EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES KOSOVO

Annual Report

2014

ECMI Kosovo

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Preface

In 2014, ECMI Kosovo examined how institutions delivered language services, helped develop a proposal on access to employment for graduates from the University in Mitrovica North, and began a new form of community-based support for women facing violence.

The first group of eight community paralegals was recruited and trained through the UN Trust Fund-supported programme. Their work connected women with services through people who knew their communities. At the same time, our teams worked with civil-society networks and municipal representatives on local priorities and reviewed language-rights compliance across municipal and central institutions. The report documents these programmes, the people who carried them out and the audited resources that supported them.

ECMI Kosovo reported on its work in the ECMI Flensburg Annual Report 2014. This Kosovo-only annual report was reconstructed from that contribution, contemporaneous programme records and ECMI Kosovo's audited financial statements.

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Language rights and access to employment

Working with UNDP and the Office of the Language Commissioner, ECMI Kosovo assessed compliance with the Law on the Use of Languages in 38 municipalities and 21 central-level institutions. The assessment used 59 indicators and produced a database to support monitoring. It documented constraints on language services, including staffing, resources and the time available for translation and proofreading.

With Norwegian support, ECMI Kosovo helped a government team prepare a concept for improving the position of graduates of the University in Mitrovica North. The proposed measures covered the University's legal integration and a temporary diploma-verification mechanism for graduates seeking public employment. The concept was under government consideration in 2014.

Safety, civil society and municipal development

With Aktiv and the Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development, the UN Trust Fund-supported programme recruited and trained eight minority women as community paralegals. They connected women to services and supported local work on gender-based violence. The programme reported seven skills trainings, reaching 43 women in the first round and 39 in the second. The figures describe each round.



Training for community paralegals through the UN Trust Fund-supported programme on gender-based violence, 2014. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

ECMI Kosovo continued helping the Anamorava/Pomoravlje and Gorani civil-society networks develop working arrangements and advocate on community priorities. The sustainable growth programme reported three trainings for newly elected assembly members targeting six municipalities and 20 meetings on women's and young people's participation. It recorded the registration of a business association in Ranilug/Ranillug and a tourist office in Klokot/Kllokot.

The project developed teaching material on women’s rights and gender equality in Albanian, Serbian and English. Paralegals also met with male community leaders to discuss women’s rights, gender equality and early marriage. The work brought information and referral services closer to people while creating opportunities for local discussion.

Community participation and local government

The civil-society dialogue work helped organisations develop advocacy proposals and work with public institutions. Local networks gave Serb and Gorani organisations a basis for coordinating issues of common concern. Work with newly established municipalities included training for elected representatives and practical support on local development and community participation.

The EU-supported civil-society programme paired workshops and dialogue with technical and legal assistance to local organisations. It helped the Anamorava/Pomoravlje and Gorani networks set up secretariats, agree working documents and develop action plans, newsletters and policy briefs.

The UK-supported municipal governance programme helped assembly members understand their duties under Kosovo's framework for community rights. It convened meetings between assembly members and local organisations and held focus groups for women, youth, repatriated residents and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The Finland-supported municipal programme complemented this work with research on agriculture and tourism in newly established municipalities.

Publications and practical resources

- Guidebook on the Implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages
- Serb Community Network policy briefs
- Gorani Community Network policy briefs
- Baseline Study: Empowering Minority Communities in Kosovo against Gender-Based Violence



Training for municipal assembly members on community rights, Gračanica/Graçanicë, 6 November 2014. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

People engaged in the work

ECMI Kosovo's contemporary staff annex reports paying 164 individuals across the year, including staff, researchers, experts, paralegals and part-time local correspondents. It records 89 women and 75 men, and 129 national personnel. The audit reports an average of 66 regular and other contracted employees per month. At the time the annex was prepared in 2015, it recorded 23 full-time staff across the two offices. These are three distinct measures.

Financial record

The audited statement uses the cash receipts and disbursements basis. The personnel line includes salaries and €16,343 in pension contributions, with contracted personnel included as described in the audit.

Audited category	2014
Grants received	€782,963
Other income	€141
Total funds available	€783,104
Personnel costs for staff and contracted contributors	€440,165
Project activities	€233,385
Administrative costs	€77,583
Total expenditure	€751,133

The project activities line includes €134,902 for main project activities, €27,940 for travel, €24,647 for training materials and facilities, €16,483 for advocacy, €14,726 for food and refreshments, and €14,687 for workshops.

Sources. Six original Kosovo office project chapters. Grant Thornton, *Financial Report and Independent Auditor's Report*, printed pp. 3, 5 and 9–10. ECMI Kosovo, *Additional Information on Staff Structure*, PDF pp. 2–5, in the 2014 donor archive. Signed donor cover letter dated 7 April 2015.

Independent audit

Grant Thornton LLC expressed an unmodified opinion on ECMI Kosovo's cash-basis financial report for 2014 in its report dated 20 March 2015.