

**Support to the implementation of European human rights standards in Kosovo\* and the reform of the Ombudsperson Institution**

*Project summary*

<b>Project title</b>	Support to the implementation of European human rights standards in Kosovo* and the reform of the Ombudsperson Institution
<b>Country</b>	Kosovo*
<b>Budget</b>	1 200 000 €
<b>Funding</b>	Government of Norway/Government of Switzerland
<b>Duration</b>	30 months (15 October 2014 – 28 February 2017)
<b>Partners and beneficiaries</b>	Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Judicial Institute, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Kosovo Bar Association, Constitutional Court, Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo, Ministry of Justice, civil society
<b>Main objectives</b>	to support the institutional set up and a coherent legislative framework for Kosovo* non-judicial human rights institutions; to enhance transparency and efficiency of the Kosovo* judiciary; and to build the capacity of legal professionals as regards the application of the ECHR in Kosovo*.
<b>Expected outputs and results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the role and visibility of the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo (OIK) in the system of human rights protection is supported and the capacity of its staff to apply European human rights standards when dealing with individual complaints is enhanced. The OIK's performance under the new law is assessed;</li> <li>- expert assistance is provided to the Kosovo* authorities, upon request, on the design and implementation regulations/planning documents related to human rights institutions.</li> <li>- the system of assessment of the judicial and prosecutorial performance is in line with European best practices;</li> <li>- a case law database is created and used by legal professionals;</li> <li>- the ECHR, the ECtHR case law and the other European human rights standards are correctly applied by the Constitutional Court, the ordinary judiciary, prosecutors and lawyers and the overall quality of domestic judgments is improved; the CoE's HELP Programme tools and training methodology are used by the partners;</li> <li>- the human rights component of the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI) training curriculum is assessed and enhanced.</li> </ul>

\* All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions, or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

<p><b>Implemented or planned activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two reports with the assessment of the new law on Ombudsperson and the human rights strategy;</li> <li>- 22 seminars for the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo (OIK) on the promotion of the Institution, dealing with discrimination-related cases;</li> <li>- introduction of the two HELP courses for the OIK staff;</li> <li>- placement of local consultants in the OIK to assist the Institution in reducing the backlog;</li> <li>- 3 round tables aimed at the discussion of the human rights programmatic documents.</li> <li>- 2 reports with recommendations on the creation of a case-law and case-management database for the Kosovo* judiciary;</li> <li>- 2 reports with recommendations on improvement of the efficiency of the Kosovo* judicial and prosecutorial systems.</li> <li>- 3 round tables on the problems of implementation of the ECHR in Kosovo*;</li> <li>- 4 study visits to the Council of Europe for legal advisors and judges of the Constitutional Court; judges of basic courts and lawyers from the Bar Association;</li> <li>- 18 seminars for prosecutors on investigation of ill-treatment, hate crimes and discrimination cases;</li> <li>- 30 seminars for basic court judges, judges and legal advisers of the Constitutional Court and lawyers of the Bar on different Articles of the ECHR;</li> <li>- 5 HELP courses for basic court judges, judges and legal advisers of the Constitutional Court and lawyers of the Bar;</li> <li>- a report with assessment of the Kosovo Judicial Institute's human rights training curriculum.</li> </ul>
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