



## **Enhancing recruitment procedures and training of staff of the State prison of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### **BULLETIN No. 1 ON THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS**

**December 2011-February 2012**

Dear Colleagues,

The Council of Europe Prison Reform Project Team is happy to present you with the latest developments in the “Enhancing recruitment procedures and training of staff of the State Prison of Bosnia and Herzegovina” project.

Thanks to the generous voluntary contribution made by the Government of the United States through the Department of State’s Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, throughout this project, the Council of Europe (CoE), as the implementing partner is providing support to the national authorities to establish a professional, effective and efficient high security prison in line with European standards.

We hope that these regular bulletins will give you an insight into the project’s activities.

Enjoy the read!

Project Team

**Setting up the project team: December-January 2012**

The majority of the project team had been selected prior to the beginning of the project which enabled to start the inception phase from day one of the contract. The team identified international consultants with the required expertise and has established preliminary contacts with them in order to secure their presence in the country as foreseen in the work plan.

**The launching event for the project: 26 January 2012, Sarajevo**

The main purpose of the launching event was to present the project and the provisional work plan to local stakeholders and senior officials of the three BiH Ministries of Justice. On this occasion, the US Embassy emphasized its commitment to assist BiH authorities in especially two key areas, rule of law and of human rights. Representatives of the BiH MoJ conveyed the State Prison Project Management Board's full support to the Project and thanked the US authorities and the CoE Secretariat for their assistance, underlining timely importance of this alliance. Senior CoE officials stressed that all interested partners, the three Ministries of Justice, Brcko District authorities and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the State Prison Project would be a guarantee that the best practices shared over the past years would be further embedded and continued. The project implementation will be overseen by a Stakeholders' Committee which will regularly overview the progress under the objectives, propose necessary adjustments to the work plan and working methods and coordinate with all partners. The Stakeholders' Committee, the monitoring body of the project, is different from the Donors' Steering Committee of the State Prison Project and Management Board of the State Prison Project.

**Harmonisation of the work plan with the BiH MoJ's Project Implementation Unit: *ongoing***

A series of meetings and consultations were held with the PIU of the State Prison Project, starting with the presentation of the project documentation in March 2011 to the most recent meeting held in March 2012 on the appointment of members to the Stakeholders' Committee and working groups. The coordination meetings are recorded also in the minutes from the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Donors' Steering Committee meetings.

**Series of meetings with Ministers of Justice: February 2012**

In order to engage all local partners in an open and transparent discussion on the project from its very beginning, the Head of CoE Office and project staff met with Ministers of Justice in BiH. The stakeholders assessed the project as extremely well designed. They also considered the previous training activities organised by the CoE as very useful in supporting the BiH prison service's efforts. At every meeting one conclusion was prevailing - there cannot be skilled and competent prison staff without investing in its training.

**Appointments to the Stakeholders' Committee (SHC) and working groups: *ongoing***

The project team requested the main stakeholders to appoint members to the SHC and the working groups early this February. Until today, we received appointments from the F BiH MoJ, BiH Ombudsman Office and the BiH Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. The BiH MoJ gave assurances that their appointments would be confirmed in a short time. The project team keeps on promoting participation of the Republika Srpska MoJ in the project, as we are committed to involve all main stakeholders.

In the next period, from March – June 2012, the project will be busy with implementing the following activities:

- Assessment visit with the purpose of developing a recruitment and staffing strategy for the State Prison of BiH
- Drafting sessions of the Strategy
- Study visit to an other European jurisdiction
- Expert meetings on the necessary legislative amendments.

Visibility:

A brief information on the project is currently available on the following CoE web site:  
[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/capacitybuilding/projects/bosnia\\_herzegovina\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/capacitybuilding/projects/bosnia_herzegovina_en.asp)

In addition, activities are underway on uploading project background and the latest developments also on the web site of the CoE Sarajevo Office.

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