EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES KOSOVO

Annual Report

2011

ECMI Kosovo

ecmikosova.org

Preface

In 2011, the Consultative Council for Communities received a separate budget and expanded its Secretariat. ECMI Kosovo supported the Council as it strengthened its role in consultation and worked to make its activities more visible to the communities it represented.

Our work also took us directly into communities and municipal offices. With CLARD, we helped residents obtain free legal advice. In Štrpce/Shtërpcë, municipal officials took part in Albanian and Serbian language classes designed around their work. In Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, we worked with UNICEF and municipal counterparts on the local education action plan for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children. These programmes addressed practical questions that formal protections alone could leave unresolved.

ECMI Kosovo reported on its work in the ECMI Flensburg Annual Report 2011. This Kosovo-only annual report was reconstructed from that contribution, contemporaneous programme records and ECMI Kosovo's audited financial statements.

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A stronger community consultation mechanism

ECMI Kosovo continued its technical support to the Consultative Council for Communities. The work addressed the Secretariat's capacity, the Council's role in consultation on government policies, and the visibility of its work among the communities it represented. The Council received a separate budget for the first time and expanded its Secretariat. The year's record also describes continuing decentralisation work to improve communication between local institutions and residents.

The Council's secretariat grew and the Council received a separate budget for the first time. We helped secure a provision in the Government Rules of Procedure for consulting the Council on measures affecting communities. We also started work on a website in five languages so that Council recommendations and meeting records would be available to the communities it represented.



Institutional support sessions for the Consultative Council for Communities, 1-4 December 2011. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

Legal aid, official languages and inclusive education

In an EU-funded initiative with the Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development, ECMI Kosovo helped operate legal clinics serving people who faced barriers in exercising their rights. The programme combined free legal advice with outreach in minority areas. It reported providing legal aid to more than 1,000 people in 2011. Its work also included an assessment of relevant legal protections and a practical handbook for people and civil-society organisations.

In Štrpce/Shtërpcë, ECMI Kosovo piloted six months of Albanian and Serbian language classes tailored to municipal officials. The pilot addressed communication between colleagues and with residents in both official languages.

In Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, ECMI Kosovo worked with UNICEF and municipal counterparts to strengthen the implementation of the local education action plan for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children. The work helped define responsibilities, budget needs and measures of progress for the municipality.

The EU-supported legal-aid programme was run with the Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development. The clinics advised people on matters from employment disputes to discrimination, and national media, civil-society workshops and door-to-door outreach made the service better known. The 2011 programme record reports that more than 1,000 people received legal aid. Research for a practical legal handbook also identified priorities for strategic cases in areas including healthcare,

domestic violence, language rights and education.

With support from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the six-month language pilot in Štrpce/Shtërpcë gave Albanian and Serbian municipal officials regular classes tailored to the vocabulary and situations they encountered at work. The aim was to improve communication between colleagues and help residents obtain services in their own language.

Municipal practice and access to rights

The language pilot focused on the communication municipal staff needed in their daily work. In education, the local action-planning work connected commitments on inclusion to municipal responsibilities, budgets and progress measures. The legal-aid clinics and outreach gave residents a way to obtain advice about the protections that applied to them.

In Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, the UNICEF-supported education programme assessed municipal capacity and helped the municipality turn its action plan into a schedule of activities with assigned responsibilities, a budget and measurable indicators. The municipality set up a task force to coordinate implementation and keep civil society informed about the steps it was taking on education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children.

Publications and practical resources

- Kosovo Legislative Process: Handbook for Community Political Participation Bodies



Completion ceremony for municipal officials attending Albanian and Serbian language courses, 2011. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

Financial record

The joint audit reports cash receipts and cash payments separately from recognised income and expenditure. The personnel and contracted services lines are selected components of cash payments.

Audited line	2011
Grant receipts in cash	€341,767
Total cash payments	€380,877
Of which, staff costs	€79,337
Of which, taxes and contributions	€3,193
Of which, contracted services	€103,637
Grant income and expenditure recognised, each	€378,076

Sources. Original office chapters submitted on 3 February 2012. ECMI Kosovo publications appendix. ECMI Flensburg Annual Report 2011, printed pp. 12–17. Audit & Conto, financial statements for 2010 and 2011, printed pp. 6–7.

Independent audit

Audit & Conto expressed an unmodified opinion on ECMI Kosovo's 2011 financial statements in its report dated 19 March 2012. In an Emphasis of Matter, the auditor explained that the existing software did not automatically consolidate accounting data, which increased the risk of inaccurate reporting. Following the auditor's recommendation, ECMI Kosovo began introducing QuickBooks to improve how it managed its accounting records.