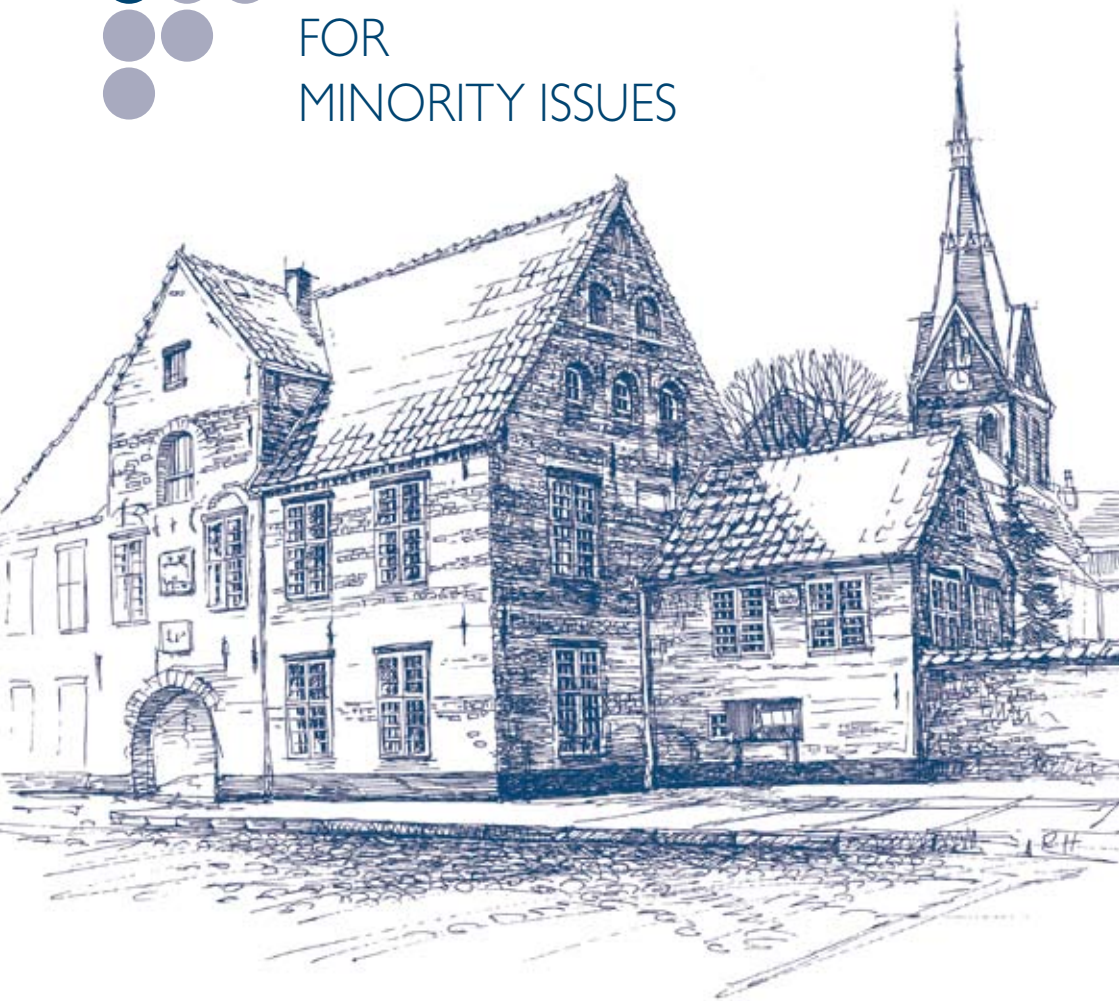




EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR
MINORITY ISSUES



2007
Annual Report

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PREFACE

DR KNUD LARSEN
CHAIRMAN OF ECMI BOARD



While consolidating its activities in the four strategic programmes established in 2006 — conflict transformation, political participation, equal economic opportunities and language and cultural diversity, ECMI underwent the second round of evaluation by an external panel of independent experts. The appraisal focused on the substantive work of the Centre — its research, documentation, synergies between research and action-oriented work and respective organisational support.

It is not an easy task for an institution and its staff to be involved at the same time in programmatic development on the one hand and in the evaluation process on the other, in particular as many staff members have arrived at ECMI rather recently.

This challenge was enhanced by a positive approach of demonstrating the achievements of the past five years in an extensive self-evaluation document which assessed progress made in relation to recommendations of the previous evaluation of 2001.

It was also a challenge for the ECMI Board to discuss the results with the Founders, and to design the future frame for the further development of the Centre. Since the results of the evaluation were published in late autumn of 2007, it was agreed to hold a review seminar in early 2008 in order to consult with all relevant stakeholders how to make this unique institution to fulfill its mandate in relation to the changing political situations in Europe and in the European neighbourhood.

There is no doubt that the quality of ECMI products relating to majority-minority relations can easily be applied to other circumstances in other European regions or for that matter regions of the world, operating as ECMI does from a base of solid knowledge and capacity in practice-oriented research, advisory and training competencies as well as action-oriented activities.

Taken together, these elements will be an integral component of the discussion on ECMI's future engagements.

INTRODUCTION

DR MARC WELLER
ECMI DIRECTOR



The year 2006 ended with the celebrations of ECMI's tenth anniversary. On that occasion, the work of the Centre was acknowledged by the ECMI Founders, the ECMI Board and Advisory Council and its cooperation partners in the region and internationally. Whether such praise was in fact justified was to be established soon afterwards. Thus, throughout 2007 an international team of experts set about evaluating ECMI's achievements.

The team, led by Professor Josef Marko of the University of Graz and the European Academy, Bolzano, conducted a thorough review of ECMI's scholarly output and of its action-oriented activities. Its report was published in October 2007. The team of experts found that ECMI has been performing entirely according to its mandate, at a very high level of productivity and quality of output. The evaluation recommended that the Founding governments should increase the financial support for the Centre in order to enable it to continue its work at this standard.

In addition to the evaluation, ECMI continued its academic and action-oriented work over the year. The year 2007 was highlighted by the publication of a further substantial legal commentary with Oxford University Press, along with the publication of a major study on the issue of Meshketian Turks in several languages. At the same time, preparations for the press of a further four volumes, to appear in 2008, were completed.

The scholarly direction of the Centre was marked by a continued emphasis on the issue of political participation. Innovative research in this area was led by Dr Oleh Protsyk and Ms Valentina Rigamonti. While the Centre sadly lost Dr Jonathan Wheatley, it was lucky to be able to engage Mr Tim Dertwinkel, who will continue to develop ECMI's competence in the area of economic inclusion of minorities. Ms Ulrike Schmidt has started to enhance the profile of ECMI in the area of culture and language issues under the guidance of Deputy Director Ewa Chylinski. The legal work of the Centre was strengthened through

Ms Katherine Nobbs, who also took on a key role in coordinating ECMI's publication output.

The main focus in ECMI's action-oriented work remains on Georgia and Kosovo. In both regions, the Centre has established itself as the key player in the area of majority-minority relations, working both with civil society actors and the government. In Georgia, the Centre's office, led by Mr Tom Trier, has continued its work in Samtskhe Javakheti and in the Tsalka region. At the same time, the Centre has continued to offer legal and institutional support to the central government and parliament, acting in coordination with the Council of Europe.

The ECMI office in Kosovo, led by Mr Adrian Zeqiri, performed a key role in the difficult process of transition that the territory is undergoing at present. It supported the mobilization of minority communities, the development of the legal environment for minority policy in Kosovo and the establishment of a coordination mechanism on minority issues within the Office of the Prime Minister.

ECMI remains grateful to its founding governments and project sponsors for the support that has made this work possible. It is looking forward to meeting the many challenges that will arise in the field of majority-minority relations over the upcoming year, in particular in Kosovo, and in other regions.

ECMI substantive evaluation – results of the second external appraisal

The years 2006-2007 marked two key cycles in the activities of the ECMI: the 10th anniversary of its establishment and the second evaluation round.

The statutes of ECMI foresee periodic reviews of the Centre's performance. The first review was conducted in 2001 examining the research, action-oriented activities and first and foremost the administrative consolidation of the institute.

As the second administrative-financial assessment was conducted separately in early 2006, this evaluation focused entirely on the substantive aspect of ECMI's activities and relevant organizational and staffing arrangements.

The external evaluation was conducted between March and September 2007 by an international panel of experts and the Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA) responsible for the organisation of the evaluation on request of the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The assessment was undertaken by an international panel of distinguished experts from the academic and practical field of minority-majority issues headed by Prof. Dr Joseph Marko, Director of European Academy in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy and International Law Professor, University of Graz, Austria; Prof. Dr Stefan Oeter, International Law Professor, Hamburg University and Member of the Independent Expert Committee of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages of the Council of Europe; and Ms Birgit Lindsnaes, Deputy Director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Director of the DIHR International Department.

During the on-site evaluation session that took place at the ECMI Headquarters in Flensburg in May, a number of interviews were conducted with ECMI Board members, Advisory Council members, cooperation partners and ECMI staff.

The substantive evaluation examined three defined main tasks of ECMI: research, constructive conflict management, and advisory services and documentation. Furthermore

the evaluation addressed ECMI's networking and co-operation activities; analysed the content and the structure of ECMI's strategy work, staffing and organisation.

Finally, the evaluation provided an account of the Centre's follow-up activities to the recommendations presented in the external evaluation of 2001. The full evaluation report is available at the www.eva.dk/Rapporter_og_notater.aspx?2M=Skop&PID=35&ProductID=282

SELF-EVALUATION AS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF EXTERNAL EVALUATION

In preparation of the evaluation, ECMI and EVA agreed on a structured self-evaluation core document and five annexes (in total 495 pages), highlighting the key areas of ECMI competence and tasks starting from ECMI's own perception of strengths and weaknesses, including strategic planning and development, research methods, action-oriented activities and synergies between research and action; information, documentation and publication of the results; ECMI networks and involvement in international, regional and local co-operation; donor co-operation and external project funding. Issues of management, staffing and internal organization were also the subject of a separate chapter, to demonstrate how ECMI structures were adapted to the respective strategies. The self-evaluation indicated difficulties and challenges throughout the years in terms of funding, staff recruitment and retention, as well as adjustments to the changing political contexts of minority-majority relations in Europe. All members of ECMI staff participated in the preparation of the self-evaluation document.

THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The self-evaluation process was designed to provide documentation to the expert panel in connection with the site visit conducted on 10-11 May 2007.

The expert panel and EVA received all documentation more than one month before the site visit in order to acquaint themselves with issues raised and to prepare for the interviews during the site visit. The site visit had mainly 2 purposes: 1) to allow ECMI to elaborate on potentially unclear sections of the self-evaluation report and 2) to validate the information through interviews with the stakeholders of ECMI, management and staff. Moreover, the site visit had the purpose to motivate discussions on strengths and weaknesses related to the issue of evaluation and to encourage the process of continuous improvement of the quality of ECMI's activities.

After the site visit, further clarifications were delivered to the expert panel and EVA. The draft evaluation report was compiled and forwarded to ECMI for comments in mid-August, in order to provide the final report to the founders in early autumn when the state budgetary decisions are made. The final evaluation report was made public in October 2007.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The overall conclusion was that ECMI operates according to its mandate as defined by the founding governments; that ECMI produces research of very good quality, carries out relevant advisory activities and publishes documentation of its activities. In particular ECMI research results and research output were assessed as follows: “at its best, ECMI research is impressive, excellent and groundbreaking”. Even though the evaluation was conducted without field visits, “the advisory services (..) in Kosovo/a and in the Caucasus region appear relevant, adequate, research driven and to have had an impact in the field”.

The panel of experts indicated that they experienced the evaluation process as an open and professional approach and a source of mutual inspiration. The expert panel and EVA expect the report to encourage the process of further developing ECMI's organisation and strategy, as well as its research, action-oriented projects and publications.

Of the key recommendations, the evaluation indicated:

- Ensure coverage of strategic priorities and ensure sufficient research activity
- Strengthen balance between applied research and action-oriented projects
- Enhance quality control in publication activities and strengthen accountability
- Strengthen documentation of synergy between research and action-oriented activities with regard to the methodology applied
- Give more attention to research interaction with the local environment
- Ensure broader networking for the external promotion of ECMI, knowledge exchange and cross-institutional ventures
- Consult the Advisory Council more frequently and strengthen the Council's function as Ambassador
- The need to increase ECMI core funding and draw better on external funding
- To enhance internal management and governance in terms of leadership and staff development

Based on those recommendations, a seminar is planned in spring 2008 to discuss ECMI strategy and related issues. A great deal of the recommendations' relevance is related to the increase of the ECMI core budget, which has not been amended since the establishment of the institution in 1996. Once the Founders and the ECMI Board have completed their considerations of ECMI's future strategy, these recommendations will be subsequently operationalised.



ECMI Strategic Programmes & Activities

Continuation of action-oriented projects and practice-oriented research was put into more comprehensive frame of the strategic areas of conflict transformation, political participation, social and economic inclusion and language and culture diversity. The advantage of programmatic approach lies in the synergy that can be created between activities but also in the multi- and interdisciplinary strengths that various angles bring together. The consolidated outline of ECMI programming makes these elements visible and more viable in their practical aspects, so that day-to-day practitioners, governments and civil society groups can make the findings relevant for their work.

1. CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (www.ecmi.de/rubrik/79/conflict+transformation/)

The Programme addressed conflict transformation out of two main perspectives — conflict prevention in Georgia; constructive conflict transformation in Kosovo and conflict transformation through delineation of power-sharing in Moldova.

Georgia in 2007 - two steps forward, one step back (www.ecmigeorgia.org)

In 2007, ECMI continued the implementation of the Centre's complex programme in Georgia begun in 2003, partly within the framework of the interventions of a larger programme implemented by the Danish Foreign Ministry — Denmark's Caucasus Programme 2005-2007 — and partly based on funding provided by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. By the end of the year, Denmark's Caucasus Programme came to an

end. However, the ECMI interventions in Georgia so far will be continued in 2008. The regional activities, focused mostly on the two southern regions of Georgia with large concentrations of persons belonging to national minorities — the predominantly Armenian region of Javakheti and the multi-ethnic region and Kvemo Kartli (Azeris, Armenians, Greeks and Georgian) – will be extended based on Norwegian support, while the interventions aimed at developing government capacities and advance Georgia's accession to international treaties on minority issues will continue under a new Danish funded partnership with the Council of Europe in the period of 2008-2009, in which ECMI will act as an implementing partner to the Council of Europe.

Engaging Local Communities in minority regions

ECMI has continued support to the development of inter-ethnic civil society networks, the Javakheti Citizens' Forum (JCF, established in 2004) and the Tsalka Citizens Forum (TCF, established in 2005). Both fora are associations of NGOs and individuals in Georgian minority regions which aim at working towards regional integration and function as platforms for dialogue with the central government on issues of regional concern. Through working group meetings, roundtables and conferences the stakeholder networks engage in consultation with the government, and simultaneously assistance is provided through resource centres in Javakheti and Tsalka to build the capacity of regional NGOs to perform as regional civil society partners for the government and international organizations which support development and other activities in the region.

In 2007, significant progress has been made in enhancing the political dialogue between central government actors and regional stakeholders through JCF and TCF. Activities have been carried out to foster new links between regional stakeholders and governmental bodies. As Georgia's regions are approaching a new stage of land-privatization, intense consultations have taken place between regional civil society representatives and officials from local authorities and central government institutions, and information campaigns on privatization rights have been carried out in local minority communities. The Georgian Ministry of Education and Science has been responsive to the recommendations of the civil society structures, and close liaison has taken place between the parties throughout the year.

Currently, a series of reforms is being implemented in the educational sphere to enhance knowledge of the state language in regions predominantly inhabited by minorities, where only small proportions of the population master the Georgian language. Here, one issue of particular concern to minorities is that a new law on elementary education passed in 2005 provides for a transition over five years to replacing minority language with Georgian in subjects such as literature, history and geography. While regional minority representatives agree to the need for increased measures to teach Georgian, this has also caused legitimate concerns that teaching of Georgian will be strengthened at the expense of minority languages. Through regional recommendations and numerous consultative

meetings between the Javakheti and Tsalka Citizens' Fora and the ministry, the issue has been raised and discussed in several rounds over the past years. The ministry until recently took a rather uncompromising position on the issue, but in October it announced that a committee now is considering the recommendations of the regional stakeholders, and an amendment to the law is currently underway to soften the legal provisions for language teaching in minority regions. It seems that a breakthrough finally is on its way on this issue after three years of dialogue and lobbying, as the ministry shows increasing willingness to compromise.

As new language requirements for public school directors were introduced at the national level, school directors throughout Georgia were required to pass a general qualification test in January 2007. Ethnic non-Georgian candidates largely failed to pass the exams, especially due to a component of the exam which requires knowledge of Georgian language. Hence, only 11 school directors and other candidates out of a total of 175 candidates in Javakheti managed to pass the test, while 8 of them being ethnic Georgians. In Kvemo Kartli, out of 659 candidates, 273 persons managed to pass the exam, but only 8 of them were ethnic Azeris. In spring 2007, a second round of exams was conducted for schools, where no candidates managed to pass the exams. However, if the language requirements are upheld, it is expected that very few of the candidates in Javakheti, where 95% of the population is Armenian, will be able to qualify. Through JCF and TCF efforts have been made to consult the government about the problematic aspects of this policy, which may lead to the ousting of the vast majority of the ethnic non-Georgian school directors, and to provide constructive suggestions to avoid ethnic exclusion. At the same time, ECMI has supported activities to conduct Georgian language training for 90 Armenian school directors in Javakheti.

2007 was also the year in which the Russian army finally withdrew from Georgia after years of delay. In June, the last military column departed from the closing 62nd Russian base in the town of Akhalkalaki in the overwhelmingly Armenian populated region of Javakheti, and in November the last contingent of Russian soldiers left the closed military base in Batumi on the Black Sea coast. The closure of the Akhalkalaki base expectedly did have a strong negative effect on the economy of the local population, as many local Armenians were employed at the base and in other ways benefited economically from the Russian presence. Indeed, there is an urgent need to develop alternative means of employment in the region. However, the closure of the base did not lead to political tension in the region, and in this context it can be assumed that the functioning of mechanisms for political dialogue between the region and the centre has helped to further political integration and defuse regional tension.

Meskhethian Repatriation

One of the major events on minority related issues this year was the passing by the Parliament of Georgia of a law on repatriation. The law, officially titled the "Law of Georgia on

Repatriation of Persons Forcefully Sent into Exile from the Georgian SSR by the Former USSR in the 40's of the 20th Century", was passed on 11 July with 117 votes in favour and 19 against within a month after being first presented for hearing in Parliament. The passing of the law was seen by many as a breakthrough both in bringing historical justice to a people — the Meskhetian Turks — who were collectively deported by the Stalin regime during World War II, and in fulfilling one of Georgia's remaining commitments to the Council of Europe.

However, the initial euphoria among Meskhetian Turks was overshadowed by darker perspectives after a closer examination of the law revealed several deficiencies in the adopted version of the law, causing concern among Meskhetian Turks and international organizations alike that the law in reality does not provide guarantees for the right to return, and fear that the law may have been passed with a view solely to satisfy demands of the international community without being followed by real intentions by the Georgian Government of undertaking a serious process of repatriation.

A main problem is that the provisions of the law are very vague, leaving a very large margin of discretion to government officials in processing applications for repatriation and in interpreting the principles for the return process. While according to the law, applications for repatriation are to be submitted throughout 2008, the actual processing of application will begin only in 2009. This implies that potential repatriates are entitled to submit their applications only during a one year period, and some observers have voiced concern that this period will be insufficient to ensure that all eligible applicants can be properly informed about their entitlements. Another issue of apprehension is that applicants will have to provide documentation that they or their descendants were forcefully exiled. This requirement may create a major obstacle for many deportees and their descendants. The law does not specify which types of documentation are necessary to satisfy this demand, and it is expected that many Meskhetian Turks will face severe difficulties in providing such documentation. No specific documents were issued upon deportation, although old identity documents in some cases may help to establish that relatives were subjected to the deportation. However, as many Meskhetian Turks originally were deported to the Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union, and later, in 1989, again were displaced due to ethnic unrest in Uzbekistan, dozens of thousands among the potential repatriates may have lost documentation of this kind. Moreover, the law does not define when and under which circumstances repatriates will be entitled to obtain Georgian citizenship, while they are to renounce their current citizenship upon repatriation. The Parliament of Georgia has postponed the decision on the conditions and timelines for issuance of citizenship for repatriates to 2010.

ECMI has been among the very few international organizations that has taken an interest in the Meskhetian Turk issue from early on. As early as in 2003, ECMI embarked on a large scale research project aimed at studying integration and migration patterns among Meskhetians in the nine countries where they are currently settled in larger numbers:

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and the USA (ECMI Working Paper #21). The research, which was generously funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, was conducted by 37 ethnographers and other social scientists based on field work in Meskhetian settlements and resulted in the past year in the publication of an authoritative 663 page volume on the subject: Tom Trier & Andrei Khanzhin: *The Meskhetian Turks at a Crossroads, Integration, Repatriation or Re-settlement?* LIT Verlag, Berlin, 2007. A Russian edition of the volume was simultaneously published by Aleteiya Publishing House in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The preliminary results of the research project has in the past few years helped to inform international and Georgian stakeholders in preparation of the repatriation and ECMI has organized numerous conferences, seminars and consultations on the subject. With the publishing of the book volume in the second half of 2007, relevant stakeholders in Georgia and abroad have acquired an instrument of knowledge on the contemporary situation of the Meskhetian Turks, which hopefully can help to prepare policy-makers and planners in the implementation of the law on repatriation.

Upon adoption of the law on repatriation, the Council of Europe and ECMI in October held a working meeting for Georgian government officials, members of parliament and civil society representatives with the participation also of the OSCE, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR. The aim of the meeting was to review the legal provisions of the law and to discuss how the law can translate into implementation practice. During the working meeting, a number of critical issues were raised and discussed. The establishment of an inter-agency working group was among the recommendations of international organizations to elaborate a 'Manual of Application Procedures' and also in the longer term to develop and implement a strategy for repatriation and integration of returnees. An *ad hoc* working group consisting of representatives of the participating international organizations was established at the October meeting, which subsequently elaborated a suggestion for a government working plan as well as a list of problem issues related to the legal provisions of the law vis-à-vis the implementation practice. Unfortunately, the political turmoil that broke out in Georgia in November, in which demonstrations organized by the opposition resulted in a confrontation with the government, and an ensuing government crack-down on the demonstrators on 7 November followed by the introduction of a state of emergency and a closure of opposition radio and TV stations, brought the consultation process on repatriation to a temporary standstill. It is expected, however, that the consultative process can be resumed early in 2008, subsequent to the presidential election on 5 January. It is an objective in ECMI's interventions in 2008 to assist in the advancement of implementation principles for the law on repatriation as part of the ECMI-component of the Council of Europe successor programme 2008-2009.

International Treaties

It is an integrated part of ECMI's interventions in Georgia to provide support to the government in fulfilling its obligations to the Council of Europe on areas related to national minorities. Apart from the issue of Meskhetian repatriation, ECMI also work towards the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), which was ratified in December 2005. While Georgia's first State report to the Advisory Council on the FCNM was submitted in July 2007, Georgia now awaits a mission of experts from the Advisory Committee envisaged to take place in the first part of 2008. Hence, activities in the area of supporting the creation of a monitoring body are planned subsequent to the visit of the Council of Europe delegation.

Efforts were made in the past year by the Council of Europe to advance the signing and ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) and ECMI supported this work by assessing the specific conditions in Georgia for accession to this treaty; however the political turmoil in November and the announcement of the snap presidential election and the possibility of early parliamentary elections in spring 2008 had a postponing effect on the furthering of this commitment, given the controversial character of the ECRML as understood in Georgia. Georgian decision-makers are wary of the provisions of the charter, partly out of concerns that the application of the ECRML in Georgia may imply a special status to regional languages such as Mingrelian and Svan, where many fear that the extension of enhanced language rights may be seen as an encouragement to the development of particularistic ethnic identities among the speakers of these languages. There are also concerns that Armenians and Azeris may be given wider linguistic rights under the charter, and many lawmakers feel that this may be detrimental to government efforts to current processes of Georgian language learning in minority regions. However, it is expected that Georgia eventually will enter into serious considerations of the Language Charter as well as a Law on National Minorities – the two commitments being the final before the country has completed the fulfilment of her obligations to the Council of Europe, and ECMI's assessments and documentation in this area seek to allay some of the concerns and provide a knowledge base that can inform decision-makers on the implications of the ECRML and a law on minorities. The fact that fulfilment of Council of Europe obligations are closely linked to the process of accession to NATO, to which Georgia is a keen candidate, provides a strong motivation to complete the obligations.

Council of National Minorities

In the past year, ECMI continued its close collaboration with the Public Defender of Georgia to facilitate and support the work of the Council of National Minorities, instituted with ECMI support in December 2005. The Council of National Minorities (CNM) is rapidly solidifying its place as a major actor in the debate on integration and education reform affecting national minorities. With each month, CNM has become increasingly

institutionalized, garnering the participation of more and more regional representatives and following the work plan designed to expedite and magnify the Council's presence and effect on government policies. Accordingly, its activities have been extremely well-received by relevant government officials, who have regularly commented on the usefulness of such a forum. Much emphasis has been put on enhancing the links with the government structures in the past year and this has only served to increase the popularity of the CNM as a viable mechanism to actually influence policy-making processes. In the first part of the year, CNM spent significant efforts through the proceedings of four thematic working groups (language and education, legal issues, media and regional issues) to draft a comprehensive set of recommendations based on the provisions of the recently ratified Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The set of recommendations were presented at a large event in May, gathering almost 300 representatives of government, parliament, civil society and the mass media. The government's reception of the recommendations was generally positive, and government representatives and parliament members committed to strengthen the process of consultation with CNM. In the second part of the year, the CNM continued to refine selected recommendations and consult with the government on their implementation. Over the final months of the year, working groups expanded upon recommendations in the thematic spheres, to establish a comprehensive set of policy priorities for further discussions with state officials in the coming year. Targeted work in these areas has enabled the CNM to begin taking more concrete and detailed policy stances on important issues.

Research and Documentation

In the academic field, ECMI has continued efforts to conduct research and provide documentation on issues relevant for policy makers related to national minorities in Georgia. As follow-on to research on the obstacles for regional integration of the isolated Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia with its large Armenian population conducted in 2004, ECMI published a working paper on the past two years' developments in the region, documenting the progress made in enhancing dialogue between the regional constituency and the Government. The findings of this study are published in English and Russian as ECMI Working Paper no. 28: Hedvig Lohm: Javakheti After the 'Rose revolution. Progress and regress in pursuit of National Unity in Georgia, April 2007.

A paper on eco-migration: Tom Trier & Medea Turashvili: "Resettlement of Ecologically Displaced Persons Solution of a Problem or Creation of a New?", (ECMI Monograph no. 6, August 2007), was published in English and Georgian and has been widely disseminated among relevant stakeholders within government and civil society. The monograph addresses for the first time in a systematic and comprehensive way the problem of ecological displacement in Georgia's mountain regions, and how unplanned migration causes tension, as migrants move into minority inhabited regions. Together with the Public De-

fender's office, ECMI plans to organize a roundtable on this issue in the first part of 2008 with the aim to generate policy action in this field.

Research on another working paper on the Romani minority in Georgia, responding to encouragement to address the plight of this particularly vulnerable and marginalised minority by the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) was completed in December, and is now to be translated, published, and followed up upon through a series of awareness raising initiatives in 2008. In addition, research on the state policies in the educational sphere with regard to national minorities was completed in December, and a report is to be translated, edited and published in the beginning of 2008.

In continuation of research begun in 2006, ECMI — in partnership with researchers from the Georgian Centre for International Policy Studies (IPS) — carried out research on the historical and current situation of all the main ethnic groups in Georgia, including those living in the break-away territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The study covers 23 encyclopaedic entries on the individual groups as well as a comprehensive historical introduction to ethno-politics, minority relations and governance on minorities in Georgia. This research will be published in 2008 in the volume: Tom Trier & Gia Tarkhan-Mouravi: Georgia – an Ethno-Political Handbook, which will appear in an English and a Georgian version. Upon completion, ECMI believes that this handbook will be an invaluable resource for actors dealing with minorities in Georgia and a very useful source of information on minority and ethno-political issues.

Georgia continued to move forward in 2007 with regard to the fulfilment of international obligations on national minorities and related issues. However, it is a matter of concern that the adopted Law on Repatriation does not contain concise provisions for the return of deported persons, and only the ensuing implementation practice will show to what extent government planners have real intentions with regard to repatriation of deported Meskhetian Turks.

However, the fact that Georgia remains committed to enhance her integration into Euro-Atlantic structures gives course for optimism. The obligations with regards to repatriation of Meskhetian Turks are only partially fulfilled with the passing of the law, and in the coming years the Council of Europe and NATO will closely monitor the process of implementation. It is also the prospects of NATO accession that will be the determining factor for the signing and ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the adoption of the Law on Minorities. At the same time, however, there is a need to support the Georgian government with the building of effective institutions that can enhance good governance for national minorities and mechanisms for on-going consultation between the authorities and minority representatives. It is this field that will be the focus of ECMI interventions in Georgia in the coming years.

ECMI Georgia would like to thank all donors who contributed to the projects and activities and through their engagement supported improvement of minority governance in Georgia.

Kosovo – building majority-minority relations (www.ecmikosovo.org)

In the context of changing political developments, ECMI Kosovo and partners were particularly involved in assistance to Kosovo communities.

Political developments with relation to Kosovo

Ahtisaari's Comprehensive Proposal

March 2007 saw the conclusion of UN-sponsored negotiations for the definition of Kosovo's final status between Prishtina and Belgrade that were led by former Finnish President Marti Ahtisaari. President Ahtisaari presented to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) the *Comprehensive Proposal*¹. This document foresees key elements that constitute an autonomous political entity within existing Kosovo's borders such as: constitutional provisions, justice system, security sector, international presence, human and minority rights, and was followed by Ahtisaari's recommendations for a supervised independence for Kosovo as the most viable solution.

Despite strong support from the major Western countries and the majority of UNSC members for the adoption of a resolution that would endorse the Ahtisaari plan, the UNSC did not reach any agreement, since Russia opposed and strongly criticised the Ahtisaari plan.

The Kosovo Parliament adopted Ahtisaari's Comprehensive Proposal with an overwhelming majority of votes on 5 April 2007. With this, Kosovo institutions have made public that the Comprehensive Proposal would translate into the Kosovo Legislative Framework. In addition, Kosovo Institutions have started to prepare all the legislative acts as foreseen by the *Proposal Document*.

Belgrade authorities rejected the Ahtisaari plan as biased toward demands of Kosovo's Albanians and called for the continuation of the talks under a new mandate.

Members of the Contact Group, EU, NATO and its mechanisms, that had publicly supported the Ahtisaari plan, have come to view it as a blueprint for Kosovo's future internal settlement and have started preparations for its implementation alongside Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-Governance (PISG).

120 Days of Extended Talks

The UNSC had attempted several times to endorse a resolution on Kosovo's status, which would replace the existing UNSC Resolution 1244, but failed due to the Russian threat of the use of veto. Key members of the UNSC stated at the time that all means for an accepted, negotiated final solution had been exhausted while Russia stood firm on two key points: a final solution must be accepted by both Prishtina and Belgrade, and that negotiations should not be limited in time.

1 www.unosek.org/docref/Comprehensive_proposal-english.pdf

Middle ground was found in another process of talks, this time limited to 120 days, led by a Contact Group-sponsored Troika that included representatives of the US, Russia, and EU. The Troika was tasked to bring sides closer through 'shuttle-diplomacy' and face-to-face meetings, find common points in the proposals of the sides, and finally report to the UN Secretary General directly at the end of the 120-day period.

The Troika's final report² noted that in spite of the fact that both Prishtina and Belgrade had shown an increased level of compromise and had indeed been more constructive, the sides did not yield from their positions on the key issue-Kosovo's final status. At the same time, U.S. and EU intensified preparations for full deployment of ESDP and ICO missions while the Russian position remained the same. The Secretary General of the United Nations acknowledged publicly that a solution supported by all members of the UNSC was impossible and that mechanisms of the Contact Group and the EU should take the lead role concerning the future of Kosovo.

By the end of the year, Contact Group members, without Russia, had several internal meetings on issues of the future international mission to Kosovo and the process of the recognition of Kosovo as an independent country under temporary international supervision.

Elections

Elections for Kosovo's Assembly, Municipal Assemblies, and Municipal Mayors were held on 17 November. Kosovo's Central Election Committee reported an overall turnout of about 41% with a repeated low turnout of the Serbian minority mainly due to calls from Belgrade authorities for Kosovo's Serbs to boycott the elections.

Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) won the majority of the vote in general and local elections followed by Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). These two parties, joined by parties representing all of Kosovo's minorities, have formed a coalition government lead by PDK chairman Hashim Thaci at the post of Prime Minister while LDK chairman Fatmir Sejdiu remained at the post of the President of Kosovo as part of the agreement.

ECMI Kosovo Project Activities

During 2007, the ECMI Kosovo has been engaged in three principal areas:

- Support to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM),
- Legislative Support and
- Support to the Communities Consultative Council (CCC)

Within the support to the OPM, ECMI has worked closely with the Office for Good Governance and the Expert Advisor on Minority Issues.

In the field of good governance, ECMI assisted the OPM in establishing measures for increased participation of minority communities in governance, strengthening transpar-

2 <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/{65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9}/Kosovo%20S2007%20723.pdf>

ency, enhancing human and community rights, improving practices of minority policy making. The latter was based on international best practice, including European mechanisms in the field of protection of minority rights and interests. Furthermore, ECMI has been particularly committed to discovering reform paths that would make OPM better suited to protect minority rights and interests.

Three critical benchmarks were established:

1. It has supported the Community representatives in providing an input into the Status development process. The Ahtisaari Comprehensive proposal (final version of March 2007) was revised according to the recommendations of community representatives formulated at the workshop in Antalya in February 2007.
2. It has supported the entrenchment of community provisions in the emerging legal order of Kosovo, in the Constitution and legislation: in drafting the two chapters of the Constitution (“Rights of Communities and Their Members” and “Human rights and Fundamental Freedoms”) and in drafting the “Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities and their Members”. These provisions were formulated with the assistance of an expert team from ECMI and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.
3. It has successfully initiated the process of transforming political commitments and legal obligations to communities into an operational government programme for communities. ECMI has supported the drafting of the Kosovo National Human Rights Strategy, (chapter on Communities), which can be considered the first step towards a more specific National Strategy and Action Plan for Community Affairs planned for 2008.

In the field of civil society capacity building, ECMI has organized a series of workshops aiming to improve the legal framework for accountability and transparency of the non-governmental organizations vis-à-vis the general public and the government. A number of training programs in different regions of Kosovo were conducted, with the view of strengthening civil society organizations, and to focus on their institutional management and lobbying capacities. A special attention was paid to the marginalized groups. The dissemination of the monitoring results and recommendations helped build the public’s knowledge of the strategy itself, its objectives, as well as the status of its progress with regard to timelines and actions taken to improve the living conditions of the communities.

Constitutional and Legal Drafting Support

ECMI has commenced its activities in the field of constitutional and legal drafting support since the beginning of 2007. It has been invited by the Kosovo Unity Team and the Constitution Drafting Team to support and lead the process of drafting the Chapters on Special Protection on Minorities, and Human Rights and Minority Rights of the Consti-

tution of Kosovo, as well as the Special Law on Communities. This process was conducted in close cooperation with Constitutional expert working groups and the active participation of the stakeholder minority communities.

By the end of March, ECMI had presented second drafts of both chapters to respective sub-groups' Chairs. An advisory paper on the Constitution drafting process was presented by mid-April to the Head of the Constitution Drafting Team, which recommended the steps to be taken by the Pre-Constitutional Working Group in accordance with the U.S. request for a temporary hold up of activities until there was some clarity on the prospects of a Security Council Resolution. In the light of the pending completion of the Constitution Drafting Team, the heads of ECMI and the International Civilian Office (ICO) agreed at the same time, according to which the drafting process was focused only on provisions that were not politically sensitive, while the rest of the process could be postponed until the completion of the Team, which occurred in May. The preamble, the electoral system and the powers and design of the future institutions were considered sensitive.

At the beginning of May, ECMI hosted the Durrës Workshop, which was preceded by a consultation process with parliamentary political parties, in which their understanding of, and representation to, the process were established. The workshop brought together representatives of the Unity Team, CCC, the Status Delegation Expert Committee on Constitution, the Constitution Drafting Expert Team, as well as legal advisors of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Communities and Returns (MCR). It succeeded in giving legal shape to the commitments and obligations contained in the Framework Document on the Protection of the Rights of Communities in Kosovo and Ahtisaari's proposal. A consensus across minority communities on the Special Law on the Promotion and Protection of Rights of Communities and Persons Belonging to Communities in Kosovo was also achieved in Durrës. The end of May marked the end of the first period of the Constitution drafting process with the nomination of 18 members of the Constitutional Commission by the Kosovo President, Mr Sejdiu. Led by the Head of the Constitution Drafting Team, Mr Hajredin Kuçi, the Commission brought together representatives of political parties and civil society from all the communities.

In June, ECMI came up with a strategy of consultation with the community representatives on the draft of the Special Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Communities and Their Members. The strategy was aimed at creating a discussion forum involving minority leaders, municipal authorities, NGOs, and the general public, a process to be led by the CCC Head, Mr Veton Surroi, and supported by the representatives of each community to the CCC, representatives of the Office of the President (OP), OPM and MCR. This strategy is expected to be implemented once the process of adoption of the Special Law has been reactivated. In July, ECMI, in cooperation with the Unity Team, drafted a legislative strategy focusing on the legal agenda and confirming commitments to Ahtisaari's plan, as well as the incorporation of relevant provisions on decentralization and community rights. ECMI has also been coordinating with the Pre-Constitutional

Commission on mainstreaming in drafting the Law on Communities. Regardless of this, the OPM decided in August to temporarily remove this Law from the status-related legislative agenda, on the grounds that it is not part of the immediate agenda in Ahtisaari's proposal. ECMI has lobbied various actors, such as CoE, OSCE, ICO, UNMIK, the Swiss and Norwegian Governments, to influence the OPM to return the Law onto the agenda.

During the remaining period, the Constitution Drafting Sub-Group on the Rights of Communities and Their Members conducted its main drafting work with the active participation of ECMI. After six drafting meetings, this Chapter was finalised. The final version integrated the language and contents of the Ahtisaari's proposal, as well as the CCC's Antalya recommendations. ECMI has been commissioned by the Constitutional Commission to provide an expert commentary to the final draft, besides continuing its contribution to the Sub-Group on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Support to the Office of the Prime Minister and other Government Structures

In March, ECMI and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) launched a project of supporting the OPM during the status transition period through the appointment of a Community Affairs Advisor (CAA) and other targeted expert support. Following the agreement on Terms of Reference (ToR), and ECMI-DFA-OPM consultations focusing on clarifying the political aspects related to the Ahtisaari's proposal and on how to best structure the position within the OPM, Mr Fernando Mora was appointed as CAA by the Swiss Government and officially commenced at the beginning of September.

This period represents the launch of the second part of the project with a process of mapping the OPM capacities concerning minority issues. According to the agenda of cooperation agreed upon by ECMI and Advisory Office on Good Governance (AOGG), ECMI would provide support in drafting the National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan (NHR SAP), reorganising the OGG and supporting the Ministerial Human Rights Units (HRUs), as well as assessing the effectiveness of deliverance of government policies in the field of minority affairs and the accessibility of members of each minority community to them, and increasing the participation of civil society organisations representing each minority community in policy-making in the field of minority affairs.

In parallel, the Government of Kosovo decided to commence drafting the NHR SAP and to establish Ministerial HRUs. ECMI has been given a key role in both drafting the Chapter on the Rights of Minority Communities within the NHR SAP and supporting the HRUs in capacity building, in cooperation with the AOGG and the Human Rights Coordinator (HRCo) of the Government of Kosovo. A detailed strategy for supporting the HRUs was approved by ECMI and OPM in July, according to which both would be engaged in supporting the HRCo in drafting the NHR SAP, as well as the implementation of recommendations to the Advisory Council and Special Laws by creating a working group made of representatives of Community Offices. ECMI also presented a strategy paper to the DFA on the role of a Swiss expert who will work with the HRCo.

In August, ECMI hosted a joint workshop with representatives of the HRCo aimed at discussing the needs of the Ministerial HRUs' staff and to identify priorities and areas for improvement for the overall protection of communities. Additional needs — concerning reporting methods and procedures, exchange of working practices with neighbouring regions, project management relevant to HR, communication and public relations, campaign organisation, diplomatic capacities — were identified. Once the appointment of Mr Fernando Mora as CAA took place, ECMI started cooperation with him aimed at coordinating assistance to the OPM. A process of identifying systematic gaps within the current government programmes on minority communities was also launched, beginning with a systematic three-level research conducted by ECMI: (1) desk research, (2) identifying current Government programmes on minority protection within relevant sectors, and (3) identifying the accessibility of public services in specific sectors by collecting information from community civil society actors operating in all the municipalities where minorities live.

Immediately after his actual recruitment as CAA, in September, ECMI has been continuously engaged in providing Mr Mora with assistance and guidance, as well as coordinating joint objectives. ECMI has simultaneously begun with the development of the community rights aspects of the NHRSAP and a future specialized Strategy for Communities. Thirdly, ECMI carried out a comprehensive assessment of Government programmes and institutional capacities in the field of community rights. The assessment of 17 Ministerial HRUs/Community Offices were conducted by ECMI in two phases: general and sector-specific.

In its efforts to both prevent the creation of gaps and improve the implementation of the legal framework for the communities at a time when there are plans for the full transfer of competences and essential redesign of the government institutions, ECMI has conducted a comprehensive study of the institutional framework for the communities in Kosovo. This study has found systematic gaps of institutional cooperation and coordination, and issued specific recommendations on how to reform the Government structures dealing with community affairs at both the central and local levels. After two months of intensive research and drafting rounds, the *Analysis of the Governmental Institutional Framework for Communities in Kosovo* was finalised in November.

During the last two months of 2007, ECMI has been intensively involved in drafting the Chapter on the Rights of Minority Communities within the National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan. This process commenced with the development of a comprehensive outline consisting of all the relevant information on communities, followed by an ECMI-hosted drafting workshop with the OGG, held in Reçan/Reçane at the end of November. In this workshop, the Chapter on the Rights of Minority Communities was granted priority over all the chapters related to specific categories of citizens, while the Action Plan was divided into four chapters: (1) specific strategies for each sector, (2) legislation, (3) awareness raising, and (3) coordination, reporting and follow-up mechanisms.

The workshop was followed by two drafting rounds of ECMI staff and senior experts with relation to amendments according to the new findings in related fields, conceptual clarifications and technical work.

The beginning of 2007 marked the launch of the project on “Institutional Support to the Ministry of Communities and Returns”. By the end of January, ECMI and the European Consultants Organisation (ECO), agreed on both the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the work plan involving approximately 25 days of workshops for the MCR.

Direct Outreach with Communities

During 2007, community civil society organisations have played an important role as both grass-roots information agents and instances of assessment of governmental policies and accessibility to public services in specific sectors. In August, the last phase of the assessment of government policies in the field of minority rights and protection has involved initial mapping of civil society organisations, active in various sectors, representing all the communities. ECMI dispatched a team of local researchers who have contacted all active NGOs of individual communities, while further research has been focused on discovering the affiliation of each organisation to its respective community, their activities in areas of community concerns, and the extent of their activities in the past. Following initial mapping, the second phase consisted in research focusing on government legislation, policies, and administrative practices, as well as assessing the overall situation of minorities by evaluating their accessibility to basic services and understanding perceptions from below in order to establish where the systematic gaps exist and what the best solutions are.

Findings from interviews with focus groups comprising registered and active local NGOs were followed up in the third phase with needs assessment workshops with the most representative and influential NGOs from each community, active in priority sectors, with the aim of assisting them to build capacities. The separate workshops held in Prishtina and Prizren, resulted in clearly identified problem areas in specific sectors and recommendations on how to solve the issues discussed. Furthermore, virtually all the representatives involved in this process agreed to get involved in networking in order to strengthen their concerted role in governance on community affairs. Based on the needs assessment report that identifies NGOs’ critical capacity gaps, specific capacity-building programmes can be developed to prepare these NGOs to properly contribute to community policy-making in specific sectors. In total, 112 NGOs representing each community have been mapped: 24 from the Serb community, 26 from the Bosniak community, 13 from the Gorani community, 18 from the Turk community, and 31 from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) communities.

All these organisations mapped are included in a database, which has been developed by ECMI as part of the needs assessment report drafted as based on the needs assessment workshops. This database of registered and active community civil society organisations, including a profile of their work and sectoral focus, is of particular importance to the up-

coming development of mechanisms for the regular community public participation and representation to the CCC, too. Furthermore, ECMI selected a sample of 37 umbrella organisations from the Serb, Bosniak, Turkish and RAE society with which additional personal interviews were carried out. Interviews with the representatives of the civil society were aimed at investigating various organisational areas, such as internal capacities and structures, financial and human resources, cooperation with government institutions and international organisations, as well as participation in policy decision-making processes.

The respective needs assessment workshops have been attended by NGOs that represent minority communities living in all of Kosovo and are active in a diverse range of sectors. As for the Serb community, areas of activity include education, youth welfare, business promotion, gender issues, environment, economic development and access to justice. The partaking Bosniak and Gorani NGOs are active in sectors such as education, culture, identity, human rights, social issues, youth, gender issues, economic advocacy and support, media and public participation. The attending Turk NGOs are involved in culture and identity, media, youth, public participation and gender issues. Finally, the RAE workshop was attended by NGOs focusing their activity on education and civic awareness, healthcare, public participation, human rights and gender issues.

ECMI HQ and ECMI Kosovo management and staff would like to thank the donors, the stakeholders, partners, experts and colleagues for their support, professionalism and cooperation in the year 2007, and for the future activities.

Moldova and Gagauzia – concluding assistance to the issue of power-sharing (www.ecmimoldova.org)

The project *Enhancing the Functioning of the Gagauz Autonomy Arrangement in Moldova* was aimed at enhancing the ability of the Moldovan authorities and the Moldovan expert community to undertake the task of improving the functioning of the autonomy arrangement in Gagauzia. The question of autonomy status is a key issue in relations between the central government of Moldova and the authorities in the Gagauz autonomy. Disagreements about the nature of autonomy have major implications for the stability of the Gagauz region and the character of centre-region cooperation. These disagreements also have significant implications for the settlement of the frozen Transnistrian conflict.

Following an outbreak of interethnic tensions during the 1989-92 periods, which led even to some cases of armed confrontation, the issue of the status of Gagauzia remained unresolved until 1994. The Law on the Special Status of Gagauzia, which was passed in 1994, became a main document intended to define status and scope of the Gagauz autonomy. While the Law helped to reduce the level of tensions between the centre and the region, it outlined only very general parameters of the autonomy and left implementation

procedures and many issues related to the actual distribution of competencies unresolved. These unresolved issues continue to generate disagreements and tensions between the national government and the Gagauz authority. These tensions are also a major risk factor threatening to unravel the fragile stability that has emerged after the years of confrontation in the early 1990s.

ECMI activities in Moldova in 2007 were directed towards completion of the work on a unified set of proposals on assignment of competencies between the central government and autonomy. Prior to 2007 ECMI's international advisory team succeeded in highlighting to the local stakeholders the critical importance of having an explicitly articulated framework for distribution of competencies. ECMI's engagement at that time led to the creation of the Joint Technical Group that consisted of both Moldovan and Gagauz delegations. The Joint Technical Group was charged with the development of a unified set of proposals on assignment of competencies. It was acknowledged by both sides that the currently existing framework does not provide clear guidance for policymakers with regard to which level of government is responsible for developing and executing policies in many important issue areas.

In the first half of 2007, ECMI used its international advisory team to assist the Moldovan and Gagauz delegations to the Joint Technical Group to move closer towards developing a shared understanding on necessary modifications to the existing legislative framework. After a series of discussions and consultations with international experts the Moldovan representatives and the Gagauz representatives generated their proposals on how competencies should be allocated between the central, regional and local levels of government.

The Moldovan and Gagauz proposals were presented and discussed during the seminar 'Improving the Functioning of the Gagauz Autonomy' held at ECMI Headquarters, Flensburg, on 25/26 April 2007. This seminar brought together international experts and representatives of both the Moldovan Parliament and the Gagauz Assembly with the aim of generating a document that will combine visions of two proposals and represent an agreed-upon and unified approach to improving the existing legal framework.

The main outcome of this seminar was the "Draft Document on Competencies of the Gagauz Autonomy," which was produced by the delegations in cooperation with the international experts. This document reflected the consensus that had been achieved in some issue areas but also indicated areas in which disagreement between the delegations persisted. Despite its limitations, this document offered a solid basis for moving ahead with the addressing of unresolved competency issues.

In the second half of 2007 ECMI held a series of meetings in Moldova with both Moldovan and Gagauzian delegations in order to achieve progress on issue areas that proved to be controversial during the April 2007 Flensburg meeting. Members of the ECMI international advisory team went both to Comrat, the capital of Gagauzia, and to the Moldovan national capital Chisinau to hold consultations with the delegations and to provide

further advice on matters of disagreement. A number of new provisions were added to the “Draft Document on Competencies of the Gagauz Autonomy” as a result of these several rounds of negotiations and consultations. Although a number of important disagreements persist, an amended version of the Flensburg document now provides a more elaborate account of specific principles on distribution of competencies that the sides are willing to entrench in the legal framework.

The modified “Draft Document on Competencies of the Gagauz Autonomy” now contains the outline of the main principles for delimiting competencies of the centre and autonomy with regards to public administration, management of infrastructure, health, social insurance, education, culture, and judicial and electoral matters. The document also expresses the willingness of the delegations to address highly controversial budgetary issues by committing the sides to the development of specific formulas for calculating budgetary transfers. These budgetary transfer formulas, which are also expected to be legally entrenched, are to substitute the current practices of ad-hoc decision-making by the national ministry of finance with regards to issues related to the size and timing of transfers for the autonomy.

The document also registers progress in two other controversial areas, which are the relations between the autonomy and bodies of local self-government and the issues of administrative and judicial control over the activities of authorities of the autonomy and the local public administration in Gagauzia. Especially with regard to the first issue, there has also been a great deal of criticism on the part of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in relation to the lack of independence of local self-government in the autonomy. The “Draft Document on Competencies of the Gagauz Autonomy” now includes a commitment by the sides to respect the autonomy of bodies of local self-government.

The work on the “Draft Document on Competencies of the Gagauz Autonomy” was completed by the end of 2007. Both delegations now face the need to bring this proposal for further consultations in respective legislative assemblies. Given that the elections to the Gagauz parliament are scheduled for March 2008, this process of consultations should involve newly elected deputies and it is expected to last for a considerable amount of time. After political approval for the proposal is secured by both sides, the next stage of the work on the distribution of competencies will involve drafting specific legislative acts addressing main principles that are outlined in the document. ECMI might consider providing additional support for the process at that time.

Besides working to achieve an agreement on the principles of distribution of competencies, ECMI's further important objective was to enhance the Gagauz capacity in law drafting. Being a remote agricultural region of the country, Gagauzia faces considerable difficulties in developing various aspects of self-government expertise. Concurrently with the meetings of the Joint Technical Group, training events on law drafting for the legal personnel of the People Assembly of Gagauzia and various agencies of autonomy

were organized. These training events aimed to introduce the local staff to contemporary methodologies and techniques of law making. They also aimed to enhance the level of cooperation between the legal departments of the Moldovan Parliament and the Gagauzian Assembly, which are primarily responsible for the preparation of bills and for ensuring that the legislative drafts contribute to the overall harmonization of national and regional legislation. Specialized literature on topics addressed during the trainings, such as civil law, human rights and public administration, has been provided by the project to both the Moldovan parliament and the Gagauz Assembly.

Intensification of cooperation between the national and autonomy legislatures has been one important outcome of project activities. One manifestation of this increased cooperation is the introduction of an internship program for the legal staff of the Gagauz assembly to gain law-drafting experience in the national parliament of Moldova. This initiative proved to be popular among the staff of the Gagauz assembly and together with the increased staff contacts due to the work of Joint Technical Group led to an overall improvement in relations between national and autonomy legislatures. ECMI activities in Gagauzia became an integral part of a general plan for enhancing cooperation between national and autonomy parliaments, which was officially prepared under the leadership of the speakers of the respective parliaments.

Another important objective achieved by the ECMI presence in Moldova has been the facilitation of dialogue between the Moldovan and Gagauzian delegations and other autonomies in Western Europe, such as South Tyrol. Representatives of the South Tyrol Autonomy were invited to participate in meetings of the Joint Technical Group with the aim to give practical examples how an autonomy status works and how competencies are distributed between the regional and central government. This component has enhanced the knowledge of both delegations on the practical aspects of designing a workable autonomy arrangement. It is envisioned that a further cooperation between the Moldovan and Gagauz representatives and the South Tyrol representatives will involve organization of the study visits and internship opportunities for representatives of the Gagauz Assembly and the Moldovan Parliament in the autonomy region of Bolzano.

Finally, the outcomes of the negotiation process between the Moldovan and Gagauz delegations to the Joint Technical Group, together with the broader political process of enhancing the functioning of the Gagauz autonomy, advance the general conflict transformation agenda in a country that is still plagued by problems stemming from the unresolved Transnistrian conflict. Achieving substantial improvements in the functioning of Gagauz autonomy will send an important message to Transnistria and can facilitate the negotiation of a framework through which the Transnistrian situation can be comprehensively and constructively addressed.

Throughout the year ECMI has maintained and developed further the Internet resource base, www.ecmimoldova.org. This website can be used in different ways. It is of interest to a general audience wishing to learn more about conflict-related matters on Transnistria

and Gagauzia. It also provides information on specific activities of the project, such as publications and non-confidential expert reports. Finally, there is also a limited access link where the reports of the Joint Technical Group and other key confidential documents are included.

ECMI would like to thank all donors for their interest and continued support to this initiative as well as to all international and local experts for their engagement in the process of searching for appropriate solutions to ethno-political problems in Moldova.

2. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME (www.ecmi.de/rubrik/80/political+participation)

The ECMI Political Participation Programme seeks to advance expertise on issues related to the inclusion of minorities in decision-making processes. The Programme research focuses on the following substantive areas: electoral and party systems; legislative and executive representation; minority advisory and consultative bodies. Minorities' ability to effectively participate in the political process is profoundly shaped by the rules, norms, and practices that exist in each of these substantive areas. The programme aspires to evaluate how variation in the existing rules, norms, and practices affects minorities' chances of impacting upon political and policy processes in a meaningful way. The programme seeks to provide policy advice and recommendations which are based on a comprehensive analysis of how choices of different mechanisms of participation and representation affect the situation of minorities and the dynamics of majority-minority relations.

The programme builds upon the earlier research initiated by the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Issues Relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN) and the HCNM-sponsored expert group that developed the Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life and focuses on institutions and processes that shape minority participation in politics. Programme activities in 2007 revolved around the following substantive issues: party responses to the need for minority accommodation, minority political participation in post-conflict societies, legislative and executive representation of minorities, and minority inclusion in civil service. Each of these issues is briefly discussed below.

Party responses to the need for minority accommodation

Activities in this area included conducting basic research, co-sponsoring policy workshops, and providing policy advice recommendations. Research activities were focused on developing a methodology for the analysis of the programmatic and organizational responses of party systems to challenges of ethnic diversity accommodation. There exists a very substantial body of research on effects of electoral systems on minorities' ability

to participate in the political process. At the same time, there has been little systematic analysis on how the organizational and programmatic characteristics of mainstream political parties as well as minority parties affect patterns of minority representation and participation in post-communist countries. Given the high level of parties' control over policy making in modern democracies, party systems' responses to minority issues deserve more attention and consideration.

To address the existing gap in this area, the research project proposal "Ethnic Minority Representation in Political Party Systems: Programmatic and Organisational Approaches of Parties in Eastern Europe" has been developed. The proposal offers a detailed methodology for the analysis of party positioning on policy issues of particular importance to minorities as well as party mobilization and recruitment strategies aimed at attracting minority support. It allows: 1) to produce survey-based measures of party policy positions on issues that are relevant for minorities (and measures of the salience of these positions) 2) to produce party programme-based indicators of party policy positions and estimates of the importance of these positions; 3) to develop measures of minority inclusion in national parties' electoral lists and leadership positions. The research design envisioned by the proposal allows cross-party and cross-country comparison of positions of main political parties in terms of their attitudes towards minorities.

The proposed measures and indicators could be of a great use to the policy making community since they provide various stakeholders in the minority field with adequate tools for both monitoring the differences in party policies on minority related issues and for evaluating the changes in party positions on this type of issues. The proposed indicators can also be used to educate party functionaries and raise their awareness of minority needs in a number of policy areas.

Providing advice for parties on how to address minority issues both in programmatic and organizational terms was one of the main goals of a workshop which ECMI co-organized with Friedrich Ebert Foundation's Macedonia office in November 2007. The workshop brought together experts on minority issues from all countries of South Eastern Europe in order to discuss the current state of party policies on minority issues and to develop a set of recommendations for political parties on how to address minority needs. Workshop results will be published in an edited volume on minority participation in political parties. A separate policy paper is envisioned by the organizers to provide a set of recommendations on strategies for engagement of minorities by mainstream political parties.

Political participation in post-conflict societies

Synergy between ECMI's political participation programme and advisory work on conflict-transformation has a number of important manifestations. ECMI's work in Moldova is one important example of such synergy. A long term presence in advisory capacity in Moldova allowed ECMI to conduct detailed field research using the methodology discussed above. Moldovan political parties' response to educational and cultural concerns

of minorities and to territorial autonomy proposals for accommodating ethnic minority regions of Gagauzia and Transnistria have been analyzed in detailed and systematic ways. The empirical data came primarily from surveys of party functionaries and independent experts, as well as from official documents published by parties.

Some results of this study which describe mainstream and minority parties approaches to the Transnistrian conflict resolution issues were published as ECMI Working Paper #37 and were presented at two international conferences. The research results point, among other things, to a higher importance of conflict resolution issues in comparison to any other type of policy issues (including economic and social issues) that are present in domestic policy debates. The conference presentations resulted in an invitation to submit research results for a publication in an edited volume that brought together some of the leading specialists on the post-Soviet region. Other results of this study deal with Moldovan party positions on issues related to minority culture, education, and language. Party positions on these issues have been compared with party positions on other sets of policy issues in a book volume that is prepared for publication by the Moldovan State University.

A different aspect of minority participation – the situation of ethnic groups that constitute a minority in regions dominated by other minority groups – has also been examined in relation to Moldova. The ECMI presence in the country allowed to compile data on how minorities participate in political process in the break-away region of Transnistria. These research efforts in turn provided further guidance for ECMI's advisory work on conflict resolution.

The research methods used by ECMI for investigating different aspects of minority inclusion in party politics in one national context also inform research and advisory work on minority political participation in other contexts. Research on parties' policy positions on minority issues has also been started by the ECMI regional office in Georgia, which is another post-Soviet country with a long experience of ethno-territorial conflicts.

Legislative and executive representation

Representation is a key aspect of minority political participation. Political systems vary greatly in terms of the scope of national level representation granted to minorities and in terms of additional opportunities or constraints for such representation. Given the substantial size of the minority population in a number of European countries, there is little systematic analysis on the extent to which minorities are represented by members of their own ethnic communities in legislative and executive branches of government. Even less systematic knowledge exists on how these representatives choose to act on behalf of their constituencies.

ECMI work in this area focused on exploring what outcomes in terms of actual presence of minority representatives in national parliaments were generated by different electoral systems. Proportional representation and reserved seats electoral formulas lead

to different outcomes in terms of identity of minority representatives and their responsiveness and accountability to minority constituencies. Issues of legislative representation were examined with reference to Romania and Bulgaria, which are the two new EU member states with a large proportion of minorities and varying electoral mechanisms for minority representation. A large data set on socio-demographic characteristics of minority representatives in Romanian parliament has already been constructed. A similar data set is currently being developed for Bulgaria. Both data sets will also include detailed data on minority deputies' draft law initiatives, sponsorship of parliamentary resolutions, and other types of legislative output.

The findings of this ongoing research will allow to better understand what the implications are of adopting different electoral formulas for guaranteeing minorities' descriptive representation (whether minorities are actually represented by members of their communities) and substantive representation (whether policy concerns of minorities are addressed by their representatives). The findings will also provide valuable information on how different electoral formulas and other institutional arrangements affect the chances of maintaining internal democracy in minority communities, which is one of important concerns raised by the policy making community in relation to minority governance issues.

ECMI work on minority representation on the political level in the executive refers primarily to cabinet level representation. The work envisions creating a data set that would allow comparing ethnic composition of cabinets in countries with a significant minority population. Database parameters have been operationalized and data collection activities have been started. If additional resources are secured for the completion of the database, the latter will provide a wealth of information on the extent to which ethnic minority members are included in the highest ranks of executive government and what policy jurisdictions (cabinet portfolios) they control when in government. The data could also be used for constructing indicators on minority inclusion in executive government and for monitoring the record of individual countries in this respect.

Inclusion in civil service

Representative bureaucracies are one of the important requirements for the establishment of ethnically inclusive societies. A bureaucracy that reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity of the population is more likely to serve the interests of all members of the society. The support for the policies and institutions of a state is often directly linked to the extent in which the various groups of citizens feel they are being represented, not only in politics but also in the state apparatus at all levels.

Although a number of governments and international organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe (CoE), have raised the issue of minority inclusion in civil service through various initiatives and political commitments, these commitments are mostly general in nature and of-

ten lacking concrete recommendations to enhance minority inclusion. This lack of specificity is partly due to the absence of reliable information on the current levels of minority representation in bureaucracy.

ECMI work in this area has been directed on exploring strategies available for researchers interested in collecting and analyzing information on minorities in civil service. This was done through the organization of a panel on minorities in civil service at the annual meeting of the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe. This panel was attended by a large number of civil service professionals and resulted in a productive discussion of data collection strategies and other issues related to minority presence in public bureaucracies. The panel acknowledged that the awareness of the importance of ensuring an inclusive character of public bureaucracy in Eastern Europe is yet to be transformed into a set of comprehensive and enforceable measures.

The results of the panel discussion and ECMI's preliminary research in this area are summarized in an ECMI Issue Brief to be published in Spring 2008. The Issue Brief points to a variety of civil service data collection procedures and discusses the utility of such approaches to data collection as the analysis of employment rosters using a name-based algorithm, conducting various types of surveys, and relying on ethnic minority organizations as a source of expert information on minority inclusion. It also examines how legal provisions, which address general aspects of personal data collection, and norms which are specific to civil service recruitment and promotion, affect the research environment for the pursuit of empirical knowledge on minority presence in public bureaucracy. The Issue Brief acknowledges cross-country variation in availability and quality of data on civil service but supports the general view advanced by earlier studies on the topic that conceptualize the state of ethnic data collection in Eastern Europe as a missing resource in the fight against discrimination.

3. EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES & SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME (www.ecmi.de/rubrik/81/+%26+social+inclusion)

ECMI's research driven initiative on Equal Economic Opportunities & Social Inclusion, launched in November 2006, has taken up further speed in 2007.

To advance ECMI's expertise on issues related to the participation of minorities in economic life, an international workshop was convened by Dr Jonathan Wheatley in Flensburg on 12-13 June 2007. Experts on minority protection and economic development from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the European Centre for the Regions (EIPA-ECR) and other interested institutions discussed how to conduct research related to questions of social inclusion in general and economic exclusion or marginalization in particular. As a main result, a clear lack of theoretical understanding, data-driven research and policy-orientated advice carried out in the area of economic exclusion of historic minorities was identified by the participants.

Following the lead of the workshop, it was decided to first draft a series of working papers on various issues relating to economic exclusion. By now, four working papers have already been commissioned: two by Dr Jonathan Wheatley, and two by Dr Robert Dunbar (University of Aberdeen). The first has focused on (i) *Economic Exclusion of Minorities: What it is and why it is a problem* and (ii) *The Impact of Economic Restructuring on National and Ethnic Minorities: Globalization and Post-Communism*. Robert Dunbar will present the following topics: (i) *Anti-Discrimination Framework* and (ii) *Skills and Capacities Required for Full and Equal Economic Participation*. These working papers are expected to be ready in March/April 2008.

Another milestone was achieved when ECMI support team submitted the large research proposal to the EU FP7 “*Economic Exclusion of Minorities in Europe: A Comparative Study of European Regions and Communities*” (EXME) This proposal is a collaborative endeavour of a consortium of 6 well-established partner institutions (EURAC, Italy; ELIAMEP, Greece; SAR, Romania; IES, Estonia; and SPS, UK) led by ECMI.

The primary aim of this ambitious joint venture is to investigate the causes and consequences of economic exclusion of historical national and ethnic minorities in ethnically mixed regions of Europe resp. the EU neighbourhood.

Economic exclusion of minorities will be broadly defined as inadequate access to the market (e.g. to labour, financial or health markets) due to specific group identity. It might result in income polarization, unequal access to employment, lower economic growth rates and ultimately to violent ethnic conflict. Whether or not minorities are economically disadvantaged, to what extent and why are key research questions. In terms of the causes of economic exclusion, this research will focus on three categories of potential explanatory factors: culture/social capital, state policies/center-periphery relations and political institutions/extent of political participation. To identify the policies, both at national and supranational level that are the most effective in combating this — often overlooked — problem will be the challenge ahead.

The proposed research takes new ground insofar as it focuses explicitly on regions in which members of national minorities are concentrated instead of single ethnic groups or countries. Nine NUTS III regions (as defined by EUROSTAT’s Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics III classification) have been selected: Region North, Northern Ireland (United Kingdom); Covasna County (Romania); Skopje (FYR Macedonia); Rodopi district, Western Thrace (Greece); Harju County (Tallinn, Estonia); South Tyrol/Provincia Autonoma Bolzano (Italy); Gagauzia (Moldova); North Banat, Vojvodina (Serbia); and Samtskhe-Javakheti (Georgia). The regions (from which two of them, Skopje and Tallinn, are actually capital cities) — comprised of a significant and compact presence of minority population — have been selected to ensure a “most different case study design” in terms of the widest possible variation of potential explanatory factors. The table that follows gives an overview of the regions and the minorities under scrutiny.

Region	NUTS Level	Population thousands	Minorities
Northern Ireland , North Region	III	280.6	Catholics 57%
Romania , Covasna County	III	224.1	Hungarians 74%
FYR Macedonia , Skopje (City)	Equivalent to III	506.9	Albanians 20% Roms 5% (Macedonians 67%)
Greece , Rodopi County, Western Thrace,	III	111.2	Muslims 52%
Estonia , Harju County (Tallinn)(City)	III	525.7	Russians 33%
Italy , Autonomous Province of South Tyrol/Bolzano	II/III	474.4	German-speakers 69% Ladin-speakers 4%
Moldova , Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia		155.7	Gagauz 82%
Serbia , North Banat, Vojvodina,	Equivalent to III	165.9	Hungarians 47% (Serbs 44%)
Georgia , province of Samtskhe-Javakheti	Equivalent to III	207.6	Armenians 55%

In addition, further research in municipalities with a large concentration of Roma as an important transnational minority will be carried out in Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia, Macedonia, Romania and Bulgaria. Two communities (municipalities or districts) per region and per country — one urban and one rural — will be selected, resulting in a total of 30 “most different” cases or units of analysis.

The proposed research will consist of background studies based on desktop research at national and regional levels, as well as in-depth case studies based on empirical research at regional and community levels. Background studies will involve the collection of macro-economic and demographic data as well as legal and policy documents. The in-depth case studies, on the other hand, will be based on extensive fieldwork, including economic mapping and data visualization with the help of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and sociological surveys. After the background studies and in-depth case studies are complete, policy analysis will be carried out on the impact of policy decisions and political institutions on the economic opportunities of national minorities.

A — hopefully positive — reply from the EU FP is expected in March/April 2008.

An enriched website with links to key documents related to economic and social inclusion/exclusion can be accessed at:

<http://www.ecmi.de/rubrik/81/economic+%26+social+inclusion/>

Publications:

Jonathan Wheatley: *The Economic Dimension of Minority Participation in Europe* (ECMI Issue Brief 15) at: http://www.ecmi.de/download/brief_15.pdf and *The Economic Status of National Minorities in Europe: A Four-Case Study* (JEMIE, Vol.6, Issue 1, 2007) at: http://www.ecmi.de/jemie/download/1-2007_Wheatley.pdf

4. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DIVERSITY PROGRAMME (www.ecmi.de/rubrik/82/language+%26+culture+diversity/)

ECMI's initiative on *Language and Culture Diversity*, launched in January 2007, is based on the position that language diversity is the core component of cultural diversity which enables representation and transmission of the fundamental aspects of cultures for acquisition by the succeeding generations of the community and for interaction with other communities. Being a part of intangible heritage, language and culture are those elements of human activity that have always been present in societies and reflect their particularities and values.

It is highly significant to enhance the diverse linguistic and cultural space of Europe in many different spheres, as an instrument of democratic development and equal opportunities for all.

Therefore the awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity has become more visible through large European settings such as the EU — proclaiming year 2007 a Year of Equal Opportunities and 2008 a Year of Intercultural Dialogue, coinciding with the UN Year of Languages.

Respect for linguistic and cultural diversity is one of the cornerstones of the European Union. Article 22 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights states that “[t]he Union respects cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.” Culture must be seen as a key element of an individual's development and of his or her capacity to function in society and, especially, to act in the economic sphere without risking exclusion. The same goes for larger societies that need language for communication, for conveying and confirming social relations, knowledge and skills. Cultural and linguistic diversity is considered to be a universal ethical imperative and essential for sustainable development in the globalizing world.

The programme thus aims at examining existing language and culture diversity from two aspects: the element of enrichment that diversity offers to society, but also as an intrinsic component of development — education, participation and the socioeconomic element. ECMI is sensitive to the range of issues that are relevant for the effective promotion and protection of linguistic and cultural diversity, that relate not only to differences in the size of communities but also to differences in their resources, influence, wealth, and networking capacity. The programme therefore offers a cross-cutting approach to diversity, looking on the one hand at those elements of cultural diversity that are relevant for

minorities and majorities alike, and on the other hand trying to establish synergies with ECMI's other programmes on political participation, conflict transformation, and socio-economic inclusion.

In the **Political Participation Programme**, the focus is on obstacles to *participation in political and public life based on language barriers* and on how governments can help to overcome such obstacles by providing education services in the minority language at the national, regional and local levels, by offering assistance to media outlets that broadcast in minority languages, as well as by supporting efforts by speakers of minority languages to learn the official language/languages by that creating opportunities for democratic participation and eg employment of minority members in administrative bodies. Stronger emphasis needs to be placed on embracing cultural diversities by acknowledging that language and culture promote other forms of dialogue and can thus enhance social inclusion in plural societies. Stakeholders and civil society groups must be invited to contribute to policy making by having access to political parties and legislative bodies.

In order to ensure security in the wider Europe, minority group members must feel that they have the same potential and protection as everyone else, and that they are equally served by the national system under which they fall. Often language and culture as visible markers of diversity are perceived as conflict catalysts either by minority or majority groups. ECMI aims to verify legal commitments and practices to allow minorities to communicate in their own languages and to improve relations between minority and majority communities and the relevant institutions as part of the **Conflict Transformation Programme**.

From an economic and social perspective, the **Economic and Social Inclusion Programme** addresses the improvement in levels of language use in education as it is also essential for economic and social inclusion and development. People are more likely to invest in their livelihoods if they can communicate freely in all the languages of the country they inhabit and that they can develop economic activities in their local environment and communicate with local authorities there without being disenfranchised or unable to use the available opportunities.

Programme Activities

Since *Language and Culture Diversity* is a new area of practice-oriented research, the focus of the Programme in 2007 has been on research and the development of concept papers on different aspects of language and culture diversity. The research is multi-disciplinary and has drawn from methodologies used in sociolinguistics, social anthropology, political science, law and international relations.

Two major legal instruments of the Council of Europe — the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML) highlight the importance of the issue of the preservation and protection of minority languages and their relationship with languages used by

majority populations. In 2008 a celebration of the 10th anniversary of ECRML will mark this legal unique instrument which has no parallel elsewhere in the world. Yet, how effective these instruments are and how they are enhanced by the governments complying with them will be analyzed in the major points of focus of the Programme.

European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages in terms of its effectiveness for non-kin state territorial languages.

The case of Roma as a transnational and marginalized yet numerically large group was chosen for the study. As the situation of the Roma has received increased attention throughout Europe in the past decade, due to enlargement processes, some states with considerable Roma population have made provisions for the Romani language and its protection. Due to the vague formulations in the definitions and provisions of the Charter, however, states are able to sign and ratify the Charter by implementing it in a minimalist way, not providing an effective domestic legal framework for minority languages. The diversification of the Roma language in Europe from a South-Eastern European perspective revealed strengths and weaknesses of the Charter in regard to establishing effective provision for the protection of the Romani language. However, incentives to implement the provisions in the Charter in a more comprehensive and effective way for minorities need to be found.

The study of language loss and its impact on ethnic identity present different entry points to the discussion of the relation between language and culture diversity which has thus far not been fully established in the academic literature, although more recent studies have tried to analyze this relation from a more multidisciplinary approach. The aspect of changing relations leading to a change of values that limits the spectrum of cultural diversity and in consequence to political decision of recognition have many implications for the groups and the society at large for example justify its claim to a separate identity once that the minority language has been lost. In many European countries, minority groups who lost their language are now desperately trying to revitalize and regain that aspect of their identity. However, due to the elusive character of the concepts of ethnicity and minority the full impact of language loss on ethnic identity remains to be investigated. The study then tries to find root causes for language loss, by looking at the legal status of the minority language, its symbolic value, functionality, demographic as well as economic factors. Preparing the conceptual frame for case studies, the research will try to establish what effect the loss of the original minority language can have on a group's self-identification or its perception by others and how this, in turn, should create incentives for the maintenance or revitalization, protection and promotion of minority languages in Europe.

Addressing the relation between state language(s) and minority language(s) the focus is particularly on the territories where one language was in extensive use as *lingua franca* (former Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union) in many public spheres and relegated minority

languages to restricted private use. With a change of the political situation and dissolution of those large entities many new independent states found themselves either in need of developing a new state language(s) but also the minorities being now requested to function in those languages. Also through the European legal instruments minority languages are entering spheres in which they have not been present before and are confronted with choices whether they will be able to develop and be safeguarded.

Through participation in conferences related to minority language issues, ECMI succeeded to establish contacts and partnerships with other leading institutes in the field. ECMI has thus built up a good network of institutions and individual experts from the field that will be useful for the development and implementation of future project activities.

For 2008, ECMI's aim for the Language and Culture Diversity Programme is to translate the studies outlined above into research projects and the conduct of field studies to test the hypotheses made in the different studies, and in the long term to inform future action-oriented projects on how to advise governments and policy makers to improve measures for the protection and maintenance of minority languages and cultures.

II



Trainings and Advisory Functions

ECMI continued to use its competencies and expertise in a range of areas to provide technical assistance to international organizations, governments and conflict parties.

IMPROVING ROMANI INTEGRATION IN THE BALKAN

Applying Impact Assessment Methodology for Decade of Roma Inclusion

ECMI and UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS (RBEC), Bratislava, continued to develop impact assessment methodology for Decade Roma Inclusion (DRI) to be applied in the monitoring and evaluation process of the nine committed countries — Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia. Each of the participating countries has prepared a Decade National Action Plan to address Roma inclusion issues of the DRI in the four priority areas: education, employment, health and housing.

Monitoring and evaluation is an area in which a wide set of actors has its potential role, and therefore development of a comprehensive assessment methodology is the key element of a successful implementation.

To test the application of the methodology, a pilot training was conducted in Bulgaria which chaired the International Steering Committee July 2006-July 2007 and handed it over to Hungary until July 2008.

The pilot training which included representatives of the Bulgarian Decade Roma Inclusion secretariat, representatives of key line ministries of Labour, Health, Education as well as local authorities, focused on the issues of data collection, data processing, and methods of monitoring and evaluation. All of these elements are necessary for a proper progress assessment and assessment of measures undertaken so far. A cumulative session on revisiting the National Action Plans in view of the progress achieved/absent concluded the

training. The training materials were translated into Bulgarian in order to be accessible to local authorities and serve as a manual for municipalities and central authorities during the monitoring process.

Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro and Macedonia expressed their interest in conducting similar trainings based on the Bulgarian pilot.

While representatives of Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia met in Belgrade late October, Croatia cancelled its participation. There was explicit interest on the part of those countries to be involved in the methodology trainings. The materials of the Bulgarian training will be translated into Serbian and possibly Macedonian, to ensure accessibility of the methods and concepts for all stakeholders, authorities and NGOs.

Currently ECMI and UNDP RBEC are reviewing the comments and experiences of the methodology training in Bulgaria to prepare for the next round of trainings.

As a result of the application of the methodology, it is most likely that there will be an attempt to bring about revisions in the respective countries' National Action Plans by 2010 through a substantive and geographical broadening of the current phase.

Supporting Local Romani Coordinators in Serbia

The follow-on project to the large initiative *Supporting Local Romani Coordinators in Serbia* continued to build further capacity of ten Romani coordinators and ten municipalities' sector heads from 10 selected municipalities throughout Serbia. Those include Bor, Beočin, Čačak, Čukarica, Lajkovac, Lebane, Kraljevo, Prokuplje, Smederevo, and Zrenjanin. The trainings were supported by the UNDP and the Serbian Agency for Human and Minority Rights (AHMR). The Local Romani Coordinators' positions in local municipalities are part of Serbia's commitment to the Roma Decade National Action Plan on Roma Inclusion.

The trainings expanded on the first set of eight trainings and four networking events organized for 13 Romani coordinators (RCs) and 52 municipal sector heads (SH) from 13 local governments in Serbia in 2006. The ambition of the AHMR is to establish Romani coordinators in all municipalities in Serbia as a permanent arrangement to offer services in public sector in inclusion of Romani communities.

The major attainment was to build capacity of the Romani coordinators and respective sector heads in those municipalities not having them. In addition to facilitating integration of the coordinators in their local administration, another major result was publication in three languages — Romani, Serbian and English — of a *Practical Guide to Integrating Roms in Municipal Government* (ECMI Monograph #5) to serve as a manual in the municipal administrations.

The key outcome of the trainings was the creation of stable ground for the integration of Romani focal points into the local municipal administrations. This represents a firm link between the local governments and Romani communities and serves as an example of best practice for other municipalities with sizeable Romani populations which have not

yet established such positions. The project has been characterized by excellent team work between the RCs and their colleagues in municipalities, who have in this way been successful in the establishment of local professional networks.

The initial establishment of contacts with the above municipalities was facilitated by the UNDP and the Agency for Human and Minority Rights, which also provided necessary information and advice throughout the period of project implementation. Training needs were assessed through consultations with the already active RCs, taking into consideration their opinion of areas in which their skills needed further improvement. The sequence and topics of the training events for RCs and SHs jointly covered the following areas:

- **The Decade of Roma Inclusion and Action Plans**
- **Social Welfare System in Serbia**
- **Project design and fundraising**
- **Project management**

Good practice

In three topics - Decade of Roma Inclusion and Action Plans, Project Cycle Management, and Social Welfare System in Serbia, ECMI used the RCs from the initial training cycle in administering the content of the relevant training sessions to their peers from the new municipalities to increase the level of networking and sustainability of the co-operation among municipalities.

The gender aspect of training participants and the training content was strongly present. To the extent possible, an equal participation was encouraged. In this second cycle, seven males and three females of the RCs and ten SH, evenly split between men and women were enrolled.

As this was indeed a participant-driven activity several new topics emerged during implementation of the trainings; in agreement with UNDP and AHMR additional sessions were included addressing RCs only and the following issues:

- **Prejudices, Discrimination & Equal opportunities**
- **Human Rights and Gender Equality**
- **Public Relations and Advocacy**
- **Human Resources and Action Plans Development and Adoption**

Results and Impact

The initial pool of 13 RCs was enlarged with an additional 10 RCs; the relationship between the two pools was further strengthened by introducing some more experienced RCs as mentors to those new RCs. In that respect 23 of 31 municipalities in Serbia had included Local Romani Co-ordinators in their administrations, yet to be formalized on a long-term basis.

One of the critical elements of successful implementation of the Roma Decade was to include the RCs and SHs in the production of local action plans.

Seven of the ten municipalities participating in this training drafted their first local action plans already at the training, and all ten won the first micro grants in the amount of up to € 10.000, having submitted proposals prepared according to the Project Cycle Management.

Both the Serbian Agency for Human and Minority Rights and the UNDP Serbia are keen on continuing this initiative in 2008, applying the trainings to the remaining 8 municipalities in order to cover all municipalities with large Roma populations.

Conflict Transformation in Sudan
(www.intstudies.cam.ac.uk/centre/cps/)

Technical assistance to negotiations

Western Sudan (Darfur) has been subjected to a devastating armed campaign since 2002/3. At that time, opposition movements formed in the three federal states of the Darfur region, seeking greater representation of their region in the central institutions of Sudan, and an ending of its economic marginalization. This rebellion was answered by an armed campaign of the Central government, utilizing mainly local *Janjaweed* militias with the regular Sudanese air force acting in support. The armed campaign has resulted in between 150.000 and 200.000 deaths among the civilian population, and the displacement of around 2 million, out of a total population of around 6 million. This conduct has been designated as possible genocide by some governments and is subject to action by the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

The African Union (AU) has attempted to broker a peace agreement over the past three years. However, generally, these peace talks (there were seven rounds of several months each thus far) were fundamentally misconceived and poorly run, offering a considerable amount of control to the central government in the negotiation process. In May 2006, the AU attempted to impose a Darfur Peace Agreement on the parties. That agreement was unbalanced and did not really address the concerns of the opposition groups. Hence, it was signed only by one splinter group of the two major rebel movements, the SLM and JEM. While the government has maintained that there is a peace agreement in force now, the hostilities have continued.

Throughout the peace process, the disunity of the opposition groups in Western Sudan has been a major problem, in addition to the mishandling of the negotiations by the AU. Under AU sponsorship, several abortive attempts were made to build up the capacity of the SLM and JEM to engage constructively in the negotiations and to assist the parties in coming to unified positions that might be negotiated about. ECMI was briefly involved in this in 2005, when its Director contributed to such capacity building during the fifth round of negotiations. It was apparent, however, that the parties could not be expected

to form their own (confidential) positions under the spotlight of the mediators and under observation from the Sudan government.

A new attempt of achieving a peace agreement was to be made at the end of October 2007. This time, the United Nations became involved along with the AU, with the strong support of the US and several Western European governments. The aim was to generate a more credible negotiation environment and to come to an agreement among all the relevant parties.

In September 2007, ECMI contributed to a preliminary workshop involving both the government and the various groups from throughout Sudan to discuss the functioning of the constitutional order in Sudan. On that occasion, ECMI was invited to take the lead and arrange a meeting between the two main opposition groups from Western Sudan, to assist them in unifying their position, and in developing their negotiation strategy. This workshop was held at ECMI Headquarters in Flensburg in October 2007. For the first time, the main factions of the SLM and JEM addressed in detail the issues to be discussed at the upcoming negotiations and discovered the potential of joint action. Both parties were also encouraged in their cooperation by being exposed to the experience of the German-Danish border region. The minority organizations on both sides of the border briefed the delegation from the Sudan in detail on the ways that had been found towards reconciliation, integration and peaceful respect for diversity.

III



Projection of Activities in 2008

ECMI ANNUAL SUMMIT 2007

This year's review meeting for ECMI field and HQ staff was very much focused on the review of scholarly developments, and ECMI's role in the regions of its activities in view of the ECMI substantive evaluation and its recommendations.

Strategic programmes, synergies between them and methodologies were discussed in terms of rationale and underlying advantages and disadvantages of programmatic versus project approach. Also organisational matters, publication plans and cooperative activities with other institutions, external and internal research meetings were addressed in terms of inter-disciplinary insights.

As part of staff development and improvement of professional qualifications, training *in results-based project management* was conducted by ECMI Deputy director, involving project-related staff and support staff. This training was also offered to field offices earlier in the year in Georgia also for the local offices in the minority regions (conducted in Russian). It was agreed that results-based project management should constitute a guiding principle for ECMI both in practice-oriented research and action-oriented projects. Specific ECMI guidelines for results-based project management will be elaborated in the course of 2008.

IV



Information and Documentation

1. LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Resource sharing is necessary for the further development of a world class library in the field of minority issues. This is why publications exchange agreements continued to play an important role for the ECMI Library in 2007. In that year, the ECMI Library entered into a cooperation agreement with the EURAC Research Library in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy. Under this agreement, ECMI receives important EURAC publications in exchange for supplying the EURAC Research Library with ECMI publications. This agreement is a useful complement to the cooperation that the ECMI Library initiated in 2006 with the SIPRI Library in Sweden and the Teleki Lazlo Institute in Hungary. In addition, the ECMI Library has in 2007 strengthened its strategic relationship with the DCISM Library for International Studies and Human Rights in Copenhagen as well as with the University of Frankfurt Library, Frankfurt am Main, as well as with the Special Subject Collection Political Science and Peace Research of the Hamburg University Library. In 2007, selected ECMI publications were available for view at both the Frankfurt Book Fair and the Leipzig Book Fair. These book fairs, key events for book publishers as well as media, serve to acquaint an ever-widening circle of readers to ECMI publications.

The grey literature and hard copy collection continued its growth in 2007 with the further acquisition of books and journals in the fields of international law and international relations, ethnic conflict and minority protection. In order to support ECMI's new programme areas, additional literature in the fields of language diversity, political participation, and economic development have been acquired. The ECMI Library continues to receive Annual Reports from Ombudsman institutions worldwide, contributing towards an ever-richer collection in that field. It can thus be seen that the ECMI Library continues to enhance its position as a pre-eminent and unique resource in the area of minority issues.

In terms of *online sources* of dissemination, the ECMI Library in 2007 became a contributing partner in the MENALIB Virtual Library of the Martin-Luther University Halle Wittenberg. Since 2007, all articles of the *ECMI Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe* (JEMIE) are abstracted, indexed and available with full text links in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The aim of DOAJ is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. In addition, links to the full text of ECMI Monographs on the situation of Roma were made available under the rubric general resources on the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 website. Full text indexing and abstracting of ECMI publications continues to be disseminated on the International Relations and Security Network (ISN) website, of which ECMI is a Principal Partner. ECMI publications are also still available on the Hein Online website, resulting in greater awareness of ECMI's work in law libraries, as well as on the CIAO website, a comprehensive online source for theory and research in international affairs. In addition to the above online sources, news on ECMI publications and further activities are collected on a regular basis by Intute: Social Sciences, which provides the very best Web resources for education and research in the social sciences. Intute is an easy to use and powerful tool for discovering Internet resources in that field. This service has been created by a network of United Kingdom universities and partners.

Network cooperation on local, national, and international levels has a continued significance for the ECMI Library, especially with regards to the delivery and management of information resources. The ECMI Library continued its membership in the German-Danish Library Forum, a loose association of libraries and library systems north and south of the German-Danish border. ECMI has also continued its database contribution to COMIR, the Consortium of Minority Resources, which was founded with the specific aim of fostering cooperation, especially where virtual databases are concerned, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. The ECMI Library also continues its contribution to World Affairs Online, the database of the Specialized Information Network International Relations and Area Studies (FIV-IBLK), one of the largest bibliographical databases in Europe, with more than 700,000 references to articles/chapters from periodicals and books (55%); monographs, reports (27%); and official publications (4.5%). Updated on a regular basis, World Affairs Online has been remarked upon on its usefulness by experts from the German Bundestag as well as by experts from institutes in Austria.

FIV-IBLK is a consortium of twelve German and one Danish research institutes aimed at the establishment of common information resources. Several members of FIV-IBLK, including ECMI, are also member institutes of the European Information Network on International Relations (EINIRAS). EINIRAS is an association of European research institutions working with information and documentation on international relations in research and political practice. The long-term objective of EINIRAS is to establish a common European database (EDN) on international relations and area studies. The short-term objec-

tives include the expansion of practical cooperation and the exchange of information, bibliographical data and publications. EINIRAS members include, among others, the Council of Europe, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, the Centre d' Informacio I documentacio Internacionales a Barcelona, the Royal Institute of International Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In 2007, EINIRAS published in hard copy the European Thesaurus on International Relations and Area Studies with more than 8000 specialized terms, each subject in seven languages, systemized according to more than 800 fields on 400 pages with seven alphabetical monolingual indexes. This terminological handbook for specialized documentation is highly useful for academics as well as practitioners in the field of international relations and area studies.

2. CITATIONS TO ECMI WORK

Table 1 - ECMI Publications

M=Monographs; R=Reports; WP=Working Papers; IB=Issue Briefs

M	R	WP	IB	Total
44	75	236	48	403

Table 2 - ECMI Journals

JEMIE = Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe

EYMI = European Yearbook of Minority Issues

JEMIE	EYMI
354	228

3. DATABASES

The *ECMI Framework Convention Database* and the *Framework Convention Parallel Report Database* were designed to be major tools for researchers and minority practitioners. 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 ECMI venture: a scholarly article-by-article commentary of the Convention produced by eminent specialists in the field of minority rights. This commentary, edited by ECMI Director Dr. Marc Weller, was published in hardback in 2005 and in paperback in 2006 by Oxford University Press in the distinguished series Oxford Commentaries on International Law.

This project 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 pertaining to implementation procedures and 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, contains files for each Article/Paragraph of the Convention as well as a file for the Preamble. The database allows 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 Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The *Ethnopolitical Map of Europe* database is a major documentation project that will over time highlight minority issues across Europe. The aim of the Ethnopolitical Map is to offer quick and easy access to comprehensive information on background, population and socioeconomic statistics, international response to crisis management, as well as carefully selected links and bibliography. In 2007, the Croatia, Hungary and Samtskhe-Javakheti entries were completed.

4. WEB ACCESS STATISTICS

Much of the access to ECMI publications and other resources is done through its main homepage and respective programme/project homepages, being the main port of call for dissemination. Web statistics show that in 2007, the ECMI website welcomed a growing number of visitors each month. On average, the ECMI website attracted more than 7000 visitors per day. In addition to the main website, ECMI individual project websites were used by interested individuals, scholars, international organizations and government agencies worldwide.

Access frequency on the main website www.ecmi.de

Site / Page area	Unique Visitors	Average unique Visitors/day
www.ecmi.de (The Whole Website)	567.396	1.554
/elinks/ (ECMI Links Database)	159.237	436
/emap/ (ECMI electronic Map)	95.538	261
/jemie/	66.861	183
/doc/ombudsman/	20.272	55
/doc/CoE_Project/	14.901	40
/doc/Parallel_Reports_Database/	11.390	31
/rubrik/49/comir/	3.588	9

Visitors coming from the world and the most active countries (top 30)

	Country	Visits	% of Total Visits	Pageview per Visit	Stay Length per Visit
1	Unknown	484.635	85.41%	2,54	4:28
2	United States	15.113	2.66%	2,42	3:36
3	China	10.774	1.90%	1,37	1:31
4	Germany	9.702	1.71%	73,31	1:05:54
5	United Kingdom	9.271	1.63%	1,07	0:17
6	India	3.291	0.58%	1,32	1:47
7	Sweden	3.123	0.55%	5,38	2:25
8	Korea, Republic Of	2.766	0.49%	2,05	0:32
9	Russian Federation	2.330	0.41%	2,89	5:32
10	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic Of	1.690	0.30%	1,41	1:49
11	Turkey	1.372	0.24%	1,70	1:25
12	Italy	1.073	0.19%	2,41	2:47
13	Romania	1.063	0.19%	2,28	1:43
14	Netherlands	1.009	0.18%	1,69	1:29
15	Canada	962	0.17%	1,65	1:03
16	Brazil	865	0.15%	1,54	0:41
17	Switzerland	776	0.14%	2,74	1:16
18	Spain	755	0.13%	2,93	1:00
19	Latvia	754	0.13%	1,90	1:00
20	Austria	657	0.12%	2,59	10:48
21	Ireland	647	0.11%	1,33	1:11
22	Malaysia	647	0.11%	2,30	0:21
23	Israel	639	0.11%	1,44	0:42
24	France	604	0.11%	2,09	1:32
25	Georgia	599	0.11%	1,65	3:25
26	Bulgaria	550	0.10%	1,51	1:40
27	Denmark	532	0.09%	10,11	5:15
28	Bosnia And Herzegovina	475	0.08%	1,19	1:34
29	Philippines	464	0.08%	1,18	0:38
30	Greece	431	0.08%	2,58	1:26
31	Iran, Islamic Republic of	399	0.07%	0,91	1:22

Downloaded files and resources (Top 20):

	Files	Downloads
1	/doc/Implementing_Human_Rights/ Srpski/ Zakonodavna%20reforma/ Srbija/ Komentari.pdf	31.467
2	/download/monograph_2.pdf	26.464
3	/doc/Implementing_Human_Rights/ Srpski/ Zakonodavna%20reforma/ Srbija/ Program%20zakonodavne%20reform%20Srbija. pdf	18.483
4	/doc/Implementing_Human_Rights/ Srpski/ Zakonodavna%20reforma/ Crna%20Gora/ Program%20zakonodavne%20reform%20-%20Crn a%20Gora.pdf	13.483
5	/download/ecmi_NLvol2_3_2005.pdf	8.653
6	/download/Annual_Report_2006.pdf	6.134
7	/download/monograph_4_en.pdf	5.189
8	/download/working_paper_28.pdf	5.086
9	/doc/CoE_Project/download/ Article%2005_1%20FCNM.pdf	4.820
10	/jemie/download/Focus4-2002_Kymlicka.pdf	4.787
11	/download/working_paper_35_en.pdf	4.562
12	/download/working_paper_24.pdf	4.392
13	/download/Annual_Report_2005_web.pdf	4.224
14	/download/working_paper_38.pdf	4.200
15	/download/working_paper_27.pdf	4.111
16	/download/2005.01.05_Status_Law_Digest.pdf	3.989
17	/doc/ombudsman/download/ guide_uk.pdf	3.776
18	/jemie/download/Focus1-2003_Hughes_Sasse. pdf	3.722
19	/jemie/download/Focus1-2003_Smith.pdf	3.598
20	/doc/CoE_Project/download/ Article%2001%20FCNM.pdf	2.832

Project websites

Site / Project	Unique Visitors	Average unique Visitors/day
Ecmikosovo.org	2.060	6
Ecmimoldova.org	836	2,2
Ecmigeorgia.org	15.419	42
Ecmi-eu.org (OMC)	1.068	2,9
Ecmirom.org	14.646	40

Most downloaded publications (Top 10 PDF files)

Rank	URL	# of Visits
1 "Conditionality and Minority Protection in the CEECs"	/jemie/download/Focus1-2003_Hughes_Sasse.pdf	4,238
2 "Minority Rights, Multiculturalism and EU Enlargement: The Case of Estonia"	/jemie/download/Focus1_2003_Smith.pdf	3,277
3 "The Implementation of the Ohrid Agreement: Ethnic Macedonian Resentments"	/jemie/download/Focus1-2002Brunnbauer.pdf	2,654
4 "Multiculturalism and Minority Rights: West and East"	/jemie/download/Focus4-2002_Kymlicka.pdf	2,351
5 "The Albanian Aromanians' Awakening: Identity Politics and Conflicts in Post-Communist Albania"	/download/working_paper_3.pdf	2,120
6 "The Economic Status of National Minorities in Europe: A Four-Case Study"	/download/1-2007_Wheatley.pdf	2,095
7 "Ethnic Violence in Vojvodina: Glitch or Harbinger of Conflicts to Come?"	/download/working_paper_27.pdf	1,850
8 "Language and Identity: the Ohrid Framework Agreement and Liberal Notions of Citizenship and Nationality in Macedonia"	/download/Focus1-2002Daskalovski.pdf	1,790
9 "Croat Self-Government in Bosnia: A Challenge for Dayton?"	/download/brief_5.pdf	1,205
10 "Moldova and the Transnistrian Conflict"	/download/1-2004Chapter4.pdf	1,189

4. ECMI PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC NETWORKS

In order to accomplish all of the Centre's ambitious projects and activities as well as maintain credibility in the field, it engages in formalized partnerships with other institutions. ECMI regularly collaborates with academic institutions regarding research, helping with seminars, and publishing articles and is always striving to foster new working relationships with governmental and non-governmental institutions. Recently, ECMI proposed a joint German-Danish Masters Degree in the Management of Ethnopolitical Conflict. The Centre also has a strong relationship other international organizations that deal with

minority-majority relations, political representation, and the preservation of language and culture. ECMI has worked closely with the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the UN, and the European Union on several timely issues and projects over the years. ECMI is a member of ASN, the Association for the Study of Nationalities, ASEN, the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, and has recently participated in a number of NISPACEE Conferences. In addition, institutional publishing cooperation has taken place with the Council of Europe, the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, EURAC Research, the Danish Centre for Human Rights, and the European Agency for Reconstruction. Further cooperating partners can be found in the following table.

ECMI network of academic cooperation

Name of Institution	Nature of cooperation
Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management (Berlin)	German-Danish Network on Ethnic and Conflict Studies
Birbeck College, University of London	Social Policy, Integration, Diversity Management and Ethnicity Research (SPIDER) Web
Center for Ethnicity and Culture (Bratislava)	Social Policy, Integration, Diversity Management and Ethnicity Research (SPIDER) Web
Centre for OSCE Research [CORE], University of Hamburg	German-Danish Network on Ethnic and Conflict Studies
Department of International Development Studies, University of Roskilde	German-Danish Network on Ethnic and Conflict Studies
Department of Political Studies, Queen's University	Conflict resolution research
Department of Political Science, University of Nottingham	Conflict resolution research
Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent	Political participation research
Peace Research Institute [PRIF], Frankfurt	German-Danish Network on Ethnic and Conflict Studies
Research Centre on Development and International Relations [DIR], Aalborg	German-Danish Network on Ethnic and Conflict Studies
Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs, Prague	Social Policy, Integration, Diversity Management and Ethnicity Research (SPIDER) Web
Slavic Research Centre, University of Hokkaido	Political participation research
University of Cambridge	Project specific
Social Science Research Center Berlin	Political participation research
Walter Schücking Institute for International Law, Christian Albrecht University, Kiel	German-Danish Network on Ethnic and Conflict Studies

Academic networks

ASN – Association for the Study of Nationalities

The Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) is the only scholarly association devoted to the study of ethnicity and nationalism from Europe to Eurasia. With hundreds of members in more than fifty countries, ASN brings together scholars, doctoral candidates, policy analysts and NGO practitioners, interested in the Balkans, Central Europe, Russia, Ukraine, the Caucasus, Eurasia (including Turkey and China), and nationalism studies.

ASEN – Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism

ASEN aims to establish an international and multi-disciplinary network of scholars interested in ethnicity and nationalism, and to stimulate debate through the organization of seminars, workshops, lectures and conferences.

ECPR – European Consortium for Political Research, Standing Group on Regionalism

The Standing Group on Regionalism organizes conferences and seminars on various aspects of regionalism and federalism as well as workshops at the ECPR annual sessions.

NISPACEE – The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in CEE

NISPAcee is an arena for East - East collaboration through assisting, mediating and facilitating joint research, educational and training programmes and discussions between instructors, civil servants, trainers, public sector managers and politicians.

ECMI Library networks

COMIR - Consortium of Minority Internet Resources

This is an internet-based cooperative project that aims at promoting the free flow of information and dialogue in the field of ethnic relations, multicultural politics and minority rights.

EINIRAS - European Information Network on International Relations and Area Studies

EINIRAS is an association of European institutions which aims to establish a common European database (EDN) on international relations and area studies, as well as to expand practical cooperation and the exchange of information, bibliographical data, and publications.

FIV-IBLK - Specialized Information Network on International Relations and Area Studies

FIV-IBLK is a cooperation of 12 independent German and one Danish research institute.

Together, they produce the database “World Affairs Online”, one of the largest bibliographic social science databases in Europe. The main subject areas covered are global and regional developments, foreign and security policy and social trends.

HeinOnline

ECMI is a contributor to HeinOnline, a prestigious, award winning resource which provides full-text, image based and fully searchable access to a large number of legal periodicals as well as to international Treaties and Agreements.

Columbia International Affairs Online – CIAO

ECMI also contributes to CIAO, the most comprehensive online source for theory and research in international affairs.

ISN – International Relations and Security Network

ECMI is a Principal Partner institute of the International Relations and Security Network ISN, based in Zürich. ISN aims to establish an electronic platform for networking, dialogue, and cooperation between research institutions, international organisations, governmental and parliamentary bodies, as well as NGOs active in the concerned fields.



Publications

ECMI's publications are a major channel through which the Centre reflects both its research and its action-oriented project work and makes it available to the international community of researchers and practitioners. Through its manifold and interdisciplinary publication activity, ECMI endeavours to make a valuable contribution to the analytical and informational resources that help understand and transform the relationship between minorities and majorities throughout Europe.

In addition to its book publications, ECMI has continued the generation of its Monograph, Working Paper and Report series. A description of each of these and full listings is recounted below. Furthermore, ECMI staff contributes to external scholarly publications as well as maintaining ECMI's own 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.

1. BOOKS

Handbook Series

With the establishment of the series of Handbooks on Minority Issues, ECMI provides practical guides to specific aspects of majority-minority 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.

Vol. 4: Institutions for the Management of Ethnopolitical Conflict in Central and Eastern Europe

ed. by Council of Europe

(Strasbourg: Council of Europe, forthcoming 2008)

This volume seeks to evaluate the extent to which international organizations have been effective in addressing ethnopolitical conflict in Central and Eastern Europe. In particular, it looks at the OSCE and its HCNM, the UNDP and OCHA, the CoE, the EU, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the World Bank; it also contains a chapter on the role of NGOs. In addition to comparing similarities in the organizations' aims and methods, it also examines divergences between them and their respective merits.

Jurisprudence Commentary

Universal Minority Rights: A Commentary on the Jurisprudence of International Courts and Treaty Bodies

ed. by Marc Weller

(Oxford University Press, 2007)

The development of international standards for the protection of minorities has been slow and fragmented. In the absence of a comprehensive and universal binding set of rules, the development of minority protection has been left to regional agreements and judicial interpretation of wider human rights treaties. *Universal Minority Rights* brings together, for the first time, the full set of all regional and international jurisprudence from courts and treaty bodies concerned with issues of minority rights. The commentary, like its companion volume *The Rights of Minorities*, covering the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, is arranged around ten thematic areas of investigation, including religious rights, education, cultural rights, political participation and socio-economic opportunities. Each substantive chapter offers an introduction to the issue at hand and its special relevance to minority communities, a general survey of legal standards addressing the issue, and an examination of specific problems that are being tackled through legal standards and judicial review. Each chapter concludes with an evaluation of the contribution of case-law reviewed to the development of universal standards of protection. Through an exhaustive, comparative analysis of principles and substantive rules, the commentary provides an invaluable reference point for the development of minority protection.

Participation of Minorities in Public Life

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

(Marc Weller and Farimah Daftary, eds., Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, Open Society Institute, forthcoming 2008)

This book assesses the ability of existing instruments as well as the emergence of novel mechanisms to promote effectively the right to political participation of members of ethnic minority groups within the overall framework of European Union enlargement.

Minority Protection in the Wider Europe

The Protection of Minorities in the Wider Europe

(Marc Weller and Denika Blacklock, eds., Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2008)

This volume examines whether we are moving towards an integrated regional system of legal provision for minorities in an ever-expanding Europe. Centrally, it illustrates the tension between newer member states, many of which have a keen interest in seeing minority issues addressed, and established members, which remain hesitant in committing themselves fully to a minority rights regime.

Settling Self-determination Disputes

Settling Self-determination Disputes: Complex Power-sharing in Theory and in Practice

(Marc Weller and Barbara Metzger, eds., Martinus Nijhoff, forthcoming 2008)

The study is the result of an international collaborative project supported and funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. This multi-year venture has involved a research team of some forty chapter authors and commentators. The research has been accompanied by three major workshops on project methodology, initial chapter reviews and final discussions. A point was made of including both scholars and practitioners involved in power-sharing settlements in the review process, in the hope that more would be learned about the actual implementation of the settlements under investigation. The project team was united in its wish to explore whether long-standing secessionist conflicts have been addressed effectively through the significant number of self-determination settlements that were generated in response to the wave of internal conflicts of the 1990s. It was also committed to testing whether consociationalist and integrative techniques of conflict settlement really are as mutually exclusive as is sometimes supposed, or whether they can in fact be mutually reinforcing. Finally, the project derives its impetus from the necessity to critically rethink the doctrine of self-determination. One may question whether its traditional, restrictive interpretation will be adequate in confronting the wide variety of future challenges to the territorial integrity of states.

Asymmetrical State Design as a Tool in Conflict Resolution

Asymmetrical State Design as a Tool in Conflict Resolution

(Marc Weller, ed., forthcoming 2008/2009)

This book aims to test the effectiveness of asymmetric autonomy settlements in combating the disintegrative effects of secessionist conflicts, and to address some of the problems brought up by the autonomy settlements themselves.

2. MONOGRAPHS

The Monograph series consists of innovative conceptual work combined with theoretical analysis, useful for practitioners as well as for undergraduate and postgraduate students dealing with minority issues.

#6: Tom Trier and Medea Turashvili:

Resettlement of Ecologically Displaced Persons: Solution of a Problem or Creation of a New? Eco-Migration in Georgia 1981 – 2006

August 2007, 72 pp., appendix

(ISBN 978-3-940532-00-8)

Note: Monograph #6 is also available in Georgian.

3. WORKING PAPERS

Working Papers are original, in-depth analyses of emerging or ongoing 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 an 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.

#38: Hedvig Lohm:

Javakheti after the Rose Revolution:

Progress and Regress in the Pursuit of National Unity in Georgia

April 2007, 45 pp., appendix (ISSN 1435-9812).

Note: Working Paper #38 is also available in Russian.

#37: Oleh Protsyk, Andrei Volentir, Igor Bucătaru:

Addressing the Transnistrian Conflict: Competing Stances of Moldova's Political Parties and Expert Community

January 2007, 30 pp., appendix (ISSN 1435-9812).

4. REPORTS

ECMI Reports are the products of the Centre's constructive conflict management work and reflect exchanges during workshops, roundtables, and seminars. As these seminars aim to foster dialogue in a way that will lead to concrete policy recommendations, these publications are made available after the event. 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 publications also includes extensive background reports resulting from fact-finding visits to the region in question, often in preparation for new projects.

#60: Tove H. Malloy and Michele Gazzola:

The Aspect of Culture in the Social Inclusion of Ethnic Minorities: Final Report for the European Commission.

December 2006, 197 pp., appendix (ISSN 1818-0531).

5. ISSUE BRIEFS

Issue Briefs are shorter pieces offering analytical commentary on topical issues or crises of wider interest.

#15: Wheatley, Jonathan:

The Economic Dimension of Minority Participation in Europe

February 2007, 15 pp.

6. EUROPEAN YEARBOOK OF MINORITY ISSUES

With Volume 2006/7, the sixth volume of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues about to reach its readers, ECMI has achieved international acclaim as an institution which addresses minority issues in a consistent manner. The European Yearbook of Minority Issues was first conceived by ECMI's founding Director, Prof. Dr. Stefan Troebst, in 1996 and developed in cooperation with the European Academy in Bolzano (EURAC) over the next few years.

Under the guidance of current ECMI Director Dr. Marc Weller and EURAC Director Prof. Dr. Joseph Marko, the first volume appeared in 2002. Among the eminent experts and scholars in the field that the European Yearbook of Minority Issues was able to attract to serve as its General Editors immediately from the beginning were Arie Bloed, Rainer Hofmann, and James Mayall. More importantly, experts of high ranking as well as new emerging scholars have been willing to contribute more than once with the latest

from their fields in terms of both theoretical and practical issues. While volumes one, two, three, four and five were able to secure contributions from Ted Robert Gurr, Rainer Hofmann, Asbjørn Eide, William Schabas, Joshua Castellino, Annelies Verstichel, Joseph Yacoub, Joseph Marko, Tove H. Malloy, and Kristin Henrard, the sixth volume features among others Tom Moring, Natalya Belitser, Merja Pentikäinen and Claude Cahn. The younger generation of experts is equally well-represented with eminent and carefully collected and analyzed contributions. It is not without reason that the European Yearbook of Minority Issues has been met with good reviews and feedback from international experts, practitioners and students alike.

Realizing that the aspects to be covered in minority issues cover a broad range of disciplines and research areas, the founders and managing team of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues is expected to cover not just legal issues but all aspects of the study of and management of relations between dominant and non-dominant groups in European societies. Thus with the five volumes now available having covered special areas such as non-discrimination, multi-level governance, complex power-sharing, new minorities, economic participation, the EU and minority protection, Ombudsman institutions, the Caucasus and Balkan regions, and the concept of 'Nation', as well as reporting on international and national developments, the European Yearbook of Minority Issues is already bringing a diversity of issues to public debate. This diversity is also reflected in the sixth volume.

2007 was the sixth year of the publication of The European Yearbook of Minority Issues. We have now had feedback, both informal and in the shape of scholarly reviews, in relation to the initial volumes. We are very pleased indeed to note that the Yearbook has been so well received and that it is attracting increasing support from contributors and readers. The study of majority-minority relations is certainly not going out of fashion. However, the subject is becoming increasingly complex, as we move away from the simple concept of 'minority protection' to the broader study of means and mechanisms that can be adopted to accommodate diversity within and across states. The 2006/7 issue contains two special feature sections, one focusing on crossborder cooperation and minorities in Eastern Europe, and one on managing integration / diversity. The special feature section on crossborder cooperation and minorities in Eastern Europe includes an article by Jørgen Kühl and Martin Klatt on the Hungarian-Croatian border region. The special feature section on managing integration / diversity includes an article by Merja Pentikäinen on mainstreaming integration policies at the international level.

General editors: Prof. Arie Bloed (Former Executive Director of the Constitutional and Legislative Policy Institute (COLPI)); Prof. Dr. Rainer Hofmann (Professor of Constitutional and International Public Law at the University of Frankfurt, former President of the Advisory Committee on the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities); Prof. James Mayall (Director of the Centre of International Studies and Professor at the University of Cambridge); John Packer (former Director of the OSCE

Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities); and Dr. Marc Weller (Director of ECMI); Jur.Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute, additional member and former Second Vice-President of the Advisory Committee on the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities)

Managing Editors: Emma Lantschner; Tim Dertwinkel

Assistant Editors: Alice Engl; Roberta Medda; Matthew Ward

INSTITUTIONAL PUBLISHING COOPERATION:

Council of Europe Publishing - Handbook Series

With the establishment of the Series of Handbooks on Minority Issues, ECMI aims to provide practical guides to the whole range of instruments and legal mechanisms that exist at the national, regional and international level for the protection of minorities, as well as to the international actors involved in this area. The Handbooks are aimed at practitioners, minority rights advocates, government officials, legal experts and journalists. They will also serve as valuable introductions to minority issues and ethnopolitics for students of International Relations, International Law, Political Science and related disciplines.

LGI – Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative - Ethnopolitical Issues Series

The ECMI/LGI series aims to provide a highly visible and accessible platform for ECMI's cutting-edge studies. These multi-author works are the result of the Centre's cooperative research projects, often lasting a number of years. While these projects were at times supported by conferences and seminars, the resulting volumes attempt to present a coherent and comprehensive picture of the area under investigation. In this way, the Series avoids the pitfalls of conference publications that often lack a clear focus and structure. The series also enables both ECMI and LGI to strengthen the link between their proactive work across Europe and the development of scholarly work that is geared towards influencing policy decisions. Through these studies, ECMI and LGI will raise awareness of crosscutting issues related to majority-minority relations and will analyze new issues and practices as they arise. In this way, the Series will advance the practical understanding of new challenges concerning minority issues while at the same time adding a dimension of theoretically based understanding.

VI



External Publications by ECMI Staff

Protsyk, Oleh. “Minority Accomodation in the Former Soviet Union.” In: OSCE and Minorities. Assessment and Prospects, ed. by Stanislaw Parzymies. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, 140-144.

Trier, Tom and Andrei Khanzin (eds.) The Meskhetian Turks at a Crossroads. Integration, Repatriation or Resettlement? Münster: LIT Verlag, 663 pp.

Note: This volume is also available in Russian.

Trier, Tom and Andrei Khanzin (eds.) Turki-Mesketintsy. Integratsiya, repatriasiya, emigratsiya. St. Petersburg: Aleteiya, 451 pp.

Weller, Marc (ed.) Universal Minority Rights. A Commentary on the Jurisprudence of International Courts and Treaty Bodies. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2007, 525 pp.

Wheatley, Jonathan. “Civic” and “Ethnic” Nationalism Revisited: The Conceptualisation of State, Nation and Citizen in the Former Soviet Union.” In: OSCE and Minorities. Assessment and Prospects, ed. by Stanislaw Parzymies. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, 103-128.

VII



Finances and Project Funds

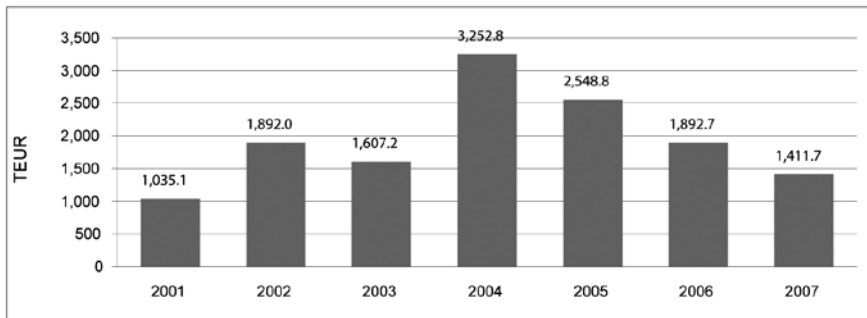
ECMI PROJECT DEVELOPMENT DATABASE

In 2007, ECMI has developed a new project development database. It has mainly two functions: project supervision and development and fundraising. Firstly, the database is intended to be used by ECMI staff involved in project development for future project proposal developments and submissions and to look where synergies can be created. Secondly, it includes all the information about ECMI projects that have been implemented, approved and submitted with the aim to keep track on ECMI activities in the different programs. Thirdly, ECMI staff can use it to find information and contact details regarding possible donors, such as governmental agencies, research institutions and international organisations.

The database therefore represents a permanent source of information and a tool for documenting the relation between research and action-oriented activities. It renders ECMI's multidisciplinary approach more visible.

ECMI TOTAL FUNDING 2005-2007 *(Founders and other donors, in Th. EUR)*

	2005	2006	2007
Founders	674.1	659.1	674.1
Donors	1,864.3	1,203.7	737.6
Others	10.4	29.9	0.0
Total	2,548.8	1,892.7	1,411.7



ECMI CORE FUNDING 2007

<i>Founder</i>	<i>Contribution EUR</i>
Kingdom of Denmark	346,000
Republic of Germany	187,000
State of Schleswig-Holstein	141,100
Total	674,100

ECMI EXTERNAL PROJECT FUNDING 2007*Region, Project Title**Funding***IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY FOR ROMANIA**

Inclusion Decade
United Nations Development Programme
Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS

GEORGIA

Denmark's Caucasus Programme
"Interventions by ECMI"
NAB Danish Royal Foreign Ministry

"Enhancing Minority Governance
and Empowering Civil Society in
Minority Regions in Georgia"
Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

KOSOVO

"Support to Minority Communities
in the Kosovo Final Status"
Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"Support to Minority Communities
in Kosovo during and after the Final
Status Project"
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

"Institutional support to the
Ministry of Communities and
Returns at Kosovo-UNKMIK"
EU/European Consultants Organisation

SERBIA

Training for Local Roma
Coordinators
United Nations Development Programme
Serbia

MOLDOVA

"Enhancing the Functioning of the
Gagauzia Autonomy Arrangement in
Moldova"
German MFA/IFA Institute for International
Relations

"Enhancing the Functioning of the
Gagauzia
Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Autonomy Arrangement in
Moldova" (II)

INTERNATIONAL

"Project on Self-determination
Conflict" (Darfur Conference)
Carnegie Foundation

VIII



Events, Delegations and Visitors to ECMI

ECMI CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS 2007

JANUARY

- 14-16 JANUARY Co-operation Meeting at the British Foreign Office, London
- 17 JANUARY Co-operation meeting at the Swiss Foreign Ministry, Bern
- 19 JANUARY Meeting of German-Danish Library Forum, Flensburg
- 27-28 JANUARY OSI / LGI Meeting on Managing Multiethnic Communities Program
– ECMI Lecture on ECMI's activities & Language and Culture
Diversity programme, Budapest

FEBRUARY

- 11 FEBRUARY Farewell reception for Hans Heinrich Hansen, president of the
German Minority Association in Denmark.
- 14 FEBRUARY Round-Table Meeting concerning the EURAC Project: "Competence
Analysis: the location value of national minorities in the German-
Danish border region", SSF, Flensburg
- 12-16 FEBRUARY UNOSEK Meeting, Vienna
- 15-19 FEBRUARY Workshop for the Community Consultative Council on the
constitutional guarantees concerning human and community rights
protection in Kosovo; held in Antalya, Turkey.
- 16 FEBRUARY Opening of the new city-library of Flensburg

- 22-23 FEBRUARY UNOSEK Meeting, final discussions, Vienna
- 20-28 FEBRUARY Conference on “Russia as a Regional Power”. ECMI Presentation on the Transnistrian Conflict in Moldova at the University of Hokkaido and at the University of Tokyo, Sapporo – Tokyo, Japan
- MARCH**
- 14 MARCH Seminar “Governmental and legal control of the activities of Public Administration Institution”, Comrat, Gagauzia, Moldova.
- APRIL**
- 18 APRIL Leipzig Zeitgeschichtliches Forum. ECMI presentation “After EU Enlargement: the Fate of Copenhagen Criteria and the new candidate states in the Balkans”, organized by KOMOEL (Kompetenz Zentrum Mittel- und Osteuropa), Leipzig
- 25-27 APRIL Seminar “Improving the Functioning of the Gagauzian Autonomy”, ECMI HQ, Flensburg, Germany
- MAY**
- 3 MAY Visit by 6 Mayors visiting Flensburg in connection with the German “Staedtetag”
- 7 MAY Lecture on “Final Status Negotiations of Kosovo” by ECMI Director, Dr. Marc Weller, Flensburg on the occasion of the Europawoche 2007, Schleswig-Holstein
- 16 MAY Workshop at the “Landeshaus” Schleswig-Holstein “Competence Analysis: the location value of national minorities in the German-Danish border region”, EURAC, Kiel
- 17-19 MAY Working Group on Democratic Governance of Multiethnic Communities with an ECMI panel on “Minority Inclusion in Government Decision-Making Processes: Strategies for Evaluation of Existing Practices” at the NISPAcee Annual Conference, Kiev, Ukraine
- 23 MAY Visit / lecture on “Code shifting as part of language loss”, by Prof. Rtr. Carol Myers-Scotton of Michigan State University, accompanied by Prof. Elin Fredsted, Chair of the Institute of Danish Language & Literature at the University of Flensburg.

25-28 MAY “Drafting Session on the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Communities and their Members”, Durres, Albania. Organized in cooperation with Kosova Ministry of Returns and Communities and the Office of the Prime Minister with the aim to further advance the work on the drafting of *the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Communities and their Members*.

JUNE

12-13 JUNE Workshop on “Equal Economic Opportunities”, Flensburg

24-26 JUNE Europrosperitas: Equal Opportunity has no Boundary: International Conference on Cross-border Co-operation to promote equal opportunities, Budapest

25-26 JUNE Membership Meeting of Specialized Information Network, Bonn

27-28 JUNE EU DG Enlargement informal meeting. ECMI progress update on minority issues in associated countries of the Balkans and Turkey, Brussels

28 JUNE External Research Meeting: Prof. Lars Johannsen and Phd Student Nina Dadalauri, Dept. of Political Science, University of Aarhus, “Institutional change and state-building in the aftermath of the ‘coloured revolutions’ in the former Soviet Union”, Flensburg

JULY

2 JULY Regional Cross-Border Co-operation Meeting, Flensburg

4-8 JULY 11th International Conference on Minority Languages (ICML XI), Pecs, Hungary

AUGUST

1-4 AUGUST ICCEES Conference, “Transcending Europe’s Borders: The EU and Its Neighbours”, ECMI presentation on: “Majority-minority relations in Ukraine and Moldova”, Berlin

2 AUGUST Danish Foreign Ministry: Resource based meeting on the new Neighbourhood Strategy, Copenhagen

14-15 AUGUST CoE Caucasus Programme meeting at Danish Foreign Ministry, Copenhagen

29 AUGUST American Political Science Association meeting — ECMI Panel on: “Parliaments in the former Soviet Union, Chicago, USA

- 31 AUGUST FUEN-Conference within the framework of the 4th European Minority Marathon YOU!MM, ECMI Panel on Language and Culture Diversity, Flensburg
- SEPTEMBER**
- 2 SEPTEMBER Youmm – Minority Marathon, Flensburg
- 24-25 SEPTEMBER OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting – ECMI side event on Equal Opportunities for Minorities, Warsaw
- 30 SEPTEMBER Presentation to the Delegation from Aceh/Indonesia on European autonomy arrangements at Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Berlin
- OCTOBER**
- 8-9 OCTOBER 17th Annual EINIRAS Conference, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
- 11- 14 OCTOBER Preparatory Meeting on Western Sudan – The University of Cambridge – Carnegie Foundation Project on Resolving Self-determination Conflicts and the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), Flensburg,
- NOVEMBER**
- 3 NOVEMBER Festveranstaltung Deutscher Tag 2007 – Minderheit als Mehrwert, Tinglev, Danmark
- 26 NOVEMBER Syddansk Universitet – Presentation of a publication on "Lifestyles in the German-Danish Border Region at Alsion/Sønderborg Museum, Danmark
- DECEMBER**
- 6-7 DECEMBER European Yearbook Meeting of general editors, Flensburg
- 7 DECEMBER ECMI Workshop "Democratizing minority governance", Flensburg
- 13 DECEMBER Meeting of the Crossborder Cooperation / Arbeitskreis Minderheiten, Integration und Interkulturelle Kompetenz, Flensburg

IX



ECMI Staff at Conferences and Events Major Speeches and Papers

Ewa Chylinski

28 January - OSI/LGI Meeting in Budapest

Conference on multi-ethnic aspect of local administration, including language and culture diversity enhancement within cooperation of PHILIA and CentralAsian region. ECMI inputs on strategic approaches to language diversity and inclusion.

17 March - German Embassy Event on German Presidency - 50th Anniversary, Georgia. A one-day event chaired by the German Embassy under German EU Presidency demonstrating European engagement in Georgia and South Caucasus - ECMI exposition of publications and programmes in Georgia.

20 April - KOMOEL Forum/University of Leipzig on Minority Protection in the EU Enlargement Process and Copenhagen Criteria Monitoring, Leipzig.

27-29 June - EU Enlargement Meeting, Bruxelles - semi-annual meeting on issues of minority and human rights in candidate states and association countries

2-4 July - Danish MFA/NAB meeting in Copenhagen - presentation of Danish Neighbourhood Programme new strategy 2008-2012 (European Neighbourhood and Russia (ENR))

24-25 September – OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Valentina Rigamonti

Conferences:

17-19 May 2007: 15th the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee) Annual Conference “Leaders and Management in the Public Sector: Values, Standards, and Competencies in Central and Eastern Europe”, Kiev, Ukraine.

Paper's Title: "Minority Participation in the Political Process in Central and Eastern Europe" – Working Group: Democratic Governance of Multiethnic Communities.

2-4 August: ICCEES - Regional European Congress - Transcending European Borders: the EU and its Neighbours, Berlin, Germany.

Trainings:

1) “How to get European funds?” and “To successfully manage a project cofinanced by the European Commission” organised by Welcomeurope, April, 19-23 in Brussels, Belgium.

2) Project preparation and management in the Seventh framework programme FP7, organised by Welcomeurope, 25-26 June, Paris, France.

Oleh Protsyk

17-19 May: 15th the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee) Annual Conference “Leaders and Management in the Public Sector: Values, Standards, and Competencies in Central and Eastern Europe”, Kiev, Ukraine.

1-4 August - ICCEES Conference “Transcending Europe’s Borders: The EU and Its Neighbours”, Berlin

29 August - American Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, USA

14 November - Association for Slavonic Studies Conference, New Orleans, USA

William McKinney

Conferences:

25-26 June: Attended membership meeting of Specialized Information Network (FIV-IBLK), hosted by the German Development Institute in Bonn.

8-9 October: Attended the 17th Annual EINIRAS conference hosted by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

20-21 November: Attended membership meeting of Specialized Information Network (FIV-IBLK), hosted by the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin.

Ulrike Schmidt

17-19 May: 15. NISPAcee Conference “Leadership and Management in the Public Sector: Values, Standards and Competencies in Central and Eastern Europe, Kyiv, Ukraine

Paper’s Title: “Minority Inclusion in Decision-Making Processes in Post-Conflict Societies” – Working Group: Democratic Governance of Multiethnic Communities.

4-5 July: International Conference on Minority Languages (ICML), Pécs, Hungary

21-23 November: “International Conference on Multilingualism and Language Education”, organized by Mercator, Leeuwarden, Netherlands. Participation at workshop on the future of multilingualism.

Marc Weller

9-12 September: conference on “Towards Effective Federalism in Sudan During the Interim Period”, Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, UK

Jonathan Wheatley

25 June Europrosperitas

25 September OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting – Economic and Social Inclusion



Internal and External Research Meetings at ECMI 2007

- 23 MARCH 2007 Internal research meeting: Ewa Chylinski, “Results-based project management”
- 23 MAY 2007 External Research Meeting: Prof. Carol Myers-Scotton, University of South Carolina, “Language Shift as an indicator of cultural transgression ”
- 06 JUNE 2007 Internal research meeting: Valentina Rigamonti, “EU training on project proposal drafting”
- 20 JUNE 2007 Internal research meeting: Valeria Cardi, “State language and minority languages – international commitments and domestic implementations”
- 26 JUNE 2007 Internal research meeting: Jesper Poerksen and Marius Matichescu, “Minority representation in legislative/executive bodies” Helene Dereszowski, “EU programmes relevant to ECMI activities“
- 28 JUNE 2007 External Research Meeting: Lars Johannsen and Nina Dadalauri, University of Aarhus, “Institutional change and state-building in the aftermath of the ‘coloured revolutions’ in the former Soviet Union”
- 23 JULY 2007 Internal research meeting: Tom Trier, “Methods of Social Anthropology in Studies of Ethnic Minorities”
- 26 JULY 2007 Internal research meeting: Ulrike Schmidt, “Language loss and ethnic identity”

- 17 SEPTEMBER 2007 Internal Research Meeting: Marc Weller, “Sudan Conflict Settlement”
- 18 DECEMBER 2007 Internal Research Meeting: Bratislav Ilic, “Politics of minority protection in Serbia”
- 20 DECEMBER 2007 Internal Research Meeting: Edoardo McKenna, “The European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and non-kin state territorial languages”; Tamara Janovic “The European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and Romani language”

XI



Internships & Non-Resident Researchers

List of Interns at Headquarters through 2007

Konstantin Sachariew,	September 2006 - March 2007
Anna Hardt, Germany	January - April
Stefanie Rehm; Germany	January - May
Maksym Ivanyna, Ukraine	February - April
Valeria Cardi; Italy	April - June
Helene Dereszowski, France	April - June
Marius Matichescu, Romania	April - June & August - October
Jesper Pørksen; Denmark	April - June
Grainne Weld, Ireland	June
Pablo Rojas Coppari, France	July - September
Viacheslav Shramovych, Ukraine	July - September
Melina Nardi, Italy-France	July - September
Tamara Jovanovic, Sweden	October - December
Edoardo McKenna, UK-Italy	October - December
Pelagia Makrygiannaki, Greece	November 2007 - February 2008

Kosovo office

Virginia Stephens, UK	January - March
Vanessa Massegg, UK	April
Natela Kochetkova, Russia	July - September
Artan Collaku, Turkey	October - December

Georgia Office

Bakar Berekashvili (Georgia)	January-March
Ulrike Gatzemeier (Germany)	January-March
Arman Palanjyan (Georgia)	May-July
Samvel Muradian (Georgia)	May-July
Katrine Madsen (Denmark)	June – August
Margarita Aivazian (Georgia)	August
Margarita Kazanchian (Georgia)	August
George Tsikvadze (Georgia)	July-August
Mariam Tsikvadze (Georgia)	July - August
David Szakonyi (USA)	July - September
Ariadni Spanaki (Greece)	July - September
Ilya Chkhutishvili (Georgia)	July - September
Elizabeth Bergquist (Norway)	October - December
Christina Isakhanian (Georgia)	October - December
Tata Chkhaidze (Georgia)	October – December
Maka Alioghli (Georgia)	October – December
Karen Vartanian (Georgia)	November
Seren Kalivonian (Georgia)	November

HQ Visiting Researchers:

Bratislav Illic, Serbia – June -December
Janina Dill, UK – September

Non-Resident Researchers :

Dr Francois Grin (Switzerland) Faculté des Sciences Économiques et Sociales, Université de Genève (Non-resident Senior Research Fellow)
Dr Kinga Gal (Hungary) Chief Advisor to the President of the Academy of Sciences, Budapest, EUMEP Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.
Dr Fernand de Varennes (Canada), Senior Lecturer, Murdoch University of Law, Perth, Australia
Dr Florian Bieber (Luxembourg), Lecturer, University of Kent, UK
Dr Kristin Henrard (Belgium), Lecturer, University of Groningen, NL
Dr Stefan Wolff (Germany/UK), Reader, University of Nottingham, UK
Dr Farimah Daftary (France/USA), Consultant EU Accession Programme (EUMAP), OSI-Budapest, HU
Dr Robert Dunbar (Canada/UK) Senior Lecturer, Aberdeen, UK

XII



Staff & Board & Advisory Council

ECMI HQ STAFF

Ewa Chylinski
Tim Dertwinkel (commenced on 1 December)
Ann-Kathrin Duborg (departed on 15 August)
Bernd Dummer
Eben Friedman (departed 1 April)
Michael Mathea
William McKinney
Vladislav Michalcik (departed on 1 September)
Katie Nobbs (commenced on 15 Sept)
Oleh Protsyk
Valentina Rigamonti
Maj-Britt Risbjerg Hansen
Ulrike Schmidt
Annette Seesemann
Marc Weller
Jonathan Wheatley (departed on 15 Nov)

KOSOVO OFFICE STAFF 2007

Core Staff:

Adrian Zeqiri, ECMI Kosovo/a Head of Office,
Arben Osmani, Project Assistant
Burim Gagica, Financial Officer
Selman Berisha – Part Time Accountant
Naxhije Klllokoqi, Cleaner

Part Time Associates:

Urtak Hamiti, Project Associate
Virginia Stephens, Project Associate,
Bekim Sejdiu, Junior Expert,
Nehare Zeqiraj, Junior Expert
Mi Zhou, Junior Expert

Research Associates:

Thëllenza Arifi
Brikena Mulliqi
Azemina Qullum
Adelina Sopi

GEORGIA OFFICE STAFF

TBILISI Head Office

Tom Trier, Regional Representative for the Caucasus
John Wright, Financial Manager (departed March)
Hedvig Lohm, Researcher (departed April)
Andrei Khanzhin, Regional Programme Manager (departed August)
David Szakonyi, Research Assistant
Giorgi (Gagi) Pasuri, Senior Programme Officer (passed away August)
Ketevan Khutsishvili, Senior Programme Officer (commenced November)
Giorgi Sordia, Research Officer
Salome Mekhuzla, Programme Officer.
Giorgi Arakishvili, Programme Officer fro Kvemo Kartli
Tamar Odishelidze, Office Manager/Financial Officer (departed August)
Khatia Shamugia, Office Manager/Financial Officer (commenced August)
Lali Kharabadze, Administrative/Financial Assistant
Levan Sidiani & Vakhtang Danelia - IT support
Elena Pugachova, Financial Assistant (departed April)
Bakar Berekashvili - Part Time Assistant (April-May)
Medea Turashvili - Project Associate (departed August)

Kvemo Kartli Regional Sub-office in Tsalka

Monika Khristianova: Project Assistant

Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Sub-office

Seda Melkumyan, Project Assistant
Rafik Abijan, Driver

Secondments:

Teimuraz Lomsadze, Parliament of Georgia

Sophia Petriashvili, Centre for Effective Governance

Koba Chopliani, Coordinator, Council of National Minorities, Public Defender Office
(departed April)

Malkhaz Soldadze, Executive Secretary, Council of National Minorities, (September-December)

Izabella Osipova, Secretary, Council of National Minorities, (September December)

BOARD MEMBERS

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Professor Bertel Heurlin

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Professor Dr Dr Rainer Hofmann

Johann-Wolfgang Goethe Universität,

Öffentliches Recht, Völker- und Europarecht

Mr. Marc Scheuer

Director of Political Advice and Co-Operation, Council of Europe

Ms. Caroline Schwarz

Beauftragte für Minderheiten und Kultur des Ministerpräsidenten des Landes
Schleswig-Holstein

Substitute for Ms Schwarz

Mr. Gert Haack

Ministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft,

Forschung und Kultur , Land Schleswig-Holstein

Dr Wolfgang Wodarg MdB

Dr Detlev Rein

Substitute for Dr. Wodarg

Ministerialrat

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Ambassador Peter Dyvig (Denmark)

Dr. Tarja Cronberg (Finland),

Member of Parliament, Helsinki, Finland

Professor Asbjørn Eide (Norway),

Professor Emeritus, Norwegian Institute of Human Rights, University of Oslo, Norway

Professor Hurst Hannum (USA),

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

Professor Will Kymlicka (Canada),

National Scholar in the Philosophy Department at Queen's University ; and a Recurrent Visiting Professor in the Nationalism Studies Program at the Central European University in Budapest

Professor André Liebich (Switzerland),

Professor at the Institut Universitaire de Hautes Études Internationales (IUHEI), Geneva

Professor John McGarry (Canada)

Professor and Canada Research Chair in Nationalism and Democracy, Dept. of Political Studies
Queen's University,

Professor Brendan O'Leary (Ireland),

Director of Solomon Asch Center for Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict; Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Alan Phillips (United Kingdom),

Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, President of Advisory Committee

Professor Allan Rosas (Finland),
European Court of Justice, Luxembourg

Professor Wojcieh Sadurski (Poland),
Professor at the European University Institute in Florence, Dept. of Law, Italy

H.E. Amb. Max Van der Stoep (Netherlands),
Former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Professor Patrick Thornberry (United Kingdom),
Professor of International Law at Keele University

Professor Stefan Troebst (Germany),
Professor of East European Cultural Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany, and Deputy
Director of the Leipzig Centre for the History and Culture of East Central Europe

