EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES KOSOVO

Annual Report

2012

ECMI Kosovo

ecmikosova.org

Preface

The opening of our North Mitrovica office in November gave ECMI Kosovo a local base for work with civil society and communities in northern Kosovo. Across Kosovo, we continued to support community participation in public decisions, access to legal remedies and the delivery of services in the official languages.

The year's work included eight legal aid clinics with CLARD, voter education in community languages, municipal work on local economic development and continued support for inclusive education and official-language learning. We also examined what the census could tell public institutions about communities and where gaps in coverage limited its use. This report brings those programmes together and records the institutional and financial context in which they were delivered.

ECMI Kosovo reported on its work in the ECMI Flensburg Annual Report 2012. 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 presence in North Mitrovica

ECMI Kosovo opened its North Mitrovica office in November. The branch gave the organisation a base for working with civil-society groups and coordinating projects in northern Kosovo. Its work there included youth education on rights and democratic participation and research into residents' access to services, employment and economic opportunities. The organisation continued supporting the Consultative Council for Communities and expanded its work with civil society.

The office gave ECMI Kosovo a base for work with organisations in northern Kosovo. A survey asked residents about healthcare, education, social welfare, jobs and economic development. The survey informed recommendations on the quality of public services, while co-produced television and radio programmes brought the same issues to a wider audience. A youth initiative also began preparing young people for involvement in human rights and civic life.

Rights, participation and municipal services

The legal aid initiative with the Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development operated eight clinics and reported assisting 1,500 people in 2012. Work alongside the clinics included training on anti-discrimination standards and practical guidance on legal remedies.

An electoral education campaign supported by IFES and USAID brought information about voting and public participation to minority communities. The programme reported campaign reach of more than 30,000 minority community members. That figure measures reported outreach. The legal aid count measures people assisted through a separate programme.



Public information meeting during ECMI Kosovo's electoral participation campaign, 2012. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

With Finland's support, the decentralisation programme continued its work on local economic development. ECMI Kosovo issued policy recommendations for newly established municipalities, trained officials and prepared local socio-economic profiles. It also worked on minority education with UNICEF and continued official-language learning with support from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

The office assessed the usefulness of the Kosovo census for community-related policy. Its analysis drew attention to geographic exclusions and partial boycotts that affected the coverage of some communities.

Municipal officials received training on planning, monitoring and reporting on education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children. In Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, the municipal task force organised catch-up classes that helped 30 out-of-school children return to school.

With support from the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, we extended Albanian and Serbian instruction to 78 municipal officials. We also assisted the education ministry with a fourth-grade textbook for Albanian as a second language and trained 37 teachers in the subject. The work produced a teaching programme for municipal language classes and policy recommendations on use of both official languages.

In October and November, the electoral-education campaign used twenty public meetings, three television debates and three videos broadcast in minority languages to explain voting rights, registration and the institutions responsible for elections. The USAID-funded campaign was implemented with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and other civil-society organisations.

The Finland-supported decentralisation programme continued with economic profiles of the newly established municipalities, training for officials on local economic policy and support for a Serb business association. A report on local economic development set out practical recommendations to improve conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises.

A new programme on community governance

Late in the year, ECMI Kosovo began a Swiss-supported programme on effective governance for minority communities. Building on earlier institutional support, it brought together work with public bodies and civil society. The programme proposed a community-rights curriculum for civil servants, training for civil-society advocates and tools that institutions could use in their ongoing work.

An EU-funded civil-society initiative also started in late November. It set out to map organisations, improve their dialogue with local and central institutions, and provide advocacy and networking training. The initiative addressed a gap between formal participation rights and the opportunities community organisations had to influence public decisions.

Practical legal assistance

Alongside operating legal clinics, ECMI Kosovo and CLARD trained judges on anti-discrimination standards and worked with civil-society organisations on legal remedies and advocacy. ECMI Kosovo raised complaints about unequal access to information in the official languages and assisted Roma parents preparing a case concerning segregation in education.

Across the year, eight clinics run with the Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development provided free assistance to around 1,500 people. The legal handbook and Constitutional Court booklet gave people practical information on available remedies. The review of the 2011 census examined a different implementation problem. It recommended caution when using the results to set community-related policy, given the exclusion of northern Kosovo and incomplete participation elsewhere.

Publications and practical resources

- A Legal Handbook: Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in Kosovo
- Informational Booklet: Constitutional Court of Kosovo

- Minority Communities in the 2011 Kosovo Census Results



UNICEF-supported conference on Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian integration through education, 19 October 2012. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

Financial record

The 2013 institutional audit includes 2012 comparative figures. The income statement and cash-flow statement provide separate measures of the year's finances.

Audited line	2012 comparative
Grant receipts in cash	€545,652
Total cash payments	€482,556
Of which, staff and related costs	€205,509
Of which, contracted services	€21,909
Grant income and expenditure recognised, each	€470,662

Sources. ECMI Kosovo's submitted annual contribution. ECMI Flensburg Annual Report 2012, printed pp. 20–24. ECMI Kosovo, audited financial statements for 2013 with 2012 comparative figures, printed pp. 6–7.

Independent audit

Audit & Conto expressed an unmodified opinion on ECMI Kosovo's 2012 financial statements in its report dated 12 June 2013. In an Emphasis of Matter, the auditor highlighted the risk of inaccurate reporting because the existing software did not automatically consolidate accounting data. ECMI Kosovo was implementing QuickBooks at the time to improve the security and management of its accounting records.