
Overview of Co-operation Activities in Kosovo*

Document prepared by the Office of the Directorate General for Programmes

Item to be considered by the GR-DEM at its meeting on 19 November 2020

¹ This document has been classified restricted until examination by the Committee of Ministers.

*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.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism
CDCT	Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism
CDPC	European Committee on Crime Problems
CEC	Central Election Commission
CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
CERT	Computer Emergency Response Teams
CIRT	Cyber Incident Response Teams
CLCU	Criminal Law Co-operation Unit
CONGRESS	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
CPT	Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DGI	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law
DGII	Directorate General of Democracy
DPA	Directorate of Political Affairs
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECML	European Centre for Modern Languages
ECRI	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
ECSR	European Committee of Social Rights
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EJTN	European Judicial Training Network
ESC	European Social Charter (Revised)
EU	European Union
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FCNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
FRED	Fostering Rapprochement through Education for Democracy and language learning
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
HELP	European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Horizontal Facility	EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey
HRU	Human Rights Unit of various ministries
ICT	Information and communication technologies
IOJT	International Organisation for Judicial Training
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
iPROCEEDS	EU/CoE JP on targeting crime proceeds on the Internet in South-Eastern Europe and Turkey
JP	EU/CoE Joint Programme
JUFREX	EU/CoE JP Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media
KCF	Kosovo Curriculum Framework
KCS	Kosovo Corrections Service
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council
KoSEJ	Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice Action within the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey
KPC	Kosovo Prosecutorial Council
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons
MAE	Major Administrative Entity of the Council of Europe
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
OGG	Office of Good Governance within the Prime Minister's Office
OIK	Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo
PC-CP	Council for Penological Co-operation
P/CVE	Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism
PECK	EU/CoE JP Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo*
PHD	Prison Healthcare Department
PIK	Police Inspectorate of Kosovo
RAN	Radicalisation Awareness Network
RFCDC	Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture

ROMACTED	EU/CoE JP on Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level
SCN	Superior Courts' Network
SEE	South-East Europe
SLAPP	Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation
SOGI	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
VEOs	Violent Extremist Offenders

INTRODUCTION

This document is an update of the document *GR-DEM(2019)3*, of which the Ministers' Deputies took note at their 1343rd meeting (4 April 2019).

It gives a snapshot of the proposed projects that are under consideration and of the projects currently implemented by the Council of Europe in Kosovo*.

The Council of Europe co-operation with Kosovo* is based on the principle that the Council of Europe and its Secretariat operate in conformity with the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244 (1999) and on the status-neutral approach of our Organisation. In this context, the Council of Europe maintains contacts with United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). On 12 December 2012, the Committee of Ministers took note of the Secretary General's decision regarding the direct interaction of Council of Europe officials involved in Council of Europe activities in Kosovo* with officials from relevant and competent authorities in Kosovo* based on the principle of "functional capacity". This principle is taken into account to ensure the Organisation's ability to work effectively in Kosovo* in order to promote the adoption and implementation of Council of Europe standards.

All proposed and current projects seek to be in alignment with the needs and strategic priorities of the local authorities. They are relevant to the adherence with Council of Europe standards including those specific standards required via the Copenhagen Criteria and represent areas of exclusivity or where the contribution of the Council of Europe adds value. Co-ordination with other activities and actors *in situ* is a guiding principle for all Council of Europe interventions, in particular with the European Union (EU) Office, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), as well as the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the competent UN agencies.

On 13 October 2020, the Working Group on Co-operation between the Council of Europe and Kosovo* held its sixth meeting in a hybrid format due to the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the sanitary situation. Participants of the Working Group from Pristina and Strasbourg exchanged on the state of co-operation as well as proposals for future activities, with a view to preparing the present document.

All projects proposed have been developed on the basis of needs identified in the course of those Council of Europe monitoring and monitoring-like activities carried out in Kosovo* under specific arrangements, and as identified in the course of the implementation of programmatic activities. These areas are determined as areas for strategic and value-added engagement by the Council of Europe. The intervention-logic employed in Kosovo* is based on a programmatic approach whereby all co-operation activities are harmonised and mutually reinforcing, which is ensured during implementation. Longstanding co-operation in building the capacities of judges and prosecutors on European human rights standards, promoting cultural diversity, reinforcing independent institutions such as the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo (OIK) and fighting economic crime and corruption allowed to consolidate results and ensure sustainability in these areas. This approach also caters for progressive programming whereby new interventions build on progress made or shortcomings identified in the course of on-going or past initiatives.

The evolution of the situation on the ground may require an update of this document. Therefore, this document should not be considered as limiting the Council of Europe engagement in other relevant and associated fields, in accordance with developing needs of the beneficiaries.

Projects in the document are to be funded from multiple sources including the EU, voluntary contributions from donor countries and the Council of Europe's Ordinary Budget. This document also reflects the relevant projects included in the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – Phase II (2019-2022), implementing the Statement of Intent² for the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the EU Enlargement Region and the Eastern Partnership and Southern Mediterranean countries (EU Neighbourhood).

² Council of Europe, European Commission, *Statement of Intent for the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the EU enlargement region and the Eastern Partnership and Southern Mediterranean countries (EU neighbourhood region)*.

I. HUMAN RIGHTS

1.1 PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Activity	1.1.1. STRENGTHENING KOSOVO* INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE, ILL-TREATMENT AND OTHER DEGRADING TREATMENT - (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The European Convention on Human Rights as well as the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment are directly applicable in the Kosovo* legal framework.</p> <p>The National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) was established under the Law on the OIK so as to carry out visits to all places of deprivation of liberty and to make recommendations aimed at improving the conditions and treatment of people deprived of their liberty.</p> <p>The Council of Europe has so far played an important role in the area by implementing a previous project supporting the capacities of the OIK in terms of strengthening the application of human rights standards.</p> <p>This project will also focus on enhancing the capacities of the Academy of Justice and the judiciary itself to sustainably ensure effective investigations of allegations of torture and ill-treatment related to persons deprived of their liberty. Finally, it will aim at reaching law students to better understand and internalise standards of the European Court of Human Rights in relation to fight against ill treatment.</p> <p>The project will support the OIK/NPM and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in this field; judiciary and law students will continue to receive the support of the Council of Europe in this area, leading to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved capacities and skills of the NPM staff in monitoring detention facilities and enhancement of their skills in reporting, communication and media; - Increased co-operation and awareness among relevant stakeholders, ensuring that rights of persons deprived of liberty are respected; - Enhanced capacity of judges and prosecutors to apply the standards on Article 3 of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) to better fight torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment; - Enhanced knowledge and understanding of law students concerning prohibition of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), through practice of local mechanism and ECtHR case-law.
Main partners	OIK/NPM, Academy of Justice; Law Faculties in Pristina and Mitrovica
Duration	01/07/2020-31/12/2021
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	€550 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	1.1.2. HELP IN THE WESTERN BALKANS (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>In the framework of the Council of Europe Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), the action “HELP in the Western Balkans” is implemented under the European Union/Council of Europe Joint Programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II”. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthen the capacity of training institutions for judges and prosecutors, Bar Associations and universities to provide high quality training and education on human rights; - enhance the capacity of (current and future) legal professionals/justice sector players to effectively and coherently apply human rights at domestic level and through cross-border training. <p>While strengthening the HELP network in South-East Europe (SEE), selected HELP online courses on European standards related to human rights combining Council of Europe and European Union (EU) laws as well as the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union, will be implemented to respond to the persisting legal training needs. Among others, the following courses will be launched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rights of persons with disabilities; - Access to justice for women; - Asylum and the European Convention on Human Rights; - Child-friendly justice; - Data protection and privacy rights; - International co-operation in criminal matters; - Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights; - Procedural safeguards in criminal proceedings and victims’ rights; - Property rights and the European Convention on Human Rights; - Violence against women and domestic violence.
Main partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kosovo Academy of Justice and Kosovo Bar Association - Albanian School of Magistrates and National Chamber of Advocates - Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training and Bar Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training and Bar Association of the Republika Srpska - Centre for Training in Judiciary and State Prosecution and Bar Association of Montenegro - Judicial Academy of the Republic of Serbia and Serbian Bar Association - Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors and Bar Association of North Macedonia
Duration	01/12/2019 - 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Funding	EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II €800 000, approx. €133 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	1.1.3. LEGAL PROFESSIONALS IN KOSOVO* (LINK) (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>In Kosovo*, by virtue of Article 22 of the Constitution (Direct Applicability of International Agreements and Instruments), the European Convention on Human Rights is directly applicable and, in case of conflict, has priority over domestic laws and other acts of public institutions. Moreover, Article 53 of the Constitution provides that human rights and fundamental freedoms shall be interpreted in light of the case law of the ECtHR. Therefore, supporting the implementation of the ECHR is central to the Council of Europe's work.</p> <p>The necessary precondition for achieving a uniform interpretation and effective implementation of human rights in Kosovo* is that all legal practitioners (judges, lawyers and prosecutors) should be familiar with the European human rights standards and able to apply them in concrete situations. Continuous training for legal practitioners cannot be effective without a strong human rights component within the basic training for future lawyers (law students).</p> <p>Law students/professors and practitioners need to increase their capacity to apply the ECHR in Kosovo*. At the same time, their understanding and awareness of the case law of the ECtHR needs to be enhanced. These target groups need to exchange expertise in this field. They also lack the practical competencies as they enter into professional life, and especially in the field of human rights which are most relevant ones in Kosovo*.</p> <p>This project will contribute to an increased protection of human rights in Kosovo* by reaching the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing legal professionals' capacities to effectively and coherently apply the European human rights standards at the local level; - Increasing knowledge and practical skills of future legal professionals (law students) on how to apply the European human rights standards in their professional life. <p>The Kosovo Academy of Justice, the Bar Association and the Faculty of Law should make use of the HELP methodology. Introducing the online HELP methodology and interactive exercises, such as moot courts, summer camps for students, legal clinics, internships, etc., will help students deepen their knowledge of human rights and the ECHR and will enable them to start thinking about how these legal instruments can be used to uphold human rights in various situations. The outcome will be to equip students with practical skills as they begin their professional life as young legal professionals.</p> <p>Thematic focus of the project will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Admissibility criteria regarding applications submitted to the European Court of Human Rights; - Child-friendly justice and children's rights; - Combating trafficking in human beings; - Ill-treatment in law-enforcement, security and coercive contexts.
Main partners	Academy of Justice; Supreme Court; Prosecutor's Office; Kosovo Bar Association; Ministry of Education; Law schools (Universities)
Duration	24 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	<i>Possible EU/CoE Joint Programme under discussion (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance IPA 2021)</i> Estimated funding required: €889 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	1.1.4. IMPROVING THE PROTECTION OF EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The project aims at improving the capacity of the Constitutional Court to ensure the protection of individual human rights and fundamental freedoms through the effective application of European human rights standards to individual complaints.</p> <p>The main partner and direct beneficiary of the project is the Constitutional Court as the main implementer of the European Convention on Human Rights and constitutional oversight of judicial proceedings held in regular courts, including the application of the European Convention on Human Rights.</p> <p>Article 113.7 of the Kosovo* Constitution entitles individuals to refer to the Constitutional Court violations by public authorities of their individual rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. Article 22.2 specifies that the human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the ECHR are directly applicable. Furthermore, the Constitution provides, in Article 53, that "human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by this Constitution shall be interpreted consistently with the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights."</p> <p>The Constitutional Court judges are supported, <i>inter alia</i>, by a team of 13 legal advisors, who are permanent employees of the Court. The legal advisors conduct legal research and prepare the decisions, resolutions and draft judgments of the Court on behalf of the judges.</p> <p>The project supports the professional development of the judges and legal advisors within the Constitutional Court with a view to ensuring that ECHR standards are applied in practice by the Court. The methodology includes a combination of various awareness-raising and capacity-building tools, high-quality expertise tailored to the needs of the key beneficiary and sharing of successful practices employed within the bodies of constitutional justice across Europe.</p> <p>The following results are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed capacity of the newly appointed Constitutional Court judges and newly recruited legal advisors to apply the European Convention on Human Rights; - Improved organisational structure and working methods of the Constitutional Court; - Improved normative and organisational base for strengthening the Legal unit of the Constitutional Court; - Increased capacity of the Constitutional Court's support services including communications unit and translators to apply the best European practices enhancing the functioning of the Court in general; - Increased awareness of legal professionals and general population on the European human rights standards and the work of the Constitutional Court.
Main partners	Constitutional Court
Duration	01/02/2019 – 31/12/2020
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	€500 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	1.1.5. SUPPORT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF KOSOVO* IN APPLYING AND DISSEMINATING EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>The Constitutional Court is entrusted with the final instance jurisdiction for the interpretation of the Constitution and the compliance of laws with the Constitution. Since its establishment in 2009, the Constitutional Court has been vested with a pivotal role in ensuring the respect of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In the past ten years, the Constitutional Court has considerably consolidated the existing legal framework and made an extensive use to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, which is applicable in Kosovo* pursuant to Article 53 of its Constitution.</p> <p>The proposed project, building on the recommendations and assessment of the shortcomings of the Constitutional Court carried out under the ongoing project “Improving the protection of European Human Rights Standards by the Constitutional Court”, aims at further supporting the efforts of the Constitutional Court for ensuring the protection of individual human rights and fundamental freedoms by reaching the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing the quality of the Constitutional Court decisions through peer-to-peer exchange and tailored capacity-building activities in thematic areas where further improvement is needed; provision of support to upgrade the Constitutional Court’s case-management system and to enhance the use of the existing electronic tools with the view to improving research skills and cross-citation in the Constitutional Court’s decisions; strengthening and promotion of the role of the newly established Jurisconsult of the Constitutional Court; - Increasing the impact of the Constitutional Court’s judgments on the legal order through the establishment of regular exchange and judicial dialogue between the Constitutional Court and the ordinary courts towards coherent application of the ECHR and the ECtHR case law; - Strengthening the capacities of legal professionals to better claim rights and freedoms before the Constitutional Court by supporting the awareness raising of lawyers, law students and other legal professionals on the rights protected by the ECHR and the work and judgments of the Constitutional Court, with an emphasis on the individual complaint mechanism. <p>The proposed project, combining various awareness raising and capacity building tools, a high-quality expertise tailored to the needs of the key beneficiary and sharing of successful practices employed within the bodies of constitutional justice across Europe will maximise the impact and sustainability of the achieved results under previous projects implemented with the Constitutional Court.</p>
Main partners	The Constitutional Court, Bar Association, Basic and Appellate Courts in Kosovo*, University of Pristina (Law Faculty) and other private educational institutions
Duration	24 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	€750 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

1.2. PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

Activity	1.2.1. REINFORCING THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – PHASE II (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>Legislative initiatives in Kosovo* such as the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence (2010) have significantly improved the legislative framework, but the implementation of the legislation remains a problem in this field. Although domestic violence as such is criminalised and specialised police units exist, domestic violence is largely under-reported and convictions are rare. The project aims to raise awareness and to train professionals (through HELP) regarding issues related to violence against women and domestic violence and to tackle taboos, gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes associated with violence against women and domestic violence.</p> <p>The mapping of existing services for victims of violence against women in Kosovo* conducted during the previous phase of the project concluded that in Kosovo* the availability and accessibility of specialist services for victims of the different forms of violence against women is limited.</p> <p>The project, to be implemented in co-operation with the relevant authorities, will promote the implementation of the recommendations set out in the mapping report.</p>
Main partners	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, civil society
Duration	10/12/2018 – 30/06/2021
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Overall budget: €400 000 Funding secured: €220 000 (non-earmarked); €180 000 (ordinary budget)
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

Activity	1.2.2. REINFORCING THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - PHASE III (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>Kosovo* institutions have undertaken important developments with respect to tackling domestic violence since 2008. Entered into force in 2010, Law no.03/L-182 on Protection against Domestic Violence (LPDV) regulates protection measures for victims, establishes psychological and substance abuse treatment for perpetrators, and defines obligations for competent authorities. Kosovo* adopted its second Strategy on Protection from Domestic Violence and Action Plan (2016-2020) in December 2016. In 2020, the Agency for Gender Equality will initiate the process of revising the current LPDV with a view to incorporating firmly the gender perspective in the understanding of violence against women and domestic violence in order to align its provisions to the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. Similarly, a new Strategy on Protection from Domestic Violence and Action Plan will be drafted after the expiry of the current one at the end of 2020.</p> <p>On 25 September 2020, the Assembly of Kosovo* adopted an amendment to the Constitution that gives direct effect to the Istanbul Convention.</p>

	<p>The activities in this phase III will complement the outcomes of previous projects. They will cover the prevention, prosecution and protection pillars of the Istanbul Convention, with a strong focus on supporting the implementation of the now directly applicable requirements of the Istanbul Convention through a review of key legal and policy frameworks and building longer term capacity of the institutions in charge of preventing violence against women and domestic violence including tackling stereotypes, ensuring prosecution and accountability of perpetrators and providing support services for victims.</p> <p><u>Expert assessment of alignment with the Istanbul Convention:</u></p> <p>The project will carry out an expert evaluation of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) along with other international experts will carry out an assessment procedure based on the GREVIO baseline questionnaire. The assessment will provide authorities with information on the areas where more efforts are needed in order to achieve a comprehensive victim-centred gender-sensitive framework related to all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention. Women organisations and CSOs will be invited to participate in this process by offering information on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in their areas of expertise.</p> <p><u>Awareness raising</u></p> <p>Preventing violence will be one of the main axes of future actions in Kosovo* as gender roles and stereotypical notions of women/men are at the origin of violence against women and domestic violence. The project will continue to support the implementation of awareness-raising activities among key stakeholders and the general public.</p> <p><u>Women's Access to justice:</u></p> <p>The Council of Europe HELP programme will be used to provide training to prosecutors, lawyers and judges on violence against women and domestic violence as well as women's access to justice in order to foster reporting, support for victims during proceedings, compensation and accountability of perpetrators. An analysis of court practices will be conducted to frame the project's actions linked to access to justice. Based on the training curricula for legal professionals developed under phase II, further training will be conducted in co-operation with the Academy of Justice.</p> <p><u>Perpetrators programmes and support services for victims:</u></p> <p>The project will continue supporting the effective implementation of quality guidelines for shelters in Kosovo* and enhancing capacities of Centres for Social Work. Additionally, follow-up activities including pilot experiences to setting up perpetrators' programmes in Kosovo* could be envisaged.</p>
Main partners	Agency for Gender Equality, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health – division of Social Services & Welfare, civil society
Duration	01/07/2021 – 28/02/2023
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €400 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

Activity	1.2.3. PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The action on promotion of diversity and equality in the South-East Europe region aims to further strengthen the effectiveness of equality bodies and Ombudsperson institutions, as well as Police Administrations and CSOs in combating discrimination, including hate speech and hate crime. The regional action is based on the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) standards and specific recommendations for Horizontal Facility partners. It complements the specific actions on promotion of diversity and equality (see 1.2.4 below).</p> <p>In this context it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide discussion fora for the representatives of the equality bodies and Ombudsperson institutions from the region to respond to the changing societal, political and policy landscape in relation to combating discrimination and specifically hate speech in SEE; - assist beneficiaries in the development of tools and in strengthening their capacities to counter hate speech, including an improved dialogue with vulnerable groups and public at large; - identify and assess good practice and errors from the past, so as to improve methodologies and mechanisms as well as co-operation between police and civil society organisations in the relevant areas; - strengthen synergies and co-operation at regional level to increase the equality bodies', police administrations and CSOs capacities to contribute to necessary social change at local level. <p>This regional co-operation is complemented by a number of activities, involving close co-operation with CSOs aimed at raising awareness of the public at large about the negative consequences of hate speech, so as to discourage and prevent its use and foster the use of counter narratives. An additional tool to counter hate speech will be the promotion of No Hate Speech Ambassadors at the regional and local levels, involving public figures from sport, culture, show business and politics to counter with positive speech the use of hate speech.</p>
Main partners	CSOs, Commissioners for Protection from Discrimination, local self-governments, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Interior, of Justice, of Social Wellbeing and Youth, Ombudsperson Institutions
Duration	24/05/2019 - 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €400 000, approx. €66 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

Activity	1.2.4. PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY IN KOSOVO* (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The adoption in Kosovo* of a “human rights law package” (Law on the Ombudsperson, Law on Gender Equality and Law on Protection against Discrimination) in June 2015 was a significant step towards comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.</p> <p>In this context, the action on the Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Kosovo* aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve the authorities’ implementation of the policy/legal framework related to anti-discrimination, combating hate speech and protecting the rights of Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) in line with the standards and recommendations set by the Council of Europe, where applicable; - improve the capacity of the Office of Good Governance within the Prime Minister’s Office (OGG) and the OIK within the existing human rights protection framework. <p>The basis for these two components is the 2017 fourth Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) Advisory Committee opinion on Kosovo* and Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. The action's aims will be achieved by:</p> <p><u>Policy/legislative component:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessing the inter-institutional framework relating to the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation; identifying gaps and proposing solutions for improvements; identifying gaps that affect implementation; and proposing secondary legislation, aiming inter alia to address these gaps; - Supporting the local institutions in charge for combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI); - Providing expert recommendations to the authorities at central and municipal level concerning how to streamline their human rights structures, including their complementarity with the mandate of the OGG and the OIK. <p><u>Capacity building component:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-assessing the existing system of Human Rights Units (HRUs) within the Office for Good Governance and their mandate in the field of anti-discrimination, and strengthening their institutional capacity; - Enhancing the capacity of the authorities (including local authorities) to identify and address cases of discrimination through tailored human rights training, including distance learning, using the Council of Europe HELP Programme. <p><u>Awareness-raising component:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnering the relevant institutions (and therefore strengthening their capacity and increasing their visibility) in the delivery of tailored awareness-raising activities such as campaigns and public discussions on selected anti-discrimination topics; support to civil society organisations and municipalities by small grant schemes, to enhance their capacities to tackle discrimination and reach out to victims.
Main partners	Central and municipal institutions, OGG, MoJ; human rights structures, HRUs, OIK, CSOs at the central and local level.
Duration	24/05/2019 - 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II €300 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

Activity	1.2.5. ROMACTED - PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ROMA³ EMPOWERMENT AT LOCAL LEVEL (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>In recent years there has been strong development of policy frameworks for the integration of Roma throughout South-East Europe. At the same time, steps have been taken to raise the authorities' awareness of the importance of policy measures at local level for achieving real improvement in the social inclusion of Roma in key areas such as education, housing, employment, health and civil documentation.</p> <p>The overall objective of the regional project ROMACTED is to ensure the authorities' sustained policy engagement, to enhance democratic participation and the empowerment of selected local Roma communities, to draw up and implement projects, and to access local and external funds. The specific objectives of the project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - empower Roma on an individual and community level; - improve and expand local authorities' commitment, capacities, knowledge and skills in working for Roma inclusion, by putting into practice the concepts of good governance; - assist local authorities to integrate a Roma-specific dimension/measures into mainstream local policies, budgets and public service delivery. <p>The project is complemented in the area of education by the EU/CoE Joint Programme "Building Capacity for Inclusion in Education – INCLUDE" (see 3.2.1 below)</p>
Main partners	Local public administrations, including elected representatives and relevant officials, Roma communities from the selected municipalities
Duration	01/05/2017 - 31/12/2020
Project area:	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey
Funding	<i>EU/CoE regional Joint Programme</i> €3 750 000 approx. €500 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DG-II)

Activity	1.2.6. ROMACTED - PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ROMA EMPOWERMENT AT LOCAL LEVEL - PHASE II (REGIONAL, PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>ROMACTED phase II is proposed as the continuity of ROMACTED "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level" (see 1.2.5 above). The specificity of the actions would be to assist the local authorities to integrate Roma specific dimension/measures into the mainstream local policies, budgets and public service delivery on their agenda, while enhancing the participation of Roma citizens in the design, implementation and monitoring of those policies and projects.</p> <p>The aims of the programme are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build up political will and sustained policy engagement of local authorities to enhance democratic local governance and to build up capacity and stimulate the empowerment of local Roma communities to contribute to the design, implementation and monitoring of plans and projects concerning them; - Empower the Roma community on the individual level (assisting people to practice their basic rights and to expand their capacity and skills), as

³ The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

	<p>well as on the community level (assisting people to get organised in order to voice their interests around community problem-solving);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve and expand the institutions' commitment, capacities, knowledge and skills in working for Roma inclusion, putting into practice the concepts of good governance; - Developing support actions and building structural capacity of the local communities and authorities to mitigate the impact of the crisis and foster the post COVID-19 recovery; - Support the inclusion of Roma returnees and their civic participation. <p>In the area of education the project will be complemented by the EU/CoE Joint Programme "Building Capacity for Inclusion in Education – INCLUDE" (see 3.2.1 below).</p>
Main partners	Local public administrations, including elected representatives and relevant officials, Roma communities from the selected municipalities
Duration	01/09/2020 - 31/08/2024
Project area:	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey
Funding	EU/CoE regional Joint Programme €6 500 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DG-II)

1.3. ENSURING SOCIAL RIGHTS

Activity	1.3.1. PROMOTING RESPECT FOR SOCIAL RIGHTS IN LINE WITH THE STANDARDS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>The project aims to introduce the standards of the revised European Social Charter (ESC) in Kosovo* and to strengthen institutional capacities to guarantee social rights in line with these standards.</p> <p>A preliminary activity will seek to introduce the standards of the ESC to the authorities, civil society as well as students of law and social science. It will serve to raise awareness of the relevance and importance of focussing on and respecting social and economic rights through law, policy and practice and will pave the way for further co-operation between the Council of Europe and the relevant authorities in this field.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the project will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote Council of Europe standards in the field of social rights; - raise awareness within target groups (authorities, civil society of social and economic rights, students of law and social science); - contribute to better alignment of legislation and policies with the standards of the ESC and the decisions and conclusions of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR).
Main partners	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, OGG, civil society
Duration	18 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €400 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

II. RULE OF LAW

2.1. ENSURING JUSTICE

Activity	2.1.1. TOWARDS A BETTER EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF JUDICIAL REFORM EFFORTS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS - “DASHBOARD WESTERN BALKANS” (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>This action contributes to achieving an effective, systematic and data-based evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in South-East Europe through the annual collection and processing of data on the functioning of the judicial systems of the Beneficiaries. In parallel, the action supports each partner in SEE with technical expertise and capacity building activities in order to improve the collection, processing and analysis of data on the functioning of the judicial systems and judicial statistics according to the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) methodology.</p> <p>The overall objective is to reach a better measurement of the results of the judicial reforms conducted locally to allow the authorities to base their future policies and budget allocations on the CEPEJ findings and to address outstanding steps needed to complete their reforms and improve the quality, efficiency and/or accountability of their justice system in line with European standards. To this end, the action will support the annual collection and processing of data on the functioning of the judicial systems of the beneficiaries and provide and implement tailor-made technical expertise and capacity building activities designed from the results of the data collection.</p>
Main partners	Courts, MoJs
Duration	24/05/2019 – 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €1 095 000, approx. €182 500 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.1.2. STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE – KOSEJ II (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>This action aims to further improve the day-to-day functioning and quality of the justice system. It provides concrete and targeted support to courts and central authorities by empowering them with the methodology and tools of the CEPEJ, in light also of the recommendations made under the first phase of the action (KoSEJ).</p> <p>The first specific objective is to enhance further the efficiency of the justice system, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisting beneficiaries in preparing a sustainable process of data collection leading to a systematic and in-depth assessment of the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in Kosovo*; - Providing further support to increase the capacity of the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) and the courts to collect and manage statistical data for court reporting and the proper use of the case management system; - Providing support, in the context of court coaching projects, to improve the management of courts. <p>The second specific objective is to enhance further the quality of the justice system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional court coaching projects to build the courts' capacity to deliver a better justice service, including court user satisfaction surveys;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting the establishment of an IT Strategy for Kosovo* to improve the performance and efficiency of the justice system in line with the CEPEJ Cyberjustice Guidelines. <p>The third specific objective is to assist the Academy of Justice improve its training capacities in efficiency and quality according to CEPEJ tools and methodology.</p>
Main partners	Courts, MoJ, KJC, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC), Academy of Justice
Duration	24/05/2019 – 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €1 000 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.1.3. JUDICIAL TRAINING INSTITUTES FOR QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY (JA-NET) (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The action will focus on developing relevant tools and methodology to improve the capacities of the training institutions in the SEE region to better assess the impact of the human rights trainings for the judiciary. Moreover, the action will aim to further enhance co-operation and sharing of good practices and methodology among training institutions in order to create a more coherent and sustainable approach to the use of developed training materials.</p> <p>The overall aim of the action is to contribute to a wider assurance of the effectiveness and quality of justice in the SEE region. The action will also contribute to the harmonisation of approaches in the evaluation of human rights trainings, by taking into consideration different regional experiences.</p> <p>Justice/Judicial training Academies/Centres in the SEE region have been established during the last two decades, with the first one in Albania (1997), and the last one in Montenegro (2015). Almost all the centres participate in the international scene by being either members, or observers, to the: European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), The Lisbon Network, International Organisation for Judicial Training (IOJT) and HELP. While there are examples of good practice in the region in relation to the evaluation models, further support is needed in the development of sustainable and applicable methodology and tools for the assessment of the long terms impact of the trainings performed to judges and prosecutors under judicial training centres' authority. To this end the action focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of the evaluation assessment tool and methodology to measure an impact of human rights training for judges and prosecutors; - Evaluation of human rights training and its effect on the quality of judgments, - Consolidation of accessible training materials/interactive methodology and resources previously developed under other projects for training institutions; - Improvement of E-library of the training institutions.
Main partners	Judicial Academies, Judicial Councils and Supreme Courts
Duration	24/05/2019 – 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €300 000, approx. €50 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.1.4. INITIATIVE FOR LEGAL CERTAINTY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The action's primary objective is to ensure the regional judicial dialogue on contentious legal issues in the area of human rights and on how to ensure the consistent application of local legislation and the ECtHR case-law. This will complement a broader, pan-European judicial dialogue maintained by the ECtHR through its Superior Courts' Network (SCN).</p> <p>The action builds upon the results of the continuous support provided by the Council of Europe to the partners in SEE through engaging them in several one-off regional activities in this particular field. The action ensures that the regional dimension is addressed by supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the creation of a regional co-operation platform for the legal certainty; - the dialogue between courts of the region on establishing common approaches to addressing contentious human rights issues; - providing judiciaries in the region with the Council of Europe expertise and good practices.
Main partners	Courts, local training institutions, judicial and prosecutorial councils, prosecutor's offices
Duration	24/05/2019 – 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €300 000, approx. €50 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.1.5. IMPROVEMENT OF THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>Monitoring reports have noted that the transfer of the prison health service to the Ministry of Health has had some tangible benefits. The professional capacities of the Prison Healthcare Department (PHD) within the Ministry of Health have improved. Nonetheless, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) and other monitoring bodies have noted certain shortcomings. The Forensic Institute accommodates criminally irresponsible offenders who are subject to court-ordered mandatory psychiatric treatment in custody and persons required to undergo court-ordered psychiatric evaluation in custody. The CPT has recommended that prisoners with severe mental disorders should be cared for in a therapeutic environment and receive the same level of care as those outside the prison system. Measures should be taken to increase co-ordination and consistency between the relevant local stakeholders when it comes to providing health care to detained persons.</p> <p>The project aims to strengthen the protection of the rights of convicted persons, with a focus on the health care they receive in prison, of persons detained under involuntary psychiatric hospitalisation, and of persons with mental disabilities placed in social welfare institutions.</p>

	<p>The project's aim will be accomplished through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthening co-operation and increasing consistency and co-ordination between all relevant stakeholders so as to improve the health care provided to all persons who are 'de facto' deprived of their liberty, including convicted persons, patients placed under involuntary hospitalisation and persons with mental disabilities placed in social welfare institutions; - further enhancing the PHD's professional performance through capacity-building measures, by establishing relevant protocols and strengthening safeguards against ill-treatment; - reviewing legislation and policies regulating involuntary psychiatric hospitalisation in light of Council of Europe standards and assessing and revising the procedures and information provided to patients on their rights; - strengthening the protection of the human rights of detained patients with mental disabilities and facilitating their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
Main partners	MoJ, Kosovo Corrections Service (KCS), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, OIK/ NPM, Forensic Psychiatry Institute, civil society
Duration	24 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €800 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.1.6. ENHANCING PENITENTIARY CAPACITIES IN ADDRESSING RADICALISATION IN PRISONS IN WESTERN BALKANS – APPROACHES AND EXPERIENCES (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>There are some serious concerns that the prison environment can be a breeding ground for violent radicalised extremists, and also that prisoners scheduled for release are not properly rehabilitated and ready to join society without presenting a risk of reoffending. The growing number of extremist offenders (especially returned foreign fighters) in South-East Europe calls for a reflection on the existing measures and interventions, on developing new joint approaches, viewpoints and methodologies for dealing with this category of prisoners.</p> <p>Addressing de-radicalisation in prisons is a very topical issue on which the Council of Europe has reacted promptly both in the area of technical assistance and through its intergovernmental bodies (such as the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT), European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP)). This action will be based on the main Council of Europe instruments such as the "Guidelines for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism" (drafted by PC-CP and the CDPC and adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in March 2016) and the "Handbook for Prison and Probation Services regarding Radicalisation and Violent Extremism" (adopted in March 2017).</p> <p>This action aims to develop efficient and sustainable co-operation and exchange of good practices between practitioners in the region by further strengthening the application on local level of the tools and mechanisms with regards to addressing radicalisation in prisons in light of the identified good practices in the region.</p> <p>The capacities of prison staff involved in identifying and countering radicalisation in prisons will increase through application of the knowledge and skills gained. In that respect, Kosovo* Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (P/CVE) experts, as well as prison and probation</p>

	<p>practitioners will actively contribute towards the sharing of knowledge and experience through their participation at the thematic working group sessions, thus building bridges in the region that will further promote collegial work in the area of combating violent extremism of any type and preventing radicalisation in prisons. Kosovo* being the first out of six partners in the region to sign the grant agreement for the organisation of multi-agency forums, the co-ordination among all local stakeholders involved in the rehabilitation of violent extremists will increase.</p> <p>Fact-finding missions, development of basic screening tools and signs of radicalisation forms and in-depth risk and tailored need assessment tools will contribute to achieving the objectives of the action. A concrete and practical rehabilitation programme, such as the general cognitive-behavioural programme established by the Council of Europe under the first phase of the Horizontal Facility, will be developed for the reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders (VEOs) in Kosovo* prisons. Finally, the action will provide training for specialised staff from the High-Security Prison and Dubrava Prison on the screening and risk and need assessment tools and the rehabilitation programme in practice. More general awareness-raising training sessions to other categories of staff in all prisons will also be delivered. Probation staff is also involved in the activities to the extent possible.</p>
Main partners	<p>OIK/ NPM, MoJ's Correctional and Prison services, Ministries of Health and Prisons, civil society, security/intelligence agencies, Probation Services, Commissions for combatting violent extremism and terrorism</p> <p>Main International Partners: Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), UNODC, EuroPris, independent experts, experienced penitentiary services, others.</p>
Duration	24/05/2019 – 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €2.000.000, approx. €330 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

2.2. STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

Activity	2.2.1. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA IN SEE (JUFREX 2) (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in South-East Europe continue to be identified as an issue of concern by international organisations, especially by the European Union in its regular reports.</p> <p>The action is a follow-up to the JUFREX regional action and aims to continue working with the judiciary. It is expanded to new target groups such as police officers and universities, including faculties of law and journalism.</p> <p>The purpose of the action is to provide support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers) by following up training and updating the training curricula of Training Institutions developed by JUFREX on freedom of expression, developing specific training online tools on the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists, and improving the capacity of judges to apply ECtHR case law in domestic judgments; - universities and students – by training professors and students to contribute to a favourable environment for freedom of expression and freedom of the media.
Main partners	Judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers, universities
Duration	24/05/2019 – 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €740 000 total, approx. €120 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.2.2. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA IN KOSOVO* (JUFREX) (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The action builds upon the achievements of the first phase of JUFREX in Kosovo* and is complementary to the action at regional level (see 2.2.1 above). The issue of freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Kosovo* was also underlined in the Memorandum following the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights' mission to Kosovo* (February 2017). The action has a specific component related to media actors : it is aimed at enhancing the dialogue with legal professionals to foster a favourable environment for freedom of the media and promoting the rights and responsibilities of journalists based on the ECHR and the ECtHR case-law and other relevant Council of Europe legal instruments, addressing also the issue of information disorder and media literacy.</p>
Main partners	Judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers, media regulatory authorities, public media services, universities, journalists and other media actors
Duration	24/05/2019 – 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €425 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.2.3. SUPPORTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION THROUGH PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL MEDIA IN KOSOVO* (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>The ongoing actions in the areas of freedom of expression and information and freedom of the media in South-Eastern Europe (2.2.1 and 2.2.2) have highlighted the need for further media-oriented intervention from the legal perspective. In order to achieve the letter and spirit of Article 10 of the ECHR, the proposed project will strive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reinforce the protection of journalists with concrete actions, including the Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP); - raise awareness and improve the overall capacity of relevant public officials to understand and implement Council of Europe standards on the matter; - provide support to the public service media to ensure independent, free and responsible service; - enhance media literacy and active citizenship skills of students and professors, policy makers, media actors and citizens of Kosovo*; - strengthen co-operation among media actors from the SEE region through synergies and exchange of experiences at the regional level; - improve the legal and regulatory framework for media freedom. <p>The proposed project is complementary to the project proposals under 2.2.1. and 2.2.2.</p>
Main partners	Independent Media Commission, Journalists' associations, Academy of Justice, Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Kosovo Press Council, civil society
Duration	36 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €1 000 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

2.3. COUNTERING THREATS TO THE RULE OF LAW

Activity	2.3.1. ACTION AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE AND TURKEY (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The action aims at supporting jurisdictions of SEE and Turkey to address common challenges and strengthen capacities in the fight against corruption and money laundering/terrorist financing. The action focuses on advising, developing expertise, and strengthening knowledge and skills in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - corruption risks in procurement and contracting; - transparency of beneficial ownership; - managing Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) risks from terrorist financing. <p>In order to achieve the aims, the action will provide the following support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conducting specific and regional legislative and institutional assessments; - advising on policy and regulatory reforms; - development of guidance and methodologies; - capacity-building through trainings and workshops; - pilot interventions (beneficiary-specific advisory services on implementing recommendations from the regional action).

Main partners	Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Interior, Ministries of Finance, Central Registries, and Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) supervisory authorities
Duration	24/05/2019 - 23/05/2022
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – phase II</i> €675 000, approx. €96 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.3.2. COUNTERING CORRUPTION AMID COVID-19 (REGIONAL, PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>The overall aim of this project is to develop an effective and sustainable regional framework for managing corruption risks during emergency situations.</p> <p>Its approach combines: (1) support to public institutions in SEE aiming to increase the transparency and capacities to mitigate corruption risks related to COVID-19 measures, and (2) awareness-raising and capacity-building for civil society and media entities on corruption risks related to COVID-19 consequences and response.</p> <p>It builds on existing anti-corruption efforts and identified needs in target jurisdictions, with the new perspective brought out by the current health crisis, and includes local, domestic, and regional level support.</p> <p>Some of the key issues which the project will address include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of effective oversight and transparency in public procurement processes; - Lack of anti-corruption safeguards in distribution of COVID-19 related government economic stimulus and international assistance; - Insufficient capacities of the authorities to prevent misuse of the COVID-19 related economic assistance measures for political party and election campaign financing; and - Lack of strategic response to corruption risks in the health sector. <p>The intervention will focus on strengthening the legislative and institutional framework for prevention of corruption in emergency situations, providing capacity building to institutions responsible for oversight and control as well as to civil society organisations and media who play an important watchdog role in the fight against corruption.</p> <p>In this regard the key project objectives will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance the effective oversight and transparency in public procurement processes; - Support governments in introducing anti-corruption safeguards in the distribution of COVID-19 economic stimulus and social support to citizens; - Provide capacity-building to institutions in preventing the misuse of COVID-19 related funding for political party and election campaign financing; and - Support the South-East European jurisdictions in developing policy responses to corruption risks in the health sector.

Main partners	Specialised anti-corruption agencies, auditing and other supervisory bodies, public procurement agencies and various ministries in SEE
Other beneficiaries	Public institutions dealing with prevention of corruption, public healthcare and management of healthcare funds, control of public procurement processes, legislative and oversight institutions, as well as the key civil society organisations and media dealing with anti-corruption, universal healthcare and monitoring of electoral processes
Duration	18 months
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia
Funding	Estimated funding required: € 885,000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.3.3. PROJECT AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME IN KOSOVO* - PECK III (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo* III (PECK III) is a project that builds on the results achieved under PECK II.</p> <p>Kosovo* has implemented a number of important economic crime reforms in recent years aimed at suppressing corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing. That said, some challenges persist. For example, corruption continues to be widely perceived as a major challenge. Although Kosovo* leadership has succeeded in reducing petty corruption/bribery, it appears that corruption is becoming more sophisticated and latent, moving to the spheres where big money and power rest. Limited progress is seen in processing of high-level corruption cases. Judicial system is also perceived as inefficient, resulting in poor enforcement. Despite some high-level commitments, the volume of AML/CFT cases ultimately prosecuted and adjudicated appears negligibly low compared to the size of the threat stemming from predicate criminality and resulting in money laundering in Kosovo*. PECK III will aim to address the PECK II project experience, according to which efforts on both fighting corruption and money laundering/terrorist financing are suffering from lack of sustainability and effective implementation.</p> <p>PECK III will contribute to democracy and the rule of law by supporting the authorities in the introduction of measures for preventing and combating corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing. In this regard, PECK III aims to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practitioners in Kosovo* have developed effective and sustainable capacities for preventing and suppressing corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing; - Kosovo* authorities effectively implement asset recovery legislation; - Economic crime case processing by Kosovo* authorities is improved.
Main partners	Anti-corruption Agency, Financial Intelligence Unit, State Prosecution, Agency for Managing Sequestered and Confiscated assets, Police
Other beneficiaries	OGG, State Prosecutor and Special Prosecutor's Office, KJC, KPC, Police, Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK), MoIA, Agency for Managing Seized and Confiscated Assets, Ministry of Finance, Central Bank, MoJ, Customs, Tax Administration, Office of the Auditor General, Procurement Review Body, Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, Ministry of Public Administration, Parliament, private sector, civil society.

Duration	36 months (01/07/2020 – 30/06/2023)
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Joint Programme</i> Estimated funding required: €2 225 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.3.4. NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS AND TERRORIST FINANCING RISKS (NPO-TF) (REGIONAL, PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>The frequency and scale of the use of fund transfers and fundraising by terrorist groups and organised crime organisations through NPOs have become a real concern in the last 10 years and tackling the practices through legal and policy development remains a challenge.</p> <p>Despite the fact that the legal basis as such has been in place since 2001,⁴ jurisdictions still face challenges in addressing their compliance with international and treaty law requirements.</p> <p>Although tackling the issue of terrorism prevention by combating terrorism financing through NPOs does not fully address the issue of tackling terrorism, NPOs (when linked to illegal activities) represent a high risk for society in terms of supporting terrorism financing and terrorist acts. Moreover, the pseudo activities of such NPOs in reality aim at recruiting young people as terrorist fighters.</p> <p>The role of NPOs in preventing and fighting terrorism, conversely financing and sheltering must be properly recognised in government agendas.</p> <p>In view of the above, a regional project addressing the three issues set out below for SEE partners would be of great importance for the jurisdictions, the region, and the European Union. The regional project will address issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk mapping and mitigation of NPO financing of terrorism; - Preventing terrorism financing; - Necessary regulatory frameworks. <p>This regional action will also complement the regional action against economic crime in South East Europe and Turkey.</p>
Main partners	Anti-corruption Agency, Financial Intelligence Unit, OGG, State Prosecutor and Special Prosecutor's Office, KJC, KPC, Police, PIK, MoIA, Agency for Managing Seized and Confiscated Assets, Ministry of Finance, Central Bank, MoJ, Customs, Tax Administration, Office of the Auditor General, Procurement Review Body, Public Procurement Regulatory Commission, Ministry of Public Administration, Parliament, Central Electoral Commission (CEC), private sector, civil society.
Duration	30 months
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Funding	Overall estimated funding required: €1 500 000; approx. €250 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

⁴ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Special Recommendation VIII on the abuse of NPOs for Terrorism Financing purposes (2001).

Activity	2.3.5. iPROCEEDS-2 – CO-OPERATION ON CYBERCRIME: TARGETING CRIME PROCEEDS ON THE INTERNET AND SECURING ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE (REGIONAL, ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>World-wide, most of the cybercrime that is reported and investigated by criminal justice authorities is related to different types of fraud and other offences aimed at obtaining illegal economic benefits. Vast amounts of crime proceeds are generated – and often laundered – on the internet and through the use of information and communication technologies (ICT). ICT are exploited for a wide range of serious and organised crime activities with a “dynamic relationship between online and off-line organised crime”. This is also the case for South-East Europe and Turkey.</p> <p>Major standards regarding cybercrime and crime proceeds include the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (CETS No. 185) and the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No. 198) of the Council of Europe. The objective of this regional Joint Programme between the Council of Europe and the EU is to further strengthen the capacity of the competent authorities to search, seize and confiscate cybercrime proceeds, prevent money laundering on the internet and to secure electronic evidence.</p> <p>This is to be achieved through seven expected results concerning: public reporting systems; legislation; inter-agency co-operation for cybercrime and financial investigations; risk-management and due diligence guidelines for financial sector entities; public/private information sharing; judicial training and international co-operation.</p>
Main partners	MoJ, Police (Cybercrime Sector and Financial Integrated Investigation Unit), Prosecutor’s Office, Judicial training institutions, Prosecutor’s Office Financial Intelligence Unit, Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)/ Cyber Incident Response Teams (CIRTs), the private sector – Internet Service Providers (local and multinational), Banking Associations and information security companies and data protection community (Commissioners, Inspectors and Ombudspersons)
Duration	01/01/2020 - 30/06/2023
Project area	Kosovo*, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey
Funding	<i>EU/CoE Joint Programme</i> €4 945 000 total envelope, approx. €700 000 for Kosovo*
Relevant MAE	Directorate General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (DGI)

Activity	2.3.6. PREVENTING AND COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN KOSOVO* (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The action aims to support Kosovo* in strengthening its institutional capacities to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. It draws on the results of a previous project implemented in 2014-2015 that provided framework for a first thorough assessment of the Kosovo* legislation and policies by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA).</p> <p>As a starting point, the action will assess the level and quality of the measures against trafficking in human being since the first report by GRETA (2015) and provide recommendations for improvement. The findings of the new assessment will provide a baseline for more in-depth interventions by the Council of Europe and are expected to contribute to improved coherence and synergies with other ongoing and/or planned activities in the field of anti-trafficking in Kosovo*. The assessment will also contribute to the development and implementation of the new Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2020-2025.</p> <p>As a rapid response to priorities identified by the authorities, the GRETA assessment will also be complemented by a capacity-building cluster focusing on criminal justice response to trafficking in human beings and the access of victims to justice and effective remedies. The activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case-based training of investigators and prosecutors which aims to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases and the protection of the rights of victims who participate in criminal proceedings; - Training of lawyers on legal issues related to human trafficking cases, representing victims, and available remedies, including compensation; - Support to the setting-up of a database of human trafficking case-law to assist lawyers, investigators, prosecutors and judges in their work by equipping them with examples of cases, including from ECtHR case-law. <p>Taking into account that trafficking in human beings has an important regional dimension, the capacity building activities will include sharing of experience and networking with practitioners from other partners in the region, including the countries of SEE and Slovenia. To increase coherence between other regional activities in the field of anti-trafficking, synergies will be sought with the actions implemented under the Horizontal Facility Programme. The participation of Kosovo* professionals will be sought at the two regional events on child trafficking and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, to be organised in 2021.</p>
Main partners	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Police, State Prosecutor, Special Prosecution, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Ministry of Local Government Administration, Centre for Protection of Victims and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings, civil society organisations.
Duration	01/07/2020 – 31/12/2021
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €450 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

III. DEMOCRACY

3.1. STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND FOSTERING INNOVATION

Activity	3.1.1. PROMOTING LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN KOSOVO* (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>The overall objective of the project is to improve local self-government in Kosovo* in accordance with European standards on local and regional democracy.</p> <p>Based on an assessment of the state of implementation of the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Congress) will hold a seminar to facilitate discussions among stakeholders, and to advise Kosovo* municipalities and authorities on ways to further strengthen local authorities.</p> <p>In addition, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of local authorities and elected representatives as drivers of change and addresses key elements of good governance, including ways to prevent and combat corruption and to foster citizens' participation as a means of reinforcing the accountability of local public administration.</p> <p>This will be based on a peer-to-peer approach and best practices, involving members of the Congress, and international and local experts. All activities will be developed and implemented in close co-operation with the Association of Kosovo* Municipalities, which enjoys the status of Guest Observer with the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress.</p>
Main partners	Ministry of Local Government Administration, Association of Kosovo* Municipalities, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe, Ministry of Local Government Administration, Local Democracy Agency, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.
Duration	01/07/2020 – 31/12/2021
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €400 000
Relevant MAE	The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Activity	3.1.2. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>While Kosovo* has taken steps to implement European Reform Agenda priorities, including with regards to public administration reform, further efforts are needed in advancing its reform agenda, ensuring compliance with Council of Europe standards and advancing on its path towards the European Union. According to the European Union 2019 Kosovo report, capacity building and strengthening of the human and financial resources of the local municipalities are needed.</p> <p>This project aims to improve the quality of multi-level governance in Kosovo* by supporting authorities at various levels in developing the essential competencies of civil servants, such as professionalism and independence, in performing their duties as well as a proactive and citizen centred approach. Furthermore, the project will support appropriate professional development, and co-operation across administrative lines. Specifically, it will do so by:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping to improve the Human Resources Management systems in the civil service, including processes related to recruitment, retention, promotion; - Supporting the reform of the training system for local public officials, including through the undertaking of a training needs assessment with the Association of Kosovo* Municipalities and the development of a Kosovo*-wide training strategy; - Supporting the creation of Inter-Municipal Co-operation arrangements between municipalities to enhance their effectiveness, particularly in light of the lack of human and financial resources and the shared problems across municipalities.
Main partners	Ministry of Local Government Administration, Association of Kosovo* Municipalities
Duration	24 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €500 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

Activity	3.1.3. PROMOTING CONFIDENCE AND COHESION AMONGST COMMUNITIES (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>The overall objective of the project is to build confidence among various communities. This will be done via specific target groups, such as CSOs, youth, and the media, which have a snowball effect in society.</p> <p>The project has a two-pronged objective: to cultivate dialogue between the target groups (e.g. CSOs, journalists and young people) within the communities by raising awareness of existing shared values among peer groups, and to enhance knowledge of and respect for European human rights standards in the region.</p> <p>The project activities include small-scale bicommunal initiatives to provide communities with better services and information and to improve the capacity of the target groups to address sensitive issues in a balanced way.</p>
Main partners	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, civil society
Duration	28 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €330 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA)

3.2. PROMOTING PARTICIPATION AND DIVERSITY

Activity	3.2.1. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INCLUSION IN EDUCATION - INCLUDE (ONGOING)
Purpose	<p>Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children and children with special needs continue to face barriers in accessing quality education in Kosovo*. This is due to factors such as the educational institutions' lack of technical capacity, the absence of adequate government monitoring, low involvement of local communities, insufficient investment in education and in raising public awareness, and weak implementation of existing legislation.</p> <p>The overall objective of the project is to improve access to quality education of students from disadvantaged groups in pre-primary, primary and secondary education - in line with the specific domestic policies and priorities and with the Council of Europe standards and practices. To this end the project also has two specific objectives:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the capacity of the Kosovo* education system to improve participation for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in pre-primary, primary and secondary education; - Strengthen the capacity of the Kosovo* education system to improve participation of and support services for children with special education needs in pre-primary, primary and secondary education. <p>An integrated approach to policy and grassroots initiatives will contribute to achieving four expected outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased enrolment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian girls and boys in pre-primary, primary and secondary education; - Improved attendance and learning outcomes of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in pre-primary, primary and secondary education; - Enhanced participation of children with special education needs in pre-primary, primary and secondary education; - Enhanced capacity of regional resource centres to provide support services to children with special education needs and support their transition to and integration in mainstream schools. <p>The project will select and support a number of pilot municipalities to reduce the barriers to access to quality education and dropout rates from schools for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian girls and boys, while also supporting the operation of a number of pilot Learning Centres and upgrading their teaching programmes. Moreover, a number of pilot schools will be supported to introduce democratic school culture through the adoption of an inclusive school governance model, community and parents' involvement and awareness raising activities on fighting bullying, stereotypes and hate speech. Support will also be provided to the MEST to further develop additional tools and materials for exact assessment of children with special education needs as well as for their transition to and integration in mainstream schools.</p> <p>The project is complemented by the EU/CoE Joint Programme ROMACTED (see 1.2.5).</p>
Main partners	MEST, Municipal Education Directorates, Learning Centres, Municipal offices for communities and return, CSOs, Regional Resource Centres
Duration	01/01/2020- 31/12/2023
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	EU/CoE Joint Programme €2 223 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

Activity	3.2.2. FOSTERING RAPPROCHEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND LANGUAGE LEARNING – FRED II (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>Since 2000, concrete measures have been undertaken by the authorities in Kosovo* and supported by the international community to create a multi-ethnic society. The Law on the use of languages stipulates that official languages in Kosovo* are Albanian and Serbian, while Turkish, Bosnian and Roma languages have the status of official languages at the municipal level.</p> <p>However, in reality, communication and opportunities among different communities in Kosovo* remain limited. The Fourth Opinion on Kosovo* of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCMN) notes that “there is a growing divide between communities, exacerbated by pervasive monolingualism in each community, and intercommunity dialogue and understanding remains absent, including within the same municipality.” This situation is partly due to separate education systems in Albanian and Serbian, but also to limited opportunities to learn the language of the other, as they are not taught in schools. As the EU 2019 report for Kosovo* notes, opportunities for learning a second official language as a subject remain practically non-existent. In her annual report for 2019,⁵ the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights urged for the promotion of plurilingual education as a tool to strengthen social cohesion and prevent future conflicts.</p> <p>The Council of Europe implemented the FRED project in Kosovo* (2018-2020), co-funded by Norway and the Council of Europe. The results proved that despite the political climate, there is willingness among the society to learn the community languages and communicate with each other. The Kosovo Education Strategic Plan (2017–2021) stipulates how to put in place effective mechanisms and policies to promote diversity through an integrated education system, including a number of provisions foreseeing social cohesion and greater interaction among communities.</p> <p>The Council of Europe proposes a second phase of FRED, supported by the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe (ECML), including the following measures in education policy and practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the Kosovo* authorities to develop a multi-sectoral strategy for promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and contact among communities; - Support the MEST to develop curricula for community language teaching; - Produce a series of policy recommendations on inter-ethnic dialogue, reviewing language teaching provisions and teaching about diversity and human and communities’ rights to all pupils; - Support the MEST to develop policies related to Digital Citizenship Education to address learning issues and students’ needs, including policies to help protect students working in open, collaborative, online environments; - A capacity-building programme for community language teachers at lower and upper secondary levels of the education system, including both pre-service and in-service teacher training; - Pilot language classes in schools and introduce Competences for Democratic Culture related to languages, communication and multilingualism in schools; - Activities to raise cultural awareness about the benefits of multilingualism in a multi-ethnic society.

⁵ Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, [Annual Activity report 2019](#), 21 April 2020, CommDH(2020)7, p.24.

Main partners	MEST, Municipal Directorates for Education, Office of the Language Commissioner, pilot schools
Duration	36 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €800 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

Activity	3.2.3. QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL – Kosovo* (PROPOSED)
Purpose	<p>The government authorities have prepared a solid ground at strategic and legislative level, well aligned with international standards, to achieve quality education in Kosovo*. The Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2012)13 on ensuring quality education underlines that quality education is a system which caters to all learners.</p> <p>The Kosovo Curriculum Framework (KCF) for Pre-University education is developed around four key competences which students are expected to develop throughout their education, namely values, knowledge, skills and attitudes. However, these key competencies as envisaged in the KCF are not sufficiently mainstreamed across different subjects. The education system is focused around excellence in given subjects, without acknowledging the links to developing transversal competences such as empathy and critical thinking, competences which can mitigate bullying, racism, violence and even radicalisation.</p> <p>The Council of Europe Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) - which has a similar structure as the KFC, could be used to raise awareness of human rights through education, in line with the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (2010) and the Recommendation CM/Rec (2019)10 of the Committee of Ministers on developing and promoting digital citizenship education.</p> <p>Hence, the Council of Europe proposes a project to support Kosovo* institutions to work on democratic competences which are conducive to achieving quality education. The target group would be students of lower and upper secondary schools (age group 11–18 years), to work on their knowledge and critical understanding of the self and of the world, with specific emphasis on other cultures and religions. Moreover, practical ways to tackle controversial subjects in classrooms will also be identified and put into practice. The project will build on the results of the previous EU/CoE joint programme “Fostering a Democratic School Culture and Diversity in Schools” implemented in Kosovo* from October 2016 to November 2018.</p> <p>The following measures in education policy and practice will be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Kosovo*-wide survey of formal education providers to identify the negative phenomena (drug substance abuse, violence, radicalisation, hate-speech and hate crime, discrimination) to be addressed, including collection of information on the ways in which education providers tackle these risks; - Policy recommendations for the government institutions to help identify, prevent and address risk factors leading to the above-mentioned phenomena; - Support with the implementation of the policy roadmap developed in the above-mentioned previous joint programme;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A capacity-building programme for teachers of pre-university education, including both pre-service and in-service teacher on Competences for Democratic Culture aimed at motivating, supporting and equipping them with appropriate teaching and learning tools to address these subjects; - Development of projects with students (motivating peer support and international exchange of experience between schools in the region and beyond) aiming at the identification of critical self-awareness.
Main partners	MEST, Municipal Directorates for Education, a number of pilot schools
Duration	36 months
Project area	Kosovo*
Funding	Estimated funding required: €800 000
Relevant MAE	Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)