EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES KOSOVO

Annual Report

2024

ECMI Kosovo

ecmikosova.org

Preface

In 2024, ECMI Kosovo worked with public institutions, communities and local partners on services people use every day. Together with UNICEF and the education ministry, we supported dropout-prevention teams across 15 municipalities. Through our partnership with IOM, we helped the Independent Commission and its Secretariat put the diploma-verification service online and support applicants through the process.

In Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, work on a recycling model brought together the municipality, the regional waste company, the private processor and informal collectors. The first container delivery took place in December. With partners in Montenegro, we also worked with municipal waste utilities and schools. Work on property and inheritance rights and fair recruitment began during the year and continued in 2025.

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In 2024, ECMI Kosovo worked with municipalities, public institutions and civil society to improve access to education, help graduates apply for diploma verification and make municipal recycling more inclusive. The year saw the first delivery of waste-separation containers in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and the opening of an online route for diploma verification. We also prepared work on property rights and labour migration that continued in 2025.

Recycling and participation in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

Through the USAID-funded Recycling Matters Activity, ECMI Kosovo worked with the municipality, regional waste company RWC Pastrimi and private processor Recycling Zone. A four-party agreement set out their roles. ECMI supported municipal waste planning and helped equip Recycling Zone with a processing line, including presses, conveyors and scales. The programme report for 27 September 2023–27 September 2024 records **250 metric tonnes of recyclable material processed**. It also records eight full-time Recycling Zone employees and 17 framework sales agreements with informal collectors, including collectors from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

In December 2024, ECMI delivered the first **943 containers** to the municipality and RWC Pastrimi for waste separation. The shipment comprised 473 containers of 240 litres and 470 of 1,100 litres. ECMI and Pastrimi worked on a distribution map. The Green Fund prepared local organisations and informal groups to apply for support, with applicant workshops on 9 and 15 October.

The municipal recycling work addressed two parts of the collection system. Containers and a distribution plan prepared the public collection service to handle separated waste. The processing equipment and purchase arrangements gave local collectors a route to sell the material they recovered. The Green Fund opened a further way for local groups to participate in the programme.



Waste-separation containers delivered to Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje under the USAID-funded Recycling Matters Activity. ECMI Kosovo announced the handover on 6 December 2024. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

Cross-border Green Deal

ECMI Kosovo implemented the EU-funded project with coordinator FORS Montenegro and the Municipality of Berane. On 18 January, ECMI signed a cooperation agreement with KRM Ambienti in Pejë/Peć and prepared procurement for containers, utility equipment and green islands. Ten participants from Kosovo attended the 11–12 April training in Berane. ECMI hosted a second training in Pejë/Peć on 16–17 May, with 21 trainees, including three women and 18 men. Topics included sorting, waste law and the circular economy.

The project reported 26 school workshops in Pejë/Peć and Gjakovë/Đakovica, with 518 student attendances, including 270 girls and 248 boys. Five community workshops in Pejë/Peć and Deçan/Dečani recorded 153 attendances, including 84 women and 69 men. The baseline survey recorded 720 responses, evenly divided between women and men. ECMI adapted the Albanian-language guide to good EU practice in waste management and continued the Pejë/Peć waste-composition study. Both publications followed in 2025.

Keeping children in school

In the EU-supported programme with UNICEF and the education ministry, ECMI helped municipal directorates, schools and learning centres across 15 municipalities apply the state dropout-prevention protocol. In January, the team supported municipal action planning in Podujevë, Kamenicë and Prizren. On 27 June, ECMI and the ministry convened school and municipal dropout-prevention teams and learning centres. In September, the Ferizaj team reviewed individual cases and recommended referrals through the early-warning system and school psychologist. ECMI supported the national prevention week, which closed on 27 November.

Schools, learning centres and municipal teams had different responsibilities under the dropout-prevention protocol. The follow-up meetings helped these teams agree how to use the early-warning and referral procedures in practice. This complemented national advocacy by giving the teams a way to discuss individual cases and coordinate support locally.



Closing event of Kosovo's Week for Prevention of School Dropout, organised with the education ministry, 27 November 2024. Photo: ECMI Kosovo Facebook archive.

Diploma verification, property rights and migration

ECMI supported the Independent Commission and its secretariat with case processing, liaison and the extension of verification to secondary-school diplomas issued in Serbian-language education. The public application service went live on e-Kosova in October. IOM implemented the programme with ECMI and the education ministry, with support from the British and Swiss embassies. A subsequent review of the Commission's register identified **347 applications** and **220 positive university verification decisions** dated in 2024.

Through Public Information and Awareness Services for Vulnerable Communities in Kosovo (PIAKOS), supported by the World Bank through ATRC, ECMI recruited trainers, adapted Serbian-language material on property and inheritance rights and coordinated with schools and universities ahead of the 2025 sessions. In December, ECMI began work with GIZ, acting on behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry

for Economic Cooperation and Development, on fair recruitment and protection of migrant workers' rights. ECMI also provided outreach support services to the Kosovo Specialist Chambers under a framework contract.

Programme resources

- Diploma verification and access to opportunities
- Education, inclusion and access to opportunities
- Economic inclusion, recycling and the green transition
- Property, inheritance and access to services

Audited finances and personnel

The Board approved the 2024 financial statements on 31 March 2025. The statements record receipts and disbursements on a cash basis. ECMI had an average of **28 regular and other contracted personnel per month**, compared with 34 in 2023. The audited personnel line includes regular and part-time staff and other contracted contributors covered by applicable payroll taxes and pension contributions.

Audited measure	2024
Grant receipts	€822,567
Personnel costs for staff and contracted contributors, including pensions	€267,905
Other project activity costs	€299,752
Administrative costs	€94,592
Total expenditure	€662,249
Receipts less expenditure	€160,318
Opening cash and bank balance	€146,732
Closing cash and bank balance	€307,050

Independent audit

Alb Audit L.L.C. expressed an unmodified opinion on ECMI Kosovo's 2024 financial statements in its report dated June 2025.

Source of cash grant receipts	2024
USAID	€456,870
GIZ, two contracts combined	€199,684
IOM, diploma verification	€67,408
World Bank through ATRC, PIAKOS	€53,580
UNICEF	€42,979
Kosovo Specialist Chambers	€2,046