Annual Report 2016

Reporting year 2016

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Preface

Throughout many years, I have had the privilege of observing the dedication and hard work that ECMI Kosovo has conveyed towards all minorities in Kosovo. Throughout the year, ECMI Kosovo has continued its work towards the establishment and growth of a democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo.

During 2016, ECMI Kosovo strengthened its role as the principal non-governmental organisation (NGO) in the field of minority and community rights. ECMI Kosovo also continued to espouse its vision for a stable, multi-ethnic Kosovo in which the human and minority rights of members of all communities are implemented and respected in line with domestic and international standards. It has engaged in a wide range of activities aimed at supporting the effective implementation of the legal and institutional framework of minority rights. ECMI Kosovo covers a wide range of topics crucial to Kosovo's democratic future: governance and accountability, education, language issues, economic empowerment and fundamental rights and freedoms. During 2016, projects focused on improving access to employment and education for minority communities, promoting cultural tolerance among Kosovo youth from various communities, improving the institutional capacities of municipalities to promote and protect the rights of minority communities, and promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Moreover, ECMI Kosovo monitored closely the position of minority communities in Kosovo and provided consistent analysis on the political situation. In May 2016, ECMI Kosovo entered in to a pioneer coalition, namely the Equal Rights for All Coalition, with seven other partner CSOs. By establishing and maintaining this effective coalition, the participating CSOs, including ECMI Kosovo, can strengthen their capacities and advocate from a stronger position to promote and protect fundamental rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups in Kosovo.

ECMI Kosovo has maintained a continuous and consistent approach to support for vulnerable and marginalized groups and as we continue onto 2017, I am proud of ECMI Kosovo's work and achievements in 2016. The organisation is passionate and determined, and together we will continue our efforts towards an inclusive, democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo.

Srećko Bogajćević

Chairperson of the Senior Oversight Board

ECMI Kosovo

Director's Message

ECMI Kosovo has seen its activities expanding in 2016. Especially in the areas of human rights protection, minority communities and for the first time in the field of Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups (VMG).The latter is a reflection of the establishment of the Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC) as of January 2016 for a period of four years. ERAC brings together seven (7) medium seized and grass root NGOs that work in the domain of rule of law and fundamental rights for selected VMGs. These VMGs are minority communities, women, youth and LGBT community. As a member of the coalition, the overarching goals of ECMI Kosovo can excel through fertile exchange of skills and knowledge between the participating organisations. This coalition has been established by funding from the European Union.

Support to Education in Serbian Language in Kosovo is another European Union-funded project launched in 2016. A new project which in 2016, successfully supported the Government of Kosovo to establish a temporary verification mechanism to allow degrees from the University of Mitrovica North to be validated, to allow the applicants of the mechanism to apply for jobs and take part in professional exams and ultimately increase representation of minority communities in Kosovo institutions. Since its establishment in May 2016, and with ECMI acting in a mediating role and offering technical support, the mechanism has to date verified more than 200 diplomas.

ECMI Kosovo has also entrenched itself into providing the much needed support to public institutions with education in Albanian and Serbian languages through a comprehensive language acquisition program. Furthermore, ECMI Kosovo is finalizing a range of projects by the end of 2016 and the first months of 2017. A major success of 2016 was the increasing of self-employment among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities through a recycling collective, a project which supported these communities through the provision of transportation equipment, recycling machinery, and protective gear enabling them to generate incomes in a safe and sanitary manner. Other projects are subject to a prolongation, and are thus taken into a new phase. One of those projects is the 'Enhance Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children' that, among other objectives, are preventing and reducing the drop-out rates among vulnerable children.

Throughout 2016, ECMI Kosovo has continued to publish policy analyses through Communities Issues Monitor which, monitors, analyses, and provides recommendations on developments and incidents related to the position of minority communities in Kosovo. The Monitor particularly seeks to report on incidents of a controversial nature, within the framework of international and domestic minority rights legislation. Further, ECMI Kosovo has deepened its focus to provide a series of in-depth analyses aimed at informing the wider public and policy makers on the on-going developments related to the Association/Community of Serb-majority Municipalities, this resulted in a comprehensive research analysis 'the Association/Community of Serb-majority Municipalities – Breaking the Impasse' published in June with the support of PAX for Peace. The study assessed the value-added of an association of Serb-majority municipalities, based on sound principles of inter-municipal cooperation: specifically, what it concretely could do to address the needs and concerns of the Serb community in Kosovo. Based on this assessment, the report made a realistic clarification of the possible impact the Association might have on the functionality of the Kosovan state and how to minimize negative consequences. Our Monitor and public policy briefs have been received positively and contributed to shaping the debate on these issues and issues related to the Brussels Dialogue Process between Kosovo and Serbia.

The projects engaging ECMI Kosovo in 2016 and 2017 give a good impression of the various domains in which we are active. We are convinced that these projects have major impact at the institutional level – where they raise the awareness and capacities of institutions to promote and protect minority rights – and in the daily lives of members of minority communities in Kosovo.

As we look forward to continuing and expending our work in 2017, we would like to thank our long-standing trusted partners who have supported our work throughout so many years, as well as other associates and partners who have made our success possible.

Adrian Zeqiri

• Executive Director

• ECMI Kosovo

ECMI Kosovo Staff and Interns

Note: Below is only the list of employees that have been engaged with ECMI Kosovo on a regular basis. ECMI Kosovo uses an extensive network of short term researchers, experts and consultants which are not included in this list. The overall number of people who worked with ECMI Kosovo during 2016 is 143.

Mr Adrian Zeqiri – Executive Director

Ms Jeta Bakija – Project Manager

Mr Trim Kabashi – Project Manager

Ms Renata Nikolla – Project Manager

Ms Ann Madsen – Project Manager

Mr Carlo Giovannone – Project Manager

Mr Pieter Troch – Project Officer / Coordinator for the North of Kosovo

Mr Gazmen Salijević – Project Coordinator

Ms Marija Krstić – International Coordinator

Ms Elizabeta Haziri – Technical Expert

Mr Arben Osmani – Project Officer

Ms Zihnie Gurmani – Project Assistant/Technical Advisor

Ms Helena Walka Nilsson – International Project Coordinator

Ms Gwendolyn Joosten – Project Coordinator

Mr Hans Fridlund – Project Development Officer

Mr Enrique Gutierrez – Project Development Officer

Ms Dijana Hasani – Project Assistant

Ms Drenusha Miftari – Project Assistant

Mr Filip Rakić – Project Assistant

Mr Nazmi Zuka – Financial Manager

Ms Bardha Hamiti – Finance Officer

Ms Arta Hamiti – Finance Assistant

Mr Granit Berisha – Financial Assistant

Mr Lars Burema – External Associate

Ms Jennifer Addea – Researcher

Ms Daniela Radić – Local Correspondent Zubin Potok

Mr Marko Marjanović – Local Correspondent Leposavić/Leposaviq

Ms Mirjona Zivić – Local Correspondent Gračanica/Graçanicë

Mr Predrag Simić – Local Correspondent Parteš/Partesh

Ms Snezana Ristić – Local Correspondent Ranilug/Ranillug

Ms Vesna Stajić – Local Correspondent Novobërdë/Novo Brdo

Ms Belkize Islami – Paralegal in Ferizaj/Uroševac

Ms Valdete Osmani – Paralegal in Ferizaj/Uroševac

Ms Medina Mustafa – Paralegal in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

Ms Xhejlane Haliti – Paralegal in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

Ms Mimoza Gavrani – Local Coordinator from NRAEWOK

Ms Shpresa Agushi – Local Coordinator from NRAEWOK

Ms Arbane Shala – Rama – Local Coordinator from CLARD

Mr Gezim Hoti – Local Coordinator from Health for All

Mr Ramadan Mujaj – Local Coordinator from RADC

Mr Burim Ademi – Local Coordinator from CRIK

Mr Fatmir Berisha – Collection Centre Coordinator in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

Ms Jovana Tintor – Serbian Language Teacher in the Municipality of Lipljan/Lipljane and Vushtrri/Vučitrn

Mr Nuhi Kosumi – Albanian Language Teacher in the Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica, Ranillug/Ranilug and Partesh/Parteš

Ms Anisa Muric – Serbian Language Teacher in the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

Ms Anyla Zajmi – Albanian Language Teacher in the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Graçanicë/Gračanica

Mr Davor Petković – Serbian Language Teacher in the Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Novobërdë/Novo Brdo

Mr Hajdar Mallaku – Albanian Language Teacher in the municipality of Prizren

Ms Feride Lohaj – Albanian and Serbian Language Teacher in the Municipality of Shtërpcë/Štrpce

Ms Charlotte Lund – Intern

Mr Marios Kefalas – Intern

Mission and History of ECMI Kosovo

The European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo) is the principal non-government organisation (NGO) engaged with the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of all minority communities in Kosovo. Our overarching goal is to contribute to developing an inclusive, democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo.

Our vision and mission

ECMI Kosovo's vision is a stable multi-ethnic Kosovo in which the human and minority rights of members from all communities are realised in line with domestic and international standards. With a view to contributing to this vision, ECMI Kosovo engages in a wide range of activities aimed at stabilising inter-ethnic relations and ensuring the effective implementation and functioning of the legal, policy and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of minority rights.

Our Approach

ECMI Kosovo adopts a unique approach in its work for the protection and promotion of human and minority rights in Kosovo. One of its key aspects is our two-pronged focus, which combines top-down implementation and bottom-up feedback: we provide capacity-building and policy recommendations to government institutions for them to function in a community-sensitive, accountable and transparent manner, while also empowering civil society within communities to effectively participate in decision-making and advocate for their rights. This approach seeks to contribute to enhancing dialogue between these actors and developing an inclusive, participatory and accountable democracy. We also strive to ensure the inclusion of gender perspectives and the representation of particularly vulnerable groups in our work.

In order to achieve our vision, ECMI Kosovo conducts a wide range of activities, including capacity-building, monitoring, policy-oriented research, legal analysis and support, and awareness-raising. Our unique approach allows us to combine the best qualities of NGOs, think-tanks and consultancy companies. ECMI Kosovo maintains close relations and is positively perceived by communities and a large number of stakeholders in Kosovo, both at the local and central level.

ECMI Kosovo has been active in Kosovo since 2001 and became a locally registered NGO in 2009. Today, our organisation is recognised as the leader in the field due to our vast experience in and in-depth expertise on a multitude of human and minority rights related issues, including, but not limited to, decentralisation, language and education rights, the economic and legal empowerment of minorities and vulnerable groups, and the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Our team currently comprises around twenty-five highly motivated staff members and interns from various Kosovo communities and abroad, based at our offices in Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. In addition, ECMI Kosovo has a team of local correspondents working in the field, namely in the newly-decentralised Serb-majority municipalities throughout Kosovo.

Our Main Areas of Work

Since its establishment in 2001, ECMI Kosovo has conducted activities and developed in-depth expertise on a wide range of minority rights related issues. Currently, our work is focused on four main thematic areas:

1. Governance & accountability – Kosovo has developed a comprehensive legislative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of minority communities. However, much

remains to be done to ensure and enhance the effectiveness of this framework. Presently, government institutions lack adequate capacities and knowledge to fully implement the legislative framework, while civil society remains weak, often lacking the ability to effectively advocate for their communities' rights. To address these deficiencies, ECMI Kosovo works closely with both institutions and civil society to establish an accountable and transparent system of governance, responsive to the needs of all minority communities in Kosovo. We have provided capacity building support to central and local level institutions, provided regular training opportunities to civil society and actively support minority communities in advocating for their rights.

2. Education – ECMI Kosovo strongly believes that an inclusive education system, respectful of diversity and human rights is a key requirement for the establishment of stable inter-ethnic relations in Kosovo. Therefore, ECMI Kosovo has developed a diverse portfolio of activities aimed at promoting the education rights of minority communities and has been particularly active in supporting the inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in Kosovo's education system.

3. Language issues – Language forms an important part of human identity and is a central feature of Kosovo's community rights protection framework. ECMI Kosovo has a long history in working on language issues in Kosovo. We have supported the development of a comprehensive legislative framework on language rights, through the development of the Law on the Use of Languages (2006), co-operate closely with the Office of the Language Commissioner and have, since 2010, offered Serbian and Albanian language courses to municipal officials in Kosovo.

4. Economic empowerment – The creation of economic opportunities for minority communities is essential to ensuring their sustainable future in Kosovo. Unfortunately, many members of minority communities continue to face economic marginalization. In response to this problem, ECMI Kosovo has developed a programme to support the economic empowerment of minority communities in Kosovo. Our work in this field has included: support to municipal administrations in improving the business environment for minority communities; the provision of training and in-kind support to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women to improve their socio-economic opportunities; and, the delivery of technical assistance in the creation and operation of business associations in Serb-majority municipalities.

5. Advocacy of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms - The ECMI believes that working towards the advancement and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms is crucial for sustaining peace and ensuring democratic participation in the multi-ethnic state. ECMI Kosovo is committed to raise awareness for vulnerable and marginalized groups, including minority communities, women, youth and LGBT who are particularly restricted when exercising their fundamental rights. With our work we aim at strengthening the capacities of Human Rights CSOs and to seek a structural dialogue addressing short-comings in the implementation of the regarding legislation in Kosovo in order to contribute to an inclusive policy- and decision-making in Kosovo.

ECMI KOSOVO DONORS and partners

European Roma Rights Centre

European Union Office in Kosovo

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

Office of the Language Commissioner/Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo

• UNICEF

USAID funded program, "Advancing Kosovo Together –Local Solution "

US Embassy



ECMI KOSOVO activities

Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Growth for All Newly-established Municipalities in Kosovo

In 2016, ECMI Kosovo continued to work directly with municipalities and communities to promote sustainable and inclusive growth in Serb-majority municipalities. Highlights of the project have included the development of municipal strategies on local economic development, communication classes for municipal officials in North Kosovo and capacity building for civil society. In 2016, the classes offered to the municipal officials expanded to also include English classes, in order to build their capacities and help them improve their communication skills and represent their municipalities better. In the target municipalities, there is an observable lack of dialogue between community members, specifically those belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups, and municipal officials. Thus, the project has sought to improve communication between these actors through a series of regular focus groups and roundtables to ensure that the voices of all community members are heard.

Implementation period

Starting date: 01 February 2014

• End date: 31 January 2017

Funding

This project is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.



• Improving Minority Communities' Access to Higher Education in Serbian Language and Public Employment

During 2016, ECMI Kosovo continued to support the government-led working group in implementing a temporary verification mechanism regulated by Regulation (GRK) – No. 21/2015 on the procedures and criteria for the issuance of certificates to the citizens of Kosovo who have received diplomas from the University of Mitrovica North, for the purpose of applying for jobs, obtaining licenses and professional exams in the public institutions. According to this regulation, an independent Commission was established and is authorized to verify the diplomas in accordance with the criteria laid down in the same regulation. ECMI Kosovo is authorized to provide technical support to the Commission

according to Government Decision No. 11/81 dated 03.23.2016. The main activities in 2016 was therefore to help offer technical support in the establishment of the Commission for the Verification of Degrees Issued by the University if Mitrovica North.

Implementation Period:

Starting date: 01 April 2014

• End date: 01 April 2016

• Funding

• This project is funded by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo.



Equal Rights for All Coalition

• Fundamental human rights for citizens of Kosovo are de jure guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is however a considerable gap between legislation and de facto access to and protection of fundamental rights. Vulnerable and marginalised groups, including minority communities, women, youth, and LGBT are particularly restricted when exercising their fundamental rights. Thus, A Coalition comprising seven (7) non-governmental organisations was established and developed a project “Equal Rights for All Coalition” which is funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo.

• The Coalition will organize its activities around six of fundamental rights that have been identified by the Coalition partners and international actors as particularly problematic for VMGs.

• The main activities in 2016 has been to select and train 17 paralegals in a series of training to be able to support the Coalition in the implementation of the project. During the trainings, the paralegals were briefed on their roles and responsibilities of the implementation of the project, and received training on inter alia, LGBT issues, domestic violence and legal and institutional mechanism for vulnerable and marginalised groups.

• The coalition has also throughout the year published a number of analytical reports pertaining to VMGs, such as, Women Participation in Decision-making in Kosovo, Social protection and access to healthcare for transgender people in Kosovo and an analysis on the Human Rights strategy for Kosovo.

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 29 December 2015

• End date: 29 December 2019

• Funding:

• This project is funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo.



• Support to Education in Serbian Language in Kosovo: UMN Diploma Verification Process, Research on the Current Situation, Development of a MEST Roadmap, and Direct Training to UMN and Its Teaching Staff

• The project aims to help improve the quality of Serbian-language education and increase representation of minority communities in Kosovo institutions in order to complement the existing Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. With a focus on a number of realistic objectives, designed to be implemented independently of each other, the project will seek to work separately and where possible jointly with various actors. These include the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) of Kosovo, the University of Mitrovica North (UMN) and schools that operate in Serbian language in Kosovo. The aim of this project is not only to improve Serbian-language education, but also give greater representation to non-majority communities within public institutions and exercise of free public professions in Kosovo.

• In 2016 the Government of Kosovo adopted a temporary validation mechanism that allows graduates from UMN to apply for jobs, professional licenses, and professional examinations within public institutions of Kosovo. As one of the main project activities in 2016, we provided technical support to this important process and facilitate the communication between all actors involved. With the technical support of ECMI Kosovo and a successful targeted informational campaign administered by the project, more than 150 diplomas were successfully verified by the Commission, qualifying the applicants to apply for jobs in public institutions in Kosovo.

Implementation period

• Starting date: 01 June 2016

• End date: 31 May 2019

• Funding

• This project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Office in Kosovo and co-financed by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo.

Increasing Employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities through a Recycling Collective

• During 2016, the project focused on supporting and strengthening informal waste collectors belonging to the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, as well as the association of informal waste collectors Collective Recycling Initiative Kosovo (CRIK) through structural and programmatic support. During 2016, informal collectors were provided with transportation equipment in the form of moto-cultivators and tricycles with trailers, as well as uniforms and protective gear. Transportation equipment, uniforms and protective gear improve not only their working and hygienic conditions, but they are now also fully equipped to collect recyclable materials year-round. This significantly improved their capacities and efficiency of collection, leading to higher incomes for project beneficiaries. Furthermore, ECMI Kosovo and implementing partners:

• 1) Supported and strengthened the association of informal waste collectors CRIK with trainings, advice and expertise as it works organizing the informal waste collectors around a common goal of increased incomes, better representation at the municipal and central level, and inclusion in the wider debate on recycling initiatives in Kosovo.

• 2) Organized a series of trainings for beneficiaries designed to improve their skills and increase their capacities in effectively and safely collecting and selling recyclable waste.

• 3) Devised and implemented an awareness-raising campaign promoting recycling and environmentally-friendly measures aimed at increasing recycling initiatives and showcasing the positive impact informal waste collection has on the environment and in the economy. The campaign reached a large number of Kosovo citizens through brochures, promotional materials, as well as our website and social media channels.

• 4) Supported project beneficiaries in attending business-to-business meetings with private companies, chambers of commerce, organizations and institutions, as they worked to expand their networks and establish new contacts. These events allowed project beneficiaries to discuss potential collaboration and new partnership opportunities towards increasing incomes and better job opportunities.

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 14 December 2014

• End date: 14 December 2016

• Funding: This project is funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo.





Official Language Acquisition for Municipal Officials In Kosovo

The project "Official Language Acquisition for Municipal Officials in Kosovo", funded by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and Office of the Language Commissioner/Office of the Prime Minister, started its sixth year/phase on 02 May 2016 and ended on 31 December 2016. In this phase, ECMI Kosovo, as implementing partner, managed to cover 12 ethnically mixed and Serb majority municipalities in which it organised 18 language courses in total – 9 Albanian and 9 Serbian. Other activities included one info session in each of the municipalities, two teachers briefing sessions where the main issues and challenges of the courses were discussed, six field visits to each of the courses for evaluation and monitoring (after one month, mid-term, and final), activity of joint classes in each of the municipality where municipal officials from both communities had opportunity to practice the second language, mid-term and final testing, and certificate ceremonies. Activity of study visit was organised with participants of Albanian and Serbian language courses. The selection of the municipalities was based on their results at the final test and based on their level of attendance. The selected municipalities were Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane Serbian language course and Kamenicë/Kamenica Albanian language course. These two municipalities had the best tests results and the higher level of attendance.

In 2016, we had in total 221 municipal officials who regularly attended our language courses, out of which 118 had attendance rate above 70%. The share of women among participants was 50%, while the share of men was 50%. A total of (176) of all the participants took the final test, while 71 of them obtained the certificate for advanced level of language competence; 105 obtained the certificate for beginner level of language competence; and 42 received certificate of confirmation of their attendance.

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 02 May 2016

• End date: 31 December 2016

• Funding:

• This project is funded by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and Office of the Language Commissioner/Office of the Prime Minister.



• Capacity Development for Scaling up the Results in Enhancing Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children – Phase III

• Between May 2013 and May 2016, ECMI Kosovo in cooperation with UNICEF implemented the project "Enhancing Access to Education and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children". Since November 2016, ECMI Kosovo continues with a third phase of the education program. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and UNICEF and in line with the National Action Plan towards Abandonment and Non-registration 2016-18, the project aims to scale up the results in enhancing the access to education and retention in education for vulnerable and disadvantaged children in 21 additional municipalities. This will be achieved through strengthening the capacities of municipal officials and Prevention and Response teams towards abandonment and Non-registration (PRTAN) at municipal and school levels to reduce the number of out-of-school children. The established Out-of-School Children Model (OOSC) has already been implemented in 9 municipalities during the past project phases and is now replication within the National Action Plan of MEST. ECMI Kosovo continues also in its third project cycle with advocacy activities for improved legislation and institutionalization of sustainable solutions for the benefit of the most marginalized children. The education program address children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities,

children with disabilities, returned/repatriated children and children from families with disadvantaged socio-economic background.

• The new project cycle started in November with signing Memorandums of Understanding with the 21 newly integrated municipalities and the 9 previously involved. On the latter the focus will be set on monitoring the functionalization of PRTANs. Finally, information sessions on the Early Warning System on Drop-out Prevention were delivered to all school directors of 33 targeted municipalities in cooperation with MEST.

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 01 November 2016

• End date: 31 October 2018

• Funding:

• This project is funded by UNICEF.

Empowering Non-Serb CSOs in Northern Kosovo

• This project aims to empower non Serb civil society organizations in Northern Kosovo in order for them to represent their communities and participate in policy making. This will be done through select trainings and improved community outreach. The project also focused on non-Serb community issues and needs and did an extensive research on their position in living in North Kosovo.

In 2016, ECMI Kosovo conducted a research on the position of non-Serb communities living in North Kosovo that identified their problems, needs, concerns and interests and published a report based on the findings of the research. This report was presented at a public conference organized in Northern Kosovo, among the invited guests were municipal officials, international stakeholders and other stakeholders such as non-Serb CSOS. Capacity building trainings to 8-10 non-Serb CSOs were also conducted on topics of project writing and development, legal framework and rights for minority communities in Kosovo.

Implementation period

Starting date: 01 January 2016

• End date: 31 June 2017

Funding

This project is funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo

Diversity Is Opportunity: Promoting Tolerance As a Means of Reconciliation and Democratisation

In March 2016, ECMI Kosovo concluded a project which brings together youth from various communities from the mixed municipalities of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North and Gračanica/Graçanicë around themes of cultural diversity and tolerance. Highlights of the project were a two-day training on cultural diversity and heritage in Kosovo and a study visit to the city of Prizren. The project provided a platform for youth to engage with cultural diversity and tolerance in a creative and spontaneous manner. By giving young people the opportunity to share their own experiences on cultural diversity in a relaxed atmosphere and providing well-chosen guidance, the project aimed to instill upon them the insight that cultural diversity is inherent to Kosovo's cultural landscape and that this should not be a burden but rather an asset.

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 01 September 2015

• End date: 31 March 2016

• Funding:

This project is funded through the US Embassy Pristina Democracy Commission Small Grants Program.



The Segregation in Serbian Curricula Schools in Kosovo

The "Segregation in Serbian Curricula Schools in Kosovo" project was concluded in March 2016 and was implemented in cooperation with the European Roma Rights Centre. The objective was to open the "black box" of segregation of Roma students in the Serbian parallel education system present in Kosovo. The project underwent an extensive field research in 7 locations around Kosovo where ECMI Kosovo researchers documented the in-school environment and collected testimonies from teachers and other school officials, and from parents and past and present students from the Roma, Ashkalia and Egyptian communities. The research resulted in a report compiling evidence from researched locations and offer hands-on recommendations to authorities on how to effectively tackle the issue of segregation.

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 01 October 2015

• End date: 31 March 2016

• Funding:

• This project is funded by the European Roma Rights Centre.



Strengthening the Watchdog Role of Minority Civil Society Organizations in Kosovo

In 2016, ECMI Kosovo implemented a project with the aim of improving the watchdog capacities of grassroots civil society. Currently, governance on minority issues in Kosovo suffers from a lack of accountability and transparency, with minority civil society playing a weak role in this process due to their low capacity, experience and resources. Although the legislation on the protection of minority communities in Kosovo is very comprehensive, the legal framework is frequently left unimplemented. To improve the watchdog capacity of the civil society, a total of eight trainings were held in 2016 on monitoring and evaluation on five different topics which all had the overall aim to increase minority CSOs' awareness and strengthen their ability to effectively monitor, evaluate and advocate for community rights implementation by public authorities. The trainings were conducted by a combination of in house trainers and external trainers hired to obtain the necessary expertise and the trainings were executed as a combined training and workshop. ECMI Kosovo has also offered follow-up activities related to the support and assistance to the participants and CSOs, who attended the trainings. Which included advice and follow-up guidance, when requested, to assist the CSOs to finalize their individual monitoring and evaluation plan on the community rights of their choice. An interactive website was established and will be kept updated with relevant laws, regulations and other mechanisms, in order to make the monitoring data openly accessible to the public.

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 01 October 2015

• End date: 31 March 2017

• Funding:

• This project is funded by Advancing Kosovo Together – Local Solution, a USAID funded Program.



ECMI Kosovo publications

The full documents and reports are available at www.ecmikosova.org, in English, Albanian, and Serbian. Please click one any title if you would like direct access to its location on our website. In addition, the titles in the colour of light blue are publications published in the Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC) project.

Political Updates and Analyses

The Constitutional Court's Decision on the Association/Community of Serb Majority Municipalities

January 28, 2016

Studies and Handbooks

The Association/Community of Serb-Majority Municipalities. Breaking the Impasse.

June, 2016

Increasing Employment and Incomes brochure

November, 2016

Diploma Verification Process

October, 2016

Increasing Employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities Through A Recycling Collective

August, 2016

Diversity is Opportunity: A Photo-Reportage on Youth and Cultural Diversity in Kosovo

March 31, 2016

ERAC Publications

Potentially Ethnically Motivated Incidents: Challenges in defining and reporting

October 6, 2016

Human Rights Strategy for Kosovo 2016-2022: A Way Forward

September, 2016

What is the Purpose of ERAC

January, 2016



Outlook for 2017

Equal Rights for All Coalition

• The Coalition will organize its activities around six of fundamental rights that have been identified by the Coalition partners and international actors as particularly problematic for VMGs.

• Main activities for 2017

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 29 December 2015

• End date: 29 December 2019

• Funding:

• This project is funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo.

Support to Education in Serbian Language in Kosovo: UMN Diploma Verification Process, Research on the Current Situation, Development of a MEST Roadmap, and Direct Training to UMN and Its Teaching Staff

In 2017, ECMI Kosovo will continue to provide technical support to the Commission for the Verification of Degrees Issued by the University of Mitrovica North to carry out its mandate. In 2017, ECMI Kosovo

will conduct a comprehensive study to map and evaluate the state of Serbian-language education in Kosovo. ECMI Kosovo will also continue to support the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Governmental Working Group, which will undertake efforts to advance Serbian-language education in Kosovo. Lastly, ECMI Kosovo will work on improving and enhancing Serbian-language university-level education by promoting continuous learning opportunities for educational staff at the University of Mitrovica North. In 2017, a study trip will be planned for the head of faculties of the University to visit a well-renowned University in Europe. The trip will be focused on transfer of skills and knowledge, as well as exchange of experiences, on areas such as quality assurance and digital administration.

Implementation period

Starting date: 01 June 2016

End date: 31 May 2019

Funding

• This project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Office in Kosovo and co-financed by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo.

• Capacity Development for Scaling up the Results in Enhancing Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children – Phase III

• Since November 2016, ECMI Kosovo continues with a third phase of the education program with UNICEF. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and UNICEF and in line with the National Action Plan towards Abandonment and Non-registration 2016-18, the project aims to scale up the results in enhancing the access to education and retention in education for vulnerable and disadvantaged children in 21 additional municipalities. The main activities in 2017 will be to:

• 1, Support establishment of a municipality-based network of 42 trainers who will undergo a Training of Trainers Programme and be certified by MEST as a trainer

• 2, Conduct advocacy activities in joint efforts with MEST for the establishment of municipal and school PRTANs in 21 additional municipalities

• 3, Support delivery of peer to peer trainings on the application of the manuals for PRTANs

• 4, Monitor and further strengthen the functionality of the PRTANs of the 9 previously targeted municipalities

• 5, Review the administrative instruction 19/2012 on the establishment and functionalization of PRTANs

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 01 November 2016

• End date: 31 October 2018

• Funding:

• This project is funded by UNICEF.

Empowering Non-Serb CSOs in Northern Kosovo

• This project aims to empower non Serb civil society organizations in Northern Kosovo in order for them to represent their communities and participate in policy making. This will be done through select trainings and improved community outreach. The project also focused on non-Serb community issues and needs and did an extensive research on their position in living in North Kosovo.

• In 2017, ECMI Kosovo will continue the capacity building of the non-Serb CSOs by organizing trainings on the topics of organizational development, financial management and public outreach. Round tables will also be held along with individual meetings between municipality officials and participating non-Serb CSOs in order to establish links, dialogue and cooperation between them.

Implementation period

Starting date: 01 January 2016

• End date: 31 June 2017

Funding

This project is funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo.

Strengthening the Watching Role of Minority Civil Society Organizations in Kosovo

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the 'watchdog' role of minority civil society in ensuring transparency and accountability of public authorities. The final beneficiaries will be minority communities in Kosovo, who will profit from a strengthened civil society and improved accountability and transparency in governance on minority issues. As the project is concluding in 2017, the main activities will be to assist the participating CSOs to finalize their individual monitoring and evaluation plans, and to on their request give them finalized support and tools to help them practice the mechanism of monitoring. Finally, the interactive website that was set-up during the project will be monitored and updated.

• Implementation Period:

• Starting date: 01 October 2015

• End date: 31 March 2017

• Funding:

• This project is funded by Advancing Kosovo Together – Local Solution, a USAID funded Program.

Audited finances and personnel

RSM Kosovo audited the institutional accounts. Cash receipts were €884,134 and expenditure was €792,405. Cash and bank balances at year end were €243,947.

Expenditure	Amount
Personnel costs for staff and contracted contributors	€387,026
Project activities	€303,322
Administration	€102,057

Personnel costs cover regular, part-time, contracted and other personnel within the audit's salary classification. The total includes €16,399 in pension contributions. Project activity expenditure included €226,361 for main activities, €30,162 for travel and €28,376 for workshops. The audit records an average of 52 regular and other contracted people per month.

Independent audit

RSM Kosovo Sh.P.K. expressed an unmodified opinion on ECMI Kosovo's cash-basis financial report for 2016 in its report dated 8 March 2017.