

# Council of Europe Office in Belgrade



## KEY FIGURES

### 31 STAFF MEMBERS

6 Core staff

25 Project staff

### 9 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PROJECTS

1 EU/Council of Europe joint programme

6 actions as part of the EU/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye

2 projects funded through voluntary contributions

### 10 REGIONAL PROJECTS

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Since 2002, Serbia has benefited from the Council of Europe's co-operation programmes.

Working closely in collaboration with Serbian authorities, the Council of Europe has provided support to important reform initiatives across various key domains. These include strengthening the independence and the capacity of judiciary, promotion of equality and non-discrimination, penitentiary reforms, freedom of expression and of the media, education, combating trafficking of human beings and measures aimed at preventing economic crime. Serbia also plays an active role in the regional programmes of the Council of Europe addressing key areas such as Roma empowerment, fight against cybercrime, and human rights education (HELP).

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## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### Reform of the judiciary for better justice

More independent judiciary and autonomous public prosecution thanks to constitutional and legal amendments aligned with the Venice Commission opinions. Upgraded mechanisms for the protection from undue influence based on best Council of Europe practices.

**Improved national implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights** through enhanced judicial dialogue between the European Court of Human Rights and national courts and support to execution of the European Court of Human Rights judgments.

### Prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing in Serbia

Comprehensive National Risk Assessment of money laundering and terrorism financing established, as well as the sectorial risk assessments in areas of virtual assets and real estate.

## AT A GLANCE

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

#### **Upgraded measures to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings**

Improved identification of and assistance to human trafficking victims. Higher awareness of labour and child trafficking.

#### **Better and widespread education for democracy**

The Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) was included as integral part of Education Strategy 2030 and connected with ten curricular subjects in unique Guidelines distributed to 1 800 schools.

#### **Enhanced institutional protection of freedom of expression**

Freedom of expression enhanced in the judiciary, police and media regulatory authority, and policy formulation on addressing disinformation and journalist safety developed.

#### **Improved social inclusion of Roma**

The Roma population empowered to make decisions and implement positive changes through small-scale community initiatives. The trust and co-operation between Roma and relevant institutions at the local level improved.

#### **Improved treatment of persons deprived of their liberty**

Enhanced capacity of the police to adopt human rights-based approaches to policing and prevention of ill-treatment. Improved resocialisation of prisoners with emphasis on vulnerable groups (juveniles, women, and persons with mental health problems).

### HIGHLIGHT

We are dedicated to promoting anti-discrimination in Serbia. “Block the hatred. Share the love.” is awareness raising campaign to fight hate speech and promote inclusion and tolerance among youth. Video: [Block the hatred. Share the love](#)

Our activities improve lives of citizens. A short film illustrates the impact of our project on re-integration of former offenders back into society in Serbia. Testimonials of beneficiaries: [Mentoring programme for former offenders](#)

We contribute to improving the quality of education in Serbia by fostering democratic culture in the formal education system. The video features testimonials of pupils: [Fostering a democratic school culture in Serbia](#)

Serbia has amended the Constitution with the help of the Council of Europe, in the part related to judiciary, to align it with the European standards. [Video from the high-level conference](#)

Information provided dated as of 31 December 2023.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.coe.int/belgrade](http://www.coe.int/belgrade)

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