



EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR MINORITY
ISSUES KOSOVO

PRESS RELEASE

5 DECEMBER 2014

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE PROJECT “HOW TO BREATHE LIFE INTO KOSOVO ANTI- DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION”

On December 4th 2014, a roundtable discussion was held in Prishtinë/Priština to mark the finalisation of the project, “*How to breathe life into Kosovo anti-discrimination legislation*”. The roundtable was organized and coordinated by the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo) and saw the participation of some thirty (30) individuals, including the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kosovo, his Excellency Mr. Ivo Šilhavý, from a host of organisations across Kosovo with the common goal of decreasing ethnic, gender and other forms of discrimination in Kosovo. His Excellency Ambassador Šilhavý, greeted the participants and expressed his support and that of the Czech Republic for the project.

The roundtable was organized in order to present the results of Situation Testing cases conducted by ECMI Kosovo over the course of the project. Within this time, five (5) situational discrimination tests have been conducted in Kosovo, in Prishtinë/Priština, Gračanica/Graçanicë and Ferizaj/Uroševac. These tests aimed to determine whether individuals in a given situation, such as when applying for accommodation or employment, experience discrimination based on, for example, their ethnic background. Overall, it was found that two (2) test cases involved direct discrimination, two (2) involved no discrimination, and one (1) case involved indirect discrimination. These findings, although not conclusive enough in number to allow generalisation to the prevalence of discrimination in Kosovo, provide a vital insight into the trends that may be in place.

The roundtable discussion gave rise to fruitful discussion surrounding anti-discrimination laws and policies in Kosovo and allowed the participants to share experiences and best practices with those from the Czech Republic. The roundtable discussion was concluded with an expression of satisfaction with the cooperation and project implementation on behalf of Poradna and ECMI Kosovo. It was stated that an

PRESS RELEASE

important precedent had been set in for anti-discrimination efforts in Kosovo. A press conference with RTK followed the event.

The project was implemented by ECMI Kosovo in association with Poradna pro občanství/Občanská a lidská práva, an NGO from the Czech Republic, and was financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic within the Transition Promotion Program.

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.