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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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NEW ROUND OF ACCREDITATION OF COMMUNITY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITIES

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About ECMI Kosovo

ECMI Kosovo is the principal non-governmental organisation engaged with minority issues in Kosovo, with the overarching aim to develop inclusive, representative, community-sensitive institutions that support a stable multi-ethnic Kosovo. ECMI Kosovo contributes to the developing, strengthening and implementation of relevant legislation, supports the institutionalisation of communities-related governmental bodies, and enhances the capacity of civil society actors and the government to engage with one another in a constructive and sustainable way.

Introduction

The Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo, through its Communities Consultative Council (CCC), has issued a Public Notice whereby all registered Associations and/or Non-Governmental Organizations representing communities are invited to submit their application for accreditation, a list of candidates for the Council, as well as a list of representatives that will cast their vote for the future members of the Council. In addition, any person belonging to a non-majority community, as well as Members of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, is eligible to submit their application—in writing—to be a candidate for a possible appointment in the Council as a representative of the respective community they belong to.

This Public Notice is issued pursuant to the Law Nr. 03/L-047 on the *Protection and Promotion of Rights of Communities and their Members in Kosovo* (as amended by the Law numbered Nr. 04/L-020), and also pursuant to Article 6 of the Communities Consultative Council Statute, as declared by the President of the Republic of Kosovo in decree number KKK-001-2012.¹

Membership in the CCC

Established by a decree of the President of the Republic of Kosovo on September 15, 2008 – based on Article 60 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo and Article 12 of the Law on Communities in Kosovo—the mandate of the CCC is to act as a mechanism for an exchange of ideas between Kosovo’s various communities and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. Membership in the CCC is open to all associations and non-governmental organizations that represent minority communities in Kosovo, members of the Assembly representing minority communities, as well as relevant Kosovo institutions and agencies whose mandate encompasses issues pertaining to minority communities. Members are appointed to the Communities Consultative Council for a two-year mandate. Following accreditation and elections, existing members can be appointed to the Council for an additional—and final—two-year mandate.

According to Article III of the CCC statute, the CCC will have the following composition:

- a) At least 2/3 of the members shall represent minority communities in Kosovo. The total number of members is regulated according to the Law on Communities and the CCC Statute.
- b) Not more than 1/3 of all members shall represent the Government or any other agency whose mandate encompasses, among others, issues pertinent to minorities and their rights.

¹ Please refer to the following link for the CCC Public Notice < <http://ccc-rks.net/index.php/en/news/item/142-njoftim-publik>>

c) The following institutions and agencies shall have permanent representation in the CCC:

- The Office of the President;
- The Office of the Prime Minister;
- The Ministry for Communities and Return;
- The Office of the President of the Assembly.

Pursuant to the Law on Communities and the CCC Statute, Kosovo's various communities shall be represented in the CCC as follows:

- a) The Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Montenegrin, and Croatian communities shall have two (2) representatives each, one of which may also be a Member of the Assembly;
- b) The Bosniak and Turkish communities shall have three (3) representatives, one of which may also be a Member of the Assembly;
- c) The Serb community shall have five (5) representatives, two of which may also be Members of the Assembly;
- d) Representatives of communities other than those specified here may ask for membership in the CCC, in which case they shall have one (1) representative, as approved by the President, and in line with the Statute and relevant legislation.

Nomination and Accreditation

All associations and non-governmental organizations representing Kosovo's minority communities must submit their application for accreditation by the President of the Republic of Kosovo. The application for accreditation must be submitted together with a list of candidates for membership, as well as a list of voting delegates. The documentation must be submitted to the CCC Secretariat² in person or through regular mail, and must be complete and pursuant to the rules and procedures as stipulated in the CCC Public Notice and the CCC Statute. Applications can be submitted to CCC Secretariat, by mail or in person, until **31.05.2014, no later than 16:00**.

For questions and additional information, interested parties can also contact the CCC Secretariat directly:

Avnija Bahtijari

Mobile: +381 (038) 200 12 048

E-mail: avnija.bahtijari@president-ksgov.net

² Please consult the following link for more information on how and where to submit applications for accreditation < <http://ccc-rks.net/images/stories/Dokumente/Konkurs/Njoftim.pdf>>

When applying for accreditation, the list of candidates must correspond with the number of representatives from that community in the Council, and the list of voting delegates must be composed of two (2) delegates, of which one (1) shall be male and one (1) female. All applications for accreditation of members must have the following information attached for every candidate:

- CV;
- A description of activities and/or projects undertaken by the candidate in the promotion and defense of community rights, as well as a list of priorities if accredited;
- A signed statement confirming that the candidate does not have a penal record, and fulfills all the criteria as set forth in Article 8 of the CCC Statute.³

ECMI Kosovo Support to the Accreditation and Nomination Process



On May 21, ECMI Kosovo organized a meeting between the CCC Secretariat and Civil Society Organizations and Associations representing the Serb community of the Anamoravë/Pomoravlje region in eastern Kosovo. The meeting sparked significant interest from CSOs and community leaders, and it gave the CCC Secretariat representatives an opportunity to not only explain the accreditation and nomination process, but to also exchange ideas with attendees on the best way forward for the CCC

and its work. There was considerable interest from CSOs representing the Serb community on what the CCC does on a day-to-day basis, on whether it had produced any significant change for the better, and what the mandate of the future members would be. The sheer number of questions on the basics of the CCC highlighted the need for this introductory and explanatory meeting, but also the need for the CCC Secretariat to undertake similar meetings with other communities all over Kosovo as well.

This activity is part of the ECMI Kosovo project *“Supporting Civil Society Members of Consultative Council for Communities”*, funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

³ For a full list of requirements, including those relevant to associations and non-governmental organizations, please refer to the following link < <http://ccc-rks.net/images/stories/Dokumente/Ligjet/Statuti.pdf>>

Appointment of New Members to the Council

Within thirty (30) days of being accredited, organizations and associations representing various communities will meet, in cooperation with the CCC Secretariat, to nominate specific candidates for appointment to the Council, as specified in Article 9 of the CCC Statute. After the nomination process is finished, the President of the Republic of Kosovo will appoint the nominated candidates to the Council within ten (10) days from the date the candidates were nominated. If the President refuses to appoint one or more of the nominated candidates, the President will appoint the next person to have gained the highest number of votes. In this case, the President will issue a statement detailing his/her reasons for refusing the selected candidate(s).

Members to the Council are appointed for a two-year mandate, which can be extended for an additional—and final—two-year mandate. The new mandate will not be automatic, and existing members seeking re-appointment will have to undergo accreditation, nomination, and finally, appointment by the President of the Republic of Kosovo.

Conclusion

The Communities Consultative Committee is an important mechanism for the exchange of ideas between Kosovo's various communities and the Government of Kosovo on a variety of legislation, policies and relevant institutional developments. The CCC also serves as a forum where Kosovo's communities can interact with—and comment on—legislation and policies affecting their daily life and the lives of the citizens they represent. As such, it is of crucial importance for the CCC to attract and retain members whose contribution and viewpoints represent a broad and diverse range of topics, reflecting both Kosovo and its communities.

The CCC is an institution that tackles a diverse set of issues; its needs and challenges are many. The CCC has a budget that is extremely insufficient for its commitments and mandate. As a result, the CCC faces financial and practical constraints that sometimes limit its ability to comment on legislation and policies in a timely manner, as well as produce studies and reports that tackle issues pertinent to minorities.

In order to succeed, the CCC requires dedicated and hardworking members who are committed to advocating for the protection and promotion of all the rights that Kosovo's communities and citizens are guaranteed by its laws and the Constitution. In that light, it is of utmost importance, both for the CCC and for Kosovo, to attract dedicated, hard-working, and talented individuals—as are those working everyday through their associations and NGOs—who will defend and promote those rights within a quick-paced and challenging environment.

ECMI Kosovo has supported the work of the Communities Consultative Committee and its Secretariat as part of the *“Supporting Civil Society Members of Consultative Council for Communities”*, funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

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For more information about this Public Notice, please refer to the following link (in Albanian):

<http://ccc-rks.net/index.php/en/news/item/142-njoftim-publik>

For a more detailed overview of the CCC Statute (in English):

<http://ccc-rks.net/images/stories/Dokumente/Ligjet/Statuti.pdf>

For more information about the CCC, its mandate and work please refer to:

<http://ccc-rks.net/index.php/en/home>