

Enhancing human rights protection in Kosovo*

Project summary

Project title	Enhancing human rights protection in Kosovo*
Country	Kosovo*
Budget	1 111 112 €
Funding	European Union/Council of Europe
Duration	25 months (1 February 2012 – 28 February 2014)
Partners and beneficiaries	The Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo (OIK); Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination (OGG); Human Rights Units at central and municipal levels; civil society
Main objectives	To improve the implementation of standards under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the standards and findings of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) in Kosovo*
Expected outputs and results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the human rights regulatory and institutional frameworks are in line with European human rights standards and best practices; - the capacity of the OIK, other human rights structures and the civil society to apply Council of Europe human rights standards is strengthened.
Implemented or planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinion on the Draft Regulation on Mechanisms for Cooperation, Coordination, Monitoring, Reporting, Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (the Draft Regulation); • A comprehensive review of the existing non-judicial human rights institutions, supplemented with an assessment of the package of draft legislation in the area of human rights¹ was prepared, and its conclusions and recommendations were summarised in a report «Reform proposal to energise non-judicial human rights structures in Kosovo”; • An Opinion to the Draft Strategy and Action Plan on Human

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

¹ Draft amendments to the Law on Ombudsperson, the Draft Law on Protection from Discrimination and the Draft Law on Gender Equality.

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- A comprehensive training –of –trainers programme on human rights for the staff members of the OIK;
- 10 round tables on modalities of co-operation between civil society and the OIK;
- Two study visits for the representatives of Kosovo human rights institutions and civil society, with the aim to familiarise the participants with the practice of application of European human rights standards at national and international levels: the first visit - to the CoE headquarters in Strasbourg, the second – to national human rights institutions of Poland, including Polish Ombudsman office, specialised Ombudsmen and other state organs in charge of human rights protection.
- Two study visits for the staff members of the OIK to European human rights institutions were organized: a five-day study visit for 15 representatives of the OIK to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in Belfast, UK, and a visit to the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman (Copenhagen, Denmark) was organised on 20-25 January 2014 for 15 OIK staff. The focus of both visits was on the methodology of data collection, complaints handling procedures, reporting mechanism and follow up activities taken by state authorities after receiving the recommendations from national human rights bodies.
- Translation into Albanian and Serbian of more than 30 documents on human rights including the case-law of the ECtHR, the Practical Guide on Admissibility Criteria to the ECtHR, “the ECtHR in 50 questions”. The Council of Europe handbooks on the “Right to respect for private and family life” , “Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion” and on the “Right to property under the ECHR”;
- A two-day in-depth media training for more than 20 OIK staff members; three two-day workshops for the civil society (20 - 25 participants each) and two one-day round tables at municipal levels on public outreach.
- A three-day training seminar for participants from OIK and civil society on how to carry out preventive visits against ill-treatment to places of deprivation of liberty and on reporting techniques;
- An international conference “Complementarity of Purpose: Ombudsperson Institutions and the judiciary for the protection of Human Rights – European best practice and regional experience” was organised in co-operation with the UN OHCHR stand-alone Office in Kosovo. The conference’s objective was to

	<p>bring together the representatives of the National Human Rights Institutions, judicial bodies, the Constitutional Courts, international organisations and the civil society from Kosovo and South-eastern Europe to share their experience, challenges and best practices.</p>
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