# Annual Report 2018

Reporting year 2018

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# PREFACE

(Srećko Bogajćević, Chairperson of the Senior Oversight Board ECMI Kosovo)

I have had the privilege over many years to observe the hard work and commitment that ECMI Kosovo has transmitted towards all marginalized groups in Kosovo. ECMI Kosovo has continued its work in 2018 towards the establishment and development of a democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo.

During 2018, ECMI Kosovo strengthened its role as the principal non-governmental organization (NGO) in the field of minority and community rights by continuing to advocate its vision for a stable, multi-ethnic Kosovo in which the fundamental human and minority rights of members of all communities are implemented and respected in accordance with the domestic and international standards. Throughout the year, ECMI Kosovo engagement in organizing a wide range of activities that would enhance and complement the effective implementation of legal and institutional framework of minority and other marginalized groups' rights. By continuing to operate its work in the field of education, language issues, economic empowerment and fundamental rights and freedoms regardless of ethnic origin, religion, language or any other status, ECMI Kosovo succeeded in continuing to fulfill its vision, contributing to developing an inclusive, democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo, by coordinating various activities and publishing policy recommendations that bring light to the situation of minority communities and marginalized groups in Kosovo.

ECMI Kosovo, as the lead non-governmental organization (NGO) of the pioneer coalition Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC), together with the partner NGOs, has successfully continued to effectively provide support to the minority and other marginalized groups through strengthening the capacities while advocating and protecting the fundamental rights of these groups in Kosovo. I'm proud that ECMI Kosovo manages, through consistent approach, to achieve its goals in providing support for vulnerable and marginalized groups and work together with me in order to continue our efforts towards an inclusive, democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo.

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

(Adrian Zeqiri, Executive Director ECMI Kosovo)

ECMI Kosovo continued its commitment towards developing an inclusive, democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo by creating numerous activities cooperating with vital donors and partners that contributed to the implementation of activities. The sustainability of the protection and promotion of human rights of minority communities and other marginalized groups transmitted through the activities coordinated through the establishment of the Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC) that is co-financed from the European Union and USAID, throughout 2018.

ECMI Kosovo, as the lead non-governmental organization (NGO), together with the other coalition members, contributed to the legal and institutional human rights and minority rights, as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups, by publishing policy analyses that resulted in recommendations regarding issues that affect our target groups. Moreover, ECMI Kosovo, through ERAC, coordinated various workshops and trainings that strengthened and produced capacity building mechanisms that the Civil Society in Kosovo will be able to use in order to raise awareness and strengthen the network between numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that constantly work with us.

In 2018, the continuance of the implementation of the project "Support to Education in Serbian Language in Kosovo", funded as well from the European Union, resulted in ECMI Kosovo contributing to a greater representation of minority communities in public institutions of Kosovo, as well as an updated date qualitative assessment of the Serbian language education, directly producing improving effects to the quality of education in the Serbian language. ECMI Kosovo continued to provide technical support to the Kosovo Government Institutions verification mechanisms in order to allow degrees from the University of Mitrovica North to be validated, resulting in the applications of the mechanism to be able to partake in professional exams, leading to the increase of representation of minority communities in Kosovo institutions.

ECMI Kosovo, addressed issues that were enshrined in the international negotiations in the Brussels Agreement in 2013 which affect the minority communities living in Kosovo such as freedom of movement in documentation and secondly, acquisition and establishment of Association/community of Serb-majority Municipalities through the project "Support to Implementation of Agreements Reached in the Brussels Dialogue" funded by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo. By increasing the freedom of movement and enhancing the access to official documents for citizens of minority communities in Kosovo, ECMI Kosovo, in 2018, ensured the preservation of rights of minority communities in Kosovo, continuing the commitment to work towards developing an inclusive, democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo.

Furthermore, ECMI Kosovo advocated and developed a youth network and by providing capacity building trainings and coordinating a network mechanism that will result in the integration of the youth in the field of digital entrepreneurship while simultaneously increasing their chances of employment and success through the project "Fostering Youth development and employment through a cross-border digital entrepreneurship academy (Y.D.E.A.) in Lezha and Prizren, funded by the Delegation of European Union in Albania.

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 "Enhancing Access to Education and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children" 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.

The initiatives involving ECMI Kosovo in 2018 reflect a good idea of the different fields in which we are involved regarding the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of all minority communities in Kosovo. We are confident that these initiatives have a significant effect ON the institutional level to increase the knowledge and capacity in providing support and protection of minority rights in order to have an impact in the daily lives of members of minority communities in Kosovo.

As our commitment to expand our work in 2019 continues, we would like to thank our long-standing trusted partners who have supported our work throughout many years, as well as other associates and partners who have made our success possible.

# 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 researches, experts and consultants which are not included in this list.

Mr. ADRIAN ZEQIRI - Executive Director

Mr. ALEKSANDAR ARSIĆ - Coordinator of ECMI Kosovo office in Mitrovica North

Ms. JETA BAKIJA - Project Manager

Mr. ARBEN OSMANI - Project Manager

Ms. RENATA NIKOLA - Project Manager

Ms. ARTA HAMITI - Project Manager

Ms. BARDHA HAMITI - Finance Manager

Mr. NAZMI ZUKA - Finance Officer

Ms. LORELA MEHMETI - Project Development Officer

Ms. ZIHNIE GURMANI - Project Coordinator

Mr. ARBEN SEJDAJ - Communication Officer

Ms. BLERTA VISOKA – Project Assistant

Ms. BLERINË HAJDINI- Project Assistant

Mr. GAZMEN SALIJEVIĆ – Project Officer

Ms. DANA KUBE – Project Development Officer

Mr. MAX DOWBENKO – Researcher

Mr. DENIS BROWER – Researcher

Ms. MARIJA KRSTIĆ - External Expert

Ms. EGZONA BOSHNJAKU SEJDIU – External Expert

Ms. SHQIPE BRUQI- Contractor, Local Coordinator

Ms. MERITA JANUZI- Contractor, Local Coordinator

Mr. SHEFQET BERISHA – Legal Expert

Ms. SANJA MIKETIĆ - Textbook Author

Ms. BILJANA JOVANOVIĆ - Textbook Author

Ms. NEDZMIJA ZECIROVIĆ - Textbook Author

Ms. FERIDE LOHAJ - Contractor, Teacher

Ms. ANYLA ZAJMI - Contractor, Teacher

Ms. BLERTA ABAZI - Contractor, Teacher

Mr. OSMAN JAKUPI - Contractor, Teacher

Ms. SABRIE ESHREFI - Contractor, Teacher

Mr. NUHI KOSUMI - Contractor, Teacher

Ms. MIROSLAVKA SIMONOVIĆ - Paralegal

Mr. REFIK KASI - Paralegal

Mr. MILOS ARSIĆ - Paralegal

Mr. JOVAN SIMIĆ - Paralegal

Mr. RIDVAN GASHI - Paralegal

Mr. OSMAN EMINI - Paralegal

Mr. FERGAP ZAIMI - Paralegal

Mr. ALEKSANDAR TRAJKOVIĆ - Paralegal

Ms. VESNA ORDIĆ - Paralegal

Mr. MUHAMET ELSHANI - Paralegal

Ms. MILICA JOVANOVIĆ - Paralegal

Mr. ZORAN DJOKIĆ - Paralegal

Mr. ALBERT JASHARI - Paralegal

Ms. FATJONA AJVAZI – Paralegal

Ms. ARIJANITA RUGOVA – Intern

Ms. MARIE GJONI– Intern

Mr. ALBANOI RETKOCERI– Intern

Ms. FATLINDA DAKU– Intern

Ms. BERINA MORINA– Intern

Ms. VIOLETA BLAKCORI– Intern

Ms. ARTEMIS IGNATIDOU – Intern

Ms. RENEE PICARD - Intern

Mr. NICO MENDOZA – Intern

## Our vision and mission

ECMI Kosovo's vision is a stable multi-ethnic Kosovo in which the human and minority rights 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 (25) 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 and paralegals working in the field who are located in municipalities throughout Kosovo.

## Our Main Areas of Work

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

• 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 rights. To address these deficiencies, we work 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, regular training opportunities to civil society and actively support minority communities in advocating for their rights.

• Education – We 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, we have developed a diverse portfolio of activities, in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 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. Furthermore, through the

• 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. Furthermore, the development of the new textbooks tailored for the needs of municipal administration officials' work will enable them to increase their language skills and provide services in both official languages.

• 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, sub-granting and in-kind support to women of minority communities to improve their socio-economic opportunities; and, the delivery of technical assistance in the creation and operation of business associations in Serb-majority municipalities.

• Advocacy of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms – ECMI Kosovo 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 marginalised 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.

## II. ECMI KOSOVO DONORS

(According to alphabetic order)

• European Union Delegation in Albania

• European Union Office in Kosovo;

• OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;

• Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo;

• UNICEF.



# III. ECMI KOSOVO ACTIVITIES

## Equal Rights for All Coalition

During February 2018, the Team of the Coalition, had several meetings where the main focus was to finalise the Action Plan for 2018, based on the draft that was developed by the Project Manager. In addition, the Coalition managed to strengthen the network of seven (7) medium-sized and nineteen (19) grass-root CSOs, which through eleven (11) team members who are Executive Director; Project Manager; Project Assistant; Finance Manager; Communication's Officer; Local Coordinator – CEL; Local Coordinator – CSGD; Local Coordinator – KCGS; Local Coordinator – CLARD; Local Coordinator – Kosovo 2.0; Local Coordinator – YIHR OKKS; seventeen (17) paralegals; five (5) interns; and legal experts provided efficient aid and support to members of minority communities, women, youth and LGBTI community with limited access to fundamental rights. Please note that Executive Directors of the Coalition Founders if are not Local Coordinators, they are fully involved in the implementation of the Action. They are also members of the Medication Committee and the Coordination Council.

Across 2018, 17 paralegals assisted people facing barriers to their rights. The project reported providing direct legal and related support to approximately 106 people.

The coalition also carried out outreach, published studies and worked with partners and institutions on the cases and policy issues documented below.







Implementation Period:

Start date: 29 December 2015 □ End date: 29 December 2019

Funding:

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

Focal point for the project:

Jeta IB Bakija

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.

The project seeks to provide technical support to this important process and facilitate the communication between all actors involved. Through a comprehensive and independent research it will seek to fully understand the situation of education in Serbian language in Kosovo at all levels, pre-primary, primary, secondary, and higher education, with the view of exploring possibilities of its continuous improvement. The project will further assist the government of Kosovo, specifically, the MEST in developing a detailed policy on advancement of Serbian-language education in the framework of the Kosovo education system. Lastly, it also supports continual learning opportunities for the education staff of the UMN to enhance the quality of education and increase the employability of its graduates.

Over the course of the project, the project facilitated the establishment of the mechanism for the diploma verification process, which included the establishment of the Government Independent Commission for Diploma Verification process, establishment of the Secretariat of the Government Independent Commission for the diploma verification process, and authorization of three Municipalities to receive the applications for the verification of diplomas, namely the Municipalities of Mitrovica North/Mitrovicë Veriore, Gracanica/Graqanicë, and Ranillug/Ranil, in 2016.

Over the course of 2017/18, the project provided technical assistance in the establishment and functioning of the Independent Commission, Secretariat of the Independent Commission, including establishment of the rules of procedures of its functioning, operational plans and digital database of all the applications. Similar support and assistance was provided to the Officials that were receiving and processing the applications in the three authorized Municipalities. In the beginning of the project, ECMI Kosovo concluded an agreement with the University to be a “middleman” between the Government Independent Commission, and the University of Mitrovica North. The project has had a productive and constructive cooperation with the University, Government of Kosovo and Ministry of Education.

ECMI Kosovo supported applicants, the Commission and the institutions involved in the procedure. The follow-up below reports how applicants used their verified qualifications.

ECMI Kosovo has assessed the impact of the project and conducted three surveys in December 2016, in April 2017 and October 2018, in order to assess the impact of the verification process and to monitor how the successful applicants have used their verified diplomas. The third survey shows the following statistics:

Out of 811 applicants contacted, 261 applicants applied for jobs and 99 applicants or 38% individuals of those successfully obtained a job.

Many Serbs and those from the Serbian-speaking community who received diplomas from University of Mitrovica North were working in various public institutions in Kosovo. However, their status as permanent civil servants was unconfirmed, and they usually worked with short term contracts. The number of applicants who had this status in Kosovo Institutions and have verified their diplomas to confirm their status as permanent civil servants at various Kosovo institutions is 205 or 25%.

In total 57 or 7% of applicants have verified diplomas in order to take further professional examinations in Kosovo (such as the bar examination, or professional licenses –notary, mediators etc.)

A total of 334 or 41% verified their diplomas in order to complete their personal documentation so these would be ready should an opportunity arise for employment at Kosovo institutions. A significant number of these applicants work in Serbian institutions in Kosovo (schools, hospitals, education, etc.) and are waiting for further discussions and agreements between Kosovo and Serbia for their future work status in Kosovo.

The project has worked hard in supporting the expansion of the mandate to include all Serbian institutions, including three professional colleges, professional schools and high schools operating in Serbian language. The project has worked close with the Office of the Prime Minister, Office of the President of Kosovo and the Ministry of Education, to incentivize these decision making bodies to expand the mandate to include all Serbian institutions. There have been numerous workshops and meetings that were held towards this end.



In June 2018, the Government took a decision to establish a Government team to prepare a concept document to look at the legal possibilities of expanding the mechanism. The project has provided technical support to the Government team and has facilitated its work. By expanding the mandate of the Independent Commission approximately 17,456 pupils, 8000 students from the UMN and 3000 students from the High schools will benefit from this mechanism. The Serbian and Serbian specking citizens of Kosovo will be able to use their diplomas for employment and career opportunities in Kosovo.

Due to political situation in Kosovo and the non-recognition of Serbian institutions by the Kosovo Government, there has never been an in-depth research on the state of conditions of Serbian Education institutions in Kosovo. In 2017 and 2018, ECMI undertook a large scale research to map and assess the quality and pedagogical situation of Serbian language schools in Kosovo. This was done by the approval of Serbian Education Coordination Office in Mitrovica North. Over the course of one and a half year, ECMI teams visited every Serbian education institution in Kosovo, 69 primary schools with more than 141 separate classes in different villages, and 34 secondary schools, in different localities where Serbian speaking communities live throughout Kosovo.

The result was unprecedented research and information that was not available before. The report also identified certain indicators, such as the number of students per teachers, teaching material, extracurricular activities, school infrastructure, main challenges etc. Furthermore, ECMI Kosovo has structured the source material and processed it into a detailed report and online Map of Serbian education in Kosovo.



Furthermore, ECMI Kosovo is working with the MEST and other relevant partners in education sector, to address both short term solutions – as it is the case with diploma verification process by expanding its mandate for verification of the high school and professional school diplomas – but also very importantly to finding long term solutions to the existing situation where education in Serbian language is completely separated from the education system of Kosovo, and therefore not recognized by it. ECMI Kosovo will work with the Ministry of Education, for a longer term vision and strategy for finding suitable solution to the current situation. In this respect it is of paramount importance that the Kosovo Government and MEST, have a clear strategy to the inclusion of education in Serbian language within the overall framework of Kosovo education system. Taking into account the fact that the process of diploma recognition has been unresolved for the past 17 years, these developments represent a success story in Kosovo

Implementation Period:

Start date: 01 July 2016  End date: 30 June 2019

Funding:

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

Focal point for the project:

Renata Nikolla

Developing Teaching Materials to assist Official Language Acquisition by Municipal Officials in Kosovo

During 2018, ECMI Kosovo has continued the implementation of the project ''Developing Teaching Materials to Assist Official Language Acquisition by Municipal Officials in Kosovo''. This project foresees new textbooks, along with the associated workbooks, as well as new teachers' manuals to be

developed for both Albanian and Serbian language courses.



The Albanian and Serbian textbook materials during 2018 were developed and the materials correspond with the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" (CEFR) standards A1, A2 and B1. A total of 18 documents are produced and will be published during January 2019 at the ceremony. Textbook materials are tailored for the needs of municipal administration officials working in Kosovo. This way, the teaching methodology and materials are overhauled for both Albanian and Serbian language courses produced for municipal officials working in mixed ethnicity municipalities, thereby enabling them to provide services in both official languages. The Albanian and Serbian textbooks were handover to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.



Implementation Period:

Start date: 08 March 2018 End date: 31 December 2018

Funding:

This project is funded by OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Focal point for the project:

Renata Nikolla

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

INTRODUCTION

The project "Capacity Development for Scaling up Results in Enhancing Access to and Retention in Education for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children" carried out since 2010, aimed to support MEST and MEDs in the fight against the social plague, towards an equal and full access to the Kosovar educational system. The main priorities of the project are the reduction of the number of out of school for vulnerable and disadvantaged children and the promotion of good practices towards the institutionalization of sustainable solutions. Pursuing inclusiveness, between 2010 and 2018 ECMI Kosovo in partnership with UNICEF and MEST engages in the implementation of the Administrative Instruction (AI 19/2012 later amended in 08/2018) for the prevention of dropouts and school abandonment and the functionalization of teams for the Prevention and Response towards Abandonment and Non-Registration (PRTANs).

To pursue a total inclusiveness in the educational system, it is essential to institutionalize an ad-hoc action within communities and families. This process is supported on the field by special taskforces issued with the Administrative Instruction 08/2018, called Empowering Teams for the Prevention and Response against Abandonment and Non-Enrolment in Compulsory Education (PRTANs). ECMI Kosovo, in partnership with UNICEF and under the supervision of MEST, worked for the implementation of the above-mentioned directive towards a full functionalization of PRTANs. The role of PRTANs operates within both an upward and downward strategy: monitoring and gathering of data and case management, development of action plans in response to non-enrollment and dropouts, issues reporting, immediate and long-term interventions, raising awareness and ensuring a special attention to children with special education needs.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ANALYSIS

Training sessions have been organized since 2013 by the Ministry of Education in close cooperation with ECMI Kosovo and UNICEF in order to establish a permeable municipality-based network of trainers, whose task was to prepare local PRTANs to deal with the phenomenon of out of school children by using the provided tools (manuals, indicator sheet, EWS, EMIS, re-integration process). EMIS is the main instrument for registering, monitoring and documenting all cases dealt with in schools. This module, inter-alia, generates information on cases at risk of dropping out, which are identified, reported and addresses by schools in daily basis. It seeks to contribute the connection of information between schools, MEDs and MEST, providing quantitative and qualitative information and indicators of the situation and provides an opportunities for policy orientation at all levels, school, MED, MEST.

ECMI Kosovo activities and trainings have managed to increase awareness in the mind-set of the municipal officials and to institutionalize schools' commitment and goodwill to focus on the dropout problem and inclusive education. Secondly, we focused on the systematic procedure to address the Out-of-school-children – OOSC using specific software developed by MEST such as the Early Warning System (EWS) and EMIS.

Trainings were realized in the technical teaching of employment of the tools for the identification of students at risk of dropout. During the informative session held in 2018 – 100 schools from 10

municipalities have been involved in the presentation of the EWS.

The role of ECMI Kosovo was to support the whole process, starting from the organization of training seminars and workshops, to the final monitoring phase of the functionalization of PRTANs, by an established cooperation with municipality stakeholders. ECMI role on the field was to link school with community stakeholders, in order to create a stable network enclosing any child at risk of dropout. During 2018 trainings have been organized in 10 municipalities Vushtrri/Vučitrn, Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Prishtinë/Priština, Gjilan/Gnjilane , Fushe Kosove/Fush Kosovo, Obiliq/Obilić, Podujeve/Podujevo, Peje/Peć, Ferizaj/ Uroševac. More than 200 members of School and Municipality PRTANs have been involved in training sessions.

In the last project cycle conducted from May 2018 to April 2019, 10 MEDS (municipal directorates) and 90 schools were involved. Four (4) teams comprised MEST and ECMI Kosovo officials have implemented the monitoring process using structured questionnaires for schools and municipal teams. In all 10 municipalities, detailed instructions to schools and MEDs have been provided on how to best address all the categories of students at risk of dropping out and how to best fulfill the mandate of respective PRTANs.

Achievements

The first positive outcome of the plan was the signed agreement with all targeted municipalities in Kosovo (so called Memoranda of Understanding). Initially trainings involved nine municipalities and then expanded in additional 21 municipalities, and had very satisfactory results in terms of knowledge transmission. ECMI Kosovo supported MEST in drafting and delivering PRTANs manuals in all Kosovo municipalities.

Of the 100 monitored schools in the last project cycle, most of them are implementing the AI 08/2018. In almost all monitored municipalities MEDs have appointed Municipal coordinators for inclusive education, suggesting an increase in care for children with disabilities, minority communities and involvement in pre-primary education. During 2018 – over 100 School PRTANs and 10 Municipal PRTANs in targeted municipalities have been directly trained;

Obstacles





The problems encountered in the implementation of the project, were resistance of municipal officials to accept the need of training in managing, up until the serious negligence of not establishing the PRTANs.

Municipal PRTANs have not been able to present any data resulting from any meeting held in the composition settled under the Administrative Instruction 08/2018. It can be assumed that if on one hand schools show a firm engagement in the application of sustainable solutions, on the other the dedication varies among municipalities.

The issue of students' transfer still represents an issue. The procedure of confirmation letter in case of student transfer needs to be institutionalized. In some cases, municipal officials suspect that parents use this procedure to withdraw unofficially children from school without submitting any transfer confirmation to the previous school. Considering the risks of the actual practice, the transfer system should be therefore conducted between schools and not entrusted to parents.

Focusing on the technical aspect of the implementation, the main problem was the proper use of the instruments provided for the case management (identification sheet and EWS) or even their non-application in the process. This particularly affected the identification of students at risk of dropout and the job documentation process of School PRTANs.

From the findings collected on the field by ECMI Kosovo and MEST teams, it can be concluded that the policies for the prevention, identification, treatment and referral of cases at risk of dropping out and those who have dropped out of school are quite consolidated and substantive. ECMI Kosovo through the UNICEF-funded project has built a sustainable partnership with MEST in offering an adequate support to structure a sustainable and quality system for dealing with children at risk of dropping out, children that have been registered but fail to attend, children that have attended the school but fail to learn and children that are enrolled for several years but fail to progress.

In order to fully implement this prevention system as claimed by the Administrative Instruction 08/2019, it is still necessary to work on a school basis because it represents the source of actions and the identification of the problems.

Implementation Period:

Start date: 01 May 2018  End date: 30 April 2019

Funding:

This project is funded by UNICEF.

Focal point for the project:

Arben Osmani

Fostering youth development and employment through a cross-border digital entrepreneurship academy (Y.D.E.A.) in Lezha and Prizren

The Youth Digital Entrepreneurship Academy is a cross-border initiative funded by the Delegation of European Union in Albania and aimes to foster digital networking and entrepreneurship and for socio-economic integration of youth in Kosovo and Albania. The project is implemented by ECMI Kosovo and our partner AIIS. This project is led by ECMI Kosovo and all activities implemented under this project are ultimately aimed at strengthening educational capacities of vocation training institutions fostering youth (self-) employment in the field of digital entrepreneurship. Main activities of the project are Establishment and Implementation of Youth Digital Entrepreneurship Academy, Organization of cross-border job fairs, Organization of a closing conference of YDEA to present YDEA publications, manuals on digital entrepreneurship opportunities, training schemes and public presentation of the successful projects developed by participants during the project.

During 2018, ECMI Kosovo focused to establish the Youth Digital Entrepreneurship Academy. Initially experts have been recruited in Kosovo an in Albania and have identified the market needs of the several local business sectors that operate in Prizren and Lezha and would profit from Web-design and IT services. The programs of the local vocational and educational schools are evaluated to set the starting point for the YDEA training program, filling the gaps in the current curricula, advancing and modernizing teaching methods. The training scheme of Youth Digital Entrepreneurship Academy is developed and it corresponds to the needs of schools and local business sectors in the two regions the program of the Academy will compromise four modules. Three modules focus on the latest techniques and updates in the field of Information Technology especially in Website Design and Development as well as Mobile Application Development, while one module focuses on career development and increasing employment and self-employment opportunities.

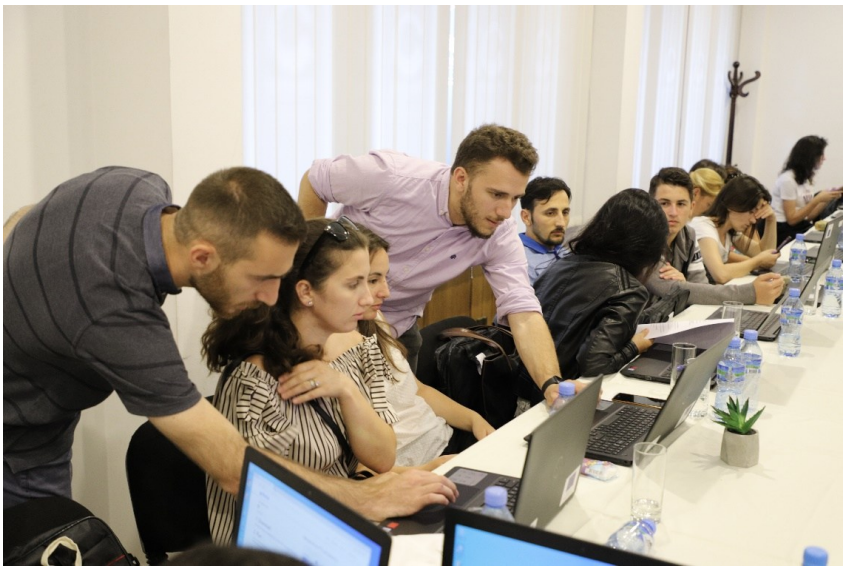
Module 1: Front-End Development

Module 2: Back- End Development

Module 3: Mobile App Development (Android Apps)

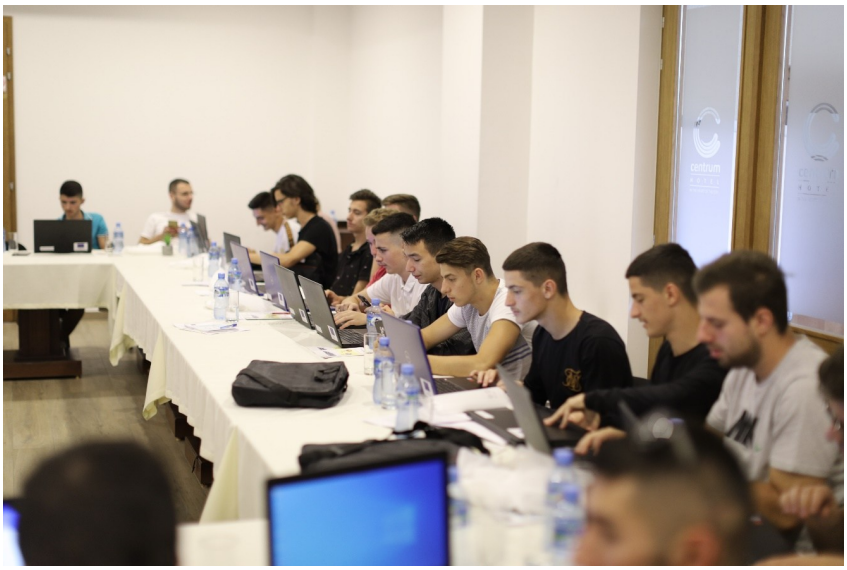
Module 4: Business Management

The YDEA Trainings will grant incentives to young people from Prizren and Lezha, including women and members of non-majority communities, to develop their own professional capacities and opportunities for (self) employment. This training program is a program that prepares students and other enthusiasts for market needs with professional courses and on the job training. The approach of the program is unique especially since the trainings are based on using not only one instructor, but a combination of instructors for the various courses which shall result in a more efficient way of learning things for students. This in practice means that one full-stack developer covers intro to computer science, a mobile developer covers mobile programming. Experts to deliver the training according to modules developed have been recruited.



During 2018, two information sessions in Prizren and in Lezha were organised with the aim to include all stakeholders in the action and increase the outreach to the targeted participants of the action. We have established a strong relationship with Vocational educational institutions as well as local institutions in Prizren and Lezha. In addition the Albanian and Kosovar teaching staff from the educational institutions in Prizren and Lezha are introduced to new trends and topics in IT and web design, the new teaching materials of the Y.D.E.A. curriculum and new learning techniques such as virtual classrooms.

Following the Open Call for Application which were opened for 3 months, 56 participants (26 from Lezha and 30 from Prizren) were selected. The selected young people from Prizren and Lezha will improved their knowledge of digital entrepreneurship and develop skills, increasing their networking and employability opportunities during the course of the project. Participants of the YDEA will be trained based on latest tech trends, and also get hands-on practice professional code documentation, work ethics and related development processes, that will make them ready to work with world-class clients and companies.



To find more detailed information on the activities of the project, you can visit the website ydeaacademy.com and the Facebook page Akademia Rinore e Sipërmarrjes Digjitale.

Implementation Period:

Start date: 15 March 2019  End date: 14 July 2020

Funding:

This project is funded by the European Union Delegation in Albania.

Focal point for the project:

Arta Hamiti

## Support to Implementation of Agreements Reached in the Brussels Dialogue

The implementation process of the signed Brussels Agreement in 2013 on the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia has seen significant stagnation over the last five years. Even though many points of the dialogue have been successfully completed, full implementation is far from being achieved since some of the key-deals still represent unsettled challenges for the Kosovo government. The non-accomplishment of the priorities set out by the Brussels Agreement generates tensions and uncertainties for the future development of the country and hampers Kosovo's EU accession. Considering these circumstances, ECMI has chosen to address two pending issues regarding the uncompleted priorities, which are (1) Freedom of movement in documentation and citizenship acquisition and (2) Establishment of Association/Community of Serb-majority Municipalities. Hence, this project aims to support the secure implementation of the bilateral agreements at both a central and a local level. The project tackles the existing critical points on the Kosovar side through grass root local CSOs support and extensive field presence and trainings.

The implementation of the project will be carried through a two-pronged approach, which consists of targeting both a wide range of central institutions and civil society stakeholders. Starting from baseline studies and assessments, the action will be supported by the involvement of contracted experts that will assist in activities of drafting and technical/legal counselling.





The expected results of the Project are as follows:

· Increased freedom of movement and access to official documents for citizens of non-majority communities in Kosovo.

· Facilitate full implementation of the Brussels Agreement and compliance with the international obligation of establishing A/CSM enshrined in the international negotiations.

· Enhanced capacity to implement the legislation on documentation and citizenship acquisition, and increased awareness of procedures and existing opportunities for citizens of non-majority communities in Kosovo

· Empowerment of local self-governance in Serb-majority communities, increased capacity to draft the statutes and other relevant documents associated with the A/CSM, and increased awareness and access to evidence-based information about the A/CSM for all relevant stakeholders in Kosovo.

The intended target groups are civil servants in the municipal and central government, as well as members of the civil society.

## Implementation Period

Start date: 1 September 2018  End date: 31 August 2020

Funding

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

Focal point for the project:

Blerinë Hajdini

# IV. 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 Analysis

• Implications of Visa Liberalization for Kosovo

• Update on the Process of Association of Serb-Majority Municipalities

• Education in the Serbian Language and Diploma Verification in Kosovo

The list of publications of ERAC in 2018:

The People in Between: The future of Citizenship and Freedom of Movement of Kosovo Serbs and other Non-Majority Communities;

Youth Engagement in Kosovo Local Government: Unpacking the Local Youth Action Councils impact on policymaking in Kosovo Local Government;

Advancing LGBTI Rights by Building the Capacities of Public Servant: An evaluation of training programs of public institutions in Kosovo;

Training Programs on Gender Issues for Kosovo's Public Administration;

Civil Servants Training Programs and capacity Building on the Rights of Non-Majority Communities and Non-Discrimination in Kosovo;

Enhancing Inclusive Education for All in Kosovo: Promoting Inclusive Education and Diversity in all Schools in Kosovo;

Supporting Serbian and Albanian Language Proficiency Amongst Kosovo Municipal Servants;

Towards Equal Linguistic Quality of Kosovo Legislation into Albanian and Serbian Language: A Step in Filling the Gap in the Implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages;

Implementation of the International Human Rights Treaties names in the Constitution of Kosovo: A Discussion Paper.

ERAC in-depth journalistic pieces published in 2018 are:

Hate speech highlighted in IDAHOT;

Survivors speak in the wake of Vafsije;

Supermarkets with super problems;

JIMINI HIGNETT: "In the sex industry, we need to prosecute buyers".





# Audited finances and personnel

RSM Kosovo expressed an unmodified opinion on the institutional statements. Cash receipts were €713,108 and total expenditure was €642,069. The separate audit of the Equal Rights for All Coalition project expressed a qualified opinion.

| Expenditure | Amount |
|---|---|
| Personnel costs for staff and contracted contributors | €309,081 |
| Project activities | €218,379 |
| Administration | €114,608 |

Personnel costs cover regular, part-time, contracted and other personnel within the audit's salary classification. The total includes €13,495 in pension contributions. The annual report and its editable chart data record 83 people paid during the year, including 39 women and 44 men. The management chart records five women and two men. The institutional audit gives an average of 43 regular and other contracted people per month.

## Independent audit

RSM Kosovo Sh.P.K.'s report on the 2018 financial statements is dated 15 April 2019.

## Project audits

RSM Kosovo LLC audited Equal Access to Higher Education and Public Employment for Minorities, a project funded by the Norwegian Embassy.