



HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in Montenegro

Within the scope of the European Union and the Council of Europe programmatic framework “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey” (Horizontal Facility), the Council of Europe will implement the Action “Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in Montenegro”, in close partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

The Action will focus on: enhancing the capacities of prison guards, police officers and medical staff in preventing ill-treatment and combating impunity; providing necessary tools to beneficiaries in their efforts to reduce overcrowding and improve detention conditions; strengthening interinstitutional co-operation in order to provide better access and better health care services to prisoners; protection of the rights of patients under compulsory psychiatric treatment; development of rehabilitation and reintegration programme; co-operation with civil society organisations.

This Action will assist Montenegrin authorities in their efforts to comply with standards set in the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to implement recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture – CPT.

The Action, which started on 1 June 2016 and will finish 30 September 2017, has an overall budget of 300.000 €.

The objectives of the Action

The **overall objective** of the project will be to enhance the protection of human rights of detained and sentenced persons in Montenegro in line with the CoE standards and in particular with the standards set by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – CPT.

The project aims at accomplishing the following three **specific objectives**:

- ✓ Strengthen the safeguards against ill-treatment in line with the CoE standards
- ✓ Strengthen the institutional framework and strategic planning for improved conditions of detention and penitentiary health care
- ✓ Enhance reintegration of prisoners with the support of civil society organizations

Accordingly, the outcomes of the project will be achieved with the help of the following **expected results**:

- ✓ Prison and police employees capacity to prevent ill treatment and combat impunity is further developed
- ✓ Improved healthcare regulatory/operational framework and increased capacities of medical staff to fight ill-treatment in prisons
- ✓ Systematic solutions for reduction of overcrowding in prisons and improving detention conditions are developed
- ✓ The institutional set up for the provision of health care services to prisoners and detainees is improved
- ✓ The rights of patients in psychiatric institutions are improved and better protected
- ✓ Rehabilitation and reintegration programmes are introduced by CSOs in selected prisons

Background information

On 11 April 2016, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, and the European Union's Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, announced a new co-operation initiative of the two organisations aimed at supporting South-East Europe and Turkey in their efforts to comply with European standards. The initiative is called the European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey (Horizontal Facility). It is a three-year programme (May 2016 – May 2019), focusing on three themes: ensuring justice, fighting economic crime as well as combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups. It has a budget of €25 million, of which €20 million has been provided by the European Union and €5 million by the Council of Europe. Through the Horizontal Facility, the European Union and the Council of Europe will assist beneficiary countries to comply with the Council of Europe standards and the European Union *acquis* in the framework of the enlargement process, through a complementary two-fold approach of technical co-operation and the provision of expertise. The Horizontal Facility relies on the Council of Europe's unique working methods, whereby tailor-made technical co-operation activities are based on conclusions and recommendations of the Council of Europe's monitoring bodies highlight areas where improvements are needed in legislation and policies of the beneficiaries to comply with the Organisation's treaties and other standards.

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organization. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 500 million citizens – in a fairer, safer world. To make things happen, EU countries set up bodies to run the EU and adopt its legislation. The main ones are the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe), the Council of the European Union (representing national governments) and the European Commission (representing the common EU interest).

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