



HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice in Kosovo* (KoSEJ)

The objectives of the Action

The **overall objective** of the KoSEJ Action is to assist judicial authorities in enhancing the day-to-day efficiency and quality of the justice system at both central and court level, with the relevant CEPEJ methodology and tools and providing them with assistance for their implementation.

The **first specific objective** is to enhance the efficiency of the justice system in accordance with CEPEJ standards and tools on judicial statistics and time management with:

- ✓ An in-depth and global assessment of the judicial system with recommendations for improvements;
- ✓ Support to the capacity of the KJC and of courts to improve judicial time management, the collection and management of statistical data and to enhance their efficiency in accordance with CEPEJ methodology and tools, in particular the Study and Analysis of judicial Time Use Research Network (SATURN) Guidelines.

The **second specific objective** is to enhance the quality of the justice system, in accordance with CEPEJ quality standards and tools with:

- ✓ Court Coaching Programmes in close cooperation with the KJC in individual courts in view of building the capacity of courts to deliver a better justice service in accordance with CEPEJ quality tools such as the Checklist on the quality of justice and the Handbook on conducting users' satisfaction surveys.

The KoSEJ Action, co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe as part of the “Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey” (Horizontal Facility) is implemented by the **European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice of the Council of Europe (CEPEJ)** with the support of the Office of the Council of Europe in Pristina, to improve the efficiency and functioning of the justice system in Kosovo. The KoSEJ Action is being implemented for 24 months until **30 June 2018**, with an overall budget of 900,000 Euros.

The Action is built on the needs of its main beneficiaries and partners: the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), Courts, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC) and the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI).

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Background information

The CEPEJ

The CEPEJ is made up of representatives of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. The CEPEJ develops concrete measures and tools aimed at policy makers and judicial practitioners in order to:

- ✓ analyse the functioning of judicial systems and orientate public policies of justice;
- ✓ have a better knowledge of judicial timeframes and optimize judicial time management;
- ✓ promote the quality of the public service of justice;
- ✓ facilitate the implementation of European standards;
- ✓ support member states in their reforms of court organization

The CEPEJ also contributes specific expertise to the debate about the functioning of the justice system in order to provide a forum for discussion and proposals, and to get the users closer to their justice system.

The Horizontal Facility

On 11 April 2016, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, and the European Union's Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, announced a new co-operation initiative of the European Union and Council of Europe for South East Europe called European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey (Horizontal Facility), through which the two Organisations will assist beneficiaries to comply with Council of Europe standards and European Union acquis in the framework of the enlargement process. It is a three-year programme (May 2016 – May 2019), focusing on three themes: ensuring justice, fighting economic crime as well as combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups. It has a budget of €25 million, of which €20 million has been provided by the European Union and €5 million by the Council of Europe. The Horizontal Facility relies on the Council of Europe's unique working methods, whereby tailor-made technical co-operation activities are based on conclusions and recommendations of the Council of Europe's monitoring bodies, which highlight areas where improvements are needed in legislation and policies of the beneficiaries to comply with the Organization's standards.

For more information

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organization. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

www.coe.int

The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 500 million citizens – in a fairer, safer world. To make things happen, EU countries set up bodies to run the EU and adopt its legislation. The main ones are the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe), the Council of the European Union (representing national governments) and the European Commission (representing the common EU interest)

<http://europa.eu>



<http://horizontal-facility-eu.coe.int>