

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



## 16th Annual Summer School on National Minorities

### Europe's Non-Kin-State Minorities: Profiles and Realities

23–28 August 2026 | Flensburg, Germany

#### CONTEXT

This Summer School aims to provide a platform for stock-taking of non-kin-state minorities (NKSM) of various categories, examining their relations with host states, and the challenges they face in realising their linguistic, socio-economic, and political rights in the absence of an external kin-state. It will bring together young academics, scholars, and minority practitioners, offering a safe, intellectually nurturing space for networking and discussing the realities and profiles of NKSM in Europe.

While kin-state politics have garnered significant scholarly and political attention (including the 2025 Summer School organised by the ECMI and the Coppieters Foundation), numerous minority communities in Europe do not benefit from the backing that kin-states provide and vary in size, territorial concentration, and legal standing. NKSM groups include territorially organised minorities (e.g. Catalans, Basques, and Corsicans), territorially concentrated but minoritised groups (West Frisians), small/endangered minorities (Sorbs, North Frisians), dispersed communities (Roma and Sinti), and Indigenous peoples (Saami, Greenlanders). This Summer School will examine these five types of NKSM, which will allow for a comparative assessment of how linguistic vitality, social cohesion, access to education, and state relations are formulated given the absence of a kin-state. Among other topics, Summer School participants will learn about the role of Europeanisation and international organisations in advancing the rights of NKSM.

#### TOPICS COVERED

- Conceptual foundations in categorisation of NKSM
- The role of international organisations in protecting the rights of NKSM
- Linguistic, cultural, political, and socio-economic rights of NKSM
- Lived experiences of NKSM, their shared and specific challenges.

Summer School lecturers and speakers include Prof. Dr Vello Pettai (ECMI), Dr Ljubica Djordjević (ECMI), Dr Ruth Kircher (ECMI), Dr James Hawkey (University of Bristol), Mirjam Vellinga (Afûk), Bahne Bahnsen (FUEN), Sonja Wolf (Schleswig-Holstein State Chancellery) and many others.



## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The programme will combine **traditional and non-formal educational methods**, interactive sessions and networking activities and will thus inspire the participants to engage with the topics of the course critically and from different perspectives and disciplinary approaches.

Our schedule will include:

- **Lectures and seminars** by experts in the field of minority rights and minority issues.
- Interactive **workshops, panel discussions, and group works** for immersive learning experiences.
- Exclusive **networking** with local stakeholders, enhancing practical understanding through real-world examples.
- A **field visit** to the island of Föhr, home to a significant North Frisian community.
- An array of **social events** to enhance the learning experience and foster connections.

## ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The Summer School team aims to select a total number of 25 junior scholars, researchers or practitioners, having the following professional background:

- **Students** from relevant fields of study (MA and PhD students), and/or
- **Practitioners** from the public sector, NGOs, and mass media.

Applicants are required to submit a completed online application form, which includes questions on general information (contact details, affiliation, practical and logistical information) and motivation. To finalise the submission of an application, applicants must also submit their detailed CV via email to [summerschool@ecmi.de](mailto:summerschool@ecmi.de) no later than **10 May 2026**. Please state "SuS26 Application\_your surname" in the subject line.

The selection will be performed on the basis of academic and professional achievements, as well as expressed interest in the topic. Diversity of the group in terms of professional background, gender, and country of origin will be an important factor in the selection process.

## FEES

- Early Bird: **€350** (if applied by 10 April 2026)
- Standard: **€400** (if applied from 11 April 2026).

The fee covers:

- The programme of lectures and workshops.
- All reading materials before and during the Summer School.
- Accommodation (including breakfast) in either twin rooms with a private bathroom or triple rooms with a shared bathroom from 23 August (Sunday) to 29 August (Saturday). Room allocation will be made on a first-come, first-served basis
- Lunches and light refreshments between 24 and 28 August, plus a closing dinner.
- A field trip to the island of Föhr.
- Participation in all additional Summer School activities (city tour, social activities, visits to museums/exhibitions).

## CANCELLATION POLICY

For cancellations until 30 June 2026, 80% of the tuition fee will be refunded. For cancellations after 30 June 2026, no refund will be issued.

## VENUE AND PARTNERS

This Summer School is a joint initiative of the ECMI and Coppieters Foundation and hosted by the Danish Central Library for Southern Schleswig in Flensburg.