

Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey



Strengthening the Human Rights Ombudsman to Fight Discrimination

National Human Rights Institutions of the Western Balkans

Regional Conference

“Exchange of best practices of addressing human rights violations with a special focus on combating discrimination”

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
15 - 16 February 2018

Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Trg BiH 1

Concept paper

The two-day Conference will have a two-fold objective: to explore avenues and exchange of practices available at national level concerning the role of National Human Rights Institutions in judicial proceedings and administrative actions, and to explore the avenues to increase the effectiveness of NHRIs. The Conference will contribute to the on-going co-operation between the NHRIs in the Western Balkans and will set up a common base for exercising their role in prevention and remedying human rights violations, in particular in combating discrimination.

Separately, the possibilities to extend the co-operation of NHRIs at the level of senior staff members will be addressed. Such co-operation would allow the NHRIs to better develop a set of methods and procedures aimed at ensuring effective and qualitative protection of human rights.

The Conference will become a platform for an exchange of experiences at national level among key stakeholders in charge for the protection of human rights.

The Conference will be jointly organised by the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Venue and language

The Conference will take place at the premises of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The working languages will be English and Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian with simultaneous interpretation provided.

Participants

Representatives of the National Human Rights Institutions from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"; representatives of the judiciary, legal scholars and civil society organisations of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Representatives of NHRIs of Armenia and Turkey will attend the Conference as special guests. The average number of participants will be up to 80.

The Action implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Strengthening the Human Rights Ombudsman to Fight Discrimination" – is a part of the joint programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe "Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey", as a three-year programme (May 2016 – May 2019), focusing on three themes: ensuring justice, fighting corruption, economic crime and organised crime, as well as combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups.

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