EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES KOSOVO

Annual Report

2021

ECMI Kosovo

ecmikosova.org

Preface

The pandemic continued to shape access to services in 2021. Through HumanRightivism, community paralegals helped residents raise concerns about social assistance, vaccination information and public services. The cases they recorded also informed our research on how language barriers, housing conditions and limited digital access affected communities during the pandemic.

ECMI Kosovo and FORS Montenegro began the next phase of their preventive healthcare partnership. We continued work on the consistency of Kosovo's official-language legislation and launched new youth and parliamentary work toward the end of the year. These initiatives brought community concerns into different settings, from local health services to the Assembly, and laid the groundwork for work that continued in 2022.

Contents

Preface 2

Human rights and access to services 3

Preventive healthcare 3

Legislation, youth and parliamentary engagement 4

Research and practical resources 4

Audited finances 4

In 2021, ECMI Kosovo helped people from minority communities navigate public services during the pandemic and began cross-border work to improve access to preventive healthcare. We also continued work on Kosovo's multilingual legislation and prepared new programmes with young people and members of the Assembly.

Human rights and access to services

Through Human Rightivism, supported by Sweden through the Community Development Fund, we worked with five community paralegals and 19 grassroots civil society organisations. The programme held five training sessions in 2021 and identified 96 cases during the calendar year. The cases included difficulties accessing public services and social assistance, as well as gaps in vaccination information in community languages.

The study *Minority Communities and Human Rights during COVID-19* drew on interviews and case reports to examine how language barriers, limited digital access and poor housing affected access to services. We used the research and the paralegals' experience to bring these barriers into public discussion.

Community paralegals and grassroots organisations gave us a way to identify barriers that were difficult to see in national data. The work followed the problems residents encountered in practice, from obtaining current information in their own language to navigating services that had moved online. The research brought together those experiences so that service providers could see where the same obstacles were recurring.

Preventive healthcare

ECMI Kosovo and FORS Montenegro began the EU-supported CARES 2 programme in May 2021. In Kosovo, the work focused on improving access to preventive breast and cervical cancer screening for underserved women in Pejë/Peć, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Dečani and Gjakovë/Đakovica. The programme began preparing outreach and screening activities in 2021.



Briefing with the Ministry of Health on CARES 2, the EU-supported reproductive health project. ECMI Kosovo shared the photograph on 7 July 2021. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

Legislation, youth and parliamentary engagement

In the Norway-supported work on the language consistency of Kosovo's laws, experts reviewed Albanian and Serbian legal texts, compared English versions where applicable and collected recurring legal terms for terminology work. The contracting partner instructed the team to pause work in April.

In December, we began a new phase of the Youth for Democratic Engagement and Advocacy programme and a new phase of support to the Multi-Ethnic Parliamentary Group. The youth programme, supported by UNMIK, prepared young people to take part in civic life and advocate on issues affecting their communities. The parliamentary programme supported cooperation across communities in the Assembly. The December start established both programmes for delivery in 2022.

The work on multilingual legislation and the programmes with young people and parliamentarians addressed different parts of the same problem. Consistent legal texts make it easier to understand how rights are defined and applied. Civic and parliamentary engagement gives communities channels to raise the difficulties they experience in practice.

Research and practical resources

- Minority Communities and Human Rights during COVID-19
- Community-based rights assistance — HumanRightivism
- Reproductive health and access to services — CARES 2



Meeting with Enis Kervan, chair of the Assembly's Multi-Ethnic Parliamentary Group, on cooperation on community rights, 20 April 2021. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

Audited finances

Financial measure	2021
Grant receipts	€167,425
Personnel costs for staff and contracted contributors	€129,870
Project activities	€69,264
Administration expenses	€103,859
Total expenditure	€302,993
Receipts less expenditure	−€135,568
Closing cash	€24,312

The financial statements were prepared on a cash receipts and disbursements basis with the committed-expense treatment described in the notes. The personnel line covers staff and the external or field contributors whose compensation is recorded under that line. The 2022 audited statements give a 2021 average of 25 regular and other contracted personnel per month.

Signed 2021 audited statements · 2021–2022 activity portfolio

Independent audit

RSM Kosovo Sh.P.K. expressed an unmodified opinion on ECMI Kosovo's 2021 financial statements in its report dated 10 August 2022.

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.

In 2021, ECMI Kosovo continued its financial follow-up with the European Union on the Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC) project, which had previously been audited by Moore Stephens LLP.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit OOD audited the EU-funded Equal Rights for All Coalition (ERAC) project.