

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Information Documents
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Quarterly report of Council of Europe Offices

October - December 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 October-December 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

Key features and statistics

The Office sent some 589 information messages as well as 150 notes for the files and 14 weekly reports to the Headquarters in Strasbourg.

35 members of Council of Europe staff visited the Office during the period and 12 other members were in Brussels during the period.

The Office hosted 51 events and visits and welcomed 144 external visitors.

The Office facilitated the organisation of the following visits to Brussels:

- Director Jan KLEIJSEN (DGI – information society and crime) to the Council working group on the co-operation with the Council of Europe and the OSCE ("COSCE") on 5/10. He also had a meeting with EEAS Managing Director L. Knudsen.
- The President of the Venice Commission, Mr Buquicchio, and the Secretary of the Venice Commission, Director Markert, on 26-27/11. Mr Buquicchio addressed the Commission's colloquium on fundamental rights. He also met bilaterally with Commissioner Hahn, and with other Commission and EEAS High Officials. Director Markert intervened in the Council WG on Enlargement (COELA) and had other bilateral meetings on Western Balkans in the Commission.
- Secretary General Jagland addressed the High Level Conference organised in the European Parliament for the 70th anniversary of the universal Declaration of HR (27/11).
- The Director of Secretary General's Private Office, Ms Kayacik, addressed the Council WG on co-operation with the CoE and the OSCE (COSCE), 9/11, and had bilateral meetings with EEAS High Officials.
- Director Claudia Luciani, DGII, for human dignity, equality and governance, participated in the conference organised by DG JUST on "ending violence against women", 4/12. She also has had meetings with Commission representatives.
- Director Matjaz Gruden held the youth partnership management board meeting with the commission on 30/11.
- PACE member, Mr Munyama (Pol), came to the Office for meetings in preparation of his report on the consequences of BREXIT on migrations.

Overall in 2018 the Office sent some 446 notes for the files and 1933 information messages and documents to Strasbourg Headquarters. It welcomed 177 colleagues from Strasbourg and 972 external visitors to its premises and organised 172 events.

Other meetings involving the Office

Head of Office Z. Taubner had a series of bilateral meetings with EU officials, including in particular with the EEAS and the European commission, on issues such as the relations with Russia and Ukraine, on Eastern Partnership policies and on the relations with Turkey and the Western Balkans countries. He also met with the newly appointed Chair (EEAS) of the "Political and Security Council" – PSC, the new EEAS Head of Division on Human Rights, the Commission's General Secretariat on the Structural Reform Support ("SRSS").

Zoltan Taubner co-chaired the regular "CoE–EU **Senior Official Meeting**", held in Strasbourg on 15/11.

He addressed the EEAS' inter-Services Group meeting (18/10), gathering EU officials dealing with the Council of Europe. He also met. He represented the Council of Europe in the EP's intergroup meeting on cultural routes (9/10) and in an award ceremony on CoE cultural routes (6/12).

He met with the Ambassador of Canada, Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe and with the newly appointed Ambassador of Tunisia to Belgium. He received a new Counsellor in the Mission of Ukraine to the EU in the Office (6/12), as well as the Director of the EU Office of the Hans Seidel Stiftung, on further possible co-operation.

The Office contributed in the organisation of the bi-annual "CoE-Chair **CATS**" meeting, held in Strasbourg on 30/11, in presence of the EU Austrian Presidency, and the incoming Romanian Presidency, as well as the Commission and the EEAS.

The Office facilitated the presence and the meetings of Council of Europe colleagues in Brussels, including, notably:

- DGI: **Venice Commission** in a high level conference on interference in elections in the digital age (15-16/10) and in a EP LIBE hearing on the RoL in Poland (20/11); **SRSG on migrations** in the 3rd joint meeting of the Commission's migration and children rights expert group (3/12) and had meeting in the Commission; **data protection** colleagues in the week-long conference on data protection, as well as meetings with the EEAS and the Commission (DG Connect), 23-26/10; Secretary of **GRECO** met the new EU Council Secretariat Director in charge of corruption (5/11); DGI-**media** in an event organised by the EU Austrian Presidency on freedom of expression and media in the Western Balkans and Turkey; DGI-**Justice**, as well as ODGProg, participated in the EU's Eastern Partnership RoL Panel (27/11); DGI-**execution of judgments** participated, together with the Head of Office, in a closed doors discussions organised in the EP on freedom of expression and media freedom in Turkey (27/11); DGI-**Cybercrime** in an expert seminar organised by the Secretariat of the European Parliament.
- DGII: in the **Roma** Platform meeting organised by the Commission (8-9/10), and meeting the Commission (DG JUST); DGII-**cultural heritage** in an event organised by the EP CULT Committee; DGII-**gender** in a closed doors meeting in EP FEMM Committee on the accession to the Istanbul Convention, followed by the opening of an exhibition in the EP and a round-table organised by a MEP (ALDE) on the same issue (27-28/11); DGII-**education** met with the DG EAC on inclusive education (26/11); DGII-**Children** in an event in EESC on children participation and met with the Commission's Children Rights Coordinator, Commission General Secretariat (SRSS) and with EEAS-Human Rights; the Director of the **Audiovisual Observatory** in the Observatory's annual conference in Brussels; DGII-**EPAS** meeting in the Office on its programme "all in – gender balance in sport", 30/11; DGII-**inter-cultural cities** for meetings with Commission representatives (DG Regio, Empl, Home) (17/12).
- ODGProg colleagues for the Steering Committee meeting of the "**Horizontal Facility**" (1/10) and meetings with the Commission (DG NEAR); another delegation discussed "**PMM**" with its interlocutors on 24/10; in November, ODGProg colleagues met with representatives of DG NEAR and DEVCO on programme cooperation modalities (**PGG, Horizontal Facility, South Programme**).

The Office hosted meetings organised by Secretariat colleagues, notably from DGII- regional and minority languages as well as Secretariat (DGII) and experts from the Charter of local

self-government (4/12). It also welcomed a delegation from the administration (DRH) who was in Brussels for meetings with the Commission.

The Office organised **bilateral meetings** with counterparts in the EU on matters of common interest and of co-operation, such as on rule of law issues (with the Council Sec, the Commission, and with the Austrian Presidency), on culture and on cultural routes (with the Commission – DG EAC), on violence against women and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (with the Commission, DG JUST), on Central Asia (DG DEVCO) and on Western Balkans (DG NEAR). The Office also maintained its good level of diplomatic contacts with the Brussels missions of Albania, Kosovo¹, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkmenistan.

The Office welcomed **visitor groups** from Serbia, Montenegro as well as groups of young diplomats from Eastern Partnership countries and from Azerbaijan.

On co-operation through **joint programmes**, the Office prepared, participated and followed up on the ODGProg visits and meetings mentioned above. Further, it participated to the IPA Multi-country programme Co-ordination Meeting and presented the results of the Horizontal Facility programme. It also maintained frequent contacts and organised specific meetings, notably with DG NEAR on issues such as Turkey’s participation in HF, communication and visibility, or Gender Equality, and with the Commission (FPI financial instrument) and EEAS to explore further co-operation possibilities, in particular on data protection; with EEAS on cultural routes; with the General secretariat of the commission (SRSS) on future co-operation.

On 30 November, the Director of Democratic Participation, Matjaž Gruden, hosted in the Brussels Office of the Council of Europe the annual meeting of the **Management Board** of the EU-Council of Europe **youth partnership**, which approved the 2019 work plan, in presence of the Commission’s representatives. The Youth Partnership Secretariat (CoE – Commission) held its **consultative meeting** in the Office (11/12). The Secretariat of the Youth Partnership (DG II) also maintained contact with youth stakeholders in Brussels. In particular, on the 10th December it organised a dissemination **info session** about the results of activities in 2018, the 20th anniversary of the co-operation and the opportunities to engage with the activities in 2019. In addition, it made contributions to events related to the Lifelong Learning Week.

The Secretariat of the **Pompidou Group** (DGI) was invited (5/12) to share expertise in a workshop on drug trafficking on internet and darknet. This event, organised in the framework of the EU funded DNT Project - Improving Knowledge on the Trafficking in Drugs, NPS and Tobacco was hosted by RiSSC – the Research Centre on Security and Crime in Torino – Italy. The Office **participated** in (and reported on) many events in Brussels, held in the EU institutions, as well as in think tanks and political foundations, including: the EU annual HR NGO forum (EEAS, 20-22/11), a Commission mapping exercise of research projects on Roma youth; a presentation of a research project on equality and radicalisation (ENAR), an academic session organised in the Royal Palace, in presence of the King and the Queen of Belgium on trafficking in human beings (5/12), a conference organised in the European Parliament on “what Turkey is up to in the Middle East” (3/12), the management board meeting of “Europalia Festival” (15/12).

Additional **reports** from the Office covered debates and hearings in the European Parliament and its Committees (LIBE, AFET, DROI, JURI, AFCO, SEDE) as well as events organised by

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

think tanks and foundations. They cover issues such as: election observations, Brexit, association agreements with EaP countries, Crimea, youth (notably in middle-east), future of Europe, regional co-operation, democracy in the post-soviet space, cyber-security, terrorism, disinformation, artificial intelligence, populism and far right, enlargement and Western Balkans, transatlantic relations, women with disabilities, December European Council, priorities of the incoming EU Romanian Presidency, etc.

The Office also kept regular contacts with Brussels based **States representatives**; in particular, it met with the Ambassadors of Uzbekistan (26/11) of Kyrgyzstan, as well as senior diplomats from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Serbia, BiH, FYROM, Albania and Lebanon.

The Office also maintained contacts with Brussels based think tanks and foundations, such as the European Policy Centre (EPC), the Maertens Foundation, the H. Böll Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation and the European Endowment for Democracy.

Media, visibility

The Spokesperson/Media Officer co-ordinated communications work around the European Day against the Death Penalty, including the joint statement with the European Union, as well as the European Anti-trafficking Day and the Council of Europe side event at the 40th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in Brussels.

He also maintained his regular contacts with Brussels-based media and carried out social media work on issues including:

- the October PACE session, the plenary meeting of the Venice Commission, the publication of the CEPEJ report, the opening for signature of Convention 108+, the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention in Croatia and Greece, monitoring reports on the Netherlands, Turkey and Croatia and various judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights.
- Finland taking over the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, the Commissioner's report on Greece, GRETA reports on Azerbaijan, Luxembourg and Ukraine, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and numerous judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights.
- Venice Commission plenary, Human Rights Day, the Council of Europe report on Prisons in Europe 2005-2015, the Secretary General's statement on the UN migration pact and the Commissioner's statement on Hungary, as well as various judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights.

In addition, the Spokesperson/Media Officer continued to work on the on-going communications project to highlight the impact of the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as contributing to on-going work together with colleagues at the Committee of Ministers and the Department for the Execution of Judgments towards improving communication of the execution process. He carried out extensive preparatory work related to the December meeting of the Committee of Ministers on the execution of judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights. Whilst in Strasbourg in December, he took part in meetings with relevant colleagues and representatives of national authorities and NGOs.

He also coordinated communications work, in cooperation with the International Bar Association, around the Brussels presentation of a series of videos on different aspects of the rule of law, as well as the participation of the President of the Venice Commission at the EU's yearly Fundamental Rights Colloquium and the annual Conference of the European Audiovisual Observatory in Brussels.

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

Visits

08/10- Tomáš Boček, CoE SGSR on Migration and Refugees, participated in International Dialogue on Migration and met L.Arbour, UN SGSR for International Migration and A.Vitorino, DG of the IOM. The HoO participated in the bilateral meetings of the CoE SR.

08/10 Jan Malinowski, Head of Department, Executive Secretary of the European Social Charter at CoE.

16/10- Liliane Maury-Pasquier, (PACE), participated in a Conference on sexism, harassment and violence against women in Parliaments in Europe.

Meetings, participation and activities of the Office – Head of Office

1-05/10 - 69th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom)

05-16/11 - UPR (Universal Periodic Review), 31st session of the UPR Working Group

08-09/10 - International Dialogue on Migration organized by the IOM

08/10- Meeting with L. Arbour, UN SGSR on the International Migration (as member of CoE delegation)

08/10 - Meeting with J. Malinowski, Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights

08/10 - Meeting with A. Vitorino, DG of the IOM (as a member of CoE delegation)

08/10 - International Dialogue on Migration, Panel Discussion: "Partnership frameworks for developing capacity on migration: a regional perspective" –participation of SR Bocek

10/10 - Panel discussion: "EU General Data Protection Regulation and international data flows (Convention 108)"- the HoO participated as a panelist together with Austrian and EU Ambassadors and B. Gencarelli, head of the International data flows and protection Unit at the European Commission.

12/10 - Meeting with L. Thompson, Deputy DG of the IOM

16/10 - Launch of IPU Study on Sexism, Harassment and Violence against women in Parliaments in Europe

16/10 - UN Permanent Observers meeting -preparation of joint event for celebration of the UDHR 70th

17/10 - Ceremony of AGFUND (Arab Gulf Program for Development) International Prize

18/10 - Panel discussion -European Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The HoO spoke as a panelist together with Ambassadors of Italy, UK, Austria and the EU.

22/10 - Opening of the World Investment Forum organized by UNCTAD

22/10 - University of Geneva: European and International Governance- Multilateralism and the UN role

25/10 - Cercle des Ambassadeurs in Geneva- Official dinner

09/11 - UN Permanent Observers second prep- meeting for joint event on the 70th anniversary of UDHR 12/11 Meeting with the EU Ambassador Stevens

20/11 - Geneva Digital Platform – presentation by J. Kurbalija, UN SG High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation

26/11 - UN Permanent Observers Joint event on 70th Anniversary of the UDHR "How to promote and protect Human Rights in a multi-polar world: Perspective from UN Observer Delegations." Panel Discussion organized by the EU, the OIF, the Sovereign Order of Malta, the Holy See, the LAS, The State of Palestine, the African Union, the OIC, University for Peace, IDLO, the GCC, and the Council of Europe. All Heads of Delegations delivered statements and

engaged into discussion, while the DG of UNOG M. Moller and UN HC M. Bachelet were key speakers who opened and closed the event

14/12 - Ladies Ambassadors' lunch in honor of UN HC Michelle Bachelet.

Participation and activities - interns

31/10 - UNOG executive briefing on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women with Mlambo-Ngcuka, executive director of UN Women

31/10 - Panel discussions "The Imperative of UN reform" in the University of Geneva with UNOG DG M. Moller as keynote speaker

01/11 - Informal meeting on the 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) organized by Sustainable Development Goals Lab

02/11 - International Humanitarian Law in the Work of United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms

05/11 - Geneva Peace Week: Building Peace: Protecting Children in Conflict

06/11 - Toward Sustaining Peace: strengthening synergies between Security Sector Reform and Human Rights

08/11 - Briefing on 31th UPR session

15/11 - UN Briefing on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine with R. Rajasingham, OCHA

29/11 - HRC: Fifth round of informal consultations for the long-term efficiency process

19/12 - Periodic report on the situation of Human Rights in Ukraine

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 the UN Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov and the Director of ODIHR, Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, 4 October
- OSCE Permanent Council with the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, H.E. George Tsereteli and the Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Amb. Jan Braathu, 11 October
- OSCE Permanent Council with the three CiO Personal Representatives on Tolerance and Non-discrimination and the Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian Border, 18 October
- OSCE Permanent Council with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Amb. Lamberto Zannier and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Claus Neukirch, 1 November
- OSCE Permanent Council with the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Amb. Marcel Pesko, the Head of the High-Level Planning Group, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference as well as the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, 8 November
- OSCE Permanent Council with the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Amb. Vuk Zugic, 15 November
- OSCE Permanent Council with the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media, Harlem Désir and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, Amb. Clemens Koja, 22 November
- OSCE Permanent Council with the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Amb. Martin Sajdik, the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners, 29 November
- OSCE Permanent Council with the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, Prof. Paola Severino and the Chairs of the Security Committee and the Human Dimension Committee, 13 December
- OSCE Permanent Council with the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, H.E. Dunja Mijatović, the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Special Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Youth and Security, 20 December

Participation in expert committees and conferences

- OSCE Conflict Cycle Seminar "Strengthening the OSCE's Capacities for Conflict Prevention and Resolution — Good practices and lessons learned", 5 October
- Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Human Rights and Education" with Ms Katerina Toura (Education, DG II) as a panelist, 8-9 October

- Vienna Migration Conference "From Crisis Management to Future Governance", International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), 18-19 October
- ODIHR Seminar "Election Observation and Election Campaigns", 30 October
- HoO keynote speech at the conference on "European values, rule of law, security" organised by the Austrian EU Presidency, 19 November
- HoO introductory speech at a conference dedicated to the Council of Europe at the "Europa Haus" in Klagenfurt, 20 November
- CoE DER coordination meeting, Strasbourg, 26-28 November
- 25th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan, 6-7 December

Bilateral dialogue

- Participation at bilateral meeting of Dir. DER and Mr. Max Gilbert with Mr. Philippe Tremblay and Ms Marietta König, External Co-operation, OSCE Office of the Secretary General, 18 December

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

9 November - meeting with the First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Ms. Katarzyna Gardaphadze;

23 November - meeting with the Secretary General of the Community of Democracies (CoD), Thomas E. Garrett;

19 December – meeting with the First Deputy Director of ODIHR, Ms. Katarzyna Gardaphadze.

Activities of the Office

a) Enhancing the cooperation with OSCE ODIHR – Apart from the high-level meetings mentioned above, the HoO maintained close working relations with ODIHR experts, in particular from the Democratization Department of ODIHR to discuss joint CoE-ODIHR initiatives. During the fourth quarter of 2018 ODIHR experts actively participated in many CoE events. In particular Mr Ghenadie Barba, Chief of the Rule of Law Unit in ODIHR took part in the 13th plenary meeting of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) to brief CCPE on the ODIHR project on *Strengthening the functional independence of prosecutors in Eastern Partnership countries*. Additionally, ODIHR sponsored the Lab session during the 2018 World Forum for Democracy devoted to the political parties and gender parity, while Ms Tiina Kukkamäa-Bah, Chief of the Democratic Governance and Gender Unit in ODIHR presented the ODIHR project on *Gender Audits for political parties*.

b)

HoO discussed also the prospects for cooperation on concrete projects in 2019 as well as the possible consultations between CoE and ODIHR on longer term co-operation.

c) Continuation of the cooperation with the CoD – The Office consulted closely with the Permanent Secretariat of the CoD in preparation to the visit of the CoD Secretary General, Thomas E. Garrett in Strasbourg on the occasion of the 2018 World Forum for Democracy. The CoD organized a WFD satellite event devoted to Women's inclusion in building a sustainable peace and SG Garrett additionally took part in a roundtable discussion *Has Democracy failed women? New democratic practices and women's participation*. His visit in Strasbourg served also as an opportunity to organize discussions in operational departments of the CoE Secretariat on the possible cooperation in the future.

During the annual Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy 2018 (22-23.11) CoD organized a panel on ways to engage with and protect civil society, during which HoO presented the CoE best practices in this regard.

Ensuring the visibility of the CoE – Apart from the events organized by ODIHR and CoD, the HoO regularly attended seminars and conferences on issues pertinent to CoE activities. These included i.a. the working seminar on the prevention of the sexual and gender motivated violence towards migrant and refugee women, organized by the UNHCR Representation in Poland, the panel discussion *Counteroffensive of European values: Human rights and rule of law in EU and outside*, organised by Stefan Batory Foundation and European Council of Foreign Relations – Warsaw Office and Second National Congress on Human Rights organized by the Commissioner for Human Rights in Poland, in cooperation with ODIHR.

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.

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

Baku**Situation of the Office**

Core staff - 4, Project staff - 5, Total staff - 9.

The Office implemented 4 projects, 2 of which are jointly funded with the EU, along with 1 funded by the US Department of State and 1 funded 100% by the CoE.

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": On 15-16 November, an international conference on "The role and independence of lawyers: comparative perspectives" was organised jointly with the International Commission of Jurists and the Azerbaijani Bar Association. Furthermore, 46 advocates, 45 judges, 25 judge assistants and court clerks, 21 prosecutors and investigators were trained on the ECHR as a result of six trainings organised in Baku, Shaki and Guba cities. Thirty-one law students successfully completed the 10-week HELP distance course on "Introduction to the ECHR". The Project's free-legal aid programme within the legal clinic of the Justice Academy received 306 clients during the reporting period: as a result, 182 applications were prepared (117 claims and appeals to the courts and 65 applications to various state institutions) and 124 oral consultations were provided to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of the population.
- VC U.S.A. "Support to justice sector reform initiatives in Azerbaijan": A Working Group comprised of international and national consultants was established to develop a road map for the improvement of the criminal justice system by providing analysis and recommendations on the criminal legislation of Azerbaijan. The Working Group held two meetings in October and December. Twenty-seven judges of first instance and appeal courts, 27 judge assistants and court clerks, as well as 24 prosecutors and investigators were trained on the ECHR as a result of 3 training seminars held in Baku.
- AP "Gender equality and media freedom": The Project organised the final discussion on the draft amendments made to the Code of ethics for Azerbaijani journalists from a gender equality perspective during the round table on 3 October with the participation of local and international experts. In November, the Azerbaijan Press Council approved the amendments made to the Code of ethics at its Board meeting. In December, the Project presented the revised version of the Code of ethics to national stakeholders. The draft curriculum on Gender equality and media freedom reviewed by an international expert was discussed with the participation of local and international experts during the round table on 5 December. The work on the curriculum is ongoing. A number of CoE standards on gender equality and the media have been translated into Azerbaijani within the Project.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering in Azerbaijan": The Project organised training on processing money laundering cases for judges, prosecutors and other relevant public officials. The project also developed an expert opinion on the draft law on ethical conduct rules for Members of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan and prepared a guidance paper on conflict of interest, which were presented to the Members of Parliament during the workshop organised in late November. The project also delivered 2 workshops for supervisory authorities, bank representatives and non-financial institutions. The first one aimed to present the risk assessment methodology, while the second one focused on the prevention of financing of terrorism and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Follow up action

- A follow-up EU/CoE joint project in the field of the penitentiary, entitled "Further Support to the Penitentiary Reform in Azerbaijan – 2" was finalised in November-December and signed on 18 December. The 24 month follow-up project's overall budget is 773.940 EUR and its formal launch is foreseen in February 2019;
- Elaboration of a new follow-up project on Civil Society participation took place in October-December and its first draft was submitted to CoE HQ on 21 December.

Other relevant activities

- 2 October: The HoO opened a working group meeting to develop a road map for improvement of the criminal justice system, organised under the US Department of State funded Project "Support to justice sector reform initiatives in Azerbaijan";
- 3 October: HoO chaired and moderated a round table on Gender Equality and Media Freedom;
- 10 October: HoO met with Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kestutis Jankauskas;
- 11 October: HoO delivered opening remarks at the round table on Protection of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees against Expulsion and Refoulement, co-organised jointly by the UNHCR and the CoE;
- 22 October: HoO delivered opening remarks at the regional ECTEG training on Live Data Forensics for law enforcement officers and digital forensics experts from Azerbaijan, organised by the CoE Cybercrime Programme Office;
- 22 October: HoO delivered opening remarks at the training on Prosecuting and Adjudicating Money Laundering Cases under the project "Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering in Azerbaijan";
- 23 October: HoO attended an open day held by the justice authorities on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijani Justice system;
- 25 October: HoO attended official opening ceremony of the Baku International Humanitarian Forum;
- 25 October: HoO chaired the PGG Annual Coordination Platform meeting;
- 8 November: HoO attended the Donor Coordination sub-group co-chairs meeting;
- 15-16 November: HoO attended and delivered closing remarks at the international conference on "The role and independence of lawyers: comparative perspectives", co-organised jointly with the International Commission of Jurists and the Azerbaijani Bar Association under the joint EU/CoE Project "Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights";
- 22 November: HoO attended the 100th anniversary conference devoted to Azerbaijani Justice System;
- 23 November: HoO delivered opening remarks at a workshop on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest for Members of Parliament, organised under the project Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering in Azerbaijan;
- 30 November: HoO attended round table on "The Role of the Young People in Building a Secure, Stable and Peaceful Europe" organised by the Embassy of Bulgaria in Baku and ADA University;
- 5 December: HoO chaired and moderated a round table on Gender Equality and Media.
- 7 December: HoO attended the conference on "Provision of the right to equality is a milestone of peace and sustainable development", organised by the Ombudsman Office;
- 10 December: HoO attended the Human Rights Day Exhibition dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights organised by United Nations in Azerbaijan;

- 10 December: HoO delivered opening remarks at the Human Right Education Forum, co-organised jointly with Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan and the CoE;
- 18 December: HoO attended event to mark the International Migrants' Day and the closing ceremony of the 'Consolidation of Migration and Border Management Capacities in Azerbaijan (CMBA)' project.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 12-15 November: Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe participated at the ExCom meeting of WADA in Baku;
- 14-16 November: Christophe Poirel, Director of Human Rights, Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law was on mission in Baku to participate in the international conference on "The role and independence of lawyers: comparative perspectives", co-organised jointly with the International Commission of Jurists and the Azerbaijani Bar Association under the joint EU/CoE Project "Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights". He met with Ramiz Rzayev, President of the Supreme Court, Rustam Usubov, Deputy Prosecutor General and Chingiz Askarov, Azerbaijani representative to the European Court of Human Rights, Deputy Head of Department of Work with Law Enforcement Bodies and Military Issues;
- 22 November: Georg Stawa, President of the CEPEJ, was on mission in Baku to participate in the Conference on the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijani Justice System.

Belgrade

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 23, Total staff – 29.

During the reporting period, the Office implemented 10 projects, of which 9 are jointly-funded with the EU, including 7 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": Piloting of two finalised Offender Behaviour Programmes (OBPs) is on-going in 6 prisons. Drafting of 2 additional ones commenced. A modernised in-service training curriculum for the prevention of torture in police forces was piloted and work on training material reached the final stage. The outline and modules for a pilot pre-release course for prisoners serving 5+ years and a training programme for National Employment Service counsellors working with ex-offenders have been agreed. The work on module developments is underway. A unified methodology for preparing individual treatment plans has been adopted and trainings in respective psychiatric institutions are in progress.
- EU/CoE - HF "SEMA": Around 20 deputy prosecutors and prosecutorial assistants gained knowledge on international cooperation in criminal matters through the HELP online course. Approximately 50 courts' presidents and judges were educated on the right to a trial within reasonable time. More than 40 misdemeanour judges were equipped to write well-reasoned judgments and adequately refer to the ECHR and ECtHR case-law. In 3 round tables/discussions, judges, prosecutors and representatives of relevant ministries debated 1) the references made by judges, judicial advisors and assistants to the ECHR and the ECtHR case-law 2) ways to streamline the system of execution of judgments of the ECtHR and 3) harmonization of the Serbian Criminal Code with the Istanbul Convention.
- EU/CoE - HF "Independent and impartial tribunals": The Prosecutorial Council WG drafted documents to strengthen prosecutorial independence. Twenty judicial assistants were trained on the risks of undue pressure at 2 one-day workshops in Nis and Kragujevac. Two ToTs (for judges/prosecutors) on risks of undue influence were organised with the Judicial Academy. The Judicial Council was equipped with skills to deal with the media at a workshop held in Sabac. CoE experts contributed to events on judicial impartiality, and on prosecutorial independence. A conference on Judicial Independence gathered 100+ legal professionals to discuss CoE standards in light of constitutional amendments.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthen integrity and combat corruption in higher education": After initial research involving more than 2500 professors and students, the development of academic integrity courses commenced in October. The testing and development of the courses involved nearly all academic centres in Serbia at the highest level, students, the Anti-corruption agency and the Ministry of Education. Public forums with students and academic staff on integrity and corruption took place on 5-7 November at the universities of Belgrade, Kragujevac and Novi Pazar with approximately 180 participants. The Rector of Belgrade University and Assistant Minister for higher education continued cooperation with ETINED and attended the plenary session on 29-30 November.
- EU/CoE - HF "Fostering a Democratic School Culture": Training of trainers for sustainability and dissemination took place on 11-12 October with 40 trainees from the pilot schools as well as representatives of key partners. The third peer learning for pilot schools, the Ministry of Education and other partners gathered more than 100 participants from 22-25 November. The Policy Roadmap on how to upscale the experiences from the pilot schools to

national and policy level was finalised, presented to the public on 12 December and endorsed by the Ministry of Education. Seven Democratic school days organised in 7 municipalities attracted more than 5000 people with a high level of media coverage. Twenty-one documentary films were completed.

- EU/CoE - HF "Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia": Further capacity building activities on preventing and combating THB for the purpose of labour exploitation were implemented through a study visit for Serbian anti-trafficking actors to Belgium, 9-11 October and the presentation of the action at the Annual meeting of Labour inspectors, 23 October. The workshop on compensation for victims of human trafficking and effective financial investigations for prosecutors, judges and financial investigators was held in Belgrade, 22-23 November. The 5th action SC meeting was held on 11 December and the results accomplished were praised by institutions and NGOs.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening the protection of national minorities": Two laws and one by-law governing national minorities, revised in June, were translated into 15 minority languages. In November, the baseline opinion poll was finalised by Demostat, and a regional conference on "Tolerant and Inclusive Societies in the Western Balkans", organised in Podgorica within the HF programme, gathered 100 participants. In December, bi-monthly monitoring of grants was conducted in five LSGs and the report reviewing the implementation of the AP for the realisation of rights of national minorities with recommendations for the preparation of a new/revised AP was finalised and shared with partners.
- EU/CoE JP "JUFREX": Eleven activities were organised, including 4 trainings on freedom of expression (2 for judges and prosecutors on 24-25/09 and 19-20/11 and 2 for lawyers on 23-24/11 and 7-8/12). A ToT follow-up meeting for lawyers and JUFREX certified trainers was held on 9-10/11 in Belgrade. A regional judicial conference on freedom of expression, right to privacy and good administration of justice took place on 18-19/10, in Skopje. A study visit for employees of regulatory authorities for electronic media to the media literacy centre in Budapest was held on 25-26/11. Three interprofessional trainings for journalists and representatives of the judiciary were organised (18/10, Novi Sad; 2/11, Belgrade and 5/12, Nis). The study "Regulatory Authorities for Electronic Media and Media Literacy - Comparative analysis of the best European practices" was presented at the information event for stakeholders of the media community on 20/12 at the Finnish Embassy in Belgrade.
- EU/CoE JP "ROMACTED: Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level": During the reporting period, representatives of local institutions and 11 local self-governments formed Institutional Working Groups, as a part of the ROMACTED activity. Specific attention has been paid to the topic of Roma sensitive budgeting within Municipalities' budget for 2019. Activities for solving local problems that are prioritised by Roma communities gathered in Community Action Groups continue.
- VC HRTF "HELP in the Western Balkans": Six online HELP courses (on child-friendly justice, international cooperation in criminal matters, introduction to the ECHR, violence against women and domestic violence) were successfully implemented in Albania, Montenegro, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Serbia. A regional HELP ToT for universities was organised to further disseminate HELP courses among professors and law students as per the HELP mandate deriving from the CM/Rec(2004)4 on university education and professional training.

Other relevant activities

- The Office took part in marking the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, led by the Government Co-ordination Body for Gender Equality and UN Women. The Orange Day event took place on 29 November;
- 10 December: On the occasion of the Human Rights Day, the Office joined forces with the UN team, OSCE and EUD in Serbia to mark the event.

CoE high level visits and other official delegations

- 13 December: President of GRECO, Judge Marin Mrčela, delivered the opening remarks at the conference "Implementation of Corruption Prevention Mechanisms". He also met with Ambassadors of OSCE and EUD in Serbia, accompanied by the HoO and DHoO;
- 6-7 December: Director General of Democracy, Snežana Samardžić Marković, paid a two-day visit to Serbia. During her visit, she met with the PM; DPM and Minister of Interior, Ministers of Public Administration and LSG, Education, Youth and Sports and representatives of NGOs dealing with anti-trafficking issues.

Bucharest

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 0.5, Project staff – 28, Total – 28.5

C-PROC is responsible for the implementation of 5 cybercrime capacity building projects with a combined budget of 26.7 million EUR. Four projects are jointly funded with the European Union (EU) and one is funded by voluntary contributions (the Cybercrime@EAP 2018 project ended in December 2018).

State of implementation of projects

- VC "Cybercrime@Octopus": The project supported the organisation of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) meeting and Protocol Drafting Group meeting to facilitate discussions on relevant trends on cybercrime and to progress on drafting the Additional Protocol to the Cybercrime Convention. The project supported several countries in aligning their legislation on cybercrime with the provisions of the Budapest Convention: Niger, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The visibility of the Budapest Convention was also ensured by supporting workshops and training activities on international cooperation and electronic evidence according to the standards of the Convention in Chile, Costa Rica, Philippines, Nigeria and Senegal.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Cybercrime@EAP 2018": Completed its assistance to project countries on improving international cooperation and public/private dialogue on cybercrime and electronic evidence with numerous activities. Within the framework of the project, participation was ensured in the 20th Plenary Meeting of the Cybercrime Convention Committee and 3rd Protocol Drafting Plenary. European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG) training courses on Network Investigations and Live Data Forensics enhanced the skills of 24/7 points of contact on these aspects of access to data. International cooperation was further reinforced by completion of a series of practical Table-top Exercises on international cooperation, testing practical tools and templates for cooperation in real-time case scenarios, while an Advisory mission to Ukraine reviewed the set-up and functions of a 24/7 point of contact. Public/private cooperation was sustained by support to national (Georgia, Ukraine) and regional (Belarus, Moldova) forums on dialogue between public and private sectors, and two reports on threats and challenges of cybercrime and on Cybercrime Strategies were produced and presented at the closing event of the project in Tbilisi from 11-13 December.
- EU/CoE JP "iPROCEEDS": The project organised, in cooperation with the Croatian Chairmanship of the CoE Committee of Ministers, the Regional Forum on Online Fraud, in Zagreb, Croatia. The event was attended by the criminal justice authorities from South East Europe and Turkey, representatives of the private sector, international organisations, law enforcement and financial institutions. Participants shared and discussed current threats, trends and various initiatives in the field of combatting online fraud and online crime proceeds, as well as the need to enhance public-private cooperation and information sharing at national and international levels. The project delivered European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG) trainings and a regional training on malware investigations was organised in Ankara in cooperation with the National Turkish Police. With the view of supporting more efficient investigations into virtual currencies and raise awareness on their criminal use, a regional Training Course on Cryptocurrencies was organised in collaboration with the International College of Financial Investigation in Budapest. In order to strengthen inter-agency and international cooperation in the search, seizure and confiscation of online crime proceeds the project ran the second cybercrime and financial investigation simulation exercise for investigators, digital forensics specialists, prosecutors as well as experts from Financial

Investigative Units. Moreover, the project continued to support the organisation of the second delivery of introductory judicial trainings on cybercrime and online crime proceeds and 2 courses were held in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 20 magistrates and in Turkey for 35 magistrates. Under this project, the CoE contributed to the International Workshop on Cybercrime organised by the Turkish National Police in December 2018 and pointed at concern regarding respect for domestic procedures and rule of law requirements in relation to the use and admissibility of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings.

- EU/CoE JP "GLACY+" project on Global Action on Cybercrime Extended: During the reporting period a major highlight was the First Forum on Cybercrime for the African continent. The event took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and was organised in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other regional and international organisations, focusing on 3 major thematic areas such as: cybercrime policies and national legislations, international cooperation to fight against cybercrime through proper cross-border management of electronic evidence and strengthening criminal justice authorities through adequate plans of capacity building and synergies with related programmes implemented in Africa. The project also undertook judicial training activities in Ghana (training for justices of the supreme court and special training for selected members of the parliament), Chile (basic judicial training for judges and prosecutors), Senegal (regional advanced judicial training for judges and prosecutors from the Francophone and Lusophone countries, Philippines (support to the basic judicial course to State Attorneys of the Pacific region) and a train the trainers (ToT) first responders course for law enforcement officials from Nigeria. The translation of the judicial training materials into Spanish and Portuguese language was ensured. The project implemented three activities related to legislative reform/drafting in Kenya (elaboration of Data Protection legislation), Costa Rica and Sierra Leone (advisory missions on drafting the legislation). The project supported the participation of experts in a number of conferences/events in Ghana (criminal justice sector forum on Cybercrime), Dominican Republic (international congress on cybercrime), Netherlands (European Union Agency for Network and Information Security-Europol, workshop on international law enforcement cooperation), El Salvador (conference on Cybercrime), Romania (workshop on investigation of cybercrime and collection of electronic evidence, organised by National Institute of Magistracy) and Guatemala (Meeting of the Parliaments Presidents for Caribbean countries). The project organised, in conjunction with the Octopus project, a Human Rights workshop with the EU agency FRA (Fundamental Rights Agency) with the purpose of preparing the elaboration of a handbook on cybercrime legislation and fundamental rights. In view of strengthening law enforcement capacities, INTERPOL, as a partner in the project, successfully delivered two ECTEG courses in Sri Lanka and Senegal and two additional workshops on data protection and international cooperation on cybercrime and electronic evidence in Sri Lanka and Mauritius. Within the project INTERPOL was supported with the organisation of the African Working Group on Cybercrime for Heads of Units in Ghana, which included a meeting to discuss operational activities and future joint operations. Finally, at the end of November, the project held one more Steering Committee in Strasbourg with the participation of representatives of GLACY+ priority countries, where a new workplan was agreed for 2019.

- EU/CoE JP "CyberSouth": The project addressed the needs of priority countries through a number of activities. Judicial training activities on cybercrime and electronic evidence, in order to create a group of magistrate's trainers, have been delivered in Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. In Lebanon, one training activity focusing on electronic evidence was organised by the Internal Security Forces for magistrates with the support of the project. The drafting of amendments to the new law on cybercrime of Jordan in line with the Budapest Convention was supported through an advisory mission. Synergies with other projects funded by the European Union were reinforced and the capacities of law enforcement authorities were further strengthened through study visits jointly organised with the project Counter-Terrorism MENA in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The results of these study visits will be compiled in a

benchmark study on best practices in terms of set up and functioning of specialised units. To support the increase of the capabilities of the cybercrime units, a dedicated regional workshop on e-commerce fraud has been organised in cooperation with the Directorate of Investigation of Organised Crime and Terrorism and National Romanian Police. The project supported countries participation in international events such as the African Cybercrime Forum and the 20th Plenary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee. The project supported in cooperation with the EU Delegation the launching of the cybersecurity strategy drafting process in Lebanon, a committee of experts from different key stakeholders was designated and is expected to deliver a strategy within the next 6 months. Finally, the Second Steering Committee was held in November in Strasbourg, to present the results obtained in the last period and to validate the workplan for 2019.

Follow up action

- Implementation of the project workplans as agreed upon for Q1 2019;
- Co-organisation with Ministry of Justice from Romania, under Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union of the conference on Criminal Justice in Cyberspace together with the 5 year celebration of C-PROC, on 25-27 February 2019;
- Organisation of the Launching Conference for the new project on cybercrime for the Eastern Partnership region.

Other relevant activities

- Ghana acceded to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

Chisinau

Situation of the Office in Chisinau

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

On 1 October, the new Head of Office, William Massolin, took up his duties.

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": Communication skills of Equality Council and Ombudsperson Office were further improved through a series of training seminars. A Communication Guide was also developed. Judges, prosecutors and judicial staff were trained in equality and non-discrimination issues pertaining to their line of work. A study visit to Strasbourg for staff of the Equality Council and the Ombudsperson Office was organised, where inter alia discussions on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights were held. The closing conference of the project was held on 17-18 December, during which studies on inclusive education and on perceptions and attitudes towards equality and non-discrimination were presented.
- AP "Promoting a human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova": Component 1: Through a series of activities the professional capacities of judicial workers and prosecutors were enhanced to facilitate the application of the ECHR, both in general and specifically on combating torture, and inhuman and degrading treatment. The Guide on Article 6 of the Convention was printed for dissemination among criminal justice actors. As a result of targeted training events, the prosecution's policy development, management and leadership skills were strengthened. Needs assessments of the National Preventive Mechanism and the Ombudsperson's Office suggested recommendations for their institutional and operational development. Component 2: Legal analysis of the draft amendments to the criminal and enforcement legislation aimed at introducing the progressive change of prison regimes was finalised. An assessment mission was carried out for the National Administration of Penitentiaries and medical units of seven penitentiaries (including the prison hospital) to develop a list and specifications for the required medical equipment. The component initiated a number of Working Groups with the participation of criminal justice stakeholders on the organisation of health care in prison, increasing the professionalism of prison employees, as well as the organisation and management of probation tasks.
- EU/CoE JP "Promoting media freedom and pluralism in the Republic of Moldova": The Project provided comprehensive assistance to the regional public broadcaster Teleradio-Gagauzia in setting up the company's Multimedia Unit, establishing a new online portal for the live streaming of radio and TV, purchasing IT equipment amounting to 10,000 EUR, and providing specialised training for Teleradio-Gagauzia's journalists. The closing event of the project was held on 14 December at the Parliament. A 2-month extension was granted specifically to support the Audio-visual Coordinating Council in implementing the new Audio-visual Code.
- EU/CoE JP "Controlling Corruption through Law Enforcement and Prevention (CLEP)": The CLEP project created a pool of 10 trainers within the School of Public Health Management to run the new integrity course within the framework of continuous medical education. Importantly, this programme was made obligatory by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare for heads and deputy heads of healthcare facilities. The project also delivered

recommendations to the National Anti-Corruption Centre on private sector corporate compliance and successfully piloted a one-day curriculum for businesses. Assessments on inter-agency and international cooperation were presented to the institutions. CLEP also increased the investigative capacities of the Asset Recovery Office through various technical trainings.

Follow up action

- In October and November, the new Head of Office and the Deputy Head of Office met several times with the SDC in order to finalise all remaining questions on the project proposal on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights. The 4-year project will start on 1 January 2019.

Other relevant activities

- 9 October: The Annual Co-ordination Platform in the framework of the Partnership for Good Governance was held in Chisinau;
- 21 November: The Head of Office participated in a conference on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Ombudsperson for Children Rights institution and delivered an opening address;
- 4 December: The Head of Office addressed the "Controlling Corruption through Law Enforcement and Prevention (CLEP)" project training session on the identification of conflict of interests for senior representatives of local authorities;
- 14 December: The Head of Office gave an opening address at the closing conference of the EU/CoE Joint Project on Promoting Media Freedom and Pluralism, which was held at the Parliament in co-operation with the Speaker of the Parliament;
- 17 December: The Deputy Head of Office gave an opening address at the closing conference of the PGG Project on supporting national efforts for prevention and combating discrimination, held in co-operation with the Moldovan Equality Council.

Kyiv**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 11, Project staff –32, Total staff - 43.

In the framework of the CoE Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021, the Office implemented 16 projects, including 12 projects funded by voluntary contributions, 3 funded under the EU/CoE PGG and one project funded by the HRTF.

State of implementation of projects/programmes

- VC HRTF “Supporting Ukraine in execution of judgments of the ECtHR”: The State Treasury and the Justice Ministry officially provided the Project with the list of unenforced pending cases for analysis and preparation of the report on root causes of non-enforcement, which will be used for development of the national strategy for elimination of non-enforcement. The Supreme Court and the High Council of Justice requested and subsequently accepted the Project’s expertise on remedies to be afforded to judges who were dismissed from their positions with possible violations of the Convention – such remedies are awaited by the CM of the CoE as part of the execution of the Oleksandr Volkov/Kulykov group of ECtHR judgments. With the Project’s assistance, the Supreme Court started examining the new procedural legislation of Ukraine and its impact on the length of judicial proceedings.
- VC Denmark “Continued Support to the Criminal Justice Reform in Ukraine”: In December, the project launched the organisational assessment of the Prosecutor General’s Office, which covers analysis of policy-making, management, institutional set-up and business-processes and is aimed at providing a description of the current situation, future model and transformation plan. In parallel, the Prosecutor General in Strasbourg discussed the progress, challenges and perspectives of the prosecution reform. In addition, Free Legal Aid (FLA) lawyer-trainers, with the Project’s support, delivered 25 training sessions on the ECHR standards in criminal proceedings for about 500 new FLA lawyers from all over Ukraine, which were organised by the NGO “Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation” within the grant initiative financed by the Project. Furthermore, more than 400 candidates for prosecutorial positions took part in the anonymous testing of their analytical skills financed by the Project and conducted for the first time.
- AP “Decentralisation and local government reform in Ukraine”: The project continued providing expert support to the Government on drafting the new law on legality supervision of local authorities’ acts. In parallel, the pilot project on modelling administrative and territorial division in Ternopil, Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions was launched by the Association of District and Regional Councils and the Ministry of Regional Development, with CoE support and in 2018 resulted in the elaboration of the draft law on administrative and territorial division in Ternopil region. A series of initiatives were organised by the Programme in cooperation with relevant national partners to facilitate further implementation of the decentralisation reform through study visits, round table discussions, regional forums, best practices contests, TV programmes and regional media contests. Furthermore, on 5 October the Memo on Co-operation between NAUCS, the Training Centre for Civil Servants, U-LEAD with Europe and the CoE CELGR was signed to frame development of the Human Resource Management training curricula and materials for local officials. Continued cooperation with NAUCS inter alia resulted in development of the Statute on the professional training system for public servants; creation of a regional pool of 30 HRM trainers and launch of a comprehensive qualitative analysis of the capacities and training needs of local government officials.

- AP “Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine”: As a practical follow-up to the study visit for Ukrainian and Georgian mayors to the 5th Open Government Partnership Global Summit in Georgia, a focus group was set up with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) to develop a Roadmap for the introduction of e-governance tools at local level. Moreover, the role of national associations of local authorities in supporting their members’ contribution to the development of open government was discussed during the round table on “Open Government Partnership: Opportunities for Networking”. In parallel, a baseline assessment of the AUC has been conducted as a basis for developing the AUC Strategy of institutional development in line with the needs and expectations of its members. Furthermore, 17 local councillors, public officials and representatives of 14 municipalities and the AUC enhanced their knowledge on gender equality and women’s rights during the World Forum for Democracy 2018. Jointly with representatives of local self-governments from Georgia participating in the WFD 2018, they proposed actions on the implementation of gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive policies at local level in Ukraine and in Georgia. Following the round table on “Prospects on the status of local councillors in Ukraine”, which brought together 29 representatives of local self-governments from 15 regions of Ukraine, the AUC submitted a proposal to the Parliament of Ukraine for amendments to the Electoral Law and will propose amendments to the legislation on the rights and duties of local councillors within the current context of reforms and in line with the European Charter of local self-government.
- AP “Supporting constitutional and legal reforms, constitutional justice and assisting the Parliament in conducting reforms aimed at enhancing its efficiency”: In December, the project contributed to the organisation of an introductory visit of all newly elected members of the Central Election Commission to CoE HQ in Strasbourg. As an outcome of this visit a Memo on cooperation between the CoE and the CEC was signed and a joint work plan is currently under preparation. Following the conclusions of public discussions on the draft Electoral Code, which took place in 12 regions of Ukraine with the Project’s support, the summary of expert analysis and recommendations to improve the draft Electoral Code was prepared and disseminated among all MPs, relevant Parliamentary Committees and independent experts. Moreover, in December a training seminar on the rule of law was organised by the Project for more than 25 technical staff of the Parliament.
- AP “Supporting the transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice in Ukraine”: Areas of CoE support to the CEC were defined in the Memo on Cooperation signed in Strasbourg in December. Twenty judges trained as trainers for the “Election Dispute Resolution” course. About 80 journalists from 58 media outlets in 14 regions improved their knowledge and skills on media coverage of elections. Furthermore, 60 women from 25 political parties and 15 young women from vulnerable groups of society strengthened their skills on political leadership and public engagement. Finally, more than 100 representatives of national authorities and local self-government bodies discussed and outlined perspectives for implementation of the CoE Gender Equality Strategy in Ukraine.
- AP “Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions”: Initiated by the Ministry for TOT and the IDP community and facilitated by the Project, the Action Plan on the implementation of the IDP Integration Strategy till 2020 was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 21 November. Fourteen representatives of national partner institutions became acquainted with good practices on the integration of IDPs and the implementation of regional housing programmes in the Balkans during a study visit organised by the Project in November. Also, regional referral mechanisms for IDPs in the Dnipro, Poltava and Sumy regions were agreed among key stakeholders as an outcome of the monitoring visits carried out by representatives of the Office of the Ombudsperson supported by the Project. Finally, networks of displaced teachers, as well as legal professionals working for IDPs and host communities became more operational due to the tailor-made trainings and expert support provided by the Project.

- AP "Strengthening freedom of media and establishing a public broadcasting system in Ukraine". On 10 October, the project organised a high-level international conference on the issues of the independence and financial stability of the public broadcaster in Ukraine for more than 100 participants. An alternative funding model, which foresees introduction of a new source of state budget funding for UA:PBC, generated from fees imposed on users of radio frequencies (such as broadcast companies or telecommunications operators), was developed and publicly discussed. The respective employees of UA:PBC were trained on applying data on ratings in programming and scheduling, producing content for national minorities and programming during election campaigns. An awareness campaign on Ukrainian Radio was launched that includes branded transport in 3 Ukrainian cities and a mobile application for 3 channels of public radio. Furthermore, over 80 journalists were trained on European standards of media coverage of elections, safety of journalists and countering fake news at 4 training events held in Odessa, Dnipro, Cherkasy and Kharkiv. Finally, in October, more than 50 lawyers from different regions of Ukraine participated in a 2-day seminar on cases on impeding professional activity of journalists and elaborated a joint document summarising their best practices and practical tips.
- AP "The Istanbul Convention: A tool to advance in fighting violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine": The kick-off conference and the first Steering Committee Meeting of the Project on 29 November gathered 28 representatives of partner institutions, donor agencies and civil society to discuss the Project plans. In order to support the Government initiative on promoting gender equality on 10 December, the Project in synergy with the CoE project on supporting the transparency of electoral practice (DG II) delivered a strategic session on implementation of the CoE Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 in Ukraine for 111 participants from national, regional and local state and self-government authorities and CSOs. A report on findings and observations is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2019.
- AP "Enhancing Implementation of the European Human Rights Standards": The project jointly with the National Bar Association finalised an initiative on implementation of the HELP programme courses "Introduction to the ECHR" and "Admissibility Criteria in Applications Submitted to the ECHR" within the framework of further training of lawyers. More than 170 lawyers took part in these trainings in 6 regions of Ukraine. Based on this positive experience, the National Bar Association accredited the HELP programme courses available in the Ukrainian language as part of the advanced training curriculum for lawyers. Moreover, two HELP courses on prevention of ill-treatment and labour rights have been piloted by 30 representatives of the National Prosecution Academy and 21 representatives of the National School of Judges. To enhance the capacities of the Office of the Ombudsperson in realisation of the NPM mechanism, a series of trainings combined with follow-up monitoring visits to 28 psychiatric and social care institutions were carried out in the Volyn, Mykolaiv and Kharkiv regions. The official launch of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) led to a request to the CoE to provide support in human rights training for the newly recruited high-level SBI staff and its investigators. As a result, the Project, jointly with the National Prosecution Academy, carried out 2 initial trainings (2 weeks and 3 weeks) for more than 140 staff members of the SBI with a streamlined human rights component and special attention paid to the effective investigation of ill-treatment cases.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Freedom of Media in Ukraine": Fifty representatives of reformed communal media outlets strengthened their skills on sustainable business models and gender-sensitive policies and learned about best practices in Ukraine from 2 successful peers. Also, 8 Ukrainian community media outlets learned best practices at the community radio Sheffield Live, UK. In addition, 250 hours of training provided by Project experts for UA:PBC staff of 8 regional branches strengthened their managerial, organisational and communication capacities. More than 50 representatives of the national regulator learned about best European

practices on the transparency of media ownership. The Project was completed on 31 December.

- EU/CoE - PGG "Strengthening protection of national minorities in Ukraine": In October, 45 educational practitioners, curricula developers and government officials were acquainted with the policies and practices in state and minority language education from Romania and Serbia. In addition, the Study on the executive structures protecting national minorities in five regions of Ukraine was presented by the ECMI experts to the Ministry of Culture and representatives of the regional state administrations from all over Ukraine on 15 November. Furthermore, on 4-5 December the 2nd peer-to-peer visit for the Ukrainian authorities was organised by the Project to the Czech Republic to learn about the functioning of the executive structures dealing with the protection of national minorities, as well as consultative mechanisms existing at central and regional levels. Finally, on 11 December the Project's closing meeting summarised and adopted results and achievements within the framework of the Project. The Project was completed on 31 December.
- AP "Protection of national minorities, including Roma, and minority languages in Ukraine": On 8 October, jointly with the Ombudsperson Office, the Project organised a working meeting in the Donetsk regional administration for 30 local government officials and representatives of Roma organisations in order to strengthen cooperation at local level. In addition, three seminars on "No prejudice in media: words matter" were organised by the Project in Zaporizhzhia, Uzhgorod and Rivne, jointly with other CoE projects on media, and gathered more than 150 journalists. As a result, a number of articles about national minorities, Roma, and gender issues were published in the regional media. The Project provided support to the Ombudsperson's Office in relation to two monitoring visits on the implementation of the National Roma Action Plan and mapping of the Roma communities in Volyn, Donetsk and Kharkiv regions. On 11 December, the Project Coordination meeting considered the Project report on implemented activities and endorsed the work plan for 2019. A seminar on dealing effectively with the lack of IDs and statelessness of Roma at a regional level, gathered 65 participants from all over Ukraine on 20-21 December in Kyiv, to review the recommendations of international experts on the effective implementation of the Roma Strategy.

Gender mainstreaming

- A gender analysis and a gender impact assessment were carried out in the planning of several projects. Various staff members attended the Global Forum for Democracy: Gender equality: whose battle? organised in Strasbourg 19-21 November. The CoE provided expert and financial support to the 2nd Ukrainian Women Congress held in Kyiv 7-8 December. On December 10, the CoE organised in Kyiv a strategic session "The Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 in Ukraine: State of affairs and perspectives of implementation on national, regional and local levels".

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 7-9 November: Verena Taylor, Director of ODGP;
- 19-21 November: PACE Monitoring Mission.

Pristina

Situation of the Office

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

The Office implements 9 projects, of which 7 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. It should be added that another project is also implemented in Kosovo*, by the Council of Europe Bucharest Office for Cybercrime "iPROCEEDS").

State of implementation of projects

- EU/CoE JP "Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo*" (PECK II): Two plenary meetings on Kosovo's compliance with international standards on AC and AML/CFT and a high-level conference to present the final assessments were organised. A study visit to the Dutch Financial Intelligence Unit and EUROPOL was carried out. A workshop on Developing a Toolkit for Managing Conflict of Interest and a presentation to the beneficiary institutions took place. A discussion with high school students was held to mark international anti-corruption day. Peer exchange meetings with Albanian authorities in Tirana on management of conflict of interest cases were held.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice (KoSEJ)": The preliminary findings of the second CEPEJ judicial system assessment were discussed with beneficiaries. KoSEJ provided expertise on the performance evaluation of judges and followed up on CEPEJ recommendations on the automatic assignment of cases by the CMIS and future statistics. Following up on the court users' satisfaction surveys, KoSEJ developed a court coaching project with the Basic Court of Pristina on access to online information and access to the court, and provided assistance with the development of a leaflet for basic courts on FAQ on how to get criminal record extracts.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening integrity and combating corruption in higher education": Universities endorsed the 4 codes of conduct elaborated within the framework of the Action. A letter was addressed to the Minister of Education, with a view to supporting the drafting of an Administrative Instruction for universities to adopt these codes. A seminar on Academic fraud and plagiarism was organised with the Rectorate of the University of Pristina and the International Institute for Research and Action against Plagiarism. It brought together some 50 academics, students and other relevant stakeholders in higher education and marked the final event of the Action.
- EU/CoE - HF "Fostering a democratic school culture and diversity in schools": The final Conference of the action took place in Pristina and gathered more than 200 participants, project beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders. Representatives of the 20 pilot school teams received certificates for their participation in the training, which had been accredited by the Ministry of Education. The roadmap document directed at supporting democratic school culture and guiding policy-makers in the education sector was published and distributed to relevant stakeholders, and widely disseminated. Both education-related Actions, covering a period of 2 years, were completed on 30 November
- EU/CoE - HF "Enhancing human rights policing": In-service police training and training-of-trainers on human rights, police ethics and combating ill-treatment were held. Further assistance was provided to the drafting of Standard Operational Procedures for police holding

* 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.

centres. The draft Training Strategy, Programme and Modules for the Police Inspectorate was completed. Representatives from the Police Inspectorate benefited from a study visit to different police institutions and the Ombudsman Commission in Dublin, Ireland. The third Steering Committee of the Action took place in Pristina.

- VC Switzerland/Norway/AP "Strengthening the National Preventive Mechanism in Kosovo* – SNPM": The project organised a regional conference of NPMs from the Western Balkans gathering more than 80 participants from countries within the region, which produced recommendations on modalities for cooperation between regional NPMs, international monitoring bodies and relevant authorities in the prevention of ill-treatment of persons with intellectual disabilities and mental disorders deprived of liberty. The project held training for NPM staff on Monitoring Police Custody and direct coaching by international experts was carried out during official monitoring visits to police stations in Kosovo*.
- VC Norway/AP "Fostering rapprochement through education for democracy and language learning (FRED)": The Project received an unexpected high number of applications from schools (53) which demonstrates a clear interest to take part, and selected 11 pilot schools reflecting the diversity of the linguistic contexts in Kosovo* including schools with 3 languages as well as Albanian-speaking schools and 2 Serbian speaking schools. The online baseline survey was launched. Data collection is ongoing. Some 40 participants from pilot schools took part in the 5-day training to set up school-based projects on the promotion of a positive image of plurilingualism and of language learning.
- EU/CoE regional JP "Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX)": JUFREX trainers (judges, prosecutors and lawyers) participated in a Regional Conference on "Right to privacy and good administration of justice". A training course on safety of journalists for judges and prosecutors was organised jointly with the Academy of Justice and 2 training courses and 2 public discussions for media actors covering topics such as the safety of journalists, legal challenges for online journalists and defamation were organised. A book, in Albanian and Serbian, on local and international case-law, notably that of the ECtHR, on the right to information was published and presented.
- EU/CoE regional JP "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level (ROMACTED)": ROMACTED and the Project's municipal contact persons organised stakeholder coordination meetings with all 8 beneficiaries on Roma-related projects. Data on strategic documents and capital projects on Roma inclusion were collected in each municipality. Following the community needs assessment, prioritisation of the needs was carried out with all beneficiary community action groups. Joint meetings with the institutional working group and community action group were held. Priority issues were presented and agreements were reached on issues to be selected and followed up.
- EU/CoE regional JP "Project on targeting crime proceeds on the Internet in South-eastern Europe and Turkey (iPROCEEDS)": Participants from various institutions in Kosovo* (judges, prosecutors, police, Financial Intelligence Unit, Academy of Justice) took part in a Regional Forum on online fraud organised in Croatia, a training on "ECTEG" (European Cybercrime Training and Education Group) malware investigations, a training on cryptocurrencies held in Turkey, and a regional case simulation exercise on cybercrime and financial investigations organised in Hungary. They also received support from the Project to enable them to take part in the long-distance master programme at University College of Dublin.

Follow up action

- PECK II: Preparation for publication and dissemination of the AC and AML/CFT assessment reports, the Handbook on Whistleblowers, and Toolkit of Conflict of Interest in Public Service. A nine-month no-cost extension of the project was granted;
- JUFREX JP: Dissemination of a publication in Albanian and Serbian on local and international jurisprudence on access to public documents;
- HF Police Action: Preparation for publication/dissemination of the in-service training modules, as well as of 500 posters on the rights of persons in police custody;
- HF KoSEJ: Dissemination of the above-mentioned leaflets and relevant application forms;
- Preparatory work of the project to support the Constitutional Court judges and legal advisors;
- Discussions with EU Office on project proposals for 2019-20 IPA-funding, notably in the rule of law and education fields.

Other relevant activities

- The 5th meeting of the Working Group on cooperation between the CoE and Kosovo* was held in Strasbourg to take stock of the existing cooperation and discuss future activities within the framework of the Overview of cooperation activities in Kosovo* document;
- The Office took part in local and international events promoting human rights and rule of law issues, media, anti-discrimination, efficiency of justice, minorities' rights. It supported the campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, and participated in activities held within the framework of the anti-corruption week, and within the framework of European Heritage Days;

The CoE Bank carried out a technical assessment visit to Pristina to assess the scope of a feasibility study and a pilot project on social housing.

Sarajevo

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 13, Total staff – 19

The Office implements 5 projects, of which 4 projects are funded within the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey, and 1 VC project funded by the UK and US. In addition, the Office contributes to the implementation of 2 regional projects, Joint Programmes with the EU on freedom of expression and 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": Through a peer training as part of the human rights capacity building, 23 police officers improved their skills to manage persons deprived of liberty while observing their human rights (November); 28 prison officers were trained based on the Handbook for managing prisoners and enhancing human rights in closed environment (October); and 41 forensic medical staff from the Forensic Facility in BiH were trained on the Protocols for treatment of forensic offenders in closed environment (October and November). In October and November, 69 Sarajevo prison staff improved their core and advanced competencies in relation to searches, escorting, and working with intelligence in prison environments. A working group tasked with introducing IT in prison systems in BiH met with policy makers in Banja Luka, Mostar and Doboj to continue its work on compiling a structure for the electronic processing of prison-related data. The Action's Steering Committee met in October in Banja Luka to endorse project proceedings and approve the quarterly activities' work plan.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening the Human Rights Ombudsman to fight discrimination": The Action's last Steering Committee, held in October, took stock of the results achieved. Ten staff members of the Ombudsman Institution benefited from one-week placements in the region, to Ombudsman offices in Croatia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, and "The former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia". Roundtables and trainings between the Ombudsman Institution and relevant public institutions, and with the participation of civil society organisations in 5 municipalities, resulted in an enhanced implementation of the Ombudsman's recommendations and a better understanding of various aspects of protection against discrimination. A Regional Conference: "Advocacy for Human Rights and Non-Discrimination by National Human Rights Institutions in the Western Balkans", held in Sarajevo in November, allowed for exchanges between similar institutions across the region. An animated cartoon, presenting non-discrimination concepts beyond theoretical understandings was produced and will be further used by the Ombudsman Institution in public campaigns. In December, the Manual for the Ombudsman Institution on how to draft a special report and follow-up on its implementation and the Manual / Guidelines for the harmonisation of legislation with the European Anti-Discrimination and Gender Equality standards were presented.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening the protection of national minorities in BiH": In November, the Action co-organised the regional conference "Tolerant and inclusive societies of the Western Balkans", in Podgorica, where 100 key actors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" shared views and good practices related to minority protection, prevention of Hate Speech and promotion of tolerance/inclusiveness, including specific and general recommendations. The third meeting of the Minority Coordination Group was held in Konjic in December, combining a dialogue on the new criteria for selection of members to the council(s) of national minorities, especially the Council of National Minorities in BiH (22 participants), and a training course on reporting on

the activities of national minority bodies through annual reports and web pages (15 participants).

- EU/CoE - HF "Quality education in multi-ethnic societies": During the reporting period, 4 focus groups with pupils, parents, teachers and school directors, and respective pedagogical institutes confirmed the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment on "Ethnic segregation and its impact on the quality of education". In October, a round table with 45 representatives of policy makers, pilot schools and international and local stakeholders (EUD, UNICEF, Step by step, Open Society Fund, Nansen dialogue center) discussed the results from the assessment study, the Analyses of quality education in the formal-legal acts on education in BiH, and the Commissioner for Human Rights' position paper "Fighting school segregation in Europe through inclusive education". Meta analyses of the existing legislation, policies and strategic documents, initiatives and research in regard to quality education in BiH was developed in order to identify gaps and areas for intervention. The recommendations from the assessment study, meta analyses, and focus group will be further used for a policy road map.
- VC UK/US "Structured sentence management for violent and extremist prisoners in Bosnia and Herzegovina": The implementation of the project started in November with an inception phase. The project team held meetings with the donors' representatives, and designated representatives of the project's implementation partners from the respective Ministries of Justice - BiH and Federation BiH level. The parties exchanged views and expectations in relation to the implementation of the project, and agreed upon the course of future activities, including the official kick-off event and the Steering Committee meeting to be held in January 2019.
- Confidence Building Measures (CBM) programme: During the reporting period, under the component focusing on youth as agents of reconciliation at a local level, grant agreements were signed with 14 targeted divided municipalities to refurbish premises put at the disposal, free of charge, of the Youth Associations established and registered as legal entities in the frame of the CBM programme. In December, a study visit and workshop for journalists from the South Caucasus entitled "Professional Journalism in Conflict and Post-conflict Periods" was organised in Sarajevo and attended by 18 media professionals from the South Caucasus, and experts from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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): In October, 2 inter-professional seminars gathered around 70 participants from media and judiciary: a seminar on access to information and professional reporting on judiciary organised in cooperation with partners Association of BiH Journalists, and one on privacy protection and freedom of expression online organised in cooperation with Press Council of BiH. In November, 25 judges and public prosecutors from Republika Srpska (RS) took part in cascade trainings on libel and hate speech on and offline. In December, the Bar Association of RS organised cascade training on libel for 24 lawyers from all over BiH. In addition to national events, the regional JUFREX conference focusing on the right to privacy and good administration of justice, took place in Skopje in October, with 7 participants from BiH.
- JP EU/CoE "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level" (ROMACTED): During the reporting period, two parallel trainings for municipal officials and young Roma mediators were conducted. The first Advisory Body Meeting organised with the support of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, discussed together with Roma representatives and municipal officials the progress of ROMACTED implementation, including developments and future plans regarding Roma inclusion in each municipality. The Ministry reflected on how ROMACTED complements the implementation of the National Action Plan for Roma and opportunities for further synergies. During the reporting period, all 10 programme

beneficiaries' municipalities were visited by the Roma support organisation Romalen and selected facilitators to prepare joint planning for 2019, and to reflect on the previous period.

- In November- December, the ROMACTED programme underwent a result oriented monitoring (ROM) by the European Commission.

Other relevant activities

- 13-16 November: HoO moderated a panel in the Regional Conference "Tolerant and Inclusive Societies in Western Balkans", Podgorica, Montenegro;
- 26 November: HoO attended and gave speech at the opening event of the UN-led campaign against domestic violence, Livno;
- 29 November: HoO gave an introductory speech at the Regional Conference - "Advocacy for Human Rights and Non-Discrimination by National Human Rights Institutions in the Western Balkans" organised by the CoE office in Sarajevo;
- 30 November: HoO gave an introductory speech at the Regional Conference - "Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention – Istanbul Convention – Challenges and Next Steps" organised by the Gender Equality Agency of BiH.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other official delegations

- 5 – 8 October: Congress and PACE electoral visit for the General Elections in BiH that took place on 7 October;
- 20-22 November: Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE monitoring visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Tbilisi

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 5, Project staff – 15, Total staff - 20.

The Office implemented 9 projects, of which 3 were funded by the EU/jointly funded with the EU and 6 funded by VC/Donor.

State of implementation of projects/programmes

- AP “Support to the Judicial Reform in Georgia”: The Project co-organised an international conference on the role of women judges in the judiciary, which allowed Georgian judges to revisit their roles and share their views on the challenges that women judges face in their work. Training on digital media and monitoring of social media inspired participants to share information on social platforms in line with modern standards. A workshop on a Human Rights-Based Approach enabled the High Council of Justice to better understand and use these principles in everyday work. Representatives of the High Council of Justice of Georgia visited Strasbourg and gained a closer insight into the work of the major bodies of the CoE. The project continues to provide expertise to the Parliamentary Working Group on the “4th wave” of judicial reforms. The project supported the process of elaboration of the Georgian Bar Association’s strategy and action plan. Expertise on an optimum pro-bono system was provided with the aim to introduce this service in the GBA.
- 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 sixty-three legal professionals (judges, assistants to judges, lawyers, prosecutors) were trained on various articles of the ECHR and the case-law of the ECtHR. Right to Freedom of Expression, protection of human rights at pre-trial stage, rights of persons with disabilities and fight against ill-treatment were amongst the topics covered during the trainings. Twenty assistants to judges successfully accomplished the HELP course on reasoning of Criminal Judgments. Twelve staff members of the Legal Issues and Human Rights and Civic Integration committees of the Parliament benefited from a study visit to Strasbourg to learn about practices of Parliamentary oversight over the execution of ECtHR judgments by the government. The Georgian interface of HUDOC was officially launched and presented to the public in the presence of the Chief Justice of Georgia.
- EU/CoE – PGG “The Council of Europe Programme to support Georgia in view of the 2016 (parliamentary), 2017 (local) and 2018 (presidential) elections”: In October 2018, the Central Election Commission of Georgia (CEC) deployed an updated online registration programme developed with CoE support. For the 2018 Presidential Election, the CoE again supported the CEC in updating the programme by increasing its capacity; in addition to the registration of proxies and commission members nominated by electoral subjects at all levels of election commissions, registered domestic observer organisations could now also submit applications to appoint their observers and register them online. In October-November 2018 Georgia had a two-round presidential election. The CoE team in Tbilisi monitored the pre-electoral environment by taking part in all existing formats to discuss voter lists, media coverage, and possible violations. The project team monitored processes on both E-days and engaged actively with domestic and international stakeholders in view of upcoming activities aimed at addressing gaps and shortcomings in legislation and practice.
- AP “Improving Mental Health Care of Persons Detained in Georgia”: The final draft of the recommendations and proposals for the existing legislation regulating mental health issues in prisons and other closed institutions was developed. The Ministry of Justice, the Public Defender’s Office, the Parliament of Georgia, Ministry of Health, CoE experts and project team

are involved in the working group meetings. The Ministry of Justice was assisted in the development of the crises check list and a detailed crises intervention plan through expert support. The final draft of the strategic document regulating mental health care in penitentiary establishments was prepared and delivered to the MoJ for adoption. Forty-five nurses working in prisons increased their capacities in the management of prisoners suffering with mental disorders. Furthermore, 81 medical personal of the penitentiary service learned about the methodology of managing drug-addict prisoners and 107 medical and non-medical personnel of the Penitentiary and Probation Services were trained on avoiding discriminatory attitudes and stigmatisation-related issues.

- AP "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Georgia": Revision of the Prosecutor's guidelines on cases of domestic violence and violence against women was completed by an international consultant and presented to the General Prosecutor's Office. Forty-two prosecutors, inspectors and staff members of the Human Rights Department of the Georgian MoI completed the HELP course on violence against women and domestic violence. A roundtable meeting on the provisions of the Istanbul Convention was organised, with the participation of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and representatives of the MoI. Within the global 16 days of activism campaign to end violence against women, the Project organised a seminar on the Istanbul Convention, where national stakeholders and international participants discussed achievements and challenges.
- AP "Responding to child sexual exploitation and abuse in Georgia": The CoE online HELP course on child-friendly justice was launched. The course is being followed by 45 lawyers and prosecutors and tutored by a member of the Georgian Bar Association and the Head of the Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor's Office. In relation to the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the project translated and dubbed the video "Start to talk" in Georgian, aimed at ending children's sexual abuse in sport.
- EU/CoE – PGG "Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing": Training was organised for law enforcement agencies and the Financial Monitoring Service of Georgia on investigation and prosecution of money laundering/terrorism financing (ML/FT) cases, liability of legal persons as well as seizure, confiscation and recovery of proceeds of economic crime. Separate activities were also organised for Georgian financial and non-financial institutions and their supervisory bodies on ML/FT using new payments methods, measures to prevent money laundering through misuse of legal entities and offshore centres. Three training courses designed to assist the Georgian Bar Association in raising sectorial awareness were delivered by local trainers. The project, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, organised a workshop aimed at reviewing Georgia's draft National Risk Assessment (NRA) report on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism.
- AP "Fight against discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech in Georgia": A comprehensive report on attitudes and awareness in relation to hate crime, hate speech and discrimination in Georgia was published, enabling all relevant stakeholders to plan awareness raising activities more efficiently. Human Rights Day was marked with a number of important events including a "Human Rights Talks: Equality Matters" round table, together with the Public Defender's Office where a priest, a psychologist, a youth activist, a literature and film critic, and a school director talked about the importance of equality.
- AP "Strengthening Data Protection in Georgia": The project was launched in October 2018. Following negotiations with the beneficiary, specific cooperation activities have been planned and their execution started. Namely, the updated English text of the Handbook on European Data Protection Law has been confirmed by the beneficiary and its translation is underway. The Georgian version of the Guidelines on Safeguarding Privacy in the Media has been proofread and is ready for publication.

Other relevant activities

- HoO presented opening remarks at a conference on the Role of Women Judges in the Judiciary, the International Conference of Bar Associations held in Tbilisi, the High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Harassment, the Workshop for the Finalization of the draft National Risk Assessment Report of Georgia, and the 4th edition of Georgia's Internet Governance Forum, and the presentation of the Georgian interface of HUDOC database.
- HoO attended the joint meeting of the PACE Sub-Committee on Education, Youth and Sport and the PACE Sub-Committee on children, organised in Tbilisi on 17-18 October, the meeting with the NDI election observation mission, the United Opposition briefing for the diplomatic corps with regard to the second round of Presidential elections, the International Day of Tolerance event organised by the PDO, various briefings of the ODIHR Election Observation Mission, the meeting of the Head of Government Administration with NGOs on election issues, the MRDI Strategic Partnership Meeting on Regional and Local Development, a pre-election meeting of Ambassadors and heads of missions with the PM and the Speaker of Parliament, and Georgia's 2018 Ambassadorial Conference.
- HoO observed the Presidential Elections (28 October and 28 November). He also attended a TSPS seminar, and had working meetings with the EU Ambassador Carl Hartzell, with the Ambassador of Turkey, with the director of USAID Georgia, and with the chairpersons of the Parliamentary committees on Human Rights and Legal Affairs.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 15-16 October: Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, visited Tbilisi, on the occasion of the 15th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport hosted by Georgia;
- 6-8 November: PACE Co-rapporteurs carried out a fact finding mission to Tbilisi on honouring obligations and commitments by Georgia;
- 12-16 November: A delegation of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities visited Tbilisi, Alkhalkalaki, Alkhalsitkhe and Marneuli to evaluate progress made in the implementation of the FCNM by Georgia.

Tirana

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 5, Project staff – 13, Total staff - 17.

The Office implements 9 projects, out of which 7 are co-funded by the EU, one by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and one by the UK Embassy.

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

- VC Switzerland "Strengthening the local government structures in Albania": Over 100 top management corps from central public administration went through the Leadership Academy Programme.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening the Efficiency of Justice (SEJ II)": A new scheme for the evaluation of judges in light of the new law on the status of judges and prosecutors was proposed, along with a report and recommendations on the new roles of judiciary staff members. Progress continued in the analysis and management of judicial statistics in view of helping the High Judicial Council (HJC) to prepare a judicial map based on statistical data. A proposal has been made for improving a future IT strategy for the justice system.
- EU/CoE – HF "Economic Crime in Albania": The law on asset declarations and audit was further improved by incorporating the CoE's recommendations and the hardware equipment for e-declarations is being delivered to the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets (HIDAACI). A national action plan for the implementation of MONEYVAL recommendations is prepared with support from the Action.
- EU/CoE – HF "Fighting Bullying and extremism in the Education System": On 21 November, massive awareness events throughout the country marked the first National Day against Bullying at school in Albania, while a national roadmap was prepared to guide policy-makers in preventing/reducing bullying and creating safe and inclusive school environment.
- EU/CoE – HF "Supporting effective domestic remedies and facilitating the execution of judgments (D-REX)": The amended law on the State Advocate reinforced domestic capacity to effectively execute ECtHR judgments, thus bringing Albanian legislation closer to the best European standards. A study visit to the Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues in Berlin was organised for selected representatives of 5 beneficiary institutions closely involved in the property compensation process in Albania with a view to learning through positive experience and to discuss further possible steps for Albania.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities": The newly adopted framework law on the protection of national minorities was translated into 7 minority languages (Bosnian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Roma, Serbian and Vlach/Aromanian) and shared with the relevant domestic authorities.

Other relevant activities

In the framework of the Expert Coordination Mechanism (ECM), the Venice Commission adapted an opinion on the draft Law on the Legislative Initiative of Citizens in Albania (19-20 October) and an opinion on the draft constitutional amendments enabling the vetting of politicians in Albania, including through the assessment of their relations with organised crime;

- About 80 representatives of financial and legal institutions from 19 countries attended an international conference, held in Tirana on 30-31 October, to support the authorities from South East Europe and Eastern Partnership Beneficiaries in strengthening their capacities for

anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, addressed the event and had follow up meetings with senior Albanian authorities to discuss CoE cooperation assistance in key reforms.

Follow up action

- Follow up coordination/consultation meetings with EUD and domestic stakeholders to prepare the second phase of the HF.

Yerevan**Situation of the Office**

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

The Office implements 6 projects, of which 2 projects are funded by the EU under the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG), 1 project is funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, 1 project is funded partially by VC/ Donor Government of the United Kingdom and partially by the CoE/EU (PGG), 1 project funded by the Government of Switzerland and 1 project funded by the governments of Norway and France.

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”: The kick-off meeting of the HELP distance-learning course on prohibition of ill-treatment was organised on 31 October. In November-December, the course was successfully piloted with a group of 17 legal professionals. At the seminar held on 9-10 November, criminal law judges and judicial servants improved their knowledge and skills on Articles 3, 5 and 6 of the ECHR. Based on the project’s recommendations, the pre-trial investigation system of the Investigative Committee was improved so as to increase the quality of the proceedings and to strengthen human rights safeguards (16 recommendations out of 22 were implemented). The study of national courts’ practice for 2008-2018 on cases of ill-treatment was prepared based on the CoE methodology of assessing the overall effectiveness of judicial practice on the basis of more than 15 principles of Article 3 of the ECHR. On 12 December, the final conference that marked the successful accomplishment of the Project was organised showing the importance of the tangible and sustainable results achieved during the Project.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Strengthening Health Care and Human Rights Protection in Prisons in Armenia”: Draft Gov. decree 825-N and draft guidelines on sanitary, epidemiological and hygienic issues were presented during the round table held on 23 October for 27 persons. New medical and office furniture (worth 5,500 Euros) was donated to the “Penitentiary medicine centre” SNCO. A study visit to Austria was organised for 6 persons. Within 5 weeks, training courses on four sanitary and hygienic modules were held for 113 medical and non-medical staff of prisons. A local consultant was engaged to monitor the quality and provision of the training, submitting a report on the results thereof. Three 1-day training courses on medical screening upon admission as a safeguard against ill-treatment and implementation of the Istanbul protocol were organised on 24, 25 October and 13 December for 57 medical and non-medical staff of prisons. One 2-day training on mental healthcare issues was organised on 3-4 November for 23 medical and non-medical staff of prisons. A 1-day training on presenting the draft Gov. decree 825-N was organised on 14 December for 13 prison medical staff. Trainings on the use of procured additional medical equipment were organised during October-November 2018 for 36 (17 women) medical staff of 11 prisons. Closing conference of the project was organised on 19 December 2018 for 39 (17 women) participants from different state bodies and other entities.
- EU/CoE – PGG / VC UK “Support to the implementation of the judicial reform in Armenia”: The Project assessed the Draft Code of Ethics of Judges based on the requirements of the newly adopted Judicial Code. The General Assembly of Judges will revise the draft Code of Ethics of Judges based on the CoE’s recommendations. Based on the request of the Ministry of Justice, the Project conducted the assessment of the Government Strategy and Action Plan for Legal and Judicial Reforms for 2018-2023. The Project conducted a post-adoption review

of the Judicial Code. In addition, the Project officially released the translation and the publication of the Magna Carta and 20 Opinions of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), which became a guiding manual for the policy makers of the judicial field, as well as judges, advocates, legal professionals, journalists and civil society. As a follow-up the Project trained 23 judges and 5 journalists on CoE standards on the relationships of judges and journalists based on the respective Opinion of the CCJE. The Project also trained 18 judges and 21 advocates on the relationship of judges and advocates based on Opinion No 16 of the CCJE. The Project trained 26 judges of different instances and different specialisations based on the Training Manual for Judges and Prosecutors on Ensuring Women's Access to Justice. Nine presidents of the courts of different instances of Armenia improved their knowledge on European standards and best practices of the CoE member States on the role of court presidents based on the respective Opinion of the CCJE. The Project provided expert support to the Supreme Judicial Council in drafting its internal acts. The Project drafted the indicative timeframes for the examination of cases for each type and complexity of case, the methodology for evaluating the activity judges, the procedure for collecting the data required for the assessment, and the procedure for determining other details required for the performance assessment of judges. The Project conducted an assessment of the draft regulation on the Rules of Relations of the Supreme Judicial Council and Courts of the Republic of Armenia with mass media. The Project published visibility items aimed at raising public awareness and started a pilot project with the Public Defender's Office of Armenia and the Civil Court of Appeal aimed at raising general awareness and legal literacy of the population in general in relation to access to justice.

- VC Switzerland "Institutional Support to Communities Association of Armenia (CAA)": The 'Decentralisation and Local Economic Development' second annual forum on local democracy in Armenia was organised in Yerevan on 12 November in the framework of the project and in cooperation with the CAA and MTAD. The forum brought together 120 partners from the local government system in Armenia to foster an environment of constructive dialogue on local economic development. On 14 December, the CAA organised a Forum of Municipal Servants bringing together over 100 municipal servants to discuss the Draft Law on Municipal Service and the prospects for a more extensive engagement in the advocacy work of the CAA. On 15 December, the CAA organised the first Forum of Councillors of Armenia bringing together over 100 councillors to discuss the main challenges that councillors face and to form a platform for regular meetings and joint lobbying. On 19-20 December, the CAA held a session of its Republican Council and adopted a number of recommendations to be submitted to the Government of Armenia on the Draft Law on Territorial Administration and Draft Law on Local Governance.

- VC UK "Strengthening the application of European human rights standards in the armed forces in Armenia", funded by United Kingdom: During October-November, the Council of Europe delivered the first phase of the Cascade training on Human Rights for the Service persons. Per request of the Ministry of Defence 4 separate 2-day training sessions were organised in 4 different parts of Armenia: Jermuk, Dilijan, Sevan and Yerevan. Higher and middle-rank officers responsible for the personal development of military personnel, and lawyers from all 5 corps were involved in the training. The Project received very positive feedback from MoD and participants. Each training consisted of 6 sessions each lasting 90 minutes. Two activities were organised with the Human Rights Defender's Office (HRDO): The project supported the HRDO in the organisation of an international conference marking the 10th anniversary of the NPM, which took place on 28-29 November. The event was organised jointly with the Project "Supporting the criminal justice reform and combating ill-treatment and impunity in Armenia" funded by the EU. The achievements of the project and work plan for the final phase of the project were presented and discussed on 12 December during the Fourth Steering Committee meeting. On 19 December, the project team met with Yeghishe Kirakosyan, the Government Agent of Armenia before the ECtHR. It was agreed that the

close cooperation and support of the CoE project team is the key to success in the consistent execution of Muradyan vs Armenia and other relevant judgements, including the development and execution of a comprehensive action plan, understanding the roles of different possible stakeholders in the process and providing regular expert support to the Governmental Agent and his staff, working on the case. The Course on effective investigation of ill-treatment in the context of the armed forces was finalised and will be sent to the Justice Academy in the beginning of 2019.

- AP “Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence”: A face-to-face training course and a training manual on violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV) were developed and included in the training curriculum of the Academy of Justice for the year 2019. Eleven legal professionals were trained to teach this course in the Academy for in-service investigators, prosecutors and judges. A handbook on VAW and DV developed for the Armenian police to provide practical guidance for police officers when dealing with cases of VAW. Dv.60 Division Heads, Team Leaders and Trainers of the Police Department dealing with cases of domestic violence and the Police Educational Complex were trained on preventing and combating VAW and DV. A specific awareness raising event on VAW through a theatre performance and ensuing discussions enabled around 90 Armenian students and media and legal professionals to better comprehend the intricacies of violence against women and domestic violence. The CoE online HELP course on VAW and DV was implemented together with the Armenian Academy of Justice and 15 legal professionals were trained. A peer-to-peer exchange visit to Austria for 16 police officers and legal professionals on preventing and combating VAW and DV took place on 27-29 November and a final event on the Istanbul Convention in Yerevan on 13 December 2018. Several publications and materials on the Istanbul Convention were made available at project events.

Follow-up actions

- 5 November: HoO participated in Ambassador Group Meeting on Elections;
- 22 November: HoO met with the Head of OSCE/ODIHR Elections Observation Mission
- 5 December: HoO met with the Head of Austrian development Agency;
- 6 December: HoO participated in Ambassador Group Meeting on Elections;
- 7 December: HoO participated in the internal PACE Delegation meeting;
- 20 December: HoO met with the INL Director.

Other relevant activities

- 12 October: PGG Annual Coordination Meeting;
- 25 October: HoO opened the Training for the Police Officers on the topic of Violence Against Women;
- 11 November: HoO opened the Forum on Local Democracy;
- 28 November: HoO opened the international conference dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the HRD of Armenia;
- 3 December: HoO opened an event on Relationships between the media and the judiciary: Council of Europe standards and best practice;
- 4 December: HoO opened an event on Relationships between the judges and advocates/lawyers: Council of Europe standards and best practice;
- 10 December: HoO participated in the Third Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide;
- 12 December: HoO opened the closing conference of the Project on Supporting the criminal justice reform and combating ill-treatment and impunity in Armenia;
- 13 December: HoO opened the closing event of the Project on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Armenia;

- 18 December: HoO opened the closing event of the Project on Justice Reform;
- 19 December: HoO opened the closing event of the Project on Strengthening the Health Care and Human Rights Protection in Prisons in Armenia.

Council of Europe high level visits

- 10-13 October: Visit of the Director of ODGP to participate in the Francophonie Summit;
- 31 October-1 November: Visit of the president of the Venice Commission to participate in the Conference on "The new millennium constitutionalism", and meetings with the First Prime Minister, chairmen of political factions, Minister of Justice of Armenia;
- 9 December: PACE/ODIHR/ Observation of the early parliamentary elections in Armenia.

Rabat

Situation of the Office

Core staff: 2; Project staff: 3; Total: 5.

The Office chiefly co-ordinates the implementation in Morocco of the EU/CoE regional joint programme "Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme 3) 2018 – 2020. It also provides ad hoc logistical support for the implementation in Morocco of the EU/CoE regional joint programme "CyberSouth – Co-operation in combating cybercrime in the southern neighbourhood" (2017-2020), the EU/CoE regional joint project "Global Action on Cybercrime Action Extended (GLACY+)" (2016-2021) and other projects run within the framework of the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021.

Implementation of the programmes

EU/CoE regional joint programme "Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean"

- Training for the Central Bank of Morocco (BKAM) on the compliance of companies and banks with anti-corruption measures was organised by the Council of Europe in collaboration with the Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption (ICPC). This training took place from 22 to 24 October 2018 in Rabat.
- Hassan II University in Casablanca, the Council of Europe and UNICEF ran an awareness-raising workshop entitled "Crossing perspectives on international instruments on children's protection" on 22 November 2018 at the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences of Mohammedia, in the presence of the Faculty's Dean. The workshop brought together academics, students, international organisations and NGOs, and the open debate provided an opportunity to raise public awareness of the exploitation and sexual abuse of children, as well as the need to prevent such acts, through the presentation of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Convention).
- Training for banks on the compliance of companies and banks with anti-corruption measures was organised by the Council of Europe in collaboration with the Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption (ICPC). This training took place from 26 to 27 November 2018 in Rabat and followed on from the training organised in October.
- The Venice Commission ran a training session from 28 to 29 November 2018 for the staff of Ombudsmen belonging to the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM) in collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsman Institution of the Kingdom of Morocco. The training focused on "The rights of detainees in the national territory and of those detained abroad: the role of the Ombudsmen Institutions" and brought together Ombudsmen from several countries around the Mediterranean basin.
- An awareness-raising workshop was organised on 5 December 2018 in connection with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence aiming at ending violence against women and girls at the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences of Mohammedia. The workshop was run jointly by the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences of Mohammedia– Hassan II University in Casablanca, the Belgian Embassy and the Council of Europe and

provided an opportunity to discuss Law 103.13 on combating violence against women and present the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

- At the request of the High Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ), the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and the Venice Commission organised a training session in Rabat on 12 December 2018 on strategic planning tools and techniques and good administrative and budgetary management practices within the different departments of the CSPJ. The session took the form of a round table of French, Portuguese, Belgian and Moroccan experts chaired by the Secretary General of the CSPJ, attended by forty or so administrative managers (heads of sections, departments and units) of the High Council, which was set up in 2017 to safeguard the independence of the Moroccan judiciary.
- To further collaboration between the Moroccan Centre for Polytechnic Research and Innovation (CMRPI) and the Council of Europe Office in the protection of children on the world-wide web in general and report on progress in implementing the "e-salama" project, a work meeting was organised on 18 December 2018 at Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra. The meeting provided an opportunity to consider prospects for collaboration on the Centre's initiatives for protecting children on the Internet, training and awareness-raising regarding the phenomenon of cybercrime and education for digital transformation.

Other programmes

- EU/CoE regional joint programme "CyberSouth – Co-operation in combating cybercrime in the southern neighbourhood": the Higher Institute for the Judiciary and the Council of Europe ran an advanced training course for Moroccan judges and prosecutors on cybercrime and electronic evidence at the Higher Institute for the Judiciary from 2 to 5 October 2018 in Rabat.

Other Relevant activities

- Local and regional democracy: on 27 and 28 November the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities held a number of meetings with institutions in Rabat to identify avenues for collaboration;
- 8-10 November: the Head of the Office participated in the 11th International MEDAYS Forum organised by the Amadeus Institute in Tangiers on the theme "In the age of disruption: finding the new paradigms" and took the floor during the session on "Europe and the Southern Mediterranean Countries: How to escape from Utopia?";
- 3 December 2018: the Head of the Office participated in a seminar organised by the Public Prosecutor's Office on international co-operation procedures in line with the provisions of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime in Marrakech;
- 5-7 December: The Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs organised the 11th Global Forum on Migration and Development in Marrakech, with the participation of Tomáš Boček, the Secretary General's Special Representative on Migration and Refugees.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other official delegations

- 22-23 October: a visit by the GR-EXT to Rabat provided an opportunity to exchange views with the competent authorities and civil society representatives on co-operation with the Council of Europe.

Tunis

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 1, Project staff – 3, Total – 4.

The Office currently implements country-related activities of two EU/CoE regional joint programmes: Ensuring sustainable democratic governance and human rights in the Southern Mediterranean ("South Programme III", 2018-2020) and CyberSouth Programme 2017-2020. Tim Cartwright became Head of Office on 1 October.

State of implementation of programmes

South Programme III:

- "Prevention of Torture": Training "formaCtion" for members and staff of the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture (INPT) continued, on the basis of on-site prison visits and consequent reporting, under the guidance of CoE experts. Under the joint authority of the INPT and the Ministry of Justice/Penitentiary Administration, drafting of both a Manual on Tunisian Penitentiary Law and a Prisoners' Guide was begun, supervised by eminent local and international experts. Support was also provided to the international colloquy on prison overcrowding, organised in Tunis on 18-19 December by the INPT.
- "Rule of Law": Constitutional reform, legislation and governance: The Venice Commission (VC) provided intellectual and material support to the Tunisian authorities' VIth Intercultural Workshop on Democracy, organised in Tunis on 13-14 November, and focusing on the role of the Independent Institutions in a democratic State. At the request of the Tunisian authorities, the VC also adopted an Opinion of the draft Organic Law on Political Parties and their financing.
- "Data Protection": On 1 November, a CoE Expert attended an AccessNow-, UNESCO- and EU-sponsored conference on data protection and access to information, meeting also with CoE programme beneficiaries to clarify needs and opportunities.
- "Violence against women": The Office was represented in various multi-sectoral and inter-institutional working groups and training and coordination events. The HoO addressed one such event, together with the Governor of Ben Arous.
- "Child Protection": Again, the Office was represented in various multi-sectoral and inter-institutional working groups and training and coordination events, focusing on Lanzarote Convention standards, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Senior Citizens and local schools, on 18-19 December, hosted an information workshop for children and young people, at which young people's guides in local language to the Convention were elaborated.

CyberSouth Programme

- CyberSouth: On 12-14 November, some 25 Tunisian magistrates followed an introductory course on cybercrime and digital evidence, organised in partnership with the Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature.

Other Relevant activities

- The Tunisian School of Political Studies held two sessions and selected the next generation of participants;
- 14-17 November: A delegation of the Congress Secretariat visited Tunisian counterparts to explore opportunities for future assistance and collaboration;
- 21 December: Two EU/CoE joint programmes "Improving the functioning, performance and access to justice in Tunisia - AP-JUST" and "Project to support independent bodies in

Tunisia - PAII-T" were concluded with the EUD. Their implementation will cover the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021.