

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Information Documents
ODGP/DER/Inf(2017)2

Quarterly report of Council of Europe Offices

April - June 2017

A. LIAISON OFFICES

Introduction

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

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

The present document covers the reporting period April-June 2017. 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

Meetings

The Head of Office, Zoltan Taubner, continued his round of courtesy calls to EU Officials and representatives of member states. He met the Heads and members of the Cabinets of several Commissioners (Hahn, Avramopoulos, Andriukaitis) and of EP President Tajani. He also met high officials from the Commission (Directors General from DG Just and DEVCO, Managing Director in EEAS) and various directors and officials from different parts of the Commission, EEAS and Council Secretariat. He met the Deputy Head of President Juncker's think-tank in the Commission, as well as the SG of the "EU-Turkey Forum" bringing together MEPs.

He also met the Ambassadors from Ukraine, Canada, Lebanon, Tunisia and Mongolia and the Ambassador from the OIC. He was also received by the Head of Cabinet of Belgian Foreign Minister Reynders. On 9 May, he participated in the wreath-laying ceremony organised by the Russian Federation.

The HoO received a Brussels-based representative of the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security in Brussels, as well as the Representative of International IDEA. He represented the Organisation in the regional consultations held by the UN OHCHR (25 April), attended a dinner debate "For a Sustainable Europe, an Opportunity to Preserve the EU-Turkey Relationship" (Harvard Club) and participated in the inauguration of the "Représentation du Panathlon International auprès des institutions européennes à Bruxelles".

He also met CEB Governor Wenzel and Director Taylor, ODGP as they were CoE representatives invited to address COSCE (EU Council working group on the relations with the CoE and OSCE) - 28 April.

The Office welcomed CoE colleagues for meetings such as:

- Bureau and working group of the European Charter for regional and minority languages.
- DGI presenting HELP programme in EP-LIBE Committee (12 April).
- ODGP for various events and meetings organised by/with DG Near, DEVCO and EEAS mostly on the Eastern Partnership and on Belarus.
- Presentation of the CPT general report 2016 by the Chair and Executive Secretary (20 April) and bilateral meetings in the general secretariat of the Council and the EEAS.
- DGI: meeting with the Cabinet of Commission President Juncker and conference on social rights (9 October).
- DG II: 19 May and on 7 June - meetings on issues related to women and the Istanbul Convention.
- DGI: meeting with the EU CATS (11 May) gathering together the Maltese EU presidency, the incoming Estonian presidency, the Commission and the EEAS.
- DGII: meetings in the Commission (JUST, NEAR) and a presentation of CoE activities on discrimination in the Office (16-17 May).
- Presentation of GRECO by its Chair and Executive Secretary (7 June) in the Office;
- Mr Killian Munyama (Poland, EPP/CD), PACE Rapporteur on "Promoting diversity and equality in politics" (13 June).
- DGI's International Workshop on Law Enforcement Training Strategies on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence (15 June).
- Head of SRSG Migration Team: conference "FRA 2007-2017: is Europe doing enough to protect fundamental rights? – the children's perspective" (28 June).

- The Director of the SG's Private Office, Ms Leyla Kayacik, paid a visit to Brussels and met Cabinet members of President Juncker and Commissioner Hahn, Heads of Cabinet of First VP Timmermans and HRVP Mogherini and high officials from DG NEAR (16 June).

The Office hosted various events such as:

- Meeting of the Bureau (COMEX) and working group on minority languages (23 and 26 May).
- Workshop on the rights of the elderly with "Age platform" (14 June).
- European Audiovisual Observatory - workshop (21 June).

The Office also welcomed representatives from the Arab League Human Rights Department, the Director at the Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC), Georgia (8 June) and a group of visitors from the Trans-Euro-Atlantic movement (TEAM). The Office presented the CoE to representatives of the Southeast Asian NHRI Forum, hosted by the Friedrich-Naumann Stiftung.

The Office also received the Columbian ombudsperson (19 June), as well as the Head of the Department of Global Affairs of the Canadian Foreign Ministry.

Developments on CoE co-operation programmes

The Programme co-ordinator liaised closely with the CoE/ODGP, the EU Commission (DG NEAR, DG DEVCO) and the EEAS to facilitate the implementation of the PCF and the HF and to activate all channels available to fund CoE joint projects in priority areas, including in Russia and Central Asia.

He participated in the following events:

- With ODGP an colleague in the Eastern Partnership platform I meeting (27 April);
- First steering committee meeting of the "European Year of Cultural heritage 2018";
- "Informal Donors' Co-ordination Meeting on Belarus" (21 July).

The Programme co-ordinator also pursued discussions with DEVCO in view of a substantial funding for a large regional Joint Programme in Central Asia to start early 2018 and organised a meeting mid-May in Brussels with ODGP and the Venice Commission.

He organised several meetings for ODGP colleagues with DG NEAR, DG DEVCO and other parts of the Commission. Among other results, the Commission confirmed its intention to allocate funding for a large regional JP in Central Asia as of 2018-2019, involving largely the Venice Commission.

In addition, he co-ordinated meetings in the Commission on CoE activities related to non-discrimination. These meetings delivered concrete results in terms of future EU funding for co-operation projects.

In the fields covered by the Secretariat of the Pompidou Group

- Meeting report of the "5th Working Group on Controlled Deliveries" (Bucharest, 11-12 April) and preparations for the 6th meeting (The Hague, 18-19 July).
- meeting report from "General Aviation: a blind spot in drugs enforcement" (Madrid, 25-26 April).

- "32nd Annual Meeting of co-operation of drug control services at European airports and in General Aviation" (Strasbourg, 6-8 June).
- Preparations for the "2017 Annual Meeting of the International Network on the control of Precursors" (Strasbourg, 22-24 November).
- Brussels Office represented the Pompidou Group at the "International Workshop on Law Enforcement Training Strategies on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence" (Brussels, 15-16 June).
- It also participated in the "International Conference: NATO, EU & Industry: co-operation on cyber security: a transatlantic exchange of best practices", European Parliament (Brussels, 28 June).

Communication, reporting, statistics

The Spokesperson/Media Officer maintained his regular contacts with Brussels-based journalists on a number of issues including the Secretary General's report on the state of human rights and democracy, the annual report on the execution of ECHR judgments, the CPT report on the UK, the Council of Europe study on threats to journalists, the publication of the first reports by GREVIO, HR Commissioner's publications and various judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights. He also co-ordinated the publication in several languages of an opinion article by the Secretary General's Special Representative on Roma Issues by EurActiv to coincide with International Roma Day.

The Spokesperson/Media Officer also organised the highly-successful Brussels presentation of the CPT annual report and represented the Council of Europe at a media freedom panel organised by the Committee to Protect Journalists, as well as attending the PACE session in Strasbourg - notably working on the debates on Turkey and Hungary, as well as having a number of meetings with colleagues in Strasbourg. He also gave talks on the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights to a group of newly-arrived journalists and a regular study group from The Euro-Atlantic Movement (TEAM), as well as representing the Directorate of Communication at the working group meeting of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

Reporting

Reporting was made on events organised in various EP Committees (LIBE, AFET, DROI, AFCO), as well as think tanks (EPC, CEPS), political foundations (Open society, Henrich Böll, Friedrich Neumann) and universities (ULB), and covered topics such as Europe's future, US President Trump's first 100 days, French elections, Ukraine, Turkey, world press freedom day (3 May), migration (High level conference with President Juncker, President Tajani, HRVP Mogherini, etc 21 June), Brexit, Chechnya and radicalisation.

Statistics

Some 614 information messages and documents as well as 13 weekly reports were prepared and sent to Strasbourg by the Information Officer. 72 notes for the file were sent from the Office. 31 members of CoE staff visited the Office and another 12 staff members were also in Brussels during the period. The Office hosted 51 events and visits and welcomed 281 external visitors.

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

The Head of Office a.i.:

- assisted the participation of several colleagues from Strasbourg in the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (25 April) and reported on it.
- participated in the UNHCR meeting on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Pilots (21 April).
- actively supported the process of securing participants and panellists for the 2017 World Forum for Democracy.
- assisted in the preparatory work for the CoE visit to the OHCHR regional consultation and organisational co-operation in Brussels.
- continued his round of courtesy visits to permanent representations and international organisations and was informed about numerous UN treaty bodies' activities of interest for our mechanisms.
- prepared the visit of the PACE President to Geneva (although this was later cancelled).

The Office:

- was actively involved in the organisation and preparation of the meeting of the CoE SG with the UNSG.
- made preparations for the 35th session of the Human Rights Council, which took place from 6 to 23 June, by informing the HQs of major topics and suggesting a number of events to be covered by statements and presence.
- reported on several sittings of the 27th session of the Universal Periodic Review (Tunisia, Morocco, Finland, United Kingdom, Poland, the Netherlands).
- informed about the High-level Platform on the SDGs to take place from 10-20 July in New York.
- was actively involved into the preparation of the Conference on business and human rights to take place on 9 June in Strasbourg (more specifically, in ensuring the high-level participation of the OHCHR).
- conveyed the contribution of the CoE in respect of Georgia to our OHCHR counterparts (Res 34/37).
- organised courtesy meetings with the permanent representatives of 9 CoE member states in Geneva ('the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', Malta, Sweden, Spain, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Andorra, San Marino, Albania).
- informed about the Knowledge-management report of the UN Joint Inspection Unit and its potential use for the CoE.
- organised a meeting with Ms Nadia Isler, Director of the SDG Lab, to discuss the role of the newly-established Lab and possible co-operation with the Council of Europe.
- informed the CoE members states and international organisations present in Geneva on a number of the CoE events, such as the CM session in Nicosia.
- reported on the briefing of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and a webinar on the WannaCry ransomware attack.
- participated in and contributed to the 35th session of the Human Rights Council from 6-23 June. Seven statements were made and uploaded on the Extranet of the Human Rights Council.
- reported on the speech and subsequent lecture of the US Ambassador to the UN in New York, Ms Nikki Haley, who proposed significant reforms to the Human Rights Council and clearly reaffirmed the US's determination to carry out these reforms.

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- organised a bilateral meeting between Mr Régis Brillat and the Ambassador of Ukraine to the UN in Geneva.

Logistical activities

The Head of Office a.i. also met the representative of the UNHCR regarding the extension of the lease for the premises of the office.

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

High-level meetings

- Visit of a Representative of the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Security and Multilateral Issues of the Czech Republic, Mr. Ivo Šrámek (1 June).
- Meeting with CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Nils Muižnieks (21 June).

Bilateral dialogue

- Meeting with Ms Marietta König, External Co-operation Officer of the OSCE/Office of the Secretary General (24 April).
- Visit by Ms Maria Goldman, Evaluator at CoE Directorate of Internal Oversight; meetings with Austrian anti-corruption authorities, the OSCE, the IACA and the TI (17-19 May).

OSCE Permanent Councils

- OSCE Special PC - Update on the situation in eastern Ukraine (5 April).
- OSCE PC with the Director of ODIHR, Mr Michael Georg Link (6 April).
- OSCE Special PC on the recent security incident affecting a patrol of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine (27 April).
- OSCE PC with the Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Jonathan Moore (27 April).
- OSCE PC with the Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, Mr Flavien Schaller (4 May).
- OSCE PC with the Special Representative of the OSCE CiO in Ukraine of the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Martin Sajdik, and the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan; presentation of the 2018 Programme Outline by SG Lamberto Zannier (11 May).
- OSCE PC with the Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Maroš Šefčovič and the Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, Ambassador Natalya Drozd (18 May).
- OSCE PC with the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Ambassador Pierre von Arx, and the Director of the OSCE Academy, Dr Alexander Wolters, and the Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä (25 May).
- OSCE PC with the SG of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM, Mr Altai Efendiev, and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, Ambassador John MacGregor (8 June).
- OSCE PC with the outgoing OSCE SG, Mr Lamberto Zannier (22 June).

Expert committees and conferences

- OSCE - 17th Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference "Trafficking in Children and the Best Interests of the Child" (3-4 April).
- UNODC First Inter-sessional Meeting of the 26th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) (7 April).
- Informal Briefing on the recent security incident affecting an SMM patrol (24 April).
- UNODC Informal Consultations on 26th CCPCJ: Chair's Proposal on the overall theme, agenda items and workshop topics for the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (25-26 April).

- OSCE - Human Dimension Committee Meeting on the Participation of Women in Political and Public Life: Championing inclusive Policies (2 May).
- UNODC Informal Consultations on the preparations for the 14th UN CCPCJ (3 May).
- OSCE Human Dimension Committee on the "2017 Human Dimension Package" negotiation (16 May).
- ICMPD Transnational Workshop: the mass media and public awareness on trafficking in human beings (17 May).
- UNODC Informal Consultations on the preparations for the 14th UN CCPCJ (19 May).
- UNODC Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (22-26 May).
- 2017 OSCE-Wide Counter Terrorism Conference (23-24 May).
- OSCE Human Dimension Committee Meeting on "Freedom of Peaceful Assembly" (6 June).
- OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference (10-13 June).
- OSCE Conference on Media Freedom in Volatile Environments (19-20 June).
- Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Freedom of Religion or Belief: Issues, Opportunities and the Specific Challenges of Combating Anti-Semitism and Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other Religions" (22-23 June).
- OSCE Annual Security Review Conference (27-29 June).

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

High level visits/meetings

- Meeting with the Undersecretary of State responsible for human rights and democracy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Ms Joanna Wronecka (19 April).
- Meeting with the Secretary General of the Community of Democracies (CoD), Ambassador Maria Leissner (24 April).
- Meeting with the First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Ms Katarzyna Gardaphadze (19 May).
- Meeting with the Director of OSCE ODIHR, Mr Michael Georg Link (22 May).
- Meeting with the Polish Ombudsman, Mr Adam Bodnar (13 June).
- Meeting with the representatives of the Governing Council of the CoD on the margins of the 25th session of the Council (14 June).

Activities of the Office

- **Enhancing the co-operation with OSCE ODIHR**

Apart from the high-level meetings mentioned above, the HoO conducted a series of meetings at a lower level to discuss the possibilities and modalities of enhanced CoE/ODIHR co-operation. These discussions included i.a. meetings with Mr Marcin Walecki, Head of the Democratisation Department, Ms Tiina Kukkamaa-Bah, Chief of the Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, Ms Alice Thomas, Chief of Legislative Support Unit in the Democratisation Department, Ms Stephanie Selg, Adviser on Torture Prevention in the Human Rights Department, Mr Larry Olomofe, Adviser on Combating Racism and Xenophobia in the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, Ms Tatjana Peric, Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues in the Unit of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, Ms Kateryna Ryabiko, Co-ordinator of the Civil Society Ukraine (CS UA) project, Mr Richard Lappin, Deputy Head of the Elections Department, and Mr Genadie Barba, Chief of the Rule of Law Unit in the Democratisation Department.

The Office conducted regular consultations on the preparations for two major human rights meetings organised in Warsaw by ODIHR (Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and Human Dimension Seminar) as well as on the appointments to the top OSCE positions. The HoO regularly attended the conferences and consultations organised or facilitated by ODIHR, including the inauguration of the 2017 edition of the Leaders' School and the official farewell ceremony for ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link.

- **Continuation of the co-operation with the CoD**

The Office followed closely the selection process of the new Secretary General of the CoD through regular consultations with the CoD Permanent Secretariat and with member States of the CoD Governing Council.

- **Ensuring the visibility of the CoE**

Apart from the events organised by ODIHR and CoD, the HoO regularly attended seminars and conferences on issues pertinent to CoE activities. These included i.a. the conferences: Representation of Poland before the European Court of Human Rights – two decades of experience of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; The role of media literacy in the new media landscape, organised by the European Audiovisual Observatory and the Polish National Broadcasting Council (KRRiT); and Problems with our state, organised by the leading Polish NGO, the Stefan Batory Foundation.

B. FIELD AND PROGRAMME OFFICES

Introduction

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

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

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Baku**Situation of the Office**

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

The Office implements 5 EU/CoE joint projects, including 3 within the framework of the PGG and 2 joint projects, namely "Civil Society Dialogue" and "Further Support to the Penitentiary Reform".

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": 80 advocates, 46 judges, 42 human rights lawyers, 18 court staff and 126 judge candidates were trained on selected Articles of the ECHR and the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights as a result of a series of cascade training seminars organised in Baku and the regions. Two study visits to Strasbourg were organised for a group of 63 judge candidates undergoing the preparatory training phase of the judicial selection process at the Academy of Justice of Azerbaijan.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Freedom of Expression and Media Freedom": On 18-21 April, about 90 journalists were trained on CoE standards on freedom of expression and privacy in training sessions organised in three regions (Ganja, Shamkir and Tovuz). Ten local media experts and one international expert reviewed the draft curricula on two courses "Journalism ethics" and "Media and freedom of expression" prepared within the Project and provided their inputs for further improvement during a round table discussion in May in Baku. Four textbooks on Journalism are currently being printed.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Strengthening capacities to Fight and Prevent Corruption in Azerbaijan": A 3-day ToT course on Ethics in Public Service was organised for participants from the civil service, academia and civil society organisations. Twenty-seven future trainers were introduced to good practices in integrity planning, ethics in human resources management and risk analysis. The project also organised a ToT course on performance evaluations for human resources managers in the civil service. The project also finalised the Performance Evaluations Handbook and Curriculum, to be used during follow-up trainings.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Support to increased efficiency of courts, improved training of judges and judicial self-governance in Azerbaijan": On 4 April, to conclude the project, the final conference on improving the efficiency and the quality of judicial services, that took place in Baku, highlighted the results of the CEPEJ component of the project and best practices achieved in the five pilot courts.
- EU/CoE JP "Civil Society Dialogue": In April, the Report on the law and practice relating to NGOs was presented during a Conference in Baku attended by representatives of the national authorities, international community and civil society. In addition to an analysis of the NGO legislation and its practice, the report proposes a series of recommendations for its improvement. In May, the local expert produced the first draft of the Report assessing the laws and policies regulating civil participation in decision-making processes in Azerbaijan and their practice.
- EU/CoE JP "Further Support to the Penitentiary Reform in Azerbaijan": A training module on health promotion and prevention was developed; 26 trainers received training materials to deliver cascade trainings. Non-medical staff from 75 prisons increased their knowledge on European standards on health promotion and prevention, and on leadership and management. 400 copies of the CoE Manual "Healthcare in Prison and Medical Ethics" were distributed to prison staff. Eight prison staff visited prisons in Spain to get a first-hand insight into the organisation of primary and specialised healthcare.

Other relevant activities

- April: HoO delivered statement in the Conference / closing event of the CoE/EU PCF project "Support to increased efficiency of courts, improved training of judges and judicial self-governance in Azerbaijan" and on 5 April participated in the Steering Committee Meeting of this project;
- The HoO held regular bilateral meetings with Ambassador Anna Malena Mard, the Head of the EUD, to discuss cooperation under the PGG and exchange information on developments in the country. On 18 April, HoO attended the meeting with NGOs within the project Civil Society Dialogue and delivered an opening statement at the conference within the Civil Society Dialogue Project, organised in Baku, which aimed to present recommendations for bringing the NGO legislation and its implementation into compliance with European Standards, based on the report prepared by the Council of Europe Expert Council on NGO Law of the Conference of INGOs. ;
- 28 April: DHoO attended a meeting with a EU delegation led by Vassilis Maragos (Head of Unit DG NEAR) and Adriano Martins (Deputy Head of Division EEAS) to discuss EU multi-annual planning;
- 5 May: DHoO attended the Steering Committee of the "Freedom of Expression and Media Freedom" project;
- 22 June: HoO participated in the Action Plan 2014-2017 Steering Committee meeting in Baku.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 18-19 April: Claudia Luciani, Director of Democratic Governance, chaired the Conference "Bringing the Law and Practice relating to NGOs into Compliance with European Standards" and had bilateral meetings with Ali Hasanov, Head of the Department of Public and Political affairs of the Presidential Administration and with Torgul Musayev Deputy Minister of Justice;
- 5 May: Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, addressed the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku and held bilateral meetings with President Ilham Aliyev and other high level representatives of national authorities;
- 11-15 June: Stefan Schennach and Cezar F. Preda, co-rapporteurs for the monitoring of Azerbaijan by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), held a fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan;
- 22-23 June: Verena Taylor, Director, ODGP, co-chaired the Steering Committee Meeting of the CoE Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2014-2017 and held bilateral meetings with Mahmud Ahmed oglu Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy MFA and a separate meeting with the Head of the EU Delegation.

Belgrade

Situation of the Office

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

The Deputy Head of Office, Irina Sahakyan Vetter, assumed her duties on 3 April.

During the reporting period, the Office implemented 10 projects, of which 9 are jointly-funded with the EU, 8 under the Horizontal Facility (HF), and one is funded 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”: Five in situ expert visits reviewed the existing legislative provisions and operational procedures for the prevention of police ill-treatment; prison admission procedures (with a focus on medical screening); risk assessment tools and Offender Behaviour Programmes; police training curriculum/materials; and existing therapeutic programmes for psychiatric patients. The internal police complaints mechanism and involuntary psychiatric hospitalisation were also assessed. The 2nd Steering Committee meeting took place on 9 June.
- EU/CoE – HF “Supporting Effective Remedies and Mutual Legal Assistance (SEMA)”: Two training sessions to improve on effective implementation of the ECHR (Arts. 2, 3, 8 and 14) took place, and two groups of basic and higher judges examined measures to improve case-law harmonisation. A Working Group established to review the main obstacles to and causes of lack of domestic remedies met twice. A consultant conducted an in situ needs assessment and reported on systemic human rights violations and regional best practices. A regional case-law harmonisation round table for high court judges from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia took place on June 26.
- EU/CoE – HF “Strengthening legal guarantees for independent and impartial tribunals”: An agreement has been reached with all beneficiaries to revise the timeframe of the work plan and to postpone some of the activities to align with the national consultation process for forthcoming Constitutional amendment.
- EU/CoE – HF “Strengthen integrity and combat corruption in higher education in Serbia”: The Joint Steering Committee for the two Actions on education was established in April. An expert Baseline Assessment visit was conducted in May, including in situ meetings with more than 30 key Higher Education actors, and the Assessment Report was finalised in June. Eight Serbian Higher Education Sector representatives attended the conference on Academic Integrity held in Becici, Montenegro on 16-17 May.
- EU/CoE – HF “Fostering a Democratic School Culture”: In April, expert-Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD) consultations resulted in the definition of criteria for pilot school selection, with a public call for such schools launched on 22 May, and the subsequent selection of twenty pilot schools. Fourteen delegates from the MoESTD and pilot schools attended an international conference in Albania on 29 June. The process of selecting both national and international experts to work with pilot schools has been completed.
- EU/CoE – HF “Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia”: Following a fact-finding exercise, a report on trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation in Serbia, as well as guidelines for trade unions, recruitment agencies and businesses, have been prepared by an international and a national expert and reviewed by the multiple stakeholders at an international seminar in Belgrade on 21 June. The 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the action took place the same day. Preparation of a public information leaflet on compensation for victims of trafficking is underway.
- EU/CoE – HF “Strengthening the protection of national minorities”: Activities have been organised in the areas of education (introductory meeting on the presentation of national

minorities in curricula and textbooks, draft information material about minority language education); use of minority languages in courts (one assessment visit, report under preparation); Administration (report under preparation) and raising awareness about national minorities (small survey on-going) are under way. The 2nd Steering Committee meeting took place on 29 June.

- EU/CoE JP: "Human Resources Management in Local Self-Government (LSG)": Support was provided to the Serbian Council for Professional Development in the launch of a call for Accreditation of Training Providers. The second phase of the Municipal Support Packages (MSPs) has begun, with 33 workshops organised in 20 pilot LSG units to date. Four consultation round tables were organised with the Ministry for Public Administration and Local Self-Government to support the development of the new Law on the National Training Institution.
- EU/CoE JP "Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX)": Two training workshops for journalists on freedom of expression, right to privacy and media ethics took place. A Grant Agreement with the Judicial Academy of Republic of Serbia (JA) was signed in April, under which the JA will organise 18 training sessions and 8 workshops for judges and prosecutors (2017-2018), for which training materials have been developed and printed. Eight judges, prosecutors and lawyers from Serbia took part in the regional training-of-trainers (ToT) workshop on freedom of expression, held in Durres, Albania. A Steering Committee meeting took place on 26 April.
- VC HRTF "HELP in the Western Balkans and Turkey": A ToT session was organised for future HELP national tutors in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. On the basis of HELP modules, more than 250 legal professionals were trained in Admissibility criteria; Asylum and the ECHR; Business and Human Rights; Community sanctions and alternative measures to detention; and Hate crime and hate speech. Representatives of National Training Institutions and Bar Associations in all beneficiary countries attended the HELP Annual Network Conference in Strasbourg, 19-20 June.

Follow-up action

- Negotiations continue with the EUD for an IPA 2017-financed successor project to the on-going Joint EU/CoE Programme Human Resources Management in Local Self-Government (LSG);
- The Horizontal Facility Steering Board meets on 13 July.

Other relevant activities

- 12 May: Meeting of the Serbia Horizontal Facility Beneficiary Steering Committee;
- 18-19 May: The PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights met in Belgrade at the invitation of the National Assembly of Serbia;
- 14 June: The Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities held a meeting in Belgrade, at which the mayors of Belgrade, Surdulica, and Kragujevac signed the Pact of Cities and Regions to stop sexual violence against children;
- 26-30 June: DIO conducted an evaluation visit to Serbia to assess the CoE's role and action in the fight against corruption.

CoE high level visits and other official delegations

- 2 April: A PACE delegation observed the Presidential elections in Serbia and issued a statement on 3 April;
- 12-16 June: The Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Ambassador Tomáš Boček, conducted a fact-finding mission to Serbia and two transit zones in Hungary.

Bucharest**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 0.5, Project staff – 20, Total – 20.5

C-PROC is responsible for capacity building on cybercrime and electronic evidence worldwide. In the period April to June 2017, C-PROC 5 projects with a combined budget of around EUR 20 million were under implementation of which 4 were joint projects with the EU and one was funded by voluntary contributions.

State of implementation of projects

- VC "Cybercrime@Octopus": Promoted the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime by facilitating the participation of Parties to the Budapest Convention in the UN Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime (Vienna, April 2017). The project supported the 17th Plenary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) from 7 to 9 June which, among other things, adopted a decision to prepare an Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention. It added further impetus to accession by countries in Latin America by organising – jointly with the Organisation of American States – a workshop in Argentina to facilitate networking about specialised cybercrime prosecutors. As so far, few activities had involved Central Asian Republics, an assessment visit and workshop were carried out in Astana, Kazakhstan at the end of May/early June.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Cybercrime@EAP II (international cooperation)": Supported international cooperation and cooperation with multi-national service providers through training programmes in Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. The Steering Committee meeting of the two EAP projects was held in Estonia and facilitated participation in the subsequent European Dialogue on Internet Governance in Tallinn. Access to law enforcement training materials managed by the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG) was promoted through a workshop held in Brussels. Cooperation between prosecutors from EAP countries was furthermore strengthened by supporting participation in the European and Central Asian Regional Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Cybercrime@EAP III (public/private cooperation)": Focused on reforms of criminal procedure law during this reporting period as this is a pre-condition for public/private and international cooperation. Workshops and hearings to this effect were held in Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Written comments on draft laws were submitted to the authorities of Azerbaijan and Ukraine. Moreover, a detailed "state-of-play" report was prepared which was presented at the Eastern Partnership Rule of Law Panel in Brussels on 15-16 June. A regional "coordination and partnership cyber exercise" was held in Georgia in April which provided participants with a better understanding of the cooperation between law enforcement, CERTS, financial intelligence units and the financial sector.
- EU/CoE JP "iPROCEEDS": Contributed to public/private cooperation on cybercrime and proceeds from crime online through meetings in Serbia and "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Through a regional training exercise in Montenegro, trainers were trained in the delivery of training courses on cybercrime and online crime proceeds. Experts from South-East Europe also participated in the regional "coordination and partnership cyber exercise" in Georgia. Cooperation between law enforcement, financial intelligence units and the financial sector was supported through an international workshop held in Luxembourg which was opened by the General Prosecutor.
- EU/CoE JP "GLACY+ project on Global Action on Cybercrime Extended": The project continues to strengthen judicial training on cybercrime and electronic evidence through training of trainers courses in Ghana, Dominican Republic and Morocco. Moreover, steps were taken to

update the course materials at the Cybercrime Programme Office in Bucharest so that the revised courses can be delivered from July 2017 onwards. The GLACY+ project organised the above-mentioned workshop on access to ECTEG-training materials in Brussels. Under the ASEAN presidency of the Philippines a regional workshop on cybercrime and the rule of law was held in the Philippines. Cooperation among Pacific Island States in line with the Budapest Convention was supported through a regional workshop in Tonga. At the UN Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime (Vienna, April) the GLACY project was presented as an example of good practice.

Follow up action

- Implementation of the project workplans as agreed upon for July to September 2017.

Other relevant activities

- A new project CyberSouth (budget EUR 3.3 million over three years) was signed to start on 1 July 2017

Chisinau

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 14, Total staff – 20.

The Office implemented 5 projects, of which 4 are funded by the EU/jointly funded with the EU and 1 funded by VC/Donor.

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

- EU/CoE - PGG "Strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance": In April, a workshop on territorial reform was organised together with the Moldovan State Chancellery. Instruments on citizen participation in Georgia were discussed during a conference on 15 June. A meeting of the Community of Practice on Local Governance was held on 29 June in Kyiv, and a MoU between the national associations of local authorities from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine was signed. Five grants on inter-municipal co-operation were awarded to municipalities from Armenia, Georgia and Moldova in June. Furthermore, a delegation from public authorities from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Belarus participated in a study visit on sharing IMC experiences in Spain.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Supporting national efforts for prevention and combating discrimination in Moldova": A meeting on the setting-up of a Consultative Council to the Equality Council was attended by 75 participants representing more than 14 human rights and ethnic minorities NGOs, central and local level administration, academia, trade unions and the private sector. On 6-7 June, a delegation of the Equality Council and the Ombudsperson visited the Defensor del Pueblo in Spain. An expert opinion on the draft Law on amending the Criminal Code and Contravention Code, amendments related to hate crimes and Holocaust denial, was sent to the Ministry of Justice.
- EU/CoE - PGG "Pre-electoral assistance to the Republic of Moldova": On 11-16 June, a study visit for representatives of the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, Central Election Commission and Parliament was organised in Tbilisi. Two CoE handbooks, "Reporting on Elections" and "Using International Election Standards", were distributed to CSOs involved in elections observation. A grant agreement for a National Mentoring Programme for women from communities with zero representation of women in local councils with the CSO Partnership for Development was signed.
- VC Denmark "Support to Criminal Justice Reforms in the Republic of Moldova": Following up the analysis regarding the investigation of torture and ill-treatment cases in light of the new legislation, a meeting was organised with the representatives of the Prosecution Service, where detailed recommendations were discussed. The HELP course on pre-trial investigation was launched in cooperation with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), for 30 judges, lawyers and prosecutors. The compendium on "ECHR: commentary on the ECtHR judgments against Moldova" was launched in cooperation with the NIJ and Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ). The book is designed for legal professionals in implementing the ECHR on a national level.
- EU/CoE JP "Promoting media freedom and pluralism in the Republic of Moldova": The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, with the assistance of the Project, established on 13 June a private-public working group mandated to align media-related legislation with European standards. The Project is providing expert assistance to the working group in drafting a new Audiovisual Code of the Republic of Moldova in line with the Council of Europe standards.

Follow up action

- Meetings with The Norwegian Mission of Rule of Law Advisers to Moldova (NORLAM) and the Swiss Cooperation Office (SDC) to discuss potential funding for projects under the new Action Plan continued and a project proposal is being developed together with NORLAM.

Other relevant activities

- 1 June: The Joint CoE-EU project on controlling corruption through law enforcement and prevention officially started;
- 15 June: A PGG coordination meeting with the EU Delegation was held; the focus was on the new CoE Action Plan 2017-20 and the status of current PGG projects;
- 16 June: The Head of Office took part in the 111th Plenary Session of the Venice Commission (VC), where the opinions on the revision of the electoral legislation and on the expansion of the President's power to dissolve Parliament were adopted.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 9-11 May: A delegation of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR visited the Republic of Moldova in view of the preparation of a joint opinion on the revision of the electoral legislation;
- 18-19 May: A delegation of the Venice Commission visited the Republic of Moldova in view of the preparation of an opinion on the President's proposal to expand the President's powers to dissolve Parliament;
- 30-31 May: Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland made an official visit to the Republic of Moldova.

Kyiv**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 11, Project staff – 40, Total staff – 51.

The new Gender Advisor, Katja Tiilikainen, took up her duties in April.

In the framework of the CoE Action Plan for Ukraine 2015-2017, the Office implements 16 projects, including 11 projects funded by voluntary contributions and 5 funded under the CoE/EU PGG.

State of implementation of projects/programmes

- EU/CoE – PGG: “Support to the implementation of the judicial reform in Ukraine”: In April-June, the project, together with the Judicial Reform Council of the Administration of the President of Ukraine, involved representatives of all legal professions to discuss the amendments that are envisaged in all codes of procedure in Ukraine, including from the point of view of Council of Europe standards. The discussions took place in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, and Odessa, and directly involved more than 500 persons. The project supported more compliance with the competition to the new Supreme Court by providing a thorough analysis of the Rules of Procedure of the Public Integrity Council – the respective Opinion of the CoE expert was distributed broadly and was taken into account by the relevant stakeholders.
- VC Denmark “Continued Support to the Criminal Justice Reform in Ukraine”: On 20-21 April, about 40 representatives of GPO, regional POs and NAPU were trained in best practices with experts from the UK and Poland. The project organised a series of seminars that resulted in a package of draft regulatory amendments to the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision (CCLAP). Prosecutorial initial training system was discussed and measures aimed at further improvement of the system were identified. A comparative study on prosecutorial initial training was presented. Forty-two trainers for lawyers of the Free Legal Aid system, with CoE consultants, developed a model training programme to be used as for series of cascade trainings in 2017. Follow up action led to prosecutorial self-governance bodies being established in Ukraine in April. The CoE was requested to provide capacity building support to these bodies. The Project is planning to undertake a needs assessment in order to develop a detailed roadmap for targeted assistance.
- AP “Decentralisation and territorial consolidation in Ukraine”: The Opinion of the SAGUD on “Participatory democracy tools: European standards and practices” was prepared and presented to the relevant Parliamentary Committee and the profile committee of the Rada. The inclusive dialogue process of reforming the national training system was launched through inter alia the establishment of the National Training Council, the organisation of the peer review on the issues of training and retraining of local self-government officials and the conduction of a training needs analysis of local authorities in the amalgamated communities. Local consultations on decentralisation’s impact on national minorities were conducted in three regions. A regional forum on Post conflict municipal management, peace and confidence building and reconciliation was held in Kramatorsk. Jointly with the Minregion, the All-Ukrainian Contest for journalists and media on coverage of local self-government and decentralisation reform in 2017 took place including peer-to-peer exchanges between local journalists and local authorities. A study visit to Latvia on amalgamation took place.
- AP “Promoting Local Democracy in Ukraine”: Five municipalities were selected as participants of the workshops “Mayors, leaders for change” to receive financial and coaching support for initiatives on transparency and citizen participation. During 4 seminars, 58 young local leaders and 62 local councillors from the Eastern and Southern regions enhanced their knowledge on citizen participation and ethical local governance through exchanges with members

of the Congress and experts from 8 countries. The delegation of Ukraine to the Congress is increasing its contribution to the project's activities.

- AP "Assistance to the Ukrainian authorities in reforming electoral legislation and in conducting constitutional reforms": The project continued to support the election rights of IDPs, regulating political advertising and preparation of the conclusions of the Venice Commission (VC) to the draft Law on amendments to the Rule of Procedures of the Verkhovna Rada and bringing it in line with the Constitution of Ukraine. VC experts in Kyiv worked on a draft law of Ukraine on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The CoE, with the Rada and IFES, organised a round table entitled "Features of Implementation of Internally Displaced Persons' (IDPs)". Ukrainian MPs took part in the 111th plenary session of the VC to discuss the preliminary conclusions of the VC on the draft law On Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.
- AP "Reform of the electoral practice in Ukraine": The Ukrainian version of the CoE Regional study on Women's Political Representation in EaP Countries was presented to and disseminated among national stakeholders. A study visit to the UK was organised for the CEC in the context of the UK local elections on 4 May. Expert support for the discussion of legislative initiatives on IDPs electoral rights was provided. Expert discussions to follow up on findings and recommendations of the 2016 CoE Media and Elections conference were held in Kyiv and in Odessa. Different approaches of Electoral Law teaching in universities, possibility to develop a unified curriculum on Electoral Law in UA were discussed at a scientific conference.
- AP "Strengthening the Human Rights Protection of IDPs in Ukraine": The Project facilitated the work of the Working Group on improving legislation on the protection of human rights of IDPs under the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs through a study visit to Strasbourg, and a number of meetings of respective sub-groups, as well as a series of regional round tables. Draft legislative amendments entitling IDPs to free secondary legal aid and simplifying access to education were adopted in line with CoE standards. To ensure the application of judicial and non-judicial remedies for IDPs, working visits of the Ombudsperson to Luhansk and Donetsk regions, as well as ambulatory consultations for IDPs in remote settlements were arranged. The draft methodology on monitoring the human rights of IDPs for the Ombudsperson and civil society is currently being piloted. Eleven NGOs were selected by the Project out of 93 applicants to deliver assistance to IDPs.
- AP "Strengthening freedom of media and establishing a public broadcasting system in Ukraine": Head of the Management Board and the Board members of the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (UA:PBC) were selected transparently and independently at public events organised by the Project. Six hundred and ninety law enforcement officers, journalists and civil society activists from 12 regions of Ukraine were trained to apply the legislation on protection of the professional activity of journalists at 3 seminars. Alerts on Ukraine on the CoE Platform for protection of journalists were discussed by the Platform partners and Ukrainian media organisations at a round table on freedom of expression. Best practices on the protection of minors from harmful media content and ensuring information security were presented by CoE international experts to the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine.
- EU/CoE PGG "Ukraine: Fight against corruption": A study visit was organised to the Metropolitan Police Service in London for the representatives of NABU. NABU investigators and analysts learned about the institutional arrangements and good practices in anti-corruption work and investigations from their counterparts. To support NABU's internal control system, a technical paper with recommendations for key regulatory and operational issues was produced. The NACP was provided with a Performance Monitoring Toolkit, consisting of a performance monitoring table and explanatory guidelines. In response to a request from the Profile Committee, an expert opinion, containing analysis and recommendations for two draft laws on amendments to the Law on Prevention of Corruption related to the improvement of NACP functioning, was prepared.

- EU/CoE PGG "Strengthening the implementation of European Human Rights standards in Ukraine: Strengthening of the Ombudsperson's operational capacities of the NPM mechanism": Two regional trainings on integration of the assessment methodology into practical NPM activities were carried out. A seminar combined with monitoring visits to regional state institutions focusing on the prevention of potential violations of data protection legislation in the future took place. A school on data protection, regional awareness-raising on antidiscrimination for civil servants and HR training for the HR Directorate of the Police and training on standards of ill-treatment prevention were organised. The report "On Effectiveness of existing safeguards against ill-treatment in police was prepared by experts. The Project supported Ukraine's participation in the Annual HELP Network Conference.
- EU/CoE PGG "Further support for penitentiary reform in Ukraine": The Working Group of the Sub-Committee incorporated the CoE concept of resocialisation of inmates as a purpose for the penitentiary system, departing from the punitive approach. The MoJ approved the Code of Ethics for Prison Staff, developed in line with CoE-recs. Over 90 per cent of governors of 148 prisons got familiar with CoE standards in the new Code of Ethics. A Round Table on Dynamic Security issues was held. CoE recommendations were included in the Passport of the Penitentiary Reform. A Prison Management Manual was distributed among the prisons and relevant authorities. A catalogue of 12 Short Social, Life and Skills Courses with methodology was submitted to the Department of Probation for adoption. A core team of trainers from pilot prisons were trained.
- EU/CoE PGG "Freedom of Media in Ukraine": Assistance to the Profile Committee on community media development in Ukraine. A one-day workshop on CoE standards on community media for local media, members of the parliamentary committee and experts. Recommendations on further development of the draft law on community media will be provided. Assistance to the State Committee for TV and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine to proceed with communal printed media reform. Over 120 editors, journalists and lawyers participated in the event "Reform of Communal Printed Media: First Results and Lessons Learned", including a presentation of the methodological guidelines "Legal aspects of communal printed media reform", developed by the CoE.
- EU/CoE PGG "Promoting Human Rights Education and Democratic Citizenship": The Project contributed to Strengthening of the Ministry of Education and Science capacities in combating corruption in the system of higher education according to the Law of Ukraine on Higher Education adopted in 2014. A Round Table on "Developing a culture of Integrity and Transparency in Ukrainian Higher Education to ensure Autonomy and Accountability for Quality" was conducted. Support provided to the New Ukrainian School reform according to CoE-standards. Policy recommendations were elaborated. Project experts and MoES coordinator presented the achieved Project results at the CoE conference "Learning to Live Together – Future Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe" in Strasbourg on 20-22 June.
- VC UK "Consolidating Ukraine's Justice Sector Reform": Being officially launched in April 2017, the active implementation started in June. During June the Project has met most of the potential beneficiary stakeholders for both specific objectives of the Projects and secured preliminary agreements on implementation of the activities under the Project's Logical Framework. Agreements on cooperation with other CoE Projects in Ukraine have also been reached and mapped.

Follow up action

- Comments on the draft AP are underway. Follow up with potential donors is a priority. The CoE has been requested to provide capacity building support to Prosecutorial self-governance bodies that were established in Ukraine in April. The Project is planning to undertake a needs assessment in order to develop a detailed roadmap for targeted assistance. A request for

a Venice Commission opinion on the draft laws on the new Anti-Corruption Court is expected shortly.

Other relevant activities

- The new Gender Advisor provided support to projects on gender mainstreaming in various activities. She has also provided presentations on gender issues in different trainings and events the projects have organised. Internal training for staff on gender mainstreaming in cooperation projects was carried out. The gender advisor has actively provided advice on gender mainstreaming for various initiatives managed by the headquarters (including PMM IT tool) and she has participated in different donor coordination groups related to gender in Kyiv;
- The Office held an outreach event in Odessa in June. The event aimed at fostering greater awareness about CoE activities in Ukraine, and CoE standards in general.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 4-7 April: Fact-finding mission of the Combating violence against vulnerable groups (women and children) in Ukraine project;
- 4-5 April: Delegation of the Platform for safety of journalists;
- 5-7 April: Fact-finding mission of Egidijus Vareikis, PACE Rapporteur, on Humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine to Kyiv and Donbass;
- 12-14 April: Raphael Comte, PACE Legal Affairs Rapporteur on states of emergency / ECHR derogations;
- 25-26 April: Valeriu Nicolae, Special Representative of SG on Roma issues;
- 11, 17-18 May: Regis Brillat, Special Advisor of the Secretary General to Ukraine;
- 22-23 May: Venice Commission delegation;
- 29-31 May: Joint PACE and Venice Commission delegation;
- 12-13 June: Verena Taylor, Director, ODGP and GR-DEM Ambassadors took part in the SCM meeting.

Pristina

Situation of the Office

Core staff -6, Project staff - 13, Total - 19.

The Office implements 8 projects, of which 7 are jointly funded with the EU (2 of which are regional joint programmes) and 1 project that is co-funded by a voluntary contribution from Switzerland and the CoE budget. Two other projects are also implemented in Kosovo*: an EU/CoE regional joint project ("*IPROCEEDS*"), and a Kosovo*-specific project funded by Turkey.

State of implementation of projects

- EU/CoE JP "Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo* (PECK II)": PECK II organised a high level conference to present corruption risk assessments in prosecution, judiciary and public procurement. It held a workshop on the local legal framework on implementation of international sanctions and its compliance with international standards. It provided AML/CFT training to designated non-financial businesses and professions. It carried out a scoping mission to support interagency cooperation in the area of economic crime. PECK finalised and presented the methodology for management of corruption risks.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice (KoSEJ)": The findings of the draft report assessing the efficiency of the justice system were presented to the beneficiaries. As part of its activities to support the Case Management Information System Norwegian-funded project (CMIS), the Action held a round table on "Justice with no paper" with court staff and discussed the importance of developing a long-term IT strategy with the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) and the Ministry of Justice. KoSEJ organised a Cyberjustice study visit to Tallinn. Through KoSEJ, the Pristina Basic Court introduced the CEPEJ indicators in its latest quarterly report to the KJC for the first time.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening integrity and combating corruption in higher education": The publication of the "Baseline assessment of integrity in higher education in Kosovo*" helped IGOs and CSOs to make a request to the government to withdraw the draft law on higher education which suffered from shortcomings, as highlighted in the 2015 and 2016 EC progress reports. The Action supported the participation of rectors and vice-rectors from public universities in Kosovo* in the third international conference on "Plagiarism across Europe and Beyond 2017", in Brno, Czech Republic, co-organised by the CoE. Preparations have been made for the conference on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Higher Education.
- EU/CoE – HF "Fostering a democratic school culture and diversity in schools": The 20 pilot schools were selected by a committee composed of officials from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and the CoE project team. Ten education officials from Kosovo (MEST and municipal officials) participated in the Conference on Bullying and Extremism, organised by the HF action held on 29 June in Durres (Albania). Preparations have been made for the conference on Launching a Democratic Learning Community.
- EU/CoE – HF "Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners": Drafting of rules and protocols on prison healthcare transfer, of the training manual on mental care of prisoners, and of the prison staff training curricula has continued. The rulebook on prison staff recruitment was presented to the beneficiary, IGOs and civil society. Correctional staff went on a study visit to the Scottish Prison System. Working groups were held on disciplinary measures, development of treatment programmes, and on training modules for dynamic security. Two assessment reports were produced: on the provision of health care in prisons, and on risk and needs assessment and rehabilitation of prisoners.
- EU/CoE regional JP "Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX)": JUFREX organised training on the protection of children

and juveniles for staff of legal and content monitoring departments of the Independent Media Commission - the Media Regulatory Authority. A regional follow-up to Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions gathering judges, prosecutors and lawyers of all JUFREX beneficiaries took place in Durrës, Albania. The top-ranked lawyer of the ToT participated in the "Freedom of Expression Online" conference in Nicosia co-organised by the Supreme of Court of Cyprus and the Council of Europe. JUFREX annual Steering Committee took place in April.

- VC Turkey "Reinforcing the fight against violence against women and domestic violence in Kosovo*": The report mapping support services for victims of violence against women in Kosovo* was finalised and presented to the beneficiary, local and international stakeholders during a seminar, which also concluded the project and was held in Pristina on 29 June. The promotional materials on the Istanbul Convention have also been prepared and translated in the two official languages (Albanian and Serbian). The report was widely disseminated to all relevant local and international stakeholders.
- VC Switzerland/AP "Strengthening the National Preventive Mechanism in Kosovo*–SNPM": The project started in May. It signed grant contracts with the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo (OIK) to assign four local consultants to OiK, to enhance its institutional capacity for addressing individual complaints, and to provide support to the NPM. The selection of the international consultant for the NPM's needs assessment and development of the training programme has been completed. The project has prepared the launching event and first Steering Committee in Pristina, and an awareness raising workshop on the NPM mandate in Prizren, all to be held in July.
- EU/CoE regional JP "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level" (ROMACTED): The regional three-year JP officially started in May. An inception visit has been carried out by the Council of Europe HQ project team in Pristina, in June, to identify the local partners, beneficiaries, and relevant stakeholders and assess the situation in this field.
- EU/CoE regional JP "Targeting crime proceeds on the Internet in South-eastern Europe and Turkey (iPROCEEDS)": iPROCEEDS held two activities in Pristina, an assessment mission of guidelines to prevent and detect/identify online crime proceeds, and a public/private cooperation for fighting cybercrime and online crime proceeds. Kosovo* participants also took part in international workshops outside Kosovo*, on search, seizure and confiscation of proceeds from online crime, on Cybercrime Training Strategies for Law Enforcement Agencies, and a ToT for judges and prosecutors was organised on delivery of the introductory training module on cybercrime, electronic evidence and online crime proceeds.

Follow up action

- CoE's cooperation activities in Kosovo* have received further support from Norway with a contribution of more than half a million Euros to be used for upcoming cooperation activities.

*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

Sarajevo

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 8, Total staff – 14.

The Office directly implements 5 projects: 2 projects within the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey, 1 funded by a voluntary contribution from Norway, 1 funded by a voluntary contribution from Liechtenstein and the CoE ordinary budget and 1 funded by the UK. In addition, the Office contributes to the implementation of 1 regional Joint Programme with the EU on media.

State of implementation of projects / the Action Plan

- EU/CoE – HF “Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in BiH”: Three key Action’s outputs were proofread and edited for printing in the reporting period: Guidelines for law enforcement officers for dealing with persons deprived of liberty in a closed environment on 10-12 April in Bijeljina, following written endorsement received from all 10 police agencies in BiH. These consultations ensured that common operational procedures are applicable across the law enforcement in BiH; Handbook on prisoner management and enhancing human rights in a closed environment on 27-28 April (Sarajevo), 18-19 May (Bihac) and 1-2 June (Doboj), representing the first locally produced “on-the-job” training material; Protocols for providing health care and enhancing human rights in a closed environment 6-7 June in Bihac. These protocols are intended to harmonise provision of health care in prisons with that in the community. These three outputs are an essential part of the training pack to be delivered in the remaining part of the Action’s implementation period (July 2017-June 2018).
- EU/CoE – HF “Strengthening the Human Rights Ombudsman to fight discrimination”: Two co-ordination meetings between the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other relevant institutions on the implementation of the Ombudsman’s recommendations were organised on 25 April in Bihac and on 16 May in Trebinje. Two cascade trainings of staff members of the Ombudsman on various aspects of protection against discrimination in relevant public institutions and civil society were organised on 26 April in Bihac and on 17 May in Trebinje. Additionally, the first meeting of the Working Group for the development of the Antidiscrimination Manual for Civil Servants and NGOs was organised on 25 May and the drafting of the Manual has begun.
- VC Norway “Reinforcing the capacity of the judiciary to apply European human rights standards at the national level in BiH”: Vertical co-operation has been initiated between the highest and the lower instance courts at the round table session on panels’ results, criminal on 15-16 June, civil on 18-19 May and administrative on 20-21 April, all in Trebinje. The civil panels met on 5 April and 8 June, and their results, including the administrative and criminal, were presented at the annual conference on 9 June in Sarajevo. A regional round table: “Case Law Departments and Other Tools for the Harmonisation of Judicial Practice” was held on 26 June in Belgrade. The human rights legal clinics were closed for moot court competitions, in Banja Luka Law Faculty on 17 June and in Zenica Law Faculty on 30 June. A round table on reporting on the status of the application of the European Social Charter took place on 26 May in Sarajevo. The SCN Focal points’ forum in Strasbourg was attended by the national judge on 16 June. An assessment mission on the establishment of the position of a Jurisconsult (or a similar mechanism) within the judicial structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina from took place from 28 to 30 June.
- VC Liechtenstein “Strengthening Democratic Electoral Culture and the Role of Young Political Leaders”: The second national seminar for young political leaders of the SPS, Generation 2017, under the title “European Integrations and harmonisation with EU standards”, was held on

Jahorina, on 15-18 June. The aim of the seminar, organised in collaboration with the EU delegation in BiH, was to underline the importance of the European Integration processes but also to explore the role and responsibilities of the main actors and institutions.

- VC UK "Supporting reintegration of violent and extremist prisoners in BiH": Implementation of the project commenced on 1 May. The inception month was used to agree the list of local and international consultants and Working Group members to develop Project outputs, to design a detailed work plan and to research and compile the background and reference material for the local consultants. The current thinking favours development of a comprehensive pre-release programme, offering a set of interventions aimed at changing the radicalised behaviour pattern, as well as a template for risk and needs assessment, tailored specifically to the needs of extremist prisoners. A set of policy level decisions with regards to inmates' housing, type of regime and prison's staffing will precede operational procedures contained in this document.

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)": Training of lawyers took place in Laktasi from 1-2 June, co-organised by the Bar Association of Republika Srpska. Twenty lawyers from across the country took part in cascade training on Article 10 following certification of trainers in February in Mostar. To date, grant agreements on implementation of capacity development exercises have been signed with the Centre for Education of Judges and Prosecutors in Federation of BiH, Centre for Education of Judges and Prosecutors in Republika Srpska and Bar Association of Republika Srpska and Bar Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Other relevant activities

- 11 April: The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Joint Programme of the European Union and Council of Europe "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey" (Horizontal Facility) took place in Sarajevo. Verena Taylor, the HoO and the DHoO attended the meeting;
- 5 May: DHoO gave introductory speech at the Assembly of the Association of Cities and Municipalities of FBiH, in Capljina;
- 23 May: The Joint Commission on Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the Council of Europe in BiH, the European Union in BiH (EU Delegation and EU Special Representative) and the OSCE Mission to BiH, organised a conference "Preventing Conflict of Interest in BiH – Advancing the Legal Framework";
- 29 May: Parliamentary seminar on the independence and impartiality of the media hosted by the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina and jointly organised with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; HoO delivered an opening statement;
- 1 June: HoO met in Banja Luka with Lejla Resic, Minister of Administration and Local Self-Government of the Government of Republika Srpska. The Signature ceremony concerning the project on Confidence Building Measures (CBM) was discussed;
- 5-8 June: An assessment mission for the planned/possible new HF Action on national minorities was carried out;
- 13-14 June: Radio-Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnia and Herzegovina's Association of Journalists in cooperation with the European Broadcasting Union, Council of Europe, OSCE Representative of Freedom of the Media, European Federation of Journalists, and South-East Europe Media Organisation, organised a Conference "National public service broadcasting in Bosnia and Herzegovina", hosted by BHRT and with the participation of CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks and Patrick Penninckx, who were among the key note speakers of the conference.

- 27 June: Conference "Economic and Social Rights for the Forcibly Displaced Persons during the Conflicts in former Yugoslavia" was organised on in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. HoO delivered an opening statement.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 11-12 April, Verena Taylor, Director of ODGP, attended the Horizontal Facility Steering Committee meeting;
- 25-27 May: A delegation of Congress of Local and Regional Authorities paid an official visit further to the 2 October 2016 local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 12-16 June: A regular visit by Nils Muižnieks, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the CoE, took place in BiH.

Tbilisi

Core staff – 6, Project staff –11, Total staff - 17.

The Office implements 14 projects, of which 11 are funded by the EU/jointly funded with the EU, and 3 are funded by VCs.

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

- EU/CoE – PGG “Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and harmonisation of national legislation and judicial practice in Georgia in line with European Standards in Georgia”: In total, 475 legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and courts’ staff) improved their knowledge on various ECHR articles and the case-law of the ECtHR. Curricula on Effective Judicial Review of Hate Crime for judges and Personal Data Protection for lawyers have been developed and teams of trainers have been trained accordingly. Twenty-two judges became acquainted with the procedure of reopening cases. Twenty future judges benefited from a study visit to Strasbourg and improved their knowledge on the work of CoE bodies and institutions. The CoE’s study on the Application of ECHR standards and the case-law of ECtHR by the common courts in Georgia was presented publicly.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Civic Integration of National Minorities in Georgia and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages”: Kindergarten textbooks in minority languages produced in early 2017 have been handed over to local authorities. Awareness-raising material about the history and cultural contributions of national minorities has been produced and distributed to inter alia secondary schools in Georgia. Buildings designed by architects belonging to national minorities have been signposted in Georgian, English and the respective minority language. Minority newspapers have carried out journalism training for students of secondary schools that teach minority languages to involve them as journalists.
- EU/CoE JP “Human rights and healthcare in prisons and other closed institutions in Georgia II”: The staff of the Ministry of Corrections attended training on hot and cold debriefing tools used to prevent suicide cases. The Action Plan on healthcare quality control in prisons has been finalised. The draft action plan on crises intervention in prisons and health care establishments has been developed. A study visit to the UK was organised, aimed at introducing to MoC and MoI staff healthcare quality control mechanisms and tools. The first phase of ToT for psychiatric nurses has been held (12 nurses attended this training). The project extended support to the development of distance learning courses for MoI.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing”: On-site mission/Workshop for the development of national money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment (NRA) of Georgia took place on 18-19 May. Training on “Investigation and prosecution of money laundering offences and seizure of proceeds of crime” was organised in cooperation with the Chief Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia (1-2 June), in order to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect, investigate and prosecute money laundering/terrorist financing (ML/FT) offences.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Promoting freedom, professionalism and pluralism of the media”: Upon the request of the Georgian Parliament, a legal opinion on the draft Law on broadcasting was drafted and submitted. A workshop on gender stereotypes for journalists and media students was organised.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Protecting internet freedom through legislation and arrangements for multi-stakeholder dialogue”: The first general meeting of the members of the association of small and medium internet service providers was organised. Training on Consumer protection standards was also organised for students.

- AP "Strengthening the Capacity of the High School of Justice of Georgia": A training module on the Effective Judicial Review of Cybercrime was finalised through pilot training (April). Training of Judge-Trainers and pilot training were conducted on Effective Judicial Review of Corruption-related cases, which completed the module on the topic (April-May). Training of judge-trainers was conducted on Effective Review of Hate Crimes (April). High School of Justice Training Unit and management benefited from a study visit to the Centre for Judicial Studies (CEJ) in Lisbon on training cycle management, planning and training evaluation (May). Methodology on Court Practice Analysis was developed, followed by training and a study visit to the Supreme Court of Estonia (June). Training modules were developed, followed by the Training of judge-trainers, on Advanced Court Management for Court Presidents and Managers and Management and Leadership for Judges (June).
- EU/CoE – PGG "The Council of Europe Programme to support Georgia in view of the 2016 (parliamentary), 2017 (local) and 2018 (presidential) elections": On 28-30 June, the Office and the Tbilisi School of Political Studies organised the seminar "Culture of Choice - Culture of Elections." Fifty participants involved in the election process (as candidates, journalists, judges, commission members, and voters) discussed election-related topics. The June Seminar will be followed by two seminars in September-November 2017.
- AP "Support to the Judicial Reform in Georgia": The International Conference on Judicial Evaluation, Mediation and Juvenile Justice opened discussions on judicial evaluation rules in compliance with the CCJE Opinion 17 (April). The International Conference of Bars brought together bars from 12 countries to discuss modern challenges faced by the legal profession (May 2017). Rules on judicial appointments were updated as a result of the Project expertise on the optimum ways of reaching the probation period's full abolishment (June 2017). The Judicial Strategy 2017-2021 and the Action Plan 2017-2018 were adopted (June) thanks to the co-support of the Project (along with other international actors and EU and USAID funded projects).

Other relevant activities

- HoO had meetings on the constitutional amendments with the leadership of the Parliament, opposition representatives, and NGOs. He also delivered opening remarks at the Presentation of the Survey on the Application of ECHR standards by the common courts in Georgia, the regional meeting on Reporting on the piloting of local finance benchmarking, the opening of the Cybercrime coordination and partnership regional exercise, the International conference of signatory countries of the Memorandum of associations of judges, and the conference "Challenges and opportunities for women political participation in Georgia." HoO moderated one panel of the conference "The 2016 Parliamentary elections: lessons learned and steps ahead," and co-chaired gatherings of the Ambassadorial Working Group. HoO also delivered a speech at the Public Defender 20th Anniversary event, and attended the session of the Legal Affairs Parliamentary Committee devoted to the draft Strategy for the reform of the judiciary;
- HoO met the Chief of cabinet of the EUSR for South Caucasus, and took part in a meeting with the representatives of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament;
- HoO met, in Tbilisi, delegations of SIDA and DANEP, and took part in a fundraising trip to Oslo and Copenhagen, together with the Head of RMDR and the Head of the CoE Office in Ukraine. He also participated in a videoconference with the US State Department.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 28-30 June: The President of the Venice Commission visited Georgia.

Tirana**Situation of the Office**

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

The Office implements 11 projects, out of which 10 are co-funded by the EU and 1 by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

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

- VC Switzerland "Strengthening the local government structures and cooperation of local elected representatives in Albania": Sixty-three Human Resource Managers from 61 Municipalities completed the trainings on the annual performance appraisal and on the application of decriminalisation requirements/procedures of newly recruited civil servants. Both trainings were timely and well-targeted and helped/supported correct implementation of the respective procedures in compliance with laws' requirements.
- EU/CoE JP "Enhancing the effectiveness of the Albanian system of human rights protection and anti-discrimination": The 3rd SC meeting took place on 2 June. The SCM agreed to a possible project extension in order to ensure further effectiveness and sustainability of the project.
- EU/CoE – HF "Economic Crime in Albania". The Action supported the Central Election Commission (CEC) in implementing last minute amendments to the Law on Political Parties. The Action contributed to the drafting of by-laws and trained financial experts tasked to monitor the new requirements. Moreover, grants were awarded to NGOs for monitoring the implementation of the amendments. The Action provided to the High Inspectorate for the Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interests an assessment for an electronic system for the submission, processing and audit of asset declarations including the conflict of interests. The 2nd SC meeting took place on 21 April.
- EU/CoE – HF "Fighting Bullying and extremism in the Education System in Albania": A national conference took place in Tirana, on 11 April, to introduce the main findings of the national survey on bullying and extremism. Based on recommendations from 3 Focus Groups' discussions, the action developed interventions for 21 pilot schools. The 2nd SC meeting and an International Conference on Bullying and Extremism in Schools took place on 28-29 June in Durres.
- EU/CoE – HF "Enhancing the Protection of Human Rights of Prisoners in Albania": In line with Council of Europe and European Committee for Prevention of Torture (CPT) Standards, a rulebook on the recruitment of prison staff was successfully developed and is ready for utilisation across penitentiary institutions. A ToT curriculum was finalised along with the training of trainers and a comprehensive expert assessment visit and report provided specifics on the on-going legislative and policy reform process in the penitentiary field. The 2nd Steering Committee of the Action took place on 23 May.
- EU/CoE – HF "Supporting effective domestic remedies and facilitating the execution of judgments (D-REX)": The School of Magistrates (SoM) and School of Advocacy were supported with 3 training manuals, developed with international expertise. The 1st SC meeting of the project took place on 5 April.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Albania": The draft framework law on minorities was adopted by the Albanian Council of Ministers and submitted to the Parliament.
- EU/CoE – HF "Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice in Albania (SEJ II)": The court coaching reports for the 10 pilot courts were finished and an assessment mission on the

development of the new judicial map, as well as a mission on building a positive relationship between media and judiciary, was carried out.

- The Office facilitated the implementation of electoral assistance for the Albanian CEC by the Division of Electoral Assistance (DG II), covering the purchase and installation of equipment for the CEC training centre, the development of a new CEC website as well as the development and use of a CEC smart phone application and hotline for the 25 Parliamentary Elections.

Follow up action

- The third and last phase of the Project "Strengthening the local government structures and capacities in Albania" was submitted to the Swiss Development Cooperation, while discussions have started on a new area pertaining to a potential project on education for democracy under the SDC Country Strategy 2018-2021;
- Follow up discussions with the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with regards to the new cooperation assistance framework.

Other relevant activities

- 7 April: The 1st HF Steering Committee meeting for Albania took place in Tirana. Sixty-one SC members representing the CoE, EU and relevant beneficiary institutions attended the meeting. The SCM adopted inter alia recommendations to the HF Steering Board on the use of the Reserve Fund for Albania;
- 24-28 April: The GREVIO Secretariat organised a visit to Albania ahead of preparing its first monitoring report on Albania.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 23-26 June: A 19-member PACE delegation, led by Paolo Corsini (Italy, SOC), observed the conduct of the parliamentary elections, the delegation met with leaders and representatives of political parties, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission, and representatives of international organisations, civil society and the media, before observing the ballot on 25 June.

Yerevan**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 6, Project staff –14, Total staff - 20.

The Office implements 9 projects, of which 5 are PGG projects funded by the EU and 4 are projects funded by VC/Donor (UK, Switzerland and Norway). In addition, the Office implements one PGG centralised project (COMUS).

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”: Two hundred and fifty investigators participated in the CoE Human Rights course in the Justice Academy. The CoE provided its opinion to the Ministry of Justice on the draft law on Prosecution. Twenty-six staff members from the Human Rights Defender’s Office, out of which 12 were women, were trained on specific techniques for monitoring places of deprivation of liberty. The Human Rights Defender’s Office staff, including representatives of the NGOs that are part of the National Prevention Mechanism (NPM), participated in a study visit to the Austrian Ombudsman Board. Thirty-two judges and judicial servants, including 15 women, attended a seminar aimed at facilitating the accurate application of Article 3 of the ECHR in national judgments.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Strengthening integrity and combatting corruption in higher education in Armenia”: Through the micro grants scheme, three NGOs and a public organisation are supported in implementing projects and conducting research aimed at raising awareness for fighting corruption in higher education institutions (HEI). Academic staff and management (76 people total) from 12 HEIs were trained to develop Codes of Ethics and related policies based on the model Codes of Ethics and application of the toolkit on student assessment and curriculum development. The toolkit on higher education governance has been discussed with the HEI community, revised and submitted for development of an online submission version
- EU/CoE – PGG “Strengthening Health Care and Human Rights Protection in Prisons in Armenia”: Sixteen amendments in the field of penitentiary were proposed and discussed in a follow-up round table. The amendments are with the Ministry of Justice and/or Government in different stages of consideration and adoption. Guidelines on healthcare provision issues for the prison population, particularly targeting women, juveniles and life sentenced inmates were developed. A contract for delivery of medical equipment for 11 prisons in Armenia was signed with the provider. A number of 312 medical and non-medical prisons’ staff were trained on medical ethics and human rights in the Law Institute, thus bringing to 814 the total number of trained personnel. A Baseline report on mental healthcare issues in the penitentiary institutions was completed. A study visit to learn about the legal and institutional framework for prison healthcare services in Denmark was conducted.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Long-Term Electoral Assistance to the Election Related Stakeholders of Armenia”: Two hundred and fifty and 150 trained domestic observers were deployed to polling stations on the Parliamentary (2 April) and respective Yerevan city council elections (14 May). The election observation results were analysed, published and presented to election related stakeholders in a follow-up workshop. The investigative “Hetq Online” reported and documented about 150 incidents reported to the hotline created for Election Day. A Conference on “Electoral Developments in Armenia: Lessons Learned and Steps Ahead” analysed the compliance of the recent elections with international standards. As a follow-up to 2016 local elections, a four-day women’s leadership school was organised in Tsakhkadzor, Kotayk region, with the participation of 28 female councillors from Ararat, Armavir, Kotayk, Lori and Aragatsotn regions. The leadership

school included sessions on political and legal knowledge, knowledge of local government system and ways to promote women's active participation in local government. More than 10,000 schoolchildren participated in election simulation games held in 39 high schools. The project ended on 30 June.

- EU/CoE – PGG “Support to the implementation of the justice field reform in Armenia following the Constitutional amendments”: The Project started on 15 June. The fact finding and needs assessment mission is scheduled on 24-27 July.
- VC UK “Support to the implementation of the judicial reform in Armenia: The Project started on 1 May. A round table discussion was organised with judges and mediators of Armenia to identify the practical issues and challenges hindering the application of mediation in Armenia. A platform for arbitrators was created to allow them to unite and to establish a self-governing organisation of arbitrators.
- VC Switzerland “Institutional Support to Communities Association of Armenia (CAA)”: Two workshops were organised to improve the communications and advocacy skills of the CAA staff and members. CAA’s advocacy strategy for 3 policy objectives was drafted as a result. CAA has also held consultations with members through Board and Republican Council meetings and released an official position statement on the draft law to amend the Law on Territorial-Administrative Division calling for a slower paced reform and thorough consultations with concerned communities.
- VC UK “Strengthening the application of European human rights standards in the armed forces in Armenia”, funded by United Kingdom: The needs assessments phase continued with the launching of the two reports on the military legislative framework, respective of the human rights training and education system of the military, and conduct of a third assessment on prevention and investigation of human rights violations in the army. Following a request from the Ministry of Education and in coordination with the Ministry of Defence, the project supports a 4-page contribution on human rights and initial military preparation for the new school textbooks for 12th grade students. Key Council of Europe standards related to human rights in the armed forces were translated and published in the Armenian language.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Community-Led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns” (COMUS): The project seeks to stimulate social and economic development by enhancing cultural heritage in 9 historic towns in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. During the reporting period, the Pilot Town Portfolio was presented in Gyumri and Goris and Pilot Town Brochures were published. Representatives of Armenia attended the final workshop on “Affordable housing and game-changing funding sources” and the final Conference of the project. The National Stakeholders Group and Donors meetings took stock of the project’s results. The project ended on 30 June.

Other relevant activities

- In April 2017, the project “Institutional Support to Communities Association of Armenia (CAA)” was extended until December 2018 with additional support of the donor;
- 1-2 June: DHoO participated in the mid-term review of the Swiss Cooperation funded projects in Armenia;
- 14 June: DHoO attended the Development Partners Coordination Meeting co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and UN, where the new Government programme was presented;
- 27 June: DHoO participated in the round table briefing on the local governance programme instigated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 12-14 May: Congress Electoral Assessment Mission;

ODGP/DER/Inf(2017)2

- 15-16 May: Venice Commission mission related to providing assistance for the Draft Law on Constitutional Court;
- 23 May: Steering Committee Meeting on the Implementation of the CoE Action Plan for Armenia 2015-2018, with the participation of the Director, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes;
- 19-22 June: Evaluation mission of CoE Anti-corruption programme of the Directorate of Internal Oversight.

Rabat**Situation of the office**

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

The Office co-ordinates the implementation of the "Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2015-2017" action plan and the EU/CoE joint programmes "Towards Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme 2), and "Improving the functioning of justice in Morocco using the tools of the CEPEJ" 2016-2017 along with a voluntary contribution from Norway.

State of implementation of the programmes

- • EU-CoE JP "Improving the functioning of justice in Morocco using the tools of the CEPEJ" programme: In May the participation of a Moroccan delegation from the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms in a meeting of the CEPEJ Working Group on Quality of Justice made it possible to discuss further the conditions of Morocco's participation in the next CEPEJ monitoring cycle, which the Moroccan authorities announced in March 2017. Also in May, a seminar on the various tasks entrusted to the Judicial Inspectorate was organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice so as to discuss the role and powers of the general inspectorate within the new Moroccan judicial environment. In this context a meeting took place with the Deputy Chair of the new High Council of the Judiciary to discuss prospects for co-operation and work to be carried out with this institution. At the plenary meeting of CEPEJ in June, the Secretary General of the Ministry presented the activities implemented under the co-operation programme with the CoE and spoke of his expectations regarding future co-operation, particularly CoE assistance in reviewing the ministry's organisational chart.
- • EU-CoE JP "Towards Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean" programme (Prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment): In May CoE experts and members of the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) participated in the second training module with a view to creating a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (MNP) in Morocco. This module dealt with field visits to places of deprivation of liberty. As with the previous module, a representative of the Tunisian National Authority for the Prevention of Torture (INPT) attended this training session. In April CNDH representatives also took part in the launch of a joint EU-CoE programme seeking to set up a network of European torture prevention mechanisms.
- • EU-CoE JP "Towards Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean" programme (fight against trafficking in human beings): In connection with the recent enactment of Law No. 27-14 on combating trafficking in human beings, in May the CoE held a training session on this subject in co-operation with the Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences of the Mohammedia University (FSJESM). This activity is part of a training course on combating trafficking in human beings being run in the context of the future partnership between the two institutions. This first training session was aimed at building the capacity of lecturers and PhD students and also presenting the fundamental elements of the conceptual and legal framework to combat trafficking, including the CoE anti-trafficking Convention, together with an overview of the Moroccan legislation on this issue.

Other relevant activities

- • Parliamentary Assembly: participation by the Moroccan delegation holding partnership for democracy status in the third part-session of PACE in June.
- • Freedom of expression and media freedom: In April a debate-workshop on media representation of women in Morocco was held for Moroccan journalists, which fostered discussion

between Moroccan media professionals, representatives of civil society and academics on the specific role of public and private media in shaping social perceptions and improving the image of women. At the end of April a Moroccan delegation from the Ministry of Communication was also able to take part in the conference organised by the Council of Europe in Nicosia on Freedom of Expression Online: evolving European jurisprudence and standard-setting activities in the digital age. In May the CoE organised in-house training for the staff of the High Authority for Audio-visual Communication (HACA), which enabled the participants to exchange views with experts from the Swiss and Irish audio-visual regulators regarding cultural and linguistic diversity and media literacy. An initial in-service training session was also held in May for officials from the Ministry of Communication and Culture (MinCom), enabling participants to enhance their knowledge of the protection offered by international standards and the European Convention on Human Rights regarding freedom of expression. This workshop also dealt with safeguards in matters of freedom of audiovisual communication, independence of the media and media pluralism. Lastly, at the end of June, a Moroccan delegation from the MinCom took part in the 12th meeting of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI).

- • Combating violence against children: in May a representative from the Moroccan Ministry of Social Development took part in the 18th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee in connection with the finalisation of the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention by Morocco. Moreover, the Moroccan authorities have asked the CoE to help draw up a National Programme for the Protection of Children on the Internet, drawing in part on the CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021).
- • Combating violence against women: in April a representative of the Moroccan Ministry of Social Development took part in a conference, in Tunis, on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, which allowed the Moroccan authorities to present, in a regional context, the Moroccan legal framework and the national strategy on this subject.

Tunis

Core staff – 2, Project staff – 5, Total - 7.

The Office implements country-related activities of 5 regional programmes, of which 1 is funded by the EU for the period 2015-2017 (Towards a strengthened democratic reform in the Southern Mediterranean ("South Programme II")), and 4 are funded by Norway (Schools of political studies; Combatting violence against women; Promotion of freedom of expression, independence of the media and public access to information; local democracy).

State of implementation of programmes

- South Programme II "Human Rights": The second module of the training of trainers was organised with the Tunisian National Institution against Human Trafficking on the issue of protection of victims of trafficking in human beings. The training was moderated by a Belgian Council of Europe expert and the person responsible for fight against human trafficking in the Ministry of Justice. The training was conceived to examine the situation in Tunisia in the light of concrete case studies in Europe and in Tunisia. The training is part of the cooperation established with the Ministry of Justice and the National Institution against Human Trafficking since it was officially established earlier this year.
- VC Norway "Combating violence against women and girls": An International Conference on Preventing and Combating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children was organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Women, the Family and Children on 4 May and 5 May. The conference, inaugurated by the Ministry for Women, the Family and Children, aimed to facilitate the exchange of views and experiences in preventing and combating sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including national, regional and international legal frameworks, victim protection and assistance measures, and coordination and networking between the various actors. The current and the former Chair of the Lanzarote Committee took part.
- On the issue of combating violence against women, a regional conference was organised on 20 and 21 April in partnership with the Ministry for Women, the Family and Childhood and the Ministry of Human Rights and Relations with the Civil Society and Independent Institutions. More than 100 participants, including parliamentarians, international experts and representatives of diplomatic missions and representatives of civil society, attended the regional conference. A draft law on violence against women was presented in the presence of the Minister for Women, Family and Children.
- VC Norway "Media and Freedom of expression": On 1 June, the Council of Europe organised a dinner-debate in Tunis which brought together Tunisian parliamentarians, a representative of the Ministry in charge of constitutional bodies, civil society and human rights, members of the media regulatory body in Tunisia (High Independent Authority of Audio-visual Communications –HAICA) as well as representatives of civil society and of the academic world. The debate was part of the Council of Europe's support to the reform process, launched in Tunisia, of the legal framework governing the audio-visual sector and establishing the constitutional body of audio-visual communication as enshrined in the Tunisian Constitution.

Follow-up action

- Building on cooperation established over the past few years, the Tunisian authorities have officially requested to become a party to the Lanzarote convention and to the GRECO. These developments follow requests to become party to the Convention 108 and the North-South Centre in 2015 and 2016 respectively;
- Tunisia's request for accession to the Lanzarote Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse was approved by the Committee of Ministers on 4

May. Once the ratification process is completed, Tunisia will become the first Non-member State to the convention.

Other Relevant activities

- The Council of Europe Office participated in several donor coordination meetings in the fields of elections and freedom of expression;
- Several meetings were held at the Assembly of People's Representatives with members of Parliament as well as with the Ministry of Local Affairs on the new draft code of local authorities. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities has initiated cooperation activities (under Norwegian funding) with the main actors in this field to support the drafting of the new code and related by-laws;
- 16 June: The Pompidou Group organised an "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking: Women, Violence and Addiction in Tunisia";
- 22 June: The Office in Tunis was also involved in the preparation of the visit of a high-level Tunisian delegation to Strasbourg headed by the Chair of the National Anti-Corruption Unit (INLUCC). It participated in an exchange of views meeting with GRECO members and was received by the Deputy Secretary General.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other official delegations

- 1-2 June: A delegation of the Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) headed by the Ambassador Börlin (Switzerland), composed of the ambassadors of France, Italy, Norway, Estonia and Monaco to the Council of Europe visited Tunisia. They were received by the Secretary of State for European Affairs, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Women, Family and Children Affairs, the Minister of Human Rights and Relations with Civil Society and Independent Institutions, as well as several other high-level personalities. Their visit provided an opportunity to assess the Council of Europe's cooperation with Tunisia and to review national partners' expectations regarding future cooperation priorities for the period 2018-2020.