# Annual Report 2020

Reporting year 2020

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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 2020 towards the establishment and development of a democratic and stable multi-ethnic society in Kosovo.

During 2020, 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, 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 implemented throughout 2020.

ECMI Kosovo, 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, 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.

By the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 the world was challenged by the ongoing global pandemic, COVID-19. As the COVID-19 changed the structural environment and had impact in every aspect of life. In this regard ECMI Kosovo and the hardworking staff, focused all the attention and capacities on finding a solution on how to approach all communities living in Kosovo and to continue

to protect and promote all human rights. This was very demanding, taking into consideration the nature of our work mostly in the field and near communities. All of our projects were challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, which limited our close mutual access to non-majority communities and to marginalized groups in Kosovo. However, we managed successfully to overcome these challenges and to continue our mission and vision consistently.

Given this, in 2020, five ECMI Kosovo paralegals identified 91 human rights violation cases in 14 different municipalities in Kosovo. There were several cases that had more than one victim, hence increasing the actual number of the cases we identified. Some of the cases were related to the public services that directly or indirectly discriminated certain minority communities in whole, hence these cases were analyzed in depth with draft recommendations for the relevant public institutions. Main cases were on: returnees rights, language rights, civil registration and violations on basis of ethnicity.

Further, we are very proud to inform you that our Paralegals in addition to identifying cases over the past year, they have done ongoing active work even during the pandemic helping their community with various services. They have helped to provide online education courses in Bosnian and Romani, they have helped to fill in the forms for the distribution of emergency packages, and they have sewn masks for communities for free.

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 2020, 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. Moreover, 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.

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.

During 2020 ECMI Kosovo continued the implementation of the project "Cross-border Actions in the REproductive Health Sector - CARES" in partnership with Foundation for the Development of Northern Montenegro - FORS Montenegro funded by the European Union through Cross-border Programme Montenegro-Kosovo 2014-2020, and for which the grant was awarded by the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU Assistance Funds. The overall objective

of the project is to contribute to the improved health of women in the programme area that includes Andrijevica, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Gusinje, Petnjica, Plav, Kolašin, Mojkovac and Rožaje in Montenegro and Pejë/Peć, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Dečani, Gjakovë/Đakovica in Kosovo, with the special emphases on socially vulnerable groups. This project is improving the medical infrastructure of the Primary and Secondary Health Institutions in the up mentioned municipalities for the fight against malignant breast diseases and cervical diseases, while at the same time raising the awareness of women about the importance of preventive examinations in the sector of reproductive health. The initiatives involving ECMI Kosovo in 2020 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 2021 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

Mr. ARBEN OSMANI - Project Manager

Ms. ARTA HAMITI - Project Manager

Ms. BLERTA VISOKA – Project Coordinator

Ms. BARDHA REXHEPI- Finance Manager

Mr. NAZMI ZUKA - Finance Officer

Mr. GENC IBRAHIMI – Finance Assistant

Mr. GAZMEN SALIJEVIĆ – Project Officer

Mr. TAULANT XHELILI – Legal Expert

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. ALEKSANDAR TRAJKOVIĆ - Paralegal

Ms. VESNA ORDIĆ - Paralegal

Mr. MUHAMET ELSHANI - Paralegal

Mr. ZORAN DJOKIĆ - Paralegal

Mr. ALBERT JASHARI - Paralegal

Ms. FATJONA AJVAZI – Paralegal

Ms. ARIJANITA RUGOVA – Paralegal

Mr. ARTAN OSMANI- IT

# I. 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 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 SENIOR OVERSIGHT BOARD

## Mr. Srećko Bogajčević – Chairperson of the Senior Oversight Board

Mr. Srećko Bogajčević is currently working as Associate Civil Affairs Officer within United Nations Mission in Kosovo. Prior to that Mr. Bogajčević worked as Chief of Cabinet in the Ministry for Communities and Return and he is also a member of the Board for Language Policies. Mr. Bogajčević worked as an officer in the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. He held a position of Head of Administration in Štrpce/Shtërpcë, Kosovo for several years, and prior to that, he was serving as a Program Assistant in the same municipality.

Mr. Bogajčević worked for several years as a teacher in a primary school in Gotovuša. Mr. Bogajčević graduated at the Faculty of Economics, Kosovo.

He is married with four children (Tihomir, Milan, Jelena and Ana).

Mr. Bogajčević is the Chairperson of the ECMI Kosovo Senior Oversight Board.

## Mr. Gjergj Filipaj - Member of the Senior Oversight Board

Mr. Gjergj Filipaj from Montenegro is as Editor in Radio Television of Kosovo. Prior to that Mr. Filipaj worked as a Web Editor at the Innovation Centre Kosovo where he edits and manages two web pages. Mr. Filipaj has an experience of 7 years as an active reporter and editor in the Kosovan and Albanian press. In Albania he has worked with newspaper Shekulli, magazines SPEKTER & XXL, Albanian Telegraphic Agency (ATA) and with TV station Vizion+ (1999-2001). While in Kosovo he worked with newspaper KOHA Ditore covering mainly the education beat (2001-2004).

He is one of the co-founders of Prishtina based daily newspaper EXPRESS (2004-2006) where he worked as editor of the NATIONAL news section. Filipaj also worked as Arts Editor at daily newspaper Zëri.

From 2006 to 2008 he worked as media and communications expert with the United Nations Kosovo Team (UNKT) and the division of Publicly Owned Enterprises POEs of the Kosovo Trust Agency (KTA)

He finished his Master Studies with the dissertation thesis «Representation of Masculinity in Kosovan Television media — male presenters in entertainment show in RTK, KTV and RTV21». Kosovo Center for Gender Studies partially published in Albanian his MA thesis. He graduated at the University of Tirana – Faculty of Philology and History – Journalism Department.

## Ms. Florina Berisha – Member of the Senior Oversight Board

Ms. Florina Berisha currently is the CEO of the Kosovo Pharmaceutical Society NGO. As the CEO of the Kosovo Pharmaceutical Society Ms. Berisha is responsible for all Society activities. Ms. Berisha Represents the Society in International Pharmaceutical Federation. Currently Ms. Berisha manages 200 pharmacists and pharmaceutical companies working in Kosovo, members of the Society.

Ms. Berisha is also a member of the Senior Oversight Board of the Chamber of Pharmacists of Kosovo. Ms. Berisha is responsible for supervision of staff members and ensures that staff are in gender, minority and disadvantages groups.

Ms. Berisha holds a Master Degree on Faculty of Pharmacy, Prishtina University, Prishtina, Kosova

## III. ECMI KOSOVO DONORS

(According to alphabetic order)

• Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kosovo;

• European Union Delegation in Albania

• European Union in Montenegro;

• European Union Office in Kosovo

• Kosovo Specialist Chambers;

• Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo;

• Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency;



## IV. ECMI KOSOVO ACTIVITIES

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. This project aims to enable youth networking and capacity building in the field of digital entrepreneurship and to

encourage the exchange of best practice between municipalities, vocational education institutions and the local business sector in Kosovo and Albania. In particular the project will:1) Increase the youth (self-) employment opportunities in Lezha and Prizren through the establishment of a cross-border youth digital entrepreneurship academy (YDEA), i.e. provisions of one year training program on digital skills and entrepreneurship followed with further tailored capacity building support and supervision; 2) Strengthen the networking of young entrepreneurs and the private business sector on the local and national level in Kosovo and Albania on organized job fairs tailoring the academy's activities with the demands of the local business sector; and 3) Enhance the capacity building and exchange of best practice of educational and vocational public and/or private institutions on both sides of the border through their active involvement in the setup and implementation of the academy programme and subsequent adaption of the training concept of the academy. All project objectives will be achieved through the implementation of main activities of the project which 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. 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

A very good relationship with youth, local businesses and vocational educational institutions in Prizren and Lezha is established. In addition the Albanian and Kosovar teaching staff from the vocational 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. The capacity of vocational educational institutions on digital entrepreneurship and to bring students in contact with the job market is improved through best practice exchange, contacts with local businesses and the dissemination of training schemes and curricula.

55 Selected participants of the Youth Digital Entrepreneurship Academy were tained 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 and these trainings will continue to be held until all modules are completed. The program of the Academy comprises 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. The YDEA Training program prepared students and other enthusiasts for market needs with professional courses and on the job training.



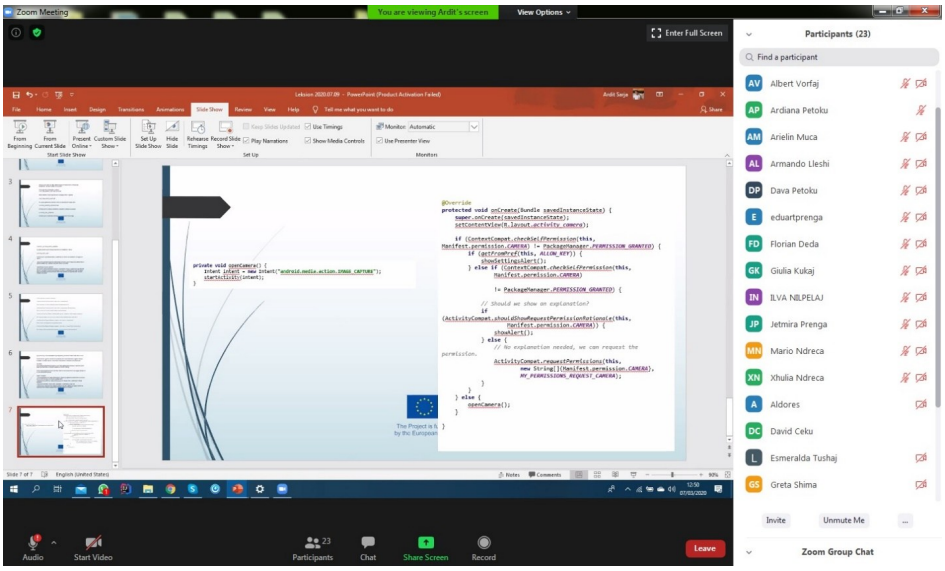
In Total in Prizren 40 training sessions were held and in Lezha 40 training sessions for youth were organised. In addition, introductory workshops with teachers from both sides of the border are held respectively in Prizren and in Lezha. On July 2019 a joint class was organized with the aim of bringing together participants from Prizren and Lezha. Participants had the chance to know each other and to exchange best practices and lessons learned.




The students learned to work on high-end technical equipment provided by the project funding, and each have a user on the necessary soft-ware packages. This enabled the students to continuously learn and work on their projects also outside of the class room and to motivate them to pursue entrepreneurial activities for sustainable commitment to the project activities. Students from Prizren and Lezha improved their knowledge of digital entrepreneurship and develop skills, increasing their networking and employability opportunities during the course of the project.

One of the highlights of the Action were the two joint classes organized the first in Prizren and the second in Lezha, with the participation of the students from Prizren and Lezha. These two joint classes were a good opportunity to exchange views about the Modules organized in Prizren and the modules organized in Lezha. At the same time, the participants from Lezha had the opportunity to participate in trainings with the trainers from Kosovo and the participants from Kosovo with those from Albania.

The final conference was organized on 14th September 2020, in a hybrid event, with participants being physically present in a distance from each other due to covid-19 measures, but also online presenting their works. For each module one student presented an assignment which reflected the trainings they had received and the knowledge gained in that module. In total, there were 4 assignments which were presented.




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 September 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 implementation phase started in September 2018, and since, has provided significant and successful results. By providing technical assistance to the Civil Registration Agency, a limb of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and to the civil registry officials that are employed in municipalities that consists of a Serb majority population, ECMI Kosovo has played an unreplaceable role in the fulfillment of the Brussels Dialogue negotiations regarding freedom of movement.

ECMI Kosovo has continuously provided technical assistance and acted as a mediator between the Civil Registration Agency and the Serb majority municipalities of Kosovo, while conducting several needs assessment to evaluate the situation and tackle the problems which are occurring in the process of the implementation of the decisions. Up to date, ECMI Kosovo has obtained statistics regarding the acquired birth, marriage, death certificates, as well as the statistics regarding the acquired driving licenses through the decision of the Minister of Ministry of Internal Affairs. The statistics regarding the freedom of movement are as following:

- Number of citizens equipped with birth certificates/extract from the central register: 818

- Number of citizens equipped with marriage certificates: 946

- Number of citizens equipped with death certificates: 422

- Number of citizens equipped with a Kosovo driving license through the Minister's decision: 3572

The results presented above prove that ECMI Kosovo's role in the implementation of the Brussels Dialogue has been significantly successful and is continuing to prove essential to the implementation of the rest of the agreements between Kosovo and Serbia.

Further, ECMI Kosovo provided trainings for new members of Secretariat on the working procedures after the expansion of the mandate and supported the verification authenticity of diplomas by the UMN and other education institutions in Serbian language operation in the Republic of Kosovo and monitored and evaluated the mentioned mechanism. Information to the Serb majority municipalities was provided through information sessions and distribution of drafted and publicized leaflets while

maintaining support to the Diploma Verification process through working teams.

## 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:

Adrian Zeqiri






Development of a Legal Information Service, (Law-Data System) for the Kosovo Assembly and the Language Consistency of the Laws

ECMI Kosovo project in partnership with IMG - International management Group - "Development of a Legal Information Service, (Law-Data System) for the Kosovo Assembly and the Language Consistency of the Laws" - in support of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo has started in September 2019.

During the reporting period ECMI Kosovo engaged in designing and devising a methodology that would account for in the best possible way the language inconsistencies that there exist in the legislation of Kosovo in accordance to the project aim and objectives and the laws of Kosovo.

In Kosovo, both Albanian and Serbian language are EQUAL official languages, meaning that both languages are equally valid. This is important in identifying inconsistencies, as they are usually inconsistent in relation to a version. However, it is a practice that laws have been drafted in Albanian as the base language, and only afterwards have been translated into Serbian. To add another layer of complexity, it was a practice, especially until 2014-15, that many laws were written firstly in English version, by various international experts and organizations that were supporting the development of the particular law, and then translated into Albanian and Serbian. Therefore, although the English is not an Official Language, it is very important to compare the Albanian and Serbian version with the English version of the law, as most of the times this is the version that comes closest to what the law indented to achieve.

The above legal provisions and the practice of drafting of the law in Kosovo (either in Albanian or English version as a source language), needed to be taken into account when designing the screening process of the law in order to arrive at the exact inconsistencies when this screening is done. Therefore, it was decided to proceed in the following manner:

Firstly, identify language inconsistencies and mistakes of the law between Albanian and Serbian versions of the law, i.e. the mistakes would be identified in both Albanian and Serbian versions using both languages as a source language-in accordance to the law)

Secondly, identify inconsistencies in the Albanian and Serbian versions using the English version as a source version, i.e highlight mistakes in Albanian and Serbian versions

Thirdly, analyses both mistakes in Albanian and Serbian with the English version and suggest the final recommendation for the change, including identification of commonly used legal terminology which is usually repeated in other laws so that recommendations for the changes are consistent throughout the screening and review of the laws.

In other words, it was clear that in order to satisfy legal provisions of equal official languages and the practice in Kosovo of drafting the laws in Albanian and English

The Expert Translators that have been hired have review and compare laws and by-laws of Kosovo. Linguistic discrepancies (Albanian and Serbian) have already been compared and identified in more than 85 Kosovo law and by-laws. The working procedure was explained in the previous narrative report, the aim of the working procedure was to keep in line with the requirement of Kosovo constitution and legislation, i.e Albanian and Serbian are equal official languages in the Republic of Kosovo. This meant that a separate track of correction in Albanian, and a separate track of correction in Serbian had to be organized. In addition, the third track compared these languages with English version, and collected repetitive words that were meant to be compiled in a thesaurus and dictionary of legal terminology.

## Implementation Period

Start date: 1 September 2019  End date: 30 April 2022

Funding

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

Focal point for the project:

Arben Osmani

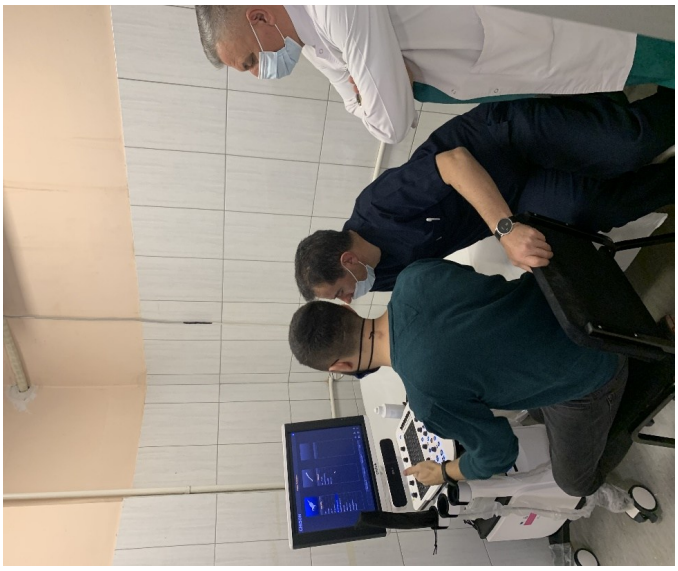


## Cross-border Actions in the REproductive Health Sector - CARES

During 2020, ECMI Kosovo continued the implementation of the project "Cross-border Actions in the REproductive Health Sector - CARES" in partnership with Foundation for the Development of Northern Montenegro - FORS Montenegro. Specific objective of the project is to improve the quality of reproductive health services and raise awareness of population on protecting reproductive health in the programme area that includes: Andrijevica, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Gusinje, Petnjica, Plav, Kolašin, Mojkovac and Rožaje in Montenegro and Pejë/Peć, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Dečani, Gjakovë/Đakovica in Kosovo with the focus on socially vulnerable groups. The project aims to improve the quality of reproductive health services and inform the population about the importance of preventive examinations in maintaining reproductive health. Main activities of the project are organization of preventive gynecological examinations of the breast and cervix; awareness campaigns for raising awareness; publications such as Articles and Press Releases on Reproductive Helath; Cross-border Cooperation and distribution of equipment for Health Centers.

ECMI Kosovo is very happy to inform that new equipment for the protection of reproductive health were officially introduced and delivered in the Duakgjin region, which were purchased for the health centers of the Peja and Gjakova Regional Hospital as well as for the Main Family Medicine Centers in Peja, Klina, Istog and Deçan within the CARES project. The total value of the equipment purchased is 45,676.90 EUR, which consists of two ultrasound equipment, colposcope, CTG, sterilizer and sets of instruments and chemicals for PAPA tests. The health centers were very grateful and happy for the equipment they received, considering that it will make their work much easier and the results of the examinations will be more precise. After the distribution of the equipment, ECMI Kosovo organised trainings on usage of new equipment for staff in the Health Centers. In these trainings participated in total thirty-seven (37) participants from which seven (7) in Regional Hospital of Peja, five (5) in Main Family Medicine Center in Peja, four (4) in Regional Hospital of Gjakova, ten (10) in Main Family

Medicine Center in Klina, five (5) in Main Family Medicine Center in Istog and six (6) in Main Family Medicine Center in Decan.



During 2020, ECMI Kosovo conducted the second survey on "Study on Reproductive Health in the municipality of Peja/Peč, Deçan/Dečane, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina and Gjakovë/Djakovica 2" in which participated 2050 women. To see in what amount women from the targeted area are aware of the importance of reproductive health. The target of this study were employed women; unemployed women and / or living in rural areas; young women and students; women working in non-governmental institutions and organizations; and women belonging to non-majority communities. The results of the second survey show a slightly improvement among women regarding the knowledge on reproductive health in comparison with the first survey on reproductive health.

Furthermore, we have marked October as Awareness month against Breast Cancer with various activities. On 25 September 2020, ECMI Kosovo representatives met with the Minister of Health, Mr. Armend Zemaj. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the Minister about the so far progress of the project. The Programme Coordinator of the project has explained in details all the actions, challenges and the success of the project during the implementation period. In addition, she asked for support and cooperation from the Ministry of Health having in mind how much the pandemic has affected women's reproductive health.



We have developed one Press Release and two articles on breast cancer that can be found in the links below:

• On 15 October 2020 the Press Release was published in ECMI Kosovo Website: https://ecmikosova.org

• On 9 October 2020 Article I was published in ECMI Kosovo website: https://ecmikosova.org

• On 19 October 2020 Article II was published in ECMI Kosovo website: https://ecmikosova.org

These articles were shared in the following media:

• On 22 October 2020 Gazeta Shneta published our article on her site: https://gazetashneta.net/ecmi-kosova-shenon-muajin-tetor-si-muaji-nderkombetar-i-vetedijesimit-per-kancerin-e-gjirit/

• On 23 October 2020 Gazeta Epoka e Re published our article on her site: https://www.epokaere.com/tetori-muaji-i-ndergjegjesimit-per-kancerin-e-gjirit-2/

Further, on 16 October 2020 we have participated in one morning TV show in one of the main TVs in Kosovo TV 7 which was transmitted in two channels in TV 7 Official Chanel and in Gjirafa video an online platform very popular in Kosovo. During the interview, Ms. Blerta Visoka informed the public about the idea of the project, its implementation and the target area of the project. She shared information about the survey that we have conducted. Furthermore, a detailed agenda of the October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month was delivered to the public.

Please find the full interview in the links below:

• Gjirafa video: https://video.gjirafa.com/aktivitetet-nder-kufitare-ne-sektorin-e-shendetit-riprodhues?fbclid=IwAR0aVezaTgQ3BQrP4f7jXoG_ct6EpERQtoG7XfcN9LBhVsqUAcSerTKpLxE

• TV 7: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oc2nc8O4Jms&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2IkF-uOu8gAl4w2FWerv9hFtdtN5ZL0kfsYl3TuBYKN8BRRtolb6mUL4

In addition, ECMI Kosovo on 26 October 2020 has organized an activity in Peja/Pec main square to distribute promotional materials of the project. During this activity, ECMI Kosovo team discussed with citizens about the importance of preventive examinations as a tool of early detection of cervical and breast cancer.

Furthermore, we have organized ten (10) lectures with women and six (6) lectures with high school students from the programme area. Approximately 172 participants of these lectures were informed about the Breast and Cervical Cancer about symptoms, treatment, risk factor and the importance of preventive examinations.






Further, on 15 October at Hotel Seraphine Plaza in Peja/Pec ECMI Kosovo organized the first round table on "How the Pandemic COVID -19 has affected the improvement of Reproductive Health in Dukagjin Region". In this round table present were 18 participants as follows: Minister of Health Mr. Armend Zemaj; Mr. Adrian Zeqiri - Executive Director of ECMI Kosovo; Ms. Blerta Visoka - Program Coordinator at ECMI Kosovo; Directors of Regional Hospitals of Peja/Pec and Gjakova/Djakovica; Directors of Main Family Medicine Centers of Peja/Pec, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Decani; Gynecologists from all the up mentioned municipalities. Health Minister Mr. Armend Zemaj informed the participants with the current situation with Pandemic – COVID 19 in Kosovo and also gave a detailed introduction on the plans of Ministry of Health for Reproductive Health Sector. Furthermore, representatives from Public Health Institutions delivered a presentation on how they have managed the Pandemic – COVID 19 so far focusing on gynecology ward.




In addition, On 10 December 2020 at Hotel Seraphine Plaza in Peja/Pec ECMI Kosovo organized the second round table on the "Improvement of reproductive health examinations including PAP –test and Mammography in the Dukagjini Region". In this round table present were 11 participants including representatives from Regional Hospital of Peja and CSOs. The importance of preventive examinations, gaps of the system in registering patients in one unique system, the experiences of each staff of the hospital, and new strategies were presented at the round table. Overall this activity was estimated as really fruitful, discussing the overall situation and sharing good practices of the representatives aiming the improvement of the current situation of the reproductive health.



Further ECMI Kosovo is very proud to announce that during the organization of the preventive examinations we have invited 230 women to conduct preventive examinations. Due to the situation created by the COVID-19, all women were invited through phone conversations. We targeted women from rural areas, unemployed women and women from non-majority communities in Kosovo and managed to conduct 199 preventive examinations during 2020 and 352 preventive examinations in total.

Moreover, ECMI Kosovo organised a jointly cross-border conference with FORS Montenegro. ECMI Kosovo has invited panelists from Kosovo and participants. As panelists from Kosovo were: Mr. Arben

Osmani – Programme Manager of ECMI Kosovo, Dr. Skender Dreshaj- Director of Regional Hospital of Peja, Dr. Samoni Loxha – Chef of gynecology ward in Regional Hospital of Peja and Violeta Pirana from the "RENESANSA" organization. And approximately 30 participants from Kosovo attended the conference.

We have prepared a press release for the conference and published it on 17th December in ECMI Kosovo website. The link is as follows:

On 29 December 2020, ECMI Kosovo has published the Report on "Outcomes from Preventive Examinations" on its website. We have also printed 150 pieces of this report and distributed it with citizens from the targeted region of the project as part of awareness raising campaign.

The link of the report is as follows:

Implementation Period:

Start date: 01 March 2019  End date: 31 December 2021

Funding:

This project is funded by European Union through Cross-border Programme Montenegro-Kosovo 2014-2020, and for which the grant was awarded by the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU Assistance Funds.

Focal point for the project:

Blerta Visoka

## Human Rightivism

ECMI Kosovo started the implementation of the project Human Rightivism funded by SIDA and managed by CDF. The project will serve as a continuous learning centre through 15 trainings for the selected associated CSOs throughout Kosovo. The project will also organize regular meetings with rotating chairmanship between participating CSOs to provide feedback and evaluations of past activities and the modus operandi within the project, as well as determine strategies for advocacy. ECMI Kosovo has organized virtual meeting and phone calls with the representatives of associate grassroots NGOs. One training was organized which was focused on gender issues. Incidents and evidence are increasingly reported showing that the policy of isolation and confinement leads to increased levels of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence – and therefore to a heightened need of protection against this. Also during the meetings with representatives of the Grassroots CSOs we have identified their need to be trained about health center working system especially during this period with many human rights violated because of COVID-19 pandemic.

Rregular online meetings were also organized with the Project paralegals. During the meetings it was discussed their regular work in the field. Paralegas have continued their regular work and submitted their cases in time. Also field visits were organized during this reporting period. The project staff met in Prizren with Mr Refik Kasi paralegal and the second visit was organized in Gorazhdec-Peje with Ms Mirsolavka Simonovic. During this visit we discussed about the cases received since their engagement in the project. We discussed about their challenges in the field especially now with the COVID-19 and best practices. It was discussed what are the most cases received by paralegals and how we can address those issues. We also take a look of cases that are already resolved for example the language case in Zupa region with the office of Civil Registry etc.



Due to the Pandemic, the contracted paralegals had to alter their approach when it comes to fulfill their responsibilities. The responsibilities of the paralegals to monitor the implementation of human rights, whether the citizen's rights are being violated from the Kosovo public institutions or individuals in the municipalities, has not changed through this period. However, the paralegals' approach to fulfilling their responsibilities in their respective municipalities has changed due to the COVID-19. The dissemination of relevant legal information to the citizens of the respective municipalities has continued throughout the Pandemic. The paralegals have continued to provide advice and address the citizen's in need of legal advice.

There have been cases that required translation of information that was being provided from the Kosovo Public Institutions. The paralegals fulfilled their responsibilities and ensuring that the information being provided to the citizens is available in the official municipal languages, depending on the municipality. The paralegals managed to find ways via phone, websites, emails in order to ensure that the rights of the citizens in the municipalities are guaranteed. In some cases, the paralegals managed to gain permission from the Kosovo Municipalities to avoid the restriction of movement.

During 2020, five selected paralegals have reported in total 91 cases.



According to cases that are reported by paralegals, there are several cases that are showed violation of human rights. People who are faced with violation of human rights during the pandemic are members of minority communities, including Serbs, Roma, Askali, Egyptians and Bosniaks.

Implementation Period:

Start date: 01 January 2020  End date: 31 December 2023

Funding:

This project is funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and managed by Community Development Fund.

Focal point for the project:

Arta Hamiti

# Audited finances and personnel

The signed institutional audit records **€287,376 in grant receipts** and **€577,833 in total expenditure** in 2020.

| Audited measure | 2020 |
|---|---|
| Grant receipts | €287,376 |
| Personnel costs for staff and contracted contributors | €210,770 |
| Project activities | €200,243 |
| Administrative costs | €166,820 |
| Total expenditure | €577,833 |
| Closing cash and bank balance | €158,150 |

Programme teams combined staff based in Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovica North with community paralegals and project-based researchers, experts and other contracted contributors. Original report, pp. 33–39

## Independent audit

RSM Kosovo Sh.P.K. expressed an unmodified opinion on ECMI Kosovo's 2020 financial statements in its report dated 22 April 2021. In an Emphasis of Matter, the auditor drew attention to the cash basis of accounting and stated that the financial statements and audit report were intended solely for ECMI Kosovo's use. ECMI Kosovo used this basis to meet donor reporting requirements, recording income when funds were received and expenditure when payments were made.

## Project audits

The Community Development Fund (CDF) commissioned Quatra Audit Int. LLC to carry out independent financial audits of the Sida-funded HumanRightivism project, covering the 2020-2023 implementation period.

RSM Kosovo LLC audited the Norwegian Embassy-funded project Support to Implement the Agreements Reached in the Brussels Dialogue.