

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

20 September 2018

Information Documents
ODGP/DER/Inf(2018)3

Quarterly report of Council of Europe Offices

April - June 2018

A. LIAISON OFFICES

Introduction

The Council of Europe Offices in charge of liaison with one or more international organisations or institutions:

- represent the Secretary General vis-à-vis international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- follow the activities carried out by the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s) and report on developments relevant to the Council of Europe activities and policies;
- provide support for the organisation of and follow-up to high level co-ordination meetings and other meetings or events between the Council of Europe and the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- promote effective co-operation between the Council of Europe and the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- identify opportunities for joint activities and provide advice and support in planning, negotiation, implementation and reporting on these activities;
- conduct a proactive media policy in order to raise the visibility of the Organisation.

The present document covers the reporting period April-June 2018. Following decision [CM/Del/Dec\(2013\)1175/1.6E](#) of 3 July 2013, activity reports have been published every three months, starting with July-September 2013.

Brussels - Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with the European Union

High-level visits

SG Jagland participated on 5 June 2018 in the meeting of the EU's 28 Ambassadors in the Council's Political and Security Committee (PSC). He also met HR/VP Mogherini, as well as Belgian FM Reynders.

DSG Battaini Dragoni participated on 5 June in a high-level event organised in the European Parliament on the manipulation of sports competitions. She also had bilateral meetings in the EEAS and the Commission.

PACE President Nicoletti participated on 22 June in the COSCE.

President of the CoE's Conference of INGOs Rurka had an exchange with the Head of Office and staff on 18 June, as well as other bilateral meetings.

Secretary to the Committee of Ministers Berge participated in the COSCE on 25 May 2018.

Director General Markovic participated in a high-level conference on cultural heritage in Europe on 26 June 2018, organised in the European Parliament, in the presence of Presidents Tajani, Tusk and Juncker, as well as other Commissioners.

Director of Policy Planning Gruden participated in the COSCE Council WG 20 April 2018.

DLAPIL Director Polakiewickz participated in the Council WG on fundamental rights ("FREMP") 25 April 2018.

ODGP Director Taylor was in Brussels for the steering committee meeting of the PGG and for the scoreboard with the EU on 21 June 2018.

Director Luciani, DGII, participated in the high-level conference on populism, organised by International IDEA, with OSCE/ODIHR and the Belgian Senate on 18-20 June 2018.

The Office welcomed the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cabo Verde Tavares** on 30 May 2018 to discuss cooperation with the CoE and the preparations for the visit of the Minister of Justice to Strasbourg on 19-20 June 2018.

Other meetings

The **Head of Office** maintained his high-level contacts with officials of the EEAS and the Commission, in particular in view of the visit of the SG and DSG in early June. He also had several opportunities to inform EU interlocutors about the Organisation's current situation.

The Office followed discussions and events on **priority files**, for instance:

- Western Balkans: summit (Sofia, 17 May) and follow-up.
- EU Multiannual financial Framework (MFF) presented by the Commission and the "rule of law conditionality regulation".
- Rule of law developments in Poland (Article 7 Procedure) and Hungary (in the Parliament).

- Migration, asylum, border management.

Many informal contacts with the relevant EU institutions were taken so as to promote co-operation with the CoE in these matters. In addition, the Office maintained contacts with officials from the various EU institutions (Commission, Council, Parliament), with representatives of some member/observer/neighbouring states (e.g. Azerbaijan, Russia, Belarus) and with representatives of civil society (think-tanks and foundations, primarily, as well as direct contacts with human rights NGOs and the Brussels-based Network of International Human Rights NGOs "HRDN").

The Office offered political monitoring on the most CoE-relevant developments as regards, in particular, EU policies vis-à-vis illiberalism and repression, Ukraine, fake news/disinformation, Nagorno-Karabakh, EU and Eurasia economic co-operation, as well as various Heads of States-level summits and official visits by EU high officials.

The Office directly participated in events and meetings or helped and accompanied CoE colleagues to the following events:

- Meeting EEAS special adviser on gender; participation in the EU informal task force on women, peace and security; discussion (DG JUST) on communication package on the Istanbul Convention.
- Head of the GREVIO Secretariat (Istanbul convention): panellist in a conference and bilateral meetings with the Commission and the Council.
- DG JUST conference on electoral matters, with colleagues from Venice Commission, media and electoral assistance.
- ODGP colleagues in meetings with the Commission.
- DGII colleagues (Sport) in a meeting with national experts on bilateral co-operation in sports matters, where it presented the general framework for CoE-EU JPs.
- Facilitating the organisation, by ODGP, of the Steering Committee meeting of the Joint Programme for good governance ("PGG") with the Eastern Partnership countries and of the "scoreboard meeting" (21/6). Both meetings were chaired, on the CoE side, by ODGP Director Taylor. Additional bilateral meetings were also organised with the Commission (DGs JUST, EAC, NEAR) on SOGI issues.
- Director Luciani (DGII) participated in the high-level conference on populism, organised by International IDEA in co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR and the Belgian Senate (18-20/6) and bilateral meetings with the Cabinet of Commissioner Gabriel and the EEAS.
- Rule of Law seminar organised by academics in Brussels on 6 June.
- Round table organised by the OHCHR (regional office in Brussels) on the rule of law (Poland and Hungary), 11/6.
- DGII - meetings in the Commission (DG EAC) on co-operation and in particular on Roma (6/6).
- DGI - EEAS multi-stakeholder meeting on 11/6 on business and human rights.
- DGI - EEAS human rights training on economic, social and cultural rights (20/6).
- DGII - meeting on children's rights (27/6).
- Eastern partnership platform IV meeting (19/6).

The Office received colleagues and hosted:

- Presentation of GRECO's 2017 annual report to diplomats, EU officials, media and civil society on 3 May 2018. The presentation had wide media coverage.
- A meeting on Roma youth policies.

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- GREVIO's meeting on 25-27 June 2018 and fixing bilateral meetings with the Commission (DG JUST).
- A meeting of the Deputy Heads of CoE Offices in the Western Balkans, with ODGP.

The Office also participated in the board meeting on Europalia – Art Festival.

The Office welcomed:

- Groups of visitors from Russia (students), from the University of Nice, from the European Student Think Tank and a group of young Russian politicians invited by the Hanns Seidel Foundation.
- A group from the "TEAM" (transatlantic co-operation) study tour.
- A group of Chinese students.
- Two magistrates from Madagascar, as part of the EUVP.

In terms of programme co-ordination, the Office participated in the Horizontal Facility Informal Co-ordination meeting (Brussels, 26/4), which was organised jointly by DG NEAR and ODGP. The Office also participated in the meeting of the Deputy Heads of Offices in the Western Balkans which followed (27/4). The Office accompanied ODGP colleagues in further bilateral meetings with the Commission (DG NEAR, DEVCO) on co-operation in the Western Balkans, Central Asia and the Southern Mediterranean. The Office also followed the preparation of the concept note for a joint programme in Central Asia (with DEVCO), the exchanges on the developments of indicators on justice in connection with the EU WB Strategy (mostly with DGs JUST and NEAR), synergies on gender and violence against women issues, as well the debate on the EU future budgetary framework (MFF). The Office participated in the donors' co-ordination meeting on Belarus and in a conference on cultural heritage. Finally, the Office was present at the meeting of the Heads of Offices in Strasbourg (18-20/4).

The Office contributed to the CoE (CPT) input in the revision of the EU guidelines on torture.

Reports from the Office on EU developments also covered:

- In the European institutions: mostly the parliament, on issues such as migration, child migrants, the rule of law, Poland, Hungary, prison conditions in Turkey, business and human rights, traffic of cultural goods, safe medicines, democracy support, minorities, Roma and education.
- In think tanks and foundations: artificial intelligence, fake news, facebook, security, the US energy policy in Eurasia, populism, illiberalism, inter-generational dialogue, migration, the Western Balkans, Italy, Croatia, etc.

Media and visibility

The Spokesperson/Media Officer maintained his regular contacts with Brussels-based journalists on a wide range of issues including the April and June PACE session (focus notably on Turkey), the annual report from the Committee of Ministers on the execution of ECHR judgments, GRETA's annual report and its ad-hoc report on Hungary and SRSG Boček's report on the situation in Bulgaria, GRECO reports on the UK and Poland, ECRI reports on Malta and Croatia, the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the trafficking convention, the CPT's preliminary observations on Greece, the Venice Commission opinion on Hungary, the Commissioner's letter to the Belgian Interior Minister on child detention and various judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights.

He also organised the Brussels presentation of the GRECO annual report to a large number of journalists and representatives of the EU institutions, national representations and NGOs, as well as arranging a series of individual interviews for the GRECO President. He was also giving a presentation on the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights to a visiting group from The Euro-Atlantic Movement (TEAM) and taking part in a training workshop on data visualisation in London. He carried out communications work around the Deputy Secretary General's participation at a European Parliament event in Brussels on the match-fixing convention, the Head of Gender Equality's participation at Politico's Women Rule summit, the GREVIO meeting in the Brussels Office and visits to Brussels by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Director General for Democracy and a representative of ECRI.

The Spokesperson/Media Officer also coordinated communications work on the quarterly CM-DH meeting in Strasbourg and participated in the launch of the new communications project to better highlight the impact of the European Convention on Human Rights. He also worked on the meeting with Turkish NGOs in Strasbourg, the forthcoming joint statement with the EU on the death penalty and various important signatures and ratifications of Council of Europe conventions, as well as speaking on behalf of the Council of Europe at the European Law Students Association's annual partners' reception

The Spokesperson/Media Officer also took part in a communications workshop on the Istanbul Convention, together with representatives of the European Commission and the European Coalition to end violence against women. He also continued to work on the on-going communications project to highlight the impact of the ECHR system, as well as carrying out preparatory work on the forthcoming Committee of Ministers meeting on the execution of ECHR judgments

Statistics

Some 666 information messages and documents as well as 13 weekly reports were prepared and sent to Strasbourg by the Information Officer. 118 notes for the file were sent from the Office in addition to the information messages sent by the Head of Office directly. 89 members of Council of Europe staff visited the Office during the period. The Office hosted 58 events and visits and welcomed 363 external visitors.

Geneva - Council of Europe Office/Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva

Visits

10/04 - Mary-Ann Hennessey (DG II) participated in: Regional consultation for Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Others (OHCHR).

18/05 - Tomáš Boček (SRSG Migration and Refugees) participated in: the Annual Diaspora Forum of the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies of PACE (Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies).

13/06 – Tatiana Termacic (DGI) participated in: the 10th OHCHR-CoE Co-ordination Meeting and met Gianni Magazzeni (the Chief of UPRB) and Vladlen Stefanov (Chief, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section - UNHCR).

Human Rights Council - 38th session (18 June-6 July)

The Office delivered and uploaded statements on the following items:

20/06 - Clustered interactive dialogue with SR on violence against women and SR on migrants.

21/06 - Interactive dialogue with SR on internally displaced persons.

22/06 - Interactive dialogue with SR on the independence of judges and lawyers.

25/06 - Interactive dialogue with SR on Belarus.

3/07 - Interactive dialogue on regular periodic update on Ukraine.

The Office participated in the following items:

19/06 - Interactive dialogue with SR on freedom of expression.

20/06 - Interactive dialogue with SR on trafficking.

28/06 - UPR adoptions: France.

29/06 UPR adoptions: Serbia.

29/06 UPR adoptions: Liechtenstein.

(SR = Special Rapporteurs)

Meetings, participation, activities of the Office/HoO

10/04 - Regional consultation for Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Others, (OHCHR).

10/04 - International Conference "Public-private partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (Joint Inspection Unit)"

18/04 – Conference "What is European policy for the next Italian government?" with Dr Sandro Gozi, Italian Secretary of State for European Affairs.

4/05 - Shaping the Mandates of International Organizations. Innovation and Competition. The case of UNESCO (UN Library Geneva Seminar).

7/05 - World Bank Briefing on policies in support of countries affected by forced displacement (UNHCR).

7-9/05 - UNECE International Forum on people-first public-private Partnerships (PPPs) for SDGs.

9/05 - Participation in the celebration of Europe Day (organised by the EU and the Mission of Bulgaria).

14/05 - UPR review on the Russian Federation.

- 18/05 - Annual Diaspora Forum of the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies of PACE.
- 30/05 - Meeting with Deputy High Commissioner Kate Gilmore.
- 12/06 - Meeting with Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- 13/06 - Bilateral meeting with Gianni Magazzeni, Chief of UPRB.
- 13/06 - Bilateral meeting with Vladlen Stefanov, UNHCR.
- 13-14/06 - 10th OHCHR-CoE Co-ordination Meeting.

Participation, activities of the interns

- 10-11/04 - Global Compact on Refugees, 3rd formal consultation (UNHCR).
- 23/04 - "Strengthening the UN HRC from the ground up", Report Launch (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Service for Human Rights).
- 27/04 - High-level intersessional discussion celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela (OHCHR).
- 8/05 - Global Compact on Refugees, 4th formal consultation (UNHCR).
- 8/05 - UPR review on Germany (OHCHR).
- 23/05 - Symposium on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Cultural Rights, and Women (Muslims for Progressive Values, the Alliance of Inclusive Muslims, the UNSR on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the UN SR in the field of Cultural Rights).
- 7/06 - Exchange of views with Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Chairpersons of Working Groups of the Special Procedures of the HRC (OHCHR).
- 19-21/06 - Participation in the 72nd meeting of the Standing Committee (UNHCR).
- 22/06 - HRC side event. The Nordic Model: a good practice to counter sexual exploitation and human trafficking (Permanent Mission of Sweden, Permanent Mission of France).
- 25/06 - Conference on Religions, Creeds and Value Systems Joining Forces to Promote Equal Citizenship Rights (the World Council of Churches, Bridges to Common Ground).
- 26/6 - HRC side event on Defenceless Defenders: Addressing Attacks on Lawyers in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine (International Commission for Jurists).
- 28/6 - HRC side event: Increasing parliaments' engagement with human rights (Permanent Mission of Italy, Bingham Center, Secretariat of the UPR).

Vienna - Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with the OSCE, United Nations Office and other international organisations in Vienna

Participation in OSCE Permanent Council Meetings

- OSCE Permanent Council with David Dondua, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia, 12 April.
- OSCE Permanent Council with Ambassador Bruce G. Berton, Head of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19 April.
- OSCE Permanent Council with Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the OSCE CiO in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, and Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 26 April.
- OSCE Permanent Council with Volker Türk, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, and Manfred Profazi, IOM Senior Regional Adviser for Europe and Central Asia, 3 May.
- OSCE Permanent Council (Report on the Activities of the Chairmanship-in-Office), 10 May.
- OSCE Permanent Council with OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger on the OSCE 2019 Programme Outline and Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, 17 May.
- OSCE Permanent Council on the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border and the 2018 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, 31 May.
- OSCE Permanent Council with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, 7 June.
- OSCE Permanent Council with the Chair of the CoE Committee of Ministers, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia Marija Pejcinovic Buric, 14 June.
- OSCE Permanent Council with the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Vaidotas Verba, 21 June.

Participation in expert committees and conferences

- OSCE 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference with the active participation of GRETA members Alina Brasoveanu and Frédéric Kurz, 23-24 April.
- OSCE Security Days on "Adding value on the ground: enhancing OSCE assistance, visibility and impact", with the active participation of Zoltan Taubner, CoE Director of External Relations, 27 April.
- UNODC - 27th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the expert participation of Ilina Taneva (DGI) and Alexander Seger (DGII), 14- 18 May.
- Joint Meeting of the Security Committee and the Human Dimension Committee on the cross-dimensional issue of "Women, Peace and Security", 18 May.
- Informal OSCE CiO/ODIHR meeting on Human Dimension events, 25 May.
- Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Child Trafficking - From Prevention to Protection" with the participation of Alina Brasoveanu (GRETA), 28-29 May.
- UNODC Presentation of Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants, 13 June.
- UNODC CND Presentation of the 2018 World Drug Report, 26 June.
- OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, 26-28 June.

Bilateral dialogue

- Meeting with Marietta König, External Co-operation Officer of the OSCE/ Office of the Secretary General, 12 June.

Warsaw - Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with international organisations or institutions in Warsaw, in particular with OSCE/ODIHR and the Community of Democracies

High level visits/meetings

25 June - meeting with Maciej Szpunar, Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

28 June - meeting with the First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Katarzyna Gardaphadze.

Activities of the Office

Enhancing the co-operation with OSCE ODIHR – Apart from the high-level meetings mentioned above, the HoO maintained close working relations with ODIHR experts, in particular from the Rule of the Law Unit in the Democratization Department of ODIHR. In preparation of the second round-table on the laws on the judiciary in Poland organized by ODIHR (April) and GRECO delegation visit to Poland (May) HoO met regularly with Ms. Andrea Huber, Deputy Chief of the Rule of Law Unit and Ms. Carolyn Hammer. Regular contacts with Mr. Ghenadie Barba, Chief of the Rule of Law Unit in ODIHR aimed at ensuring complementarity between projects concerning prosecutors' independence undertaken by both Organizations in 2018.

HoO attended numerous meeting organized by ODIHR during which he presented the CoE activities and perspective, including a Round Table – *State without torture*, co - organized by ODIHR and the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Office followed closely ODIHR's activities in relation to election observation and discussions concerning the preparations to two major human rights meetings organized in Warsaw by ODIHR (Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and Human Dimension Seminar).

Continuation of the cooperation with the CoD – The Office followed closely the process of adopting Community's 2018 - 2023 Strategic Plan, which will guide the CoD work in the next five years and will give the framework for more structured co-operation of the CoD with other international organizations, including CoE, in the field of democratization. In this regards regular contacts were maintained with Ms Milka Zagloba, Legal Counsel in the PS of the CoD.

Ensuring the visibility of the CoE – Apart from the events organized by ODIHR and CoD, the HoO regularly attended meetings, seminars and conferences on issues pertinent to CoE activities. These included i.a. XII Warsaw Seminar *European Convention on Human Rights – 25 years of changes to Polish law and practice*, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, *Torture in Poland: myth or reality. Effective protection of victims in Poland and Europe*, organized by the Warsaw Bar Association on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture and *No for hate – cities towards ethnic and religious hatred*, seminar for the presidents of Polish cities devoted to the exchange of good practices in relation to fight with anti-Semitism and xenophobia, organized by the City of Warsaw and the American Jewish Committee – Central Europe Office. The Office helped organize an International Conference *Universal and Regional Systems of the Protection of Human Rights 70 Years after Proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* providing input

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and information materials concerning the European system of human rights protection, centered on the European Convention on Human Rights.

B. FIELD AND PROGRAMME OFFICES

Introduction

On the basis of Resolution [CM/Res\(2010\)5](#) Council of Europe offices in member States and non-member states

- represent the Secretary General vis-à-vis the national authorities of the host country;
- promote and support the policies and activities of national authorities, as well as those of the Council of Europe bodies, related to membership of the Council of Europe;
- provide advice, support and overall *in situ* co-ordination with national authorities in planning, negotiation and timely implementation of targeted Council of Europe co-operation activities, including Joint Programmes with the European Union and other donors;
- facilitate the identification of needs for capacity-building, in co-operation with national authorities;
- conduct fundraising activities for specific projects;
- co-ordinate activities in the country with other international organisations and institutions (EU, OSCE, UN), as well as other international and local partners active in the country;
- in close cooperation with the Directorate of Communication, conduct a proactive media policy, in order to raise the visibility of the Organisation, its values and activities among the general public.

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Baku**Situation of the Office**

Core staff - 6, Project staff - 9, Total - 15.

The Office implemented 6 projects, 4 of which are jointly funded with the EU, while two other projects are funded by the US Department of State and the CoE respectively.

State of implementation of projects/programmes/Action Plans/co-operation documents

- EU/CoE - PGG "Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights": A 3-month HELP distance learning course on "Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights" was launched in May for a selected group of 44 lawyers. Twenty-eight judges, 25 judge assistants and court clerks, 25 prosecutors and 30 lawyers were trained on the ECHR as a result of 4 seminars held in April-May in Baku. Forty-two law students successfully completed a one-month legal clinic course organised in cooperation with the Academy of Justice during 1-30 May in Baku.
- VC U.S.A. "Support to justice sector reform initiatives in Azerbaijan": On 19 May, a 10-week HELP distance learning course on "Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights" was launched for a selected group of 41 lawyers and human rights defenders. Twenty-five judges, 59 judge assistants and court clerks, 20 prosecutors and investigators and 37 members of the Collegium of Advocates of Azerbaijan increased their knowledge on the ECHR and the ECtHR case-law as a result of 5 cascade training seminars organised in the cities of Baku and Ganja during the reporting period.
- AP "Gender equality and media freedom": The Project revised the Code of Ethics for Azerbaijani journalists from a gender equality perspective with a group of local experts. The Project discussed the draft revised version with 20 representatives of the state authorities, civil society and academia in its first steering committee meeting on 11 May and then submitted it to an international expert for feedback. The Project trained 56 journalists and representatives of civil society on CoE standards on gender equality and media freedom in 2 training sessions held in Shaki and Zagatala on 30-31 May. The project established a working group to develop a curriculum on gender equality and media freedom. The Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 was translated into Azerbaijani.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Strengthening capacities to Fight and Prevent Corruption in Azerbaijan": During the reporting period, the Project on "Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering in Azerbaijan" developed an expert opinion outlining recommendations to ensure the compliance of national legislation with international standards in view of implementing outstanding MONEYVAL recommendations in relation to "fit and proper" standards regarding the regulation and supervision of financial institutions. In May, the Project developed training materials and delivered a 2-day training on Investigative Techniques in Money Laundering, which provided an opportunity for investigators, prosecutors and judges to learn from practical examples and explore the latest trends in this area.
- EU/CoE JP "Civil Society Dialogue": In May, a Conference took place in Baku, with the participation of the authorities, civil society organisations, the diplomatic corps and international organisations, during which an international expert introduced the CoE's Guidelines for Civil Participation in Political Decision-making and domestic laws, policies and practices related to civil participation were discussed. In May and June, international and national experts jointly developed a national Handbook on Civil Participation, which will be used as a guidebook for training civil servants on principles of public consultations with civil society on issues related to policy-making in Azerbaijan. In June, a study visit was organised

to Slovenia for government authorities and civil society organisations to observe best practices related to civil participation in decision-making processes.

- EU/CoE JP "Further Support to the Penitentiary Reform in Azerbaijan": Thirty-two doctors of medical units of penitentiary institutions and prison hospitals benefitted from professional trainings on cardiovascular diseases. Thirty-six penitentiary staff learned how to provide a first response in the case of medical emergencies. Forty prison staff increased their knowledge on principles of medical ethics, on health promotion and prevention activities in prisons through 2 2-day cascade trainings conducted by 7 doctors of the partner organisation who had been trained within the Project as ToTs. The project consultant provided advice on the revised version of the Instruction on restraint measures and seclusion of acute mentally ill prison inmates who may inflict harm to themselves and others.

Other relevant activities

- The HoO met twice with the Head of the EUD, Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas (6/4, 26/6) to discuss the state of play of the PGG and EU/CoE joint projects in Azerbaijan, and participated in the PGG Programming video conference with the EUD (13/6);
- The DHoO and project team held meetings with the EUD and national authorities in view of preparations for the second phase of the PGG in the area of "Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime" in mid-May;
- The HoO chaired the Steering Committee Meeting of the Project on Gender Equality and Media Freedom in Azerbaijan (11/5), opened the Training session on Anti-Money Laundering Investigative Techniques (24/5), and chaired and moderated the conference on Civil Participation in Decision-Making Processes (21/5);
- The DHoO opened training sessions respectively for judges on "Article 3 (prohibition of torture) of the ECHR" (27/4) and for non-medical staff of prisons (2-day first aid trainings)(26-27/5);
- 9 April: The HoO debriefed members of the PACE and OSCE PA electoral observation missions for the early presidential elections in Azerbaijan;
- In the framework of regular contacts with the local donor community, the HoO met with Baku-based representatives of the UNHCR (5/4), UNICEF (16/4), World Bank (4/5), ICRC (17/5), EBRD (24/5), with visiting Swedish Foreign Ministry policy and cooperation officers (1/6), while the DHoO participated in the spring Donor Coordination Meeting (19/4);
- The HoO attended a closing conference of a Dutch gender equality cooperation project (31/5), an information session by the Delegation of the ICRC (12/6), as well as the World Refugee Day event organised by the UNHCR Office (20/6);
- The HoO met with a group of students of the law faculty of the Baku State University (13/4) and had a meeting with the participants of the "Youth Ambassadors" programme of the NAYORA youth umbrella organisation (22/6);
- The HoO attended the XV Baku International Conference of Ombudsmen (20/6) and the 10th anniversary event of the Council of State Support to NGOs (22/6);
- The HoO attended the HoO meeting and had several consultations on the elaboration of a new CoE Action Plan for Azerbaijan in Strasbourg (17-21/4);
- On 24 May, the HoO delivered a speech at the presentation of the book "Thoughts on Independence. The roads leading to the Republic" organised by the National Press Council, as well as taking part in different high-level commemorative events on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 9-12 April: PACE Election Observation Mission (ad-hoc committee) composed of 33 members observed early presidential elections in Azerbaijan;
- 31 May-1 June: A CPT delegation had high level talks in Azerbaijan.

Belgrade

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 21, Total - 27.

During the reporting period, the Office implemented 10 projects, of which 9 are jointly-funded with the EU (seven under the Horizontal Facility (HF) and one by the Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF)).

State of implementation of projects

- EU/CoE - HF "Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in Serbia": On the basis, inter alia, of CoE expertise and recommendations, various mono- and pluri-ministerial Working Groups and Task Forces pursued work on developing Offender Behaviour Programmes; the design of modernised in-service training curricula for the prevention of torture; and a new Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan, the latter being informed by an expert analysis of the previous Strategy and an Action-organised international conference in Belgrade involving professional and civil society exchange. Support to CSOs continued.
- EU/CoE - HF "Supporting Effective Remedies and Mutual Legal Assistance (SEMA)": Twenty-five prosecutors undertook a study visit to Strasbourg; 30 assistant prosecutors completed the new HELP course on international co-operation in criminal matters; 15 judge-candidate Trainers-of-Trainees (ToT) were instructed on writing judgments with due consideration of ECtHR case law; and 100 judges attended a conference in Belgrade dealing with compensation for the violation of the right to a fair trial within a reasonable length of time. Guidelines for judges on the criteria for the length of proceedings were prepared. In addition, Serbian judges participated in the regional dialogue on the harmonisation of judicial practice held in Skopje.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening legal guarantees for independent and impartial tribunals": Two study visits to CoE member States were organised, one to Portugal for members of the State Prosecutorial Council (SPC), and the other to Spain for High Judicial Council members, both focusing on judicial/prosecutorial independence. Eighty prosecutorial assistants were trained on how to detect and counter risks of undue pressure at 4 regional one-day workshops, where CoE experts and SPC members, including the Commissioner for Prosecutorial Autonomy, explained their role in reporting and acting on incidences of reported undue influence.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening integrity and combating corruption in higher education": Following the validation of the baseline survey and consequent course conception and design by key stakeholders, including the General Secretary of the Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (CAQA), training courses on integrity for first and final year undergraduate students were piloted at two major public universities, with the aim of their future adoption at all public universities. These courses will have a nationwide impact and will contribute to the realisation of key strategies and recommendations. The 3rd Action Steering Committee meeting took place on 11 June.
- EU/CoE - HF "Fostering a Democratic School Culture": The Action supported 12 municipalities' celebration of 'Democratic School Days', reaching more than 10,000 people directly, and hundreds of thousands more nationwide via the media. A 2nd peer learning event, with 100+ teachers and high officials from the Ministry of Education was organised and 26 Serbian actors took part in a CoE conference on discrimination in Montenegro. Serbian participation at the EPAN conference in Denmark was supported. The Action's pilot schools have a privileged place in national consultations on policies and quality standards.

- EU/CoE - HF "Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) in Serbia". The project organised a round table in Belgrade "Doing Business with Respect for Human Rights - Good practice examples from the business community in preventing and combating THB". An expert opinion on the functioning of the Transnational Referral Mechanism and the relevant provisions of the Standard Operating Procedures for the treatment of Victims of Human Trafficking in Serbia was prepared and a workshop "Facilitating safe and dignified return and reintegration of victims of human trafficking through exchange of information and effective transnational co-operation" took place, also in Belgrade.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening the protection of national minorities": An international CoE expert's comments on the draft Law on national councils of national minorities were communicated to the authorities, and the CoE's locally-commissioned analyses of information contained in textbooks for elementary and secondary schools about national minorities were addressed to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, which organised a subsequent round table with representatives of 9 National Councils of National Minorities to discuss the follow up to the findings and recommendations. The Action's small grants scheme was launched on 15 June.
- EU/CoE JP "JUFREX": Activities included a lecture on CoE media standards for Belgrade students of journalism; a study visit to the CoE and ECtHR for selected national trainers on freedom of expression; a Steering Committee meeting in Strasbourg; 2 two-day training sessions in Vrdnik for judges and prosecutors on the application of ECHR principles and ECtHR Art. 10 case-law; 2 two-day training sessions for journalists on their rights, responsibilities and media ethics in Nis and Kragujevac; and a training session in Belgrade on media literacy for the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media.
- EU/CoE JP "ROMACTED": Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level": At the Launching Conference on 29 May, the Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, mayors of 11 local self-governments and the HoO signed Memoranda of Understanding as a framework for the implementation of the Programme. This event was followed by a national workshop for local representatives in Roma communities and local self-governments. The first Steering Committee meeting was held in Tirana on 12 June, with the participation of representatives of Serbia's Coordination Body for Monitoring of the Strategy for Social inclusion of Roma.
- VC HRTF "HELP in the Western Balkans": Five HELP online courses covering asylum, child-friendly justice, introduction to the ECHR, reasoning of judgments, and domestic violence, are being followed in 4 countries, including Serbia. Serbian participants attended the June HELP Annual Network Conference, which highlighted the role of the HELP Network in times of challenges and the contribution of HELP and its courses to democratic security. The project supported the involvement of Bosnian and Macedonian participants in the Supreme Court Network Forum in Strasbourg in June.
- EU/CoE - HF "Expertise Coordination Mechanism (ECM)": Following the request of the Ministry of Justice to the Venice Commission to provide assistance in the drafting of constitutional amendments pertaining to the judiciary, the Commission adopted an Opinion ((921/2018 - CSL-AD(2018)011) at its 115th Plenary Session.

Other relevant activities

- 17 April: At the invitation of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, the DHoO opened an international conference "The EU General Data Protection Regulation", gathering representatives of the international community, local authorities, NGOs, independent regulatory bodies and Data Protection Commissioners from the region; and on the same day, together with a DGII representative

from Strasbourg, she attended events in Subotica connected with the Intercultural Cities initiative;

- 20 April: The DHoO addressed pupils from the Human Rights School for Young People (an initiative of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights); and on 7 May, the HoO addressed some 300 students from Italy, participants in the "European Meridian 2018" programme on "The role of different institutions in Serbia on integration and cooperation with Europe", both as a part of the Office's outreach activities;
- 12 June: The Second Horizontal Facility Beneficiary Steering Committee Meeting took place in Belgrade and was opened by the Minister of European Integration and the EU Ambassador, along with the HoO and Strasbourg colleagues.

CoE high level visits and other official delegations

- 3-4 April: The Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Christos Giakoumopoulos, visited Serbia to undertake both programme and more general contact meetings;
- 10-11 May: Ahead of the Venice Commission Opinion on draft Constitutional Amendments, the Rapporteurs and Commission Secretary visited Serbia, meeting with the highest State Officials and representatives of other interest groups.

Bucharest

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 0.5, Project staff – 27, Total – 27.5

C-PROC is responsible for the implementation of 5 cybercrime capacity building projects with a combined budget of 28.5 million EUR. Four projects are jointly funded with the European Union (EU) and one is funded by voluntary contributions.

State of implementation of projects

- VC "Cybercrime@Octopus": Ensured the visibility of the role of the Budapest Convention by organising a side-event on the Global State of Cybercrime Legislation during the UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and facilitated participation by experts in the meeting as well as in the UN Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime in Vienna. The project contributed expertise on cybersecurity and cybercrime in elections in a meeting of Electoral Management Bodies organised by the Venice Commission in Norway. Cybercrime@Octopus supported the training of magistrates through two events in Paris at the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature and the Cour de Cassation.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Cybercrime@EAP 2018": The project supported project countries of the Eastern Partnership (EAP) in their efforts to improve international cooperation and public private dialogue in regard to cybercrime investigation and electronic evidence. To this end, the project completed the series of workshops in all EAP states aimed at contributing to two regional studies on Threats and Challenges of Cybercrime and on Cybersecurity Strategies in the EAP region. Representatives of the project countries participated in United Nation (UN) meetings in Vienna, namely the Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime and the UN Crime Commission. The project also facilitated the participation of project teams in the annual conference of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG 2018) in Tbilisi, Georgia. On this occasion, the Steering Committee meeting was organised with representatives from the project countries. Skills and knowledge of international cooperation officials from the EAP countries were enhanced through attendance and inputs to the Pompidou Group Cybercrime Working Group in Dublin, Ireland, as well as participation in a joint Regional Meeting on International Cooperation together with the iPROCEEDS project held in Kyiv, Ukraine. Targeted advisory missions addressed the problems and provided recommendations on international and interagency cooperation in Armenia and Azerbaijan. The project also completed two updated region-wide studies on International Cooperation on Cybercrime and Article 15 Safeguards in the Eastern Partnership.
- EU/CoE JP "iPROCEEDS": The project continued to pilot the combined training course on cybercrime, electronic evidence and online crime proceeds for judges and prosecutors. The second delivery of the course was conducted by national trainers in cooperation with judicial academies in Montenegro, Albania and Serbia. In order to strengthen inter-agency cooperation, the project organised 2 Cybercrime Simulation Exercises for cybercrime investigators, digital forensics specialists, financial investigators, prosecutors as well as experts from Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) in Albania and Turkey. Preparation for the design of the second simulation exercise has begun. The project also continued to support the review and update of cybercrime indicators for the financial sector and thus, several working meetings were convened by local FIUs with relevant stakeholders. A specialised Regional Workshop on criminal justice statistics on cybercrime and electronic evidence provided the opportunity to consider a number of essential aspects related to the collection and use of criminal justice statistics on cybercrime and electronic evidence. In cooperation with Cybercrime@EAP 2018 project, a joint Regional Meeting on international cooperation

was organised in Ukraine, focusing on international cooperation aspects. Support was given to students from the project countries attending the long-distance master programme at University College Dublin (UCD) and taking part in the summer examination. The participation of representatives from the project countries was ensured at a number of international conferences (UN intergovernmental expert group meeting on cybercrime in Vienna, Austria, the 27th session of the UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria and the European Dialogue on Internet Governance in Tbilisi, Georgia). The iPROCEEDS project underwent a ROM evaluation, with preparation and corresponding meetings taking place at C-PROC and in Kosovo*,¹ Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

- EU/CoE JP "GLACY+ project on Global Action on Cybercrime Extended": The project strengthened cybercrime legislation and policies in priority and hub countries, as well as other countries from the respective regions. The project supported the participation of representatives from all priority countries in two important UN meetings in Vienna, namely the Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime and the UN Crime Commission and respective side events. Further to the recent agreement through the exchange of letters between the CoE and the African Union Commission (AUC), an important workshop took place at the AUC premises in Addis Ababa with the presence of a large number of ambassadors of African countries to promote the Budapest Convention and to prepare the upcoming African Forum on Cybercrime foreseen for October 2018. Within the framework of the project, 4 assessment missions were conducted to the 4 new countries that have become integrated into the project, namely, Nigeria, Chile, Costa Rica and Cabo Verde. These countries will now benefit from a consolidated package of capacity building activities to be implemented in the following years of the project. At regional level, the project undertook 3 activities in Senegal, Tonga and the Philippines involving the participation of representatives from the regions where they were held, respectively a Regional Training on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence provided to a number of representatives from African Gendarmeries, a Regional Workshop on Cybercrime for countries of the PILON network (Pacific Islands Law Officers Network) and advanced judicial training for judges, prosecutors and lawyers of the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) countries. From a Law Enforcement perspective, INTERPOL was also active as a strategic partner to objective 2 of the GLACY+ project as a number of workshops/trainings took place in Sri Lanka, Ghana and the Dominican Republic. INTERPOL also undertook another Instructors Development Course (IDC) in Singapore with the participation of Law Enforcement practitioners from all of English and French speaking GLACY+ priority countries. In May, a periodical Steering Committee took place in Vienna, with the participation of all priority countries where an overview of the activities was provided, as well as a presentation of the workplan for the next term.

- EU/CoE JP "CyberSouth": After the inception phase of the project and launching conference, the main focus was on finalisation of the workplan which is still under final negotiation with the relevant countries. It was agreed that the second part of 2018 will be the time to respond to national needs of the countries and reinforce capacities through targeted trainings for law enforcement and judiciary, as well as advisory missions. An initial training of trainers for magistrates on cybercrime and electronic evidence was organised in Morocco in May and should be followed by an advanced training later in October, when trained locals will be used as trainers on the train the trainers' methodology. The assessment visit of Jordanian capabilities in the fight against cybercrime was conducted in early June. The outcome of this visit should result in an initial situation report serving as a baseline to evaluate the progress made during the project implementation period and the basis for future activities in the country. Identification of synergies with on-going projects in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region remains a focus for the project. Thus,

¹ 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.

coordination with different projects is underway to ensure the optimisation of resources available under these different projects.

Follow up action

- Implementation of the project workplans as agreed upon for the third quarter of 2018;
- Coordination of the efforts within the projects to ensure participation in international events (Underground Economy Conference and Interpol-Europol Conference);
- Organisation of the Steering Committees for iPROCEEDS.

Other relevant activities

- Monaco made a voluntary contribution of 50,000 Euro, Japan of 45,000 Euro and the United Kingdom a further contribution of approximately 115,000 Euro to the project Cybercrime@Octopus;
- Argentina, Cabo Verde, Philippines and Morocco acceded to the Budapest Convention.

Chisinau**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 5, Project staff – 12, Total – 17.

The Office implemented 4 projects, of which 3 are jointly funded with the EU and 1 is funded by VC/Donor (Norway).

State of implementation of projects/programmes/Action Plans/co-operation documents

- EU/CoE - PGG "Supporting national efforts for prevention and combating discrimination in Moldova": A study on reasonable accommodation in access to education was initiated with the aim of assessing the current situation, identifying shortcomings and providing recommendations. Work began on a national survey on the perception of equality and non-discrimination in society. It will target all of Moldova, excluding the Transnistrian region. The adaptation of the HELP model course on anti-discrimination for legal professionals is on track. Public communication skills of relevant staff of the Equality Council and the Ombudsperson Office were enhanced through a specific training course, which was attended by 6 participants (2 men and 4 women).
- AP "Promoting a human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova": On 26 April, the programme's launching event took place, followed by the first Steering Committee meeting. Provisional work plans of the programme were discussed. A study visit was organised for 6 staff of the Government Agent's office (including the Government Agent) to Strasbourg on 18-20 April. The aim was to enhance capacities of the GA's office and to further facilitate close cooperation with the Execution Department. On 21-25 May, two needs assessment missions assessed the criminal justice legal framework with regard to humanisation and restorative justice, and the functioning of the probation system respectively. Corresponding reports will be discussed during round tables on 6 July.
- EU/CoE JP "Promoting media freedom and pluralism in the Republic of Moldova": The project supported the setting up of the Training Centre of the public service broadcaster Teleradio-Moldova (TRM) for the improvement of its quality and public recognition. The project provided comprehensive expert advice, assistance, and training seminars in the process, including inter alia the development of strategic documents, teacher training seminars, and the purchase of furniture and computer equipment. In 2018, the Training Centre will offer 30 media training workshops for 150 TRM employees.
- EU/CoE JP "Controlling Corruption through Law Enforcement and Prevention (CLEP)": The CLEP project, jointly with the Asset Recovery Office (ARO), finalised the Institutional Strategy and Action Plan for the work of this agency for the next three years. This document, which paves the way for the broader National Strategy on Asset Recovery, was publicly presented in May. CLEP increased the knowledge and capacities of 220 local public officials, covering all regions in Moldova, to fulfil their monitoring and reporting duties vis-à-vis the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy (2017-2020). Similarly, over 30 judges and prosecutors from all over the country improved their ability to investigate money-laundering.

Follow up action

- At the end of May, the CoE expertise on the new draft Audio-visual Code was submitted to Parliament;

- 18 June: An Action Plan implementation follow-up meeting with national counterparts was held in Chisinau in the presence of the ODGP Director and the Moldovan PR from Strasbourg;
- 18-19 June: The Head of Office ad interim together with a colleague from RMDR conducted several donor meetings in Chisinau in order to gauge potential funding opportunities.

Other relevant activities

- 27 April: The Head of Office ad interim delivered opening remarks at the Launching Conference of the programme "Promoting a human rights-compliant criminal justice system", together with the State Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice and a representative of the Norwegian MFA;
- 12 May: Office and project staff took part in the EU-facilitated Europe Day exhibition, together with other international organisations, European embassies and EU implementing partners.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 3-5 April: The PACE co-rapporteurs carried out a monitoring visit to the Republic of Moldova, including ATU Gagauzia;
- 18-21 May: A Congress delegation observed the first round of early local elections in a number of municipalities, including Chisinau;
- 13-15 June: A Congress delegation conducted a monitoring visit to the Republic of Moldova to examine the situation of local and regional democracy.

Kyiv**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 11, Project staff –36, Total - 47.

The Office implemented 16 projects, of which 4 are funded by the EU/jointly funded with the EU and 12 funded by VCs/Donors.

State of implementation of projects/programmes/Action Plans

- EU/CoE JP “Strengthening the protection of national minorities in Ukraine”: The Venice Commission report on Article 7 of the Law on Education was presented to the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as to representatives of national minorities at the thematic seminar which took place in Kyiv in May. The seminar gathered 61 participants - representatives of regional educational administrations from all over Ukraine, members of national minorities’ organisations and embassies representing kin-states of Ukrainian national minorities. The Project supported the Ministry of Culture in organising the first stage peer-to-peer meeting between Ukrainian specialists and representatives of national authorities from Serbia and Czech Republic. An assessment mission was initiated on Ukraine’s conformity with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
- AP “Enhancing Implementation of the European Human Rights Standards”: A study visit to CoE headquarters was organised for the Director and Deputy Directors of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI). The participants were provided with a closer insight into the work of the Council of Europe, standards set by the CoE monitoring bodies and obligations deriving from the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. Special attention was given to the Kaverzin v. Ukraine group of cases which are very relevant to the SBI’s future work on preventing and investigating ill-treatment by the police, prison officers and other law enforcement officials. Recommendations of the analytical report “Ill-treatment in the activities of the National police of Ukraine: forms, extent, grounds” were presented for a wide expert discussion held on 4 June in Kyiv. The expert discussion was co-organised by the CoE and SBI. Leading SBI staff members reconfirmed the policy of zero tolerance of ill-treatment. Following an initiative of the Ukrainian Bar Association (UBA), a HELP training course “Introduction to the ECHR” was launched for 25 lawyers in Lviv and will be tutored online by certified HELP trainers representing the UBA.
- AP “Supporting the transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice in Ukraine”: On 22 May, the project co-organised the presentation of the CoE Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 for Ukrainian national stakeholders. On 7-8 June, the mission of an international media expert to Kyiv was arranged for the purpose of meeting with relevant national stakeholders/partners and developing a monitoring methodology for NGOs on media coverage of elections. On 11–13 June, training for 35 officials from 23 local self-government bodies took place in Kharkiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhya on the gender equality approach in political and public decision-making processes at regional and local levels.
- VC Denmark “Continued Support to the Criminal Justice Reform in Ukraine”: The expert opinion on the draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine in connection with the adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On Amending the Constitution of Ukraine (as to Justice)” (with regard to the improvement of the performance of the Qualifications and Disciplinary Commission of Prosecutors)” was finalised, transferred to the Parliamentary Committee that had requested it, and published. Furthermore, 14,500 posters and 14,000 stickers containing information on detainees’ rights with regard to defence and the ways to use free legal aid (FLA) were printed and placed in police stations.

The HELP course 'Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights' was launched in tutored format for 260 candidate prosecutors. The Legal Club PRAVOKATOR was opened in Kharkiv with CoE support. It is the third legal club out of 5 being established by the Ukrainian free legal aid system in five major cities. Within the framework of enhancement of the FLA quality management system, representatives of the FLA and of the Ukrainian National Bar Association participated in a study visit to Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom.

- VC HRTF "Supporting Ukraine in Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights": During April-June, the project focused most of its activities on solving the problems of the non-execution of national judgments (the Ivanov/Burmych judgments), the project was mentioned at the Ministers Human Rights meeting (CMDH) on 5-7 June with regard to its crucial role in supporting relevant national authorities. Moreover, through a series of out-of-Kyiv activities, the project supported the work of the High Council of Justice on guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary and on 1 July the project gathered key stakeholders of the judicial reform to sum up for the first time in Ukraine the results of the reform efforts of the Ukrainian authorities in 2014-2017, including the execution of ECtHR judgments.

- EU/CoE - PGG "Freedom of Media in Ukraine II": The project has provided full training sessions for the UA:PBC regional branches on CoE standards and supported its Editorial Board's first meeting. Compliance with journalistic standards is now the obligatory precondition for the regional branch's UA: title. Final trainings on destatization took place and 100 print press representatives were taught about the possibilities that have opened with the reform. Special attention was paid to promotion of community media development in the regions. New developments on audio visual services (AVS) in Europe and Ukraine were discussed in Kyiv, the importance of adopting the Law on AVS was highlighted at a high level.

- EU/CoE - PGG "Fight against corruption in Ukraine": During the reporting period, the project continued actions aimed at the development of 3 training courses for judges on (i) adjudication of money laundering cases, (ii) use of electronic evidence and (iii) application of covert investigative actions in corruption cases. Six working groups took place with the participation of international and national experts, as well as judges and representatives of the National School of Judges of Ukraine, to identify the objective and outline of the courses, distribution of tasks, content topics, details and case studies for each topic in the courses.

- AP "Decentralisation and local government reform in Ukraine": A new format "moderated negotiation meeting" on a future law on legality supervision was organised with DPM Zubko, Dep. Min. Nehoda, MP Vlasenko, senior representatives of the Presidential Administration, the Cabinet of Ministers and local and regional government associations. A CoE legal opinion was drafted on two draft laws supporting territorial reform and discussed by the parliament. A regional forum and site activities in support of the amalgamation reform with regard to minorities' issues were organised in Bolhrad. Support was provided to the implementation of the reform of the national training system of local government officials and continued piloting of the human resource management tools was carried out. Two annual regional media contests in Kharkiv and Vinnytsia oblasts on decentralisation reform were conducted. Capacity-building programmes for local authorities from Donetsk and Luhansk continued. A study visit for local government officials was organised to Poland including participation in the 4th European Congress of Local Governments in Krakow.

- AP "Supporting constitutional and legal reforms, constitutional justice and assisting the Verkhovna Rada in conducting reforms aimed at enhancing its efficiency": The focus of the work was on the adoption of new electoral legislation in Ukraine and on increasing the expertise, organisational and institutional capacity of stakeholders and partners. A national round table "Prospects for Election Legislation Reform" was held and a conference entitled "The Ways to Decrease the Cost of Election Campaigns in Ukraine" was organised with MPs,

leading international and domestic experts, representatives of the CEC and civil society . The first regional public debates on the draft Election Code of Ukraine took place in Kharkiv and Vinnytsa. Two international round tables on "Constitutional Principles of the Legislative Branch of Power in Ukraine" took place. The third regular meeting of the group responsible for developing the training course for judges "Election Dispute Resolution" was held.

- AP "Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions": A series of meetings with future national and regional partners and a project planning session were held. As a result, a detailed Budget Forecast and Draft Working Plan until August 2019 were developed. Some positive developments in the regulatory framework and national court practices related to the protection of IDPs rights have been achieved showing the sustainability of the previous IDPs Project. Referring to the ECtHR case-law, the Supreme Court, in its first model case, declared it unlawful to suspend a pension on the grounds prescribed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU) Resolution No. 365. Also, a CMU resolution removed the requirement of a rental contract for access to IDP housing subsidies, facilitating social payments.

- EU/CoE - PGG "Further Support for Penitentiary Reform in Ukraine": The annual conference "Vision for Change-2018" was held, bringing together more than 180 prison governors, with the aim of presenting a bigger picture of operations. The CoE Department of the Execution of Judgments was present due to the violation of Article 3 by Ukraine on account of inadequate material conditions of detention, ill-treatment of prisoners, their transportation and lack of adequate healthcare, which have been addressed by the European Court of Human Rights in more than 50 judgments to date. Other issues covered a Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument and the importance of the internal prison inspection function, highlighting its role as "a critical friend". A study visit to the Northern Ireland and Irish Prison Service with the MoJ, the Prison Administration and Prison Staff In-Service Training Centre took place. The participants were presented with details of the Irish journey from punitive and uneventful incarceration to the benefits of a lively rehabilitation environment. Based on the trip, the Ukrainian delegation formed a follow-up working group.

- VC UK "Consolidating Ukraine's Justice Sector Reform": As the project is nearing its termination on 31 July, the main activities were aimed at reaching the impact stated in the logframe. During the reporting period, the project has succeeded in reviewing indicators for the High Council of Justice in the planned scheme of monitoring the progress of Justice Sector Reform using the Progress Review Methodology. These indicators, along with the rest of the indicators for the National School of Judges (NSJ) and the High Qualification Commission of Judges (HQCJ) are ready to be included in the online monitoring database that is being developed by a hired IT consultant and is due to be finalised by July 2018 for acting beneficiaries.

Other relevant activities

- Activities to support media freedom that were covered from Ordinary Budget of the Information Society Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law: A round table "Freedom of speech in Ukraine: current status and challenges" was held devoted to World Press Freedom Day. The discussion facilitated a dialogue and cooperation among state authorities, law enforcement agencies, civil society and international organisations for improving the legal protection of journalists, ensuring favourable conditions for journalists' work and aligning Ukrainian legislation to CoE standards. A seminar «Protection of the Professional Activity of Journalists and Freedom of Expression in Ukraine: Countering Impunity» was held in Dnipro for 220 representatives of law enforcement agencies, journalists and civil society activists from the region. The new key strategic priorities of the Ukrainian Public Broadcaster (UA:PBC) were identified. Furthermore, an expert discussion on the Draft Concept of broadcasting for children and youth audiences of UA:PBC was held.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 19-21 April, 21 May: Thomas Markert, Secretary of the Venice Commission;
- 30 April-1 May: Gianni Buquiccio, President of the Venice Commission, along with the Head of Neighbourhood Co-operation Division;
- 22-23 May: Regis Brillat, Special Advisor of the Secretary General to Ukraine.

Pristina

Situation of the Office

Core staff - 6, Project staff - 16, Total - 22.

The Office implemented 10 projects, of which 8 are jointly funded with the EU (of which 2 are regional joint programmes) and 2 are funded by voluntary contributions (VC) from Switzerland, Norway and by the Council of Europe. Another project is also implemented in Kosovo* by the Bucharest Office for Cybercrime: the EU/CoE regional joint project "*iPROCEEDS*".

State of implementation of projects

- EU/CoE JP "Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo*" (PECK II): The project held a regional round table on the protection of whistleblowers, and organised a workshop to support the Ministry of Justice in drafting and finalising the Law on Protection of Whistleblowers. It also held a workshop on the draft law on Implementation of International Sanctions and organised a coordination meeting in relation to the ongoing assessment process of compliance with international standards on Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) and 2 on-site visits for the Anti-Corruption and AML/CFT assessments.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice (KoSEJ)": The report on the court users' satisfaction surveys and its recommendations were approved by the 3 pilot courts (Gjakovë/Đakovica, Pristina and Prizren) in May. The courts agreed to publish the results using flyers with infographics and animations for their websites. The Action also organised a workshop with high level international expertise in the field of information technology for courts to support the implementation of the Case Management Information System (CMIS). A consolidated expert report with recommendations is under preparation.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening integrity and combating corruption in higher education": Further legal expertise was provided by the Action on the draft law on higher education during the public consultation procedure. A notable achievement in this respect is that private Higher Education Institutions will get a non-profit status. Ten representatives from these Institutions participated in the "Conference on Plagiarism across Europe and beyond 2018" in Turkey. Two universities became full members of the European Network for Academic Integrity. The Action organised a Conference on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Pristina, gathering some 70 participants.
- EU/CoE – HF "Fostering a democratic school culture and diversity in schools": All 20 pilot schools, together with representatives of the Ministry of Education, took part in the regional conference "Fighting discrimination in the education system" in Montenegro. The Action contributed to the development of a roadmap to guide policy-makers in the education sector, based on the collection of information and relevant documents from education officials at central and local levels and from the pilot schools. Activities held by all pilot schools attracted the attention of the public and the media. The 2 Education Actions held their third Steering Committee in Pristina.
- EU/CoE – HF "Enhancing human rights policing": The 2 needs assessment reports presented to the beneficiary highlighted the need for improving in-service police training curricula on human rights, police ethics and prevention of ill-treatment, as well as related administrative instructions. Thus, the Action facilitated working group sessions to upgrade

* All references to Kosovo, whether 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.

the Police Inspectorate SOP turning it into an Administrative Instruction, and improving the police's regulatory framework. Eight Kosovo Police staff benefited from a study visit to Slovenia to exchange experience in this field.

- EU/CoE – HF “Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners”: The Action supported the drafting of an instruction on the Complaint Mechanism, Forms and Appeal Procedures, and of standard operating procedures on the provision of healthcare in prisons, as well as a suicide prevention strategy (subsequently adopted by the Prison Healthcare Department). Workshops, training sessions and monitoring of the implementation of these texts were organised for relevant correctional and prison healthcare staff. Preparation of the concluding conference is underway.
- VC Switzerland/AP “Strengthening the National Preventive Mechanism in Kosovo*” (SNPM): The project focused on theoretical and practical training on the treatment of juveniles deprived of liberty, coaching on monitoring health care for inmates during the NPM's official visits to several psychiatric establishments, and on monitoring mental health and social care institutions. Professional interactions and exchanges between Kosovo* and Polish NPMs and other relevant organisations were the subject of a study visit to Poland. The project supported the drafting of an internal regulation for NPM staff on professional risks and hazards, overtime work and travel.
- VC Norway/AP “Fostering rapprochement through education for democracy and language learning (FRED)”: The project started in May. The DGII Project coordinator carried out a 3-day preparatory mission to Pristina, with a view to meeting all relevant stakeholders (ministers, Language Commissioner, institutions, relevant civil society organisations as well as main counterparts from intergovernmental organisations, and donors). A 2-day meeting of the 8 local and international project consultants was held in Pristina. The project draft workplan has been prepared.
- EU/CoE regional JP “Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX): Some 60 judges, prosecutors and lawyers from South-East Europe (including 9 from Kosovo*), certified as trainers on Article 10 of the ECHR, took part in a Conference organised by the CoE in Strasbourg on the ECtHR case-law, and became more familiar with the CoE's work. This also provided the opportunity to hold the JUFREX Steering Committee there. In addition, the project organised 2 two-day trainings on freedom of expression for judges and prosecutors. Grant Agreements with the Press Council and “Kosovo 2.0” (a local NGO) were signed.
- EU/CoE regional JP “Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level (ROMACTED)”: Four workshops were held with the 8 local beneficiary municipalities on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning and ROMACTED methodology. All beneficiary municipalities formed Institutional Working Groups and Community Action Groups. On the occasion of a ROMACTED Conference, Memoranda of Understanding with the 8 beneficiary municipalities were signed opening the way for the municipalities to design, implement and monitor plans and projects for Roma communities. The project's regional Steering Committee was held in Tirana.
- EU/CoE regional JP “Project on targeting crime proceeds on the Internet in South-eastern Europe and Turkey (iPROCEEDS): iPROCEEDS held a meeting of the working group to improve guidelines and indicators for financial sector entities to prevent money laundering in the online environment, as well as a regional workshop on criminal justice statistics on cybercrime and electronic evidence held in Bucharest. These activities gathered Kosovo* representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Police, Prosecution, Judiciary, and the Financial Intelligence Unit. The project also supported the participation of the Police Supervisor of the Cybercrime Investigation Sector in a long-distance master programme at University College Dublin.

Follow up action

- The Venice Commission (VC) adopted the opinion on the draft law amending and supplementing the Law on Financing of Political Entities on 25 June. A VC delegation carried out a visit to Kosovo* within the framework of the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism of the EU-CoE Horizontal Facility which foresees notably the provision of CoE legislative expertise. The Opinion has been disseminated to all relevant stakeholders by the Office (notably Embassies, IGOs, NGOs, OIK);
- The HF KoSEJ Action was proposed for an extension to allow for the remaining activities to be implemented and link it to the proposed phase II under HF II;
- HF Higher Education Action: All main elements of the legal expertise provided by the Action on the draft Law on Higher Education were accepted by the Ministry of Education working group;
- Peck II: drafts of AC and AML/CFT assessment reports to be delivered to the authorities.

Other relevant activities

- The Office together with relevant CoE project staff takes part in the Functional Review of the Rule of Law Sector. The Concept Note on the functional review makes numerous references to CoE bodies, standards and instruments;
- HF Second beneficiary level Horizontal Steering Committee: Representatives from all beneficiary institutions, and EU and CoE stakeholders attended. All confirmed their positive assessment of the second year of implementation;
- The Office participates in donor and activity coordination mechanisms with a view to promoting the CoE's work, ensuring the efficiency of activity implementation and avoiding duplication.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- A delegation of the Venice Commission went to Pristina to exchange views with the authorities, representatives of the political parties, civil society and international organisations present in Kosovo*, about the draft law on amending and supplementing the Law on Financing of Political Entities. It was the first request by the Kosovar authorities to the VC since Kosovo* became a member in 2014.

Sarajevo

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 10, Total – 16.

The Office implemented 5 projects: 4 projects within the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey, and one funded by the CoE ordinary budget. In addition, the Office contributes to the implementation of 2 regional projects, and Joint Programmes with the EU on media and on Roma empowerment at local level.

State of implementation of projects / the Action Plan

- EU/CoE – HF “Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in BiH”: The presentation and communication skills of 24 law enforcement officers to deliver human rights based training to peers were evaluated against the criteria agreed with Ministries of Justice for delivery of training in the EU/CoE joint projects (18-19 April, Sarajevo). The group of accredited trainers started delivering peer training (17-18 May, Mostar) to a group of court police operational managers in BiH. Protocols for treatment of forensic offenders in closed environment were drafted and further consultations were held with the wider professional community and policy-makers (25-26 April, Mostar and 22-23 May, Sokolac), in support of the expert assessment visit (23-24 April, Sokolac) to formulate recommendations on the future training programme for forensic nurses and other support staff in forensic facilities. The core prison staff training team continues to respond to direct requests from prison management to provide additional training on core and advanced competences for prison staff (16-17 May, Tuzla) and prisoner management (11-12 April, Zenica and 15-16 May, Tuzla). The Action’s Steering Committee signed off on the progress made in the implementation of the project and endorsed Protocols for the treatment of forensic offenders (18 June, Sarajevo). An expert assessment visit to establish the needs for the introduction of IT in the prison system(s) in BiH (27-29 June, Istocno Sarajevo, Tuzla and Banja Luka) resulted in the compilation of the necessary information for the development of a feasibility and cost-efficiency study.
- EU/CoE – HF “Strengthening the Human Rights Ombudsman to fight discrimination”: On 10 April in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Ombudspersons, advocacy experts, representatives of civil society and international organisations, discussed the draft Comparative study and the Report recommending how to improve the advocacy activities of the IHRO BiH. A new HELP course on Family Law is being developed, 1 WG organised in Strasbourg on 16-17 April and will be followed by 2 WG on 28-29 June. Seminars for the judiciary on antidiscrimination standards were organised in cooperation with Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres in Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska on 19-20 April in Neum, 26-27 April in Trebinje and on 24-25 May in Blagaj. A draft study on the efficiency of the IHRO BiH which contains a set of recommendations concerning the IHRO’s internal structure, its human resources policy and training of staff members, its capacity to handle individual complaints and to deal with the backlog of cases, quality of recommendations and special reports, were discussed on 21 May in Sarajevo. Establishing further cooperation and direct contact between the Ombudsman institution and public institutions and the civil sector was the focus of the sixth co-ordination meeting held on 31 May in Trebinje. Lawyers of the Institution of Ombudsman for Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who successfully completed the Training for Trainers course, held training on European anti-discrimination standards for representatives of public institutions and non-governmental organisations in Trebinje on 1 June. A one-month placement for 1 staff member of the IHRO with the

European Ombudsman was organised from 25 June - 24 July European Ombudsman in Strasbourg.

- EU/CoE – HF “Strengthening the protection of national minorities in BiH”: In Sarajevo the official launching ceremony of the Action was organised on 16 May in Sarajevo City Hall. The launching ceremony was well attended, with more than 60 participants representing institutions, minorities and the international community in BiH. Participants welcomed the initiative and stressed the importance of such an Action on national minorities in the future. Through support provided under the Action, a meeting between the Minister for Human Rights and Refugees and representatives of national minorities took place in May, and provided an opportunity for national minorities to exchange views with the Minister on the current situation relating to the status and position of national minorities in BiH. The inaugural meeting of the Action-specific Steering Committee took place in May, where the composition of the Steering Committee was formalised. Moreover, the Action work-plan was endorsed and the next steps relating to the implementation of the Action were agreed. The Action, jointly with the BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, established the Minority Coordination Group (MCG). Key institutions identified minority focal points and the MCG is composed of representatives of the Councils of National Minorities at state, entity and cantonal level, Roma Board BiH, Brčko Government BiH, Joint Committee on Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly BiH and CSOs. Also a representative from the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees BiH, the chair institution of this group, has been appointed and the inaugural meeting of the group was held on 6 June in Sarajevo. The topic of the meeting was the current situation of the horizontal and vertical cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders and possible ways of improvement. The meeting resulted in 7 recommendations to be followed for future actions.
- EU/CoE – HF “Quality education in multi-ethnic societies”: The Assessment study on ethnic segregation/discrimination and its impact on the quality of education were conducted in 9 pilot schools in BiH during May and June through 9 focus groups with teachers, 8 focus groups with parents, 8 focus groups/workshops with students and 9 semi-structured interviews/group interviews with school management. Furthermore, 276 questionnaires were completed by teachers and 272 by pupils. The data collected is being processed and by the beginning of the next school year a case study for each pilot school will be finalised, a report prepared and initial recommendations proposed. The project is implementing its activities in close cooperation with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the EU Delegation’s Political Department.
- VC UK/AP “Supporting reintegration of violent and extremist prisoners in BiH”: The project officially ended on 31 March, however during the period from 1 April – 30 June the narrative report was prepared and the PMM updated with the newly developed deradicalisation project.

Implementation in BiH of regional projects (see also under ‘Belgrade Office’)

- JP EU/CoE “Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe” (JUFREX): Four events in total took place during the reporting period. The round table on Hate speech in the broadcasted media and the role and responsibility of the media and regulatory body was organised by the partner Association of BiH journalists, with the active participation of members of Communication Regulatory Agency of BiH. Around 30 participants from the judiciary and media world from all over BiH discussed how to regulate hate speech in broadcasted media to bring it in line with CoE standards. The second event organised by the same partner was on the protection of public interest through the electronic media, and it brought together 40 participants. Twenty-four lawyers from BiH have participated in Training of the Trainers on Article 10 of the ECHR. They will continue working as trainers to their peers dealing with freedom of expression. The last event was a

seminar on the role of media self-regulation, and pre/court processes by Press Councils, and their role in supporting media freedoms as well as ethical standards in journalism. There were over 30 participants in this event.

- JP EU/CoE “Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level” (ROMACTED): During the previous semester, 9 programme beneficiaries’ municipalities were visited by the Roma support organisation Romalen and selected facilitators, taking the opportunity to carry out joint planning with municipalities for programme implementation and to identify the needs of Roma in each municipality. In addition, a series of meetings were conducted with the EUD in order to resolve the issue of a VAT exemption certificate for the support organisation. In addition, the CoE ROMACTED programme had its first Regional Team Meeting and Steering Committee meeting in Tirana with the presence of DGNEAR and all relevant CoE staff, as well as representatives of ministries from beneficiary countries and Roma partners.

Other relevant activities

- 7 May: DHoO participated in Regional Conference on “Human Rights of LGBTI People - Freedom of assembly: human right or a privilege?”;
- 5 June: DHoO participated in the state-wide conference The Role of Parliaments and Governments’ Bodies in the Fight against Corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 12 June: HoO participated in the High-level Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Business Conference;
- 19 June: HoO participated in the conference “Towards the 2018 general elections”.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 21-24 May: DPA monitoring mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Visit of Congress Reflection Group on Mostar (Members: Anders Knape, Piero Fassino, Stewart Dickson; Expert: Prof. Dr. jur. Jens Woelk).

Tbilisi**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 5, Project staff – 12, Total - 17.

The Office implemented 9 projects, of which 4 were funded by the EU/jointly funded with the EU and 5 funded by VC/Donor. One of these projects “Human Rights for All – Belarus” was completed on 30 June.

State of implementation of projects / programmes / the Action Plan

- AP “Support to the Judicial Reform in Georgia”: A study on the Court President-Manager’s interrelation and task allocation inspired the judiciary to establish a court managers’ forum. The Independent Inspector’s website has been developed and presented to the wider public along with the Inspector’s 6-month progress report, and training on legal reasoning was organised to enable the Independent Inspector’s staff to better prepare referrals. A workshop on handling external pressure and media-judiciary relations led to discussions on a unified communication strategy and speaker judges. Representatives of the judiciary visited Strasbourg and got a closer insight into the work of the CoE’s major bodies. The project continues to provide expertise to the Parliamentary Working Group on the “4th wave” of the judicial reform.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and harmonisation of national legislation and judicial practice in line with European Standards in Georgia”: One hundred and ninety-two legal professionals (judges, lawyers, prosecutors) were trained on fair trial standards and protection of human rights at pre-trial stage and 33 judges increased their knowledge on “Reopening of Cases on the Basis of judgment/decision of the European Court of Human Rights”. All Supreme Court judges updated their knowledge on recent case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and 26 staff members of analytical units of the courts improved their skills on legal research and analytical work based on ECHR standards. Following the proposed draft amendments to the Criminal Code of Georgia by the Ministry of Justice, the CoE reviewed the compatibility of the Draft Amendments to the general part of the Criminal Code (DCC) with relevant CoE legal standards, recommending a number of adjustments to ensure compliance.
- EU/CoE – PGG “The Council of Europe Programme to support Georgia in view of the 2016 (parliamentary), 2017 (local) and 2018 (presidential) elections”: In June, the CoE organised, jointly with the State Audit Office, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), the 3rd annual Regional Conference on Money in Politics. The conference gave political finance oversight agencies, political representatives, as well as civil society organisations the opportunity to discuss reforms and new approaches, and exchange good practices and lessons learned in regard to effective enforcement and monitoring of political finance regulations. The conference also strengthened a regional peer network on political finance and increased regional cooperation on this topic.
- AP “Improving Mental Health Care of Persons Detained in Georgia”: The first draft of the recommendations and proposals for the existing legislation regulating mental health issues in prisons and other closed institutions was developed by the Ministry of Corrections, the Public Defender’s Office, the Parliament of Georgia, and CoE experts. Assistance was provided to the MoC in the development of the first draft of the crises checklist and detailed crises intervention plan. Up to 35 medical and non-medical staff, involved in the supervision of the implementation of suicide prevention mechanisms, received training on suicide

prevention protocols and standards, recently adopted by the MoC. Six psychiatric nurses, working in penitentiary establishments, learned about the management of prisoners suffering from mental disorders during a 4-day study visit to the Netherlands. Doctors working in prisons, together with the medical staff of the penitentiary department, increased their knowledge on the mental health screening tool, specifically developed for prisons within the project. Up to 40 doctors, working in temporary detention isolators, refreshed their knowledge on mental health screening tools and documenting injuries. Twenty newly contracted doctors from temporary detention isolators increased their knowledge on identification of mental health problems, and overall healthcare management, including transmissible infections and documenting injuries.

- AP "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Georgia": A second online HELP course on combating violence against women and domestic violence was launched for Georgian prosecutors, inspectors, instructors and staff members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. A study visit was organised in Madrid, Spain, where representatives of the Chief Prosecutor's Office of Georgia and of the Department of Human Rights Protection of the Ministry of Internal Affairs discussed effective prevention of violence against women and domestic violence. A workshop on the Istanbul Convention and its monitoring mechanism was organised together with the Public Defender's Office of Georgia, where the staff of the PDO, NGO representatives and officials familiarised themselves with the roles of the state, human rights institutions and NGOs in the monitoring process of the Istanbul Convention. A needs assessment mission was conducted for reviewing the existing Prosecutor's guidelines on cases of domestic violence and violence against women.
- AP "Responding to child sexual exploitation and abuse in Georgia, phase I": The CoE HELP course on child-friendly justice was translated into Georgian, and followed by a preparatory workshop for the adaptation of the course, which will be tutored and supervised by a member of the Georgian Bar Association and the Head of the Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor's Office.
- EU/CoE JP "Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing": A train the trainers (TOT) course on "Anti-money laundering and combatting financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance for Georgian lawyers" was organised on 25-26 June in Tbilisi, in cooperation with the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) and the Financial Monitoring Service of Georgia (FMS).
- AP "Fight against discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech in Georgia": The project was officially launched on 4 June with the participation of high level officials and representatives of NGOs and international organisations. The aim of the project is to combine legislative, capacity-building and awareness-raising actions to ensure appreciation of diversity in Georgia and the possibility for everyone to freely enjoy their rights. Baseline studies regarding legislation and societal attitudes have already been commissioned to ensure needs and result-oriented planning and implementation.

Other relevant activities

- HoO presented opening remarks at the launching event of European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 (24 April) by the Minister of Culture, the workshop on Judiciary and External Actors-Interrelation, Challenges and Strategies, the presentation of the Opinions of the Consultative Council of European Judges, the kick-off meeting of the HELP Course "Violence Against Women And Domestic Violence" and the workshop on the Istanbul Convention and its Monitoring Mechanism. He also acted as a moderator at the EURODIG session "Your Freedom of Expression vs. mine? Who is in control?" (6 June) the 3rd Congress of the Association of Constitutional Justice of the Countries of the Baltic and Black Sea Regions (16 May), the Oath Taking Ceremony dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia (26 May), the Steering Committee of the Cybercrime@EAP Project (4

June), the Parliament Human Rights Committee Hearing on Execution of decisions/judgments of ECtHR on Georgia- 2017 report (12 June), and the 15th International Conference "Georgia's European Way" (14-15 June);

- A training session on "Liability of Legal Persons" for Georgian prosecutors took place on 28-29 June, in Tbilisi. The activity was complementary to the cooperation with representatives of Chief Prosecutor's Office in developing a Manual on Liability of Legal Persons in Georgia. The manual was prepared as a guide and reference for use by practitioner prosecutors and investigators in Georgia aiming to facilitate an effective enforcement of the legislative framework.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 28 May: The Steering Committee meeting on the implementation of the CoE Action Plan for Georgia 2016-2019 took place in Tbilisi;
- 29 June–2 July: The Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Andreas Kiefer paid a working visit to Tbilisi to attend the Joint Workshop for members of the National Delegation of Georgia to the Congress, The National Delegation of Georgia to the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) and Delegation of National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) to the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

Tirana

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 12, Total - 18.

The Office implemented 8 projects, out of which 7 are co-funded by the EU and one by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

State of implementation of projects / programmes / Action Plans / co-operation documents:

- VC Switzerland "Strengthening the local government structures in Albania": The capacities of 25 human resource managers from local government units in Shkodra and Lezha Region were enhanced. The second stage of the Leadership Academy Programme (LAP), organised in partnership with the Academy of Political Studies, targeted 20 senior representatives from central and local institutions as well as civil society.
- EU/CoE JP "Enhancing the effectiveness of the Albanian system of human rights protection and anti-discrimination": The website of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD) was revamped and a smartphone application was developed to further improve the awareness and outreach of the CPD as well as the collection of citizens' complaints. Thousands of people participated in Open Day events organised in 5 cities in Albania with the view to increasing awareness against discrimination and human rights violations. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ombudsperson and the CPD to further improve their coordination and cooperation. The final conference of the project took place on 28 May.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening the Efficiency of Justice (SEJ II)": In Albania, a report on the methodology for the judicial map review was completed while progress was also made in designing an IT structure for the Albanian justice system incorporating the CEPEJ Cybercrime Guidelines. Judges and court presidents were trained on time management, as the training modules were integrated into the core modules on court management offered by the School of Magistrates. In addition, the Action trained spokespersons in the prosecution office on how to communicate and positively influence public opinion on the work of the judiciary.
- EU/CoE – HF "Economic Crime in Albania": The newly adapted Parliamentary Code of Conduct took into account the CoE's recommendations. The Ad-Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform was assisted with a comprehensive set of recommendations on political party finance, vote buying and misuse of state resources during electoral campaigns, including the organisation of related workshops. The asset recovery authorities increased their capacities to audit asset declarations and to manage and seize assets, including through peer-exchanges with the Dutch and Belgium authorities.
- EU/CoE – HF "Fighting Bullying and extremism in the Education System in Albania": The anti-bullying school policies and the respective action plans were finalised in 21 pilot schools, through a participatory and inclusive approach.
- EU/CoE – HF "Enhancing the Protection of Human Rights of Prisoners in Albania" The training curricula for initial and in-service staff, including specific curricula for women and juveniles, were finalised. A study visit to Ireland's Prison Service set the basis for a more efficient use of these training curricula and functioning of the training centre of Albania's Prison Administration. A needs and risk assessment tool was developed in view of CoE standards and good European practices along with related training curricula and a manual, while 35 multi-disciplinary staff were trained on how to use it in practice.

- EU/CoE – HF “Supporting effective domestic remedies and facilitating the execution of judgments (D-REX)”: In partnership with the EU-funded justice project EURALIUS, the project assisted the Ministry of Justice in identifying gaps and relevant steps regarding the setting up of a proper legal and institutional framework on property restitution/compensation. Exchanges were organised with Romanian authorities, followed by a series of trainings at national level on the ECtHR’s requirements on this matter.
- EU/CoE – HF “Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Albania”: Two consecutive opinions on the secondary legislation of the Framework Law on Protection of National Minorities highlighted specific areas for improvement. The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs was supported in organising a high level conference to promote and discuss the secondary legislation with relevant stakeholders.
- EU/CoE – HF “Preventing and Combating Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Albania”: A series of highly visible events raised awareness of the violations of the rights of LGBTI within the framework of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (May 17), including a Regional Hate Crime Police Conference and a Political Forum in the Assembly of Tirana.
- EU/CoE regional JP “Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX)”: The capacities of 55 magistrates and 25 lawyers were increased on ECHR Article 10 related issues. The Albanian Media Council launched its website and Complaints’ Board.
- EU/CoE regional JP “ROMACTED”: Over 800 people attended the launching activities in 7 beneficiary municipalities. The programme supported the Municipality of Roskovec in recruiting a Roma resource person. The 1st Steering Committee meeting of the Programme took place on 12 June in Tirana.

Other relevant activities

- 10-11 April: PACE and the Venice Commission, in co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, organised the joint parliamentary seminar on “The Misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: a major challenge for democratic elections”;
- 24 May: The 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the EU/CoE Joint Programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey” (HF) was hosted by the Albanian Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs;
- In the framework of the Expert Coordination Mechanism (ECM), the Venice Commission, in coordination with the Horizontal Facility Action against Economic Crime and the OSCE/ODIHR, provided expertise to the Ad-Hoc Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reform with regards to the New Voting Technologies, Out-of-country voting for emigrants, Campaign issues (media/party finance) and Election Administration.

Follow up action

- Follow up coordination/consultation meetings with EUD and domestic stakeholders to prepare the second phase of the HF;
- Follow up discussions with Swedish and UK Embassies in Tirana in view of materialising the proposed actions in the sector of human rights, judiciary and media.

Yerevan**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 6, Project staff –15, Total - 21.

The Office implemented 7 projects, of which 2 projects are funded by the EU under the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG), 1 project is funded partially by VC/ Donor Government of the United Kingdom and partially by the EU (PGG), 1 project funded by the Government of Sweden, 1 project funded by the Government of Switzerland and 1 project funded by the governments of Norway and France. In addition, the Office is responsible for the financial management of two PGG regional projects.

State of implementation of projects/programmes/Action Plans/co-operation documents

- EU/CoE – PGG “Supporting the criminal justice reform and combating ill-treatment and impunity in Armenia”: In June, the CoE delivered to the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia a report with technical IT and legal recommendations for improving the functionality of the electronic pre-trial investigation system. In April, the project organised a seminar on “International standards on Women Offenders” for the Human Rights Defender’s Office and its National Preventive Mechanism. During the reporting period, the project also accomplished the following results: a manual on investigating ill-treatment allegations for investigators, police and other risk-prone institutions to enhance their knowledge and skills on international and CoE standards, and the ECtHR case-law; the methodology for preparing a study on the application of Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights in national judgments; and the Publication of the 9th Volume (2 tomes) of the Court of Cassation Criminal Decisions for the use of judges, prosecutors, advocates, lawyers and legal specialists of Armenia.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Strengthening Health Care and Human Rights Protection in Prisons in Armenia”: During April-May, the 3 working groups on mental health legislative/regulation review, on drafting a legislative package of hospital health care services, in relation to the development of guidelines for prisoners and prison staff on sanitary, epidemiological and hygienic issues held its first meetings and agreed on the necessary amendments. The CoE engaged expertise for the development of training modules on sanitary, epidemiological and hygienic issues, for the development of a strategy on recruitment of medical personnel, and for providing advice to the “Penitentiary medicine center” on healthcare organisation management. In May, the 7 medical staff of Abovyan and Hrazdan prisons were trained on the use of new medical equipment delivered in 2017. The CoE organised a round table discussion on the assessment report on prison hospital services, with the participation of 29 representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Penitentiary Department, Ministry of Health, Ombudsman Office, Public Monitoring Group, and civil society. A grant agreement was concluded with the Legal Education and Rehabilitation Programs’ Implementation Center of the Minister of Justice for the training of prisons’ medical staff on 5 professional modules previously developed by CoE experts.
- EU/CoE – PGG / VC UK “Support to the implementation of the judicial reform in Armenia”: During the reporting period, a number of new and revised laws prepared with CoE expertise were adopted by the Parliament: the amendments to the Law on Remuneration of Persons Holding State Positions - in March 2018; the Law on Mediation, the Law on the Service at the Judicial Department, amendments to the Law on Justice Academy – in June 2018. Seventy judges of the First Instance Court, 5 judges of the Civil Court of Appeal and 27 judge assistants were trained on the newly adopted Civil Procedure Code. The Women

Judges Section of the Association of Judges was re-activated and its representatives participated in the 14th Biennial International Conference of the International Association of Women Judges. The General Part of the Access to Justice Training Manual for Judges and Prosecutors on Ensuring Women's Access to Justice was translated into Armenian to be used for further trainings. The project also translated into Armenian all the opinions of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), and published the Volume of Decisions and the Annual Report of the Civil and Administrative Chamber of the Court of Cassation for 2016 for the use of judges, prosecutors, advocates, civil society organisations, human rights defenders, etc. The Road Map on the introduction of the e-court unified electronic system, e-bankruptcy court and e-petition website for the judiciary was finalised and delivered to the Ministry of Justice.

- VC Switzerland "Institutional Support to Communities Association of Armenia (CAA)": In May, the CAA held a meeting of its Republican Council (RC) during which it adopted a Call to the Prime Minister of Armenia on pursuing decentralisation reform in the country for equal distribution of finances between the central and local governments (LG) and on ensuring local communities are duly consulted in the course of implementation of LG reforms. The RC has also endorsed a list of recommendations on key LG issues, which was submitted to the Government of Armenia for incorporation into the new Government Programme. The final report of the mid-term assessment of organisational capacities of the CAA was released in June and noted a significant improvement in the way the CAA operates, with the CAA having a more transparent way of working, a clear governance structure, vision, mission, strategic objectives and improved advocacy and lobbying work. The evaluators recommended further support to make the CAA a high-performing, representative and financially self-sustaining organisation.
- VC UK "Strengthening the application of European human rights standards in the armed forces in Armenia": During the reporting period, CoE experts with the close involvement of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) prepared two reports with recommendations on the improvement of the efficiency of the MoD human rights hotline, and for awareness raising on human rights among future draftees. A set of training materials for cascade seminars in military units was developed, and its implementation will start upon agreement by the MoD. The new module for the Justice Academy on effective investigation of ill-treatment in the army is under preparation, with the international standards' part finalised, to be complemented with a part on local legislation and practice. The project supported a meeting of the Human Rights Defender's Expert Council on Human Rights of the Military Servicepersons and the Members of their Families. The CoE manual on effective investigation of ill-treatment was translated into Armenian for further publication and use.
- AP / VC Sweden "Support to Consolidating Local Democracy in Armenia (follow up)": The CoE provided the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development with an expert opinion on the draft Roadmap on decentralisation of competences. In June, experts from the SOSE Institute, under the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance and Bank of Italy commissioned by the CoE, conducted a mission in Armenia to get information and further prepare recommendations for improving the financial equalisation system in place upon the request of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development. The project also organised a discussion between SOSE experts and 52 finance officers of the consolidated municipalities on financial equalisation and evaluation of community expenditure needs.
- AP "Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence": In April, the CoE launched the project and organised in June a kick-off event and a discussion with key national partners and civil society on how to address the matter. Restricted consultation to create a pool of national and international consultants to support the implementation of the project was initiated.

Follow-up actions

- 9 April : HoO attended the inauguration of the President of Armenia;
- 12 April : HoO opened the Steering Committee meeting of the "Strengthening the Application of European Human Rights Standards in the Armed Forces" Project;
- 12 April : HoO made a presentation for students at the American University of Armenia on Council of Europe actions;
- 22 April : HoO participated in a briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Ambassadors and Heads of Missions on the situation in Armenia;
- 24 April : HoO participated in the commemoration of the 1915 massacres;
- 24 April: HoO participated in a briefing by the Prime Minister for Ambassadors and Heads of Missions on the situation in Armenia;
- 26 April : HoO opened the Steering Committee meeting of the Project "Support to the implementation of the judicial reform in Armenia" (PGG component);
- 16 May: DHoO met with the Head of the Office of Technical Cooperation of the Austrian Embassy (ADA) to discuss potential cooperation in the field of local governance;
- 21 May: DHoO met with the EUD for the PGG bi-monthly meeting;
- 23-25 May: HoO accompanied PACE rapporteurs on Honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia;
- 4-5 June: DHoO accompanied the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD) team in the needs assessment for the second phase of the Partnership for Good Governance (2019-2021) in the area of "Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime";
- 6 June : HoO made opening remarks and participated in the launching event of the Project "Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence";
- 6 June: DHoO co-chaired the Steering Committee of the Project "Strengthening Health Care and Human Rights Protection in Prisons in Armenia";
- 8 June : HoO participated in the opening of the Human Rights Defender's Expert Council extended meeting on the chapter of the HRD annual report related to human rights in the armed forces;
- 13 June: DHoO co-chaired the Steering Committee of the Project "Support to the implementation of the judicial reform in Armenia";
- 27 June: Round Table "Combating racial discrimination and intolerance in Armenia" organised by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in co-operation with the Human Rights Defender and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia;
- 28 June: HoO participated in a meeting of the co-ordination group of the international community on electoral issues

Council of Europe high level visits

- 23-25 May: PACE visit Honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia;
- 12 June: Final Steering Committee Meeting on the Implementation of the CoE Action Plan for Armenia 2015-2018, with the participation of the Director, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes.

Rabat

Situation of the Office

Core staff - 2, Project staff - 6, Total - 8.

The Office co-ordinates the implementation of the "Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco" action plan and the EU/CoE joint programmes "Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme 3) 2018 – 2021 and "Improving the functioning of justice in Morocco using the tools of the CEPEJ".

Implementation of the programmes

- EU/CoE programme "Improving the functioning of justice in Morocco using the tools of the CEPEJ". In partnership with the CEPEJ, the Ministry of Justice ran a training session on the concept of court management for all registry officials. This training first took place in Marrakesh on 12 and 13 April and then in Fez on 3 and 4 May.
- EU/CoE programme "Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean". The European Commission for Democracy through Law, in co-operation with the Kingdom of Morocco's Ministry of Civil Service and Reform of the Administration, ran a regional Unidem Med seminar for senior administrative officials on "Improving the relation between the Administration and citizens: a democratic imperative" in Rabat from 23 to 26 April.
- EU/CoE programme "Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean". As part of the CyberSouth project on co-operation in combating cybercrime in the southern neighbourhood, a training course for judges and prosecutors on cybercrime and electronic evidence was held in Rabat from 14 to 17 May in co-operation with the Higher Institute for the Judiciary.

Tunis

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 2, Project staff – 4, Total – 6.

After the completion of the programmes funded by Norway, the Office implemented country-related activities of two regional programmes funded by the EU: 1. Ensuring sustainable democratic governance and human rights in the Southern Mediterranean ("South Programme III") for the period 2018-2020 and 2. CyberSouth for the period 2017-2020.

State of implementation of programmes

- South Programme III "Human Rights": A training session for the members and staff of the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture was organised on 5-8 June in Tunis. The session was part of a cycle of 5 training courses to be organised until the end of the year and the first in the framework of South Programme III (SPIII). The workshop focused on the achievements and possible progress in the visits already made by the Commission to places of deprivation of liberty in Tunisia.

Other Relevant activities

- 3 May: A framework convention between the CoE and the University of Carthage was signed. The convention aims to develop cooperation and partnership activities in the fields of human rights and the promotion of the rule of Law and democracy, particularly with regard to fighting human trafficking and corruption, through experts' interventions, seminars and student exchanges;
- 7-11 May: The 6th edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship – MedUni – was organised by the North-South Centre of the CoE in Tunis. It provided a space for more than 150 participants from different national and international organisations to run training activities within a multilateral cooperation context facilitated and coordinated by the North-South Centre of the CoE in partnership with the National Youth Observatory of Tunisia. The conference concluded on 11 May with the launch of the national "No hate speech" campaign in Tunisia and with the presentation of the outcomes of the different parallel activities to the Chief of Government of Tunisia, who attended the closing ceremony together with the Minister for Youth and Sports.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other official delegations

- 6 May: Municipal elections were held. Invited by the Independent Higher Elections Body, a delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE, composed of seven observers from 5 European countries, carried out an ad hoc assessment mission of the first local elections in 350 Tunisian municipalities since the Arab Spring of 2011. The Office provided support in the organisation of all meetings prior to the deployment of the delegation;
- 25-27 June: As part of its cooperation with Tunisia in the field of the promotion of freedom of expression, and the independence and plurality of the media, the CoE organised a mission in Tunis to evaluate its support to Tunisia. The team of assessors, an evaluator from the Internal Audit and Evaluation Directorate of the CoE, and an external evaluator, met the Chairman of the Committee on Rights and Freedoms and External Relations of the Assembly of People's Representatives, and other members of the commission, as well as representatives of the media sector and international organisations active in the field.