the South Caucasus and novel developments in autonomy arrangements. Past articles have recently been picked up by a number of research institutes and databases, including that of the EU, and are also regularly cited on university reading lists. JEMIE has now developed a distinct identity of its own, which has generated growing interest in its activities and led to an increasing number of invitations to its Editor towards collaboration and participation in conferences.

V. Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Other Events

A. Conferences

25-28 February ECMI *Balkans Summit* meeting. Annual consultation and strategy meeting for ECMI headquarters and Balkans offices.

28-30 March Workshop III of Carnegie Project “Resolving Self-Determination Disputes Using Complex Power Sharing” at Lauterpact Centre for International Law, Cambridge.

3-5 April ECMI Panel on Ethnopolitics and Elections at 8th Annual World Convention of the ASN, "History, Identity and Political Order in the New Europe" at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York.

Chair:

Graham Holliday (ECMI)

Papers:

Stefan Wolff (University of Bath)

The Ethnopolitical Dynamics of Elections

Florian Bieber (ECMI)

Electoral Engineering: The Balkan Record

Eben Friedman (ECMI)

Electoral System Design and Minority Representation in Slovakia and Macedonia

Discussant:

Shale Horowitz (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee)

4 April Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Panel on Minorities and Conflict in Postcommunist Europe: The Role of International Norms and Governance at the 8th Annual World Convention of the ASN, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York.

Chair:

Sally Cummings (University of Edinburgh)

Papers:

Neil Melvin (University of Leeds/OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities)

The OSCE and National Minorities following European Enlargement: New Challenges and Evolving Approaches

Gwendolyn Sasse (London School of Economics-LSE/Free University Berlin)

EU Conditionality and Minority Rights in Central and Eastern Europe

Graham Holliday (ECMI)

International Involvement and Minority Accommodation in Postconflict Macedonia

Discussant:

James Hughes (LSE)

- 18 April** 1st Anniversary of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo.
- 19 - 20 April** Training "Basics of Project Proposal Development I & II", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo.
- 20 April** Launch of "Schools of Politics Initiative", collaborative project between the Council of Europe and the ECMI Kosovo/a Civil Society Initiative, ECMI Kosovo/a.
- 21 - 22 April** Training "Basics of Project Proposal Development I & II", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Štip.
- 23 - 24 April** Training "Networking and Fundraising for NGOs", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Štip.
- 29 April** ECMI Internal Research Seminar. Papers delivered by ECMI Research Associates Eben Friedman "Electoral System Design and Minority Representation in Slovakia and Macedonia" and Graham Holliday "International Involvement and Minority Accommodation in Post-conflict Macedonia", followed by concluding discussion.

21 May	1st Anniversary of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo.
24-25 May	ECMI seminar "Towards the management of linguistic diversity in the Baltic States", in Vilnius, Lithuania, sponsored by the Lannungsfond, Denmark.
24 May	ECMI Kosovo/a: Standing Technical Working Group Civic Forum "The Returns Process in Kosovo/a", Grand Hotel, Pristina, Kosovo/a.
31 May-2 June	ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia, Coordinating Body Meeting, Ohrid, Macedonia.
31 May-2 June	Third meeting of the Coordinative Body of ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia.
31 May-1June	ECMI Kosovo/a "Schools of Politics" - inaugural workshop of joint ECMI/Council of Europe initiative, Ohrid, Macedonia.
4 June	ECMI Kosovo/a: Standing Technical Working Group Civic Forum "The Returns Process in Kosovo/a", Grand Hotel, Pristina, Kosovo/a.
5-8 June	"EU Support for Minority Languages: The SMiLE Project", presentation given by Francois Grin at the 7th International Conference on Minority Languages, Kiruna, Sweden.
18 June	ECMI Internal Research Seminar. Presentations by ECMI Research Associates Eben Friedman "Integration of Roms in Macedonia" and Graham Holliday "The Politics of Minority Participation in the 'New' Europe", followed by discussion.
19-20 June	Minority Ombudsman Project: Meeting of the Team of Experts, ECMI Headquarters, Flensburg.
14-15 July	Framework Convention Project, Meeting of the Team of Commentators, ECMI Headquarters, Flensburg.

- 16 July** ECMI Kosovo/a: Standing Technical Working Group Civic Forum "Promoting Health Care Provision and Access", Grand Hotel, Pristina, Kosovo/a.
- 21 - 27 July** Field monitoring visit to ECMI programme in Macedonia by ECMI Administrative Director Astrid Voss and Research Associate Eben Friedman. Voss held consultative meetings with the project team and with technical assistants at the ECMI Regional Centres in Skopje, Kumanovo, Bitola, Gostivar and Tetovo. The mayor of Gostivar provided a briefing on the positive impact of the ECMI NGO Network in Gostivar. During the visit Voss and Friedman spoke to representatives of members of the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia.
- 28 July** ECMI Research Associate Eben Friedman holds a consultative meeting with Erduan Iseni, mayor of the Romani municipality of Šuto Orizari.
- 1 August** First consultative meeting of the experts in the framework of the ECMI Project "Stabilizing and Improving Interethnic Relations in the Kaliningrad Oblast" in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation.
- 19 September** Second expert meeting of experts in the framework of the ECMI project "Stabilizing and Improving Interethnic Relations in the Kaliningrad Oblast" in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation.
- 26-29 September** ECMI Kosovo/a/Council of Europe "Schools of Politics" - annual joint workshop, Strasbourg, France.
- 15-17 October** ECMI Kosovo/a: Fourth Standing Technical Working Group Civic Forum
- 16-17 October** Minority Ombudsman Conference, Berlin. Representatives of specialized minority Ombudsperson institutions as well as general Ombudsperson offices that routinely deal with minority issues gathered in Berlin for a two-day conference, together with the six

members of the Team of Experts attached to the project and members of the project team.

- 23 October** The meeting in Kaliningrad "New problems in the accommodation of migrants in the region" of the expert committee on migration problems in the framework of the ECMI project "Stabilization and improvement of interethnic relations in the Kaliningrad region".
- 24 October** The meeting in Kaliningrad "Fundraising capacity of national minority organizations and how to enhance it" of the expert committee on national minorities in the framework of the ECMI project "Stabilization and improvement of interethnic relations in the Kaliningrad region".
- 24-26 October** ECMI Research Associate Eben Friedman holds a lecture at a conference on "Minorities / Human Rights in Central- and Eastern Europe" in Prague. The conference is organised by the Jewish organisation "B'Naj B'Rith" and sponsored by the Robert Bosch Foundation.
- 10-14 November** ECMI Kosovo/a: Standing Technical Working Group, Study Visit and Training at the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Warsaw, Poland.
- 3 –4 December** ECMI Kosovo/a: Standing Technical Working and Expert Committees - Annual Evaluation and Review.
- 10 December** General Assembly of the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia.

B. Delegations and Visitors at ECMI

- 13 January** Presentation of ECMI to a group of visitors from the Danish Amtsgymnasium in Sønderborg, Kompagnietor, Flensburg, Germany.

- 21 January Visit to ECMI of Mr Pavel Sulyandziga, the First Vice-President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAPION) and Ms Daria Kudriashova, Vice-President of the same organization. They had a meeting with ECMI Senior Research Associate Priit Järve and ECMI interns Ms Oksana Maljutina and Ms Kadri Soon. ECMI helped the guests to establish contact with FUEN.
- 29 January Visit to ECMI of Dr Joachim Köhler from the Landtag Schleswig-Holstein.
- 18 February Presentation of ECMI to a group of international students from the Open University in Loegumkloster.
- 17 March Visit of Ms. Ute Erdsiek-Rave, Minister for Culture and Educational Policy of Schleswig-Holstein, and representatives of *Schüler Helfen Leben*, a German-based school initiative active in Kosovo/a, ECMI Headquarter, Germany.
- 2 May Study visit of Kosovars to Denmark, "*The Danish-German Borderland Experience and Ethnic Divide in Kosovo/a*". Højskolen Østersøen in collaboration with the Nansen Dialogue initiative Mitrovica, Kosovo/a. ECMI training sessions: "The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and its Monitoring Mechanisms" (Dr Alexander Morawa); "Power-sharing and autonomy in regulating minority-majority relations" (Graham Holliday).
- 14 May Visit to ECMI of international group sponsored by Rotary Club, Aabenraa.

C. Papers and Lectures given by ECMI Staff at Conferences and Academic Institutes

- 28 February The Iraq Crisis: Lessons for International Law and Conflict Management, Irish Association of International Law, Dublin (Weller).

- 28 February The UN Security Council and International Conflict Management, University of Galway, Ireland (Weller).
- 3-5 April “Electoral System Design and Minority Representation in Slovakia and Macedonia”. Paper on the Panel “Ethnopolitics and Elections” at the Eighth Annual ASN Convention, Columbia University, New York. (Friedman)
- 12 April Working Group on External Actors in Autonomy Regimes, Solomon Ash Centre, University of Pennsylvania (Weller).
- 14 April International Law and the Use of Force: A View from Old Europe, Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, (Weller).
- 10 May The EU after Thessaloniki, Ionannina, Greece, Minorities in Europe after Enlargement, European Commission, MFA Greece and Greek Institute of International Affairs (Weller).
- 13 May New Challenges for the Protection of National Minorities, UN Working Group on Minorities, Geneva (Weller).
- 14 June Columbia University Autonomy Conference, Upsala, Sweden, Autonomy and Minority Governance in Kosovo/a (Weller).
- 16-18 June “Baltic Language Policies: Political Context and Social Effects”, International workshop “Language and Social Processes in the Baltic States”, Vilnius, Lithuania (Järve).
- 10 October Interpreting Human and Minority Right Treaties, NGO Network on Interethnic Cooperation in Macedonia, Ohrid, FRY Macedonia (Weller).
- 17-18 October “The Structure of Post-Communist Transformation in the Baltic States”, International Conference “Post-Communist Transformation and the Process of Democratisation in Latvia”, Riga, Latvia (Järve).

- 24-26 October "Policy toward Roms in the Czech and Slovak Republics, 1989-2003". Paper presented at the conference "Menschenrechte in Mittel- und Osteuropa: Aktueller Stand und Perspektiven im Hinblick auf die EU-Osterweiterung", Prague, 24-26 October 2003 (Friedman).
- 12-13 December "Minorities in Serbia-Montenegro", Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF)/ECMI Conference Minorities in Democracy, SEE University, Tetovo, Macedonia (Bieber).
- 12-13 December "Lessons Learned from the Corsican Experience with Autonomy", KAS/ECMI Conference Minorities in Democracy, SEE University, Tetovo, Macedonia (Daftary).
- 12-13 December "Minorities in Bulgaria", KAS/ECMI Conference Minorities in Democracy, SEE University, Tetovo, Macedonia (Kouneva).
- 12-13 December "Minorities in Post-Shevardnadze Georgia", KAS/ECMI Conference Minorities in Democracy, SEE University, Tetovo, Macedonia (Trier).

D. Attendance of ECMI Members at Conferences and Events

- 28 March Chair, Carnegie Conference on Resolving Self-determination Disputes and Engaging Self-determination Conflicts through Complex Power Sharing, Cambridge (Weller).
- 27 May Session Chair/Rapporteur, Anti-Discrimination Review Council of Europe, Strasbourg (Weller).
- 29-31 May Chair, Panel on "Perspectives on European Minorities", 48th Congress of Nationalities, Federal Union of European Nationalities, Bozen/Bolzano (Trier).
- 20 June Opening Presentation, ECMI Expert Meeting on European Ombudspople for National Minorities, Flensburg (Weller).

- 14-15 July Co-chair, Meeting of Experts on the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Flensburg (Weller).
- 8-9 August Carnegie Expert Meeting on the Settlement of Ethnopolitical Conflict in Europe, Flensburg, Chair (Weller).
- 16-17 October Conference Chair, and keynote speech: The Role of Ombudspersons Institutions in the Protection of National Minorities in Europe, Interior Ministry, Germany, Conference of Specialist Ombudspersons on National Minorities, Berlin (Weller).
- 30-31 October Council of Europe, Strasbourg, Filling the Frame: 5th Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Rapporteur, Enhancing Effective Participation of Minorities in Economic, Social and Cultural Life and in Public Affairs (Weller).
- 3 November Enhancing the Role of Multilateral Institutions Foreign Policy Institute, FPI/Soros Conference on European Policy Challenges, London (Weller).
- 15-16 November Department of Law, Åbo Akademi, Åbo/Turku, Finland, Research Group on "Forms of Autonomy" (Daftary).
- 12-13 December Chair, Panel on "Minorities in Post-Socialism", KAS/ECMI Conference Minorities in Democracy, SEE University, Tetovo, Macedonia (Friedman).
- 12-13 December Chair, Panel on "Migration and Minorities", KAS/ECMI Conference Minorities in Democracy, SEE University, Tetovo, Macedonia (Trier).
- 12-13 December Opening Remarks, KAS/ECMI Conference Minorities in Democracy, SEE University, Tetovo, Macedonia (Weller).

12-13 December Chair, Roundtable on “Macedonian-Albanian Relations after Ohrid”, KAS/ECMI Conference Minorities in Democracy, SEE University, Tetovo, Macedonia (Weller).

E. Teaching and Training

13 - 14 May Training " Basics of Project Proposal Development I & II", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Skopje.

15 - 16 May Training "Networking and Fundraising for NGOs", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Skopje.

17 - 18 May Training " Basics of Project Proposal Development I & II", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar.

24 - 25 May Training " Basics of Project Proposal Development I & II", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo.

26 - 27 May Training "Basics of Project Proposal Development I & II", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola.

28 - 29 May Training "Networking and Fundraising for NGOs", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola.

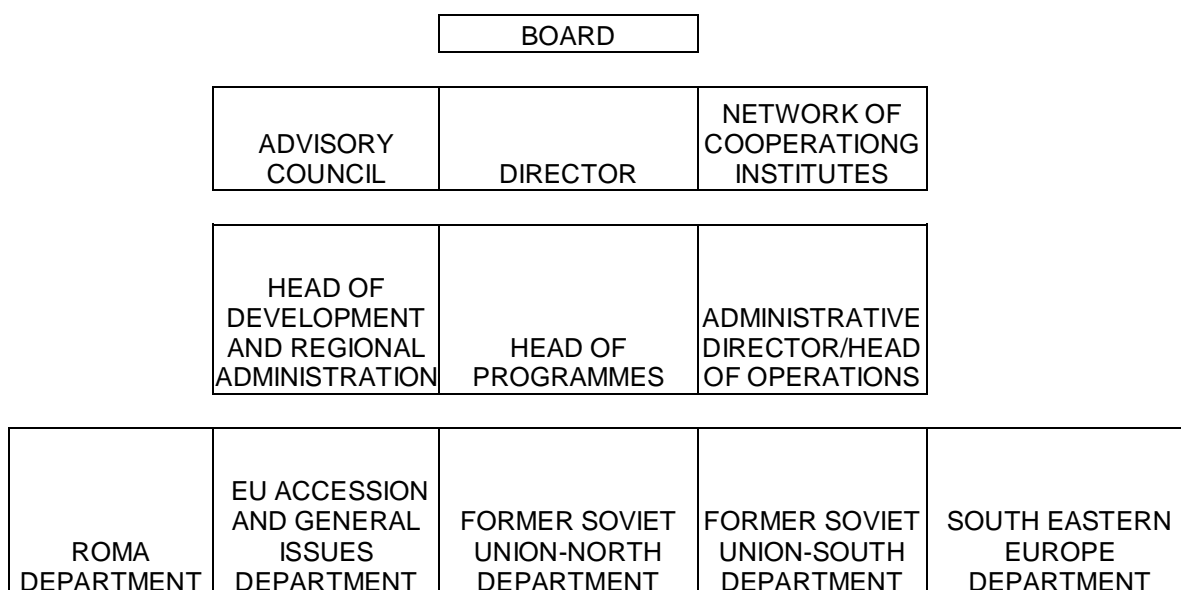
8 - 9 July Training "Networking and Fundraising for NGOs", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo.

12 - 13 July Training "Networking and Fundraising for NGOs", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo.

19 - 20 July Training "Networking and Fundraising for NGOs", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar.

VI. Staff and Board

In 2003, ECMI decided to restructure the Centre to make sure that both substantive and organisational demands stemming from the growing project portfolio could be met. According to the regional reach of its projects, five departments were set up. In addition, a Management Team consisting of senior staff members was built to cover general coordination and administrative issues. This process of restructuring will be concluded in early 2004, and the staff structure will look as follows:



For the ECMI project on Ombudsperson institutions, ECMI was able to employ Ms Marnie Lloyd, a lawyer from New Zealand.

In the subsequent section, a listing of all staff members of ECMI is provided (section A), followed by a list of ECMI board members (section B) and concluded by a list of members of ECMI's advisory board (section C). All names are listed as affiliated with ECMI in 2003.

A. ECMI Staff

Flensburg staff

Marc Weller (Germany), Director
Astrid Voss (Germany), Administrative Director and Legal Counsel
Tom Trier (Denmark), Head of Programmes, Senior Research Associate and Head of Department - Former Soviet Union-South
Dr Priit Järve (Estonia), Senior Research Associate
Dr Alexander Morawa (Austria), Senior Research Associate
Dr Eben Friedman (USA), Research Associate
Graham Holliday (Great Britain), Research Associate
Dr Oleh Protsyk (Ukraine), Research Associate
Marnie Lloyd (New Zealand), Project Associate
Eva Maria Christiansen (Denmark), Project Associate
Kyriaki Topidi (Greece), Project Associate
Marita Lampe (Germany), Publications Officer
William W. McKinney (USA), Librarian
Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen (Denmark), Project Coordinator
Nicola Schaffrinski (Germany), Senior Management Assistant
Alexander Natusch (Germany), Office Manager and Web Editor
Susanne Schmarbeck (Germany), Financial Secretary

Regional Representative

Dr. Sunoor Verma (India), South Eastern Europe

Country Directors

Robert Curis (USA), Prishtina Office
Zelim Yandarov (Russia), Tbilisi Office

Political Advisors

Michael Szporluk (USA), Skopje Office

Regional Consultants

Magdalena Kouneva (Bulgaria), Sofia, Bulgaria
Valery Perry (USA), Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Non-Resident Senior Research Associates

Dr. François Grin (Switzerland), Faculté des sciences économiques et sociales, Université de Genève, Switzerland (Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow)

Dr. Kinga Gál (Hungary), Chief Advisor to the President of the Academy of Sciences,
Budapest, Hungary

Dr. Fernand de Varennes (Canada), Senior Lecturer, Murdoch University of Law, Perth,
Australia

Dr. Florian Bieber (Luxembourg)

Dr. Stefan Wolff (Germany/UK), Reader, University of Bath, United Kingdom

Dr. K. Henrard (Belgium), Senior Lecturer, Department of International and
Constitutional Law, University of Groningen

Farimah Daftary (France/USA)

Robert Dunbar (Canada/UK), Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Glasgow,
United Kingdom

Visiting Researchers and Interns

NAME	SEX	COUNTRY	TITLE	DURATION OF STAY	PROJECT
Kadri Soon	F	Estonia	Intern	09.01.2003 – 09.04.2003	Baltic Sea E-Map
Oksana Maljuta	F	Estonia	Intern	09.01.2003 – 09.04.2003	Baltic Sea E-Map
Marnie Lloyd	F	New Zealand	Visiting Researcher	01.02.2003 – 01.04.2003	Minority Ombudspersons Yearbook
Elisabeth Alber	F	Germany	Intern	25.03.2003 – 30.06.2003	Yearbook Minority Ombudspersons
Christine Lucha	F	Germany	Visiting Researcher	06.05.2003 – 30.08.2003	Minority Ombudspersons Framework Convention
Ann Strimov	F	USA	Intern	23.06.2003 – 29.08.2003	South- Eastern Europe

NAME	SEX	COUNTRY	TITLE	DURATION OF STAY	PROJECT
Tobias Etzold	M	Germany	Intern	01.07.2003 – 30.09.2003	Ethnic self- determination Ethnopolitical database on Moldova & South Ossetia
Oskari Pentikäinen	M	Finland	Visiting Researcher	01.07.2003 – 31.12.2003	Developing research Project on Meskhetian Turks
Simone Giger	F	Switzerland	Intern	14.07.2003 – 15.10.2003	South- Eastern Europe Russia E-Map
Kelly Burke	F	USA	Intern	18.08.2003 – 18.11.2003	Publications
Rebecca Dibb	F	Norway/UK	Visiting Researcher	01.09.2003 – 05.12.2003	South- Eastern Europe E-Map
Gayle Munro	F	United Kingdom	Intern	22.09.2003 – 19.12.2003	South- Eastern Europe E-Map
Alcidia Moucheboeuf	F	France/ Canada	Visiting Researcher	29.09.2003 – 19.12.2003	Framework Convention Croatia
Tankut Soykan	M	Turkey	Visiting Researcher	01.10.2003 – 15.04.2004	Minority Ombudspersons FCNM Cyprus Reflection Group

B. ECMI Board

Ambassador Peter Dyvig, Chairman, Denmark

Gyde Köster, Vice-Chairman, Germany

Ambassador Tore Bøgh, Former Ambassador of Norway and former Head of the OSCE Missions in Serbia and Macedonia, Norway

Gunilla Carlsson, Member of the the Swedish Parliament, Sweden

Eva Kjer Hansen, Member of the Danish Parliament, Denmark

Professor Bertel Heurlin, Jean Monnet Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Professor Rainer Hofmann, Former President of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Director of the Walther-Schücking-Institute for International Law, Kiel, Germany

Marc Scheuer, Director of Political Advice and Co-operation, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

Dr. Wolfgang Wodarg, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany

Dr. Detlev Rein, Head of Section, Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany, Substitute for Mr Wodarg, Germany

Renate Schnack, Schleswig-Holstein Commissioner of the Minister-President for Minority Affairs, Substitute for Ms Köster, Germany

C. ECMI Advisory Council

Professor Gudmundur Alfredsson, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, University of Lund, Sweden

Ayson J. K. Bailes, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Sweden

Tarja Cronberg, Copenhagen Peace Research Institute (COPRI), Denmark

Dr. Asbjørn Eide, Norwegian Institute of Human Rights, Oslo, Norway

Professor Hurst Hannum, Department of International Law, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA

Professor Will Kymlicka, Department of Philosophy, Queen's University, Canada

Professor André Liebich, Institut Universitaire des Hautes, Études Internationales (IUHEI), Geneva, Switzerland

Professor Brendan O'Leary, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Alan Phillips, UK Independent Expert on Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Professor Allan Rosas, Court of Justice of the European Communities, Brussels, Belgium

**Professor Patrick Thornberry, School and Department of Law, International Relations,
Keele University, UK**

**Professor Stefan Troebst, East European Cultural Studies, University of Leipzig,
Germany**

VII. Financial Development

ECMI received, on the basis of its founding documents, the following core funding in 2003 from its institutional donors:

Table 1: ECMI Core Funding 2003

Core funding 2003

Founders	
Denmark*	336.000,00 €
Germany	186.000,00 €
Schleswig-Holstein**	141.000,00 €
	663.000,00 €

*reduced to match German reduction of € 5,000 previous year due to German Flood disaster

**an additional €17,500 were paid through project grants

The core funding is used to cover the cost for the ECMI core staff and its headquarter office in Flensburg.

In addition to the core funding, ECMI raised a considerable amount of external money to sustain its projects. The table below illustrates the main funding organizations and the amount of their contribution:

Table 2: ECMI External Funding 2003

External funding 2003			
Project	Donor	Amount	Funding Period

<i>Macedonia</i>			
Macedonia NGO Network	Sida	240.000,00 €	2003
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Denmark	205.000,00 €	2003
	FCO GB	108.000,00 €	2003/2004
Macedonia Roma	Sida	45.000,00 €	2003
Macedonia Political Project	MFA Ireland	48.000,00 €	2003/2004
Total Macedonia		646.000,00 €	
<i>Kosovo/a</i>			
STWG	MFA Denmark	103.000,00 €	2003
	MFA Switzerland	71.000,00 €	2003
	SH MinPresident/Training	13.000,00 €	
High Level Initiative	MFA Norway	100.000,00 €	2003/2004
Total Kosovo/a		287.000,00 €	
Baltic Languages	Lannungs Foundation	20.000,00 €	2003
Framework Convention	Volkswagen Foundation	181.000,00 €	2003/2004
<i>Ombudspersons</i>			
	MFA Denmark	40.000,00 €	2003
	Schleswig-Holstein	5.000,00 €	2003
	MFA Germany	30.000,00 €	2003
Total Ombudspersons		75.000,00 €	
<i>Georgia</i>			
	MFA Denmark	€ 35.000,00	2003/2004
	MFA Norway	€ 35.000,00	2003/2004
Total Georgia		€ 70.000,00	
Power-Sharing	Carnegie Foundation	100.000,00 €	2003/2004
Kaliningrad	MFA Germany	51.000,00 €	2003
Total external funding 2003		1.430.000,00 €	

As some of the grants run into to 2004, the total amount is approximately as high as is the year before. This confirms ECMI's commitment to securing external grants:

Table 3: ECMI External project funding 2002

External funding 2002			
Project	Donor	Amount	Funding Period
Macedonia	MFA Denmark	375.154,64 €	2002/2003
	MFA Norway	49.950,00 €	2002
	FCO Great Britain	117.924,29 €	2002
Subtotal Macedonia		543.028,93 €	
Kosovo/a	MFA Germany	135.000,00 €	2002
	MFA Denmark	150.000,00 €	2002
Kosovo/a training	WFD	25.000,00 €	2002
Subtotal Kosovo/a		310.000,00 €	
Montenegro	USIP	22.500,00 €	2002
Montenegro Training	WFD	31.000,00 €	2002
Subtotal Montenegro		53.500,00 €	
Kaliningrad	CoE	10.000,00	2002
	SCHIFF	8.000,00	2002
Subtotal Kaliningrad		18.000,00	
Baltic Sea III	MFA Germany	50.960,00 €	
Ombudsman Meeting	MFA Denmark	15.000,00 €	2002
Self-Determination	Carnegie	120.000,00 €	2002
Total external funding 2002		1.110.488,93 €	

In comparison to 2001, the amount of funding has quadrupled:

Table 4: External project funding 2001

External funding 2001			
Project	Donor	Amount in €	Period
Kosovo/a			
	MFA Germany	56.959,61 €	2001
	MFA Sweden	58.416,56 €	2001
Kosovo/a Training	WFD	48.044,27 €	2001
Subtotal Kosovo/a		163.420,44 €	2001
Macedonia	MFA Norway	61.516,38 €	2001
Montenegro	USIP	25.252,27 €	2001
Baltic Sea II	MFA Germany	46.137,28 €	2001
Self-Determination	Carnegie	92.993,79 €	2001
SmiLE	EU	9.419,15 €	2001
Total 2001		398.739,31 €	

List of Acronyms

COMIR	Consortium of Minority Resources
ECMI	European Centre for Minority Issues
EU	European Union
EURAC	European Academy in Bozen/Bolzano
JEMIE	Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe
KAF	Konrad Adenauer Foundation
LGI	Local Government and Public Reform Initiative
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OMIK	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission in Kosovo
OSCE:	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSI	Open Society Institute
PISG	Provisional Institutions of Self-Governance
SEE	South East European
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
STWG	Standing Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNMIK	United National Interim Administration in Kosovo