

# Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica



## KEY FIGURES

### 14 STAFF MEMBERS

2 Core staff

12 Project staff

## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PROJECTS

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

**1 MULTILATERAL PROJECT** funded through voluntary contributions

**10 REGIONAL PROJECTS**

Montenegro and the Council of Europe have a long-standing co-operation, most recently through the European Union and Council of Europe joint programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye” in the field of protection of human rights; the reform of judiciary; the fight against economic crime; anti-discrimination including minority rights; education and freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Additional co-operation activities are taking place under regional programmes focusing on Roma inclusion at the local level, fight against cybercrime, and human rights education for legal professionals.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### **More efficient justice for citizens**

Better access to justice for citizens, through alternative dispute resolution and enhanced free legal aid in particular for the most vulnerable groups.

### **Enhanced legal framework**

Support to alignment of judicial and criminal legislation of Montenegro with Council of Europe standards, case law of the European Court of Human Rights and EU acquis.

### **Improved infrastructure for the fight against economic crime**

Easier collection and processing of financial intelligence data for prevention of money laundering and terrorism financing.

### **Strengthened education for democracy and human rights**

Reference framework for competences for democratic culture (RFDC) integrated in Montenegrin Framework Programme of Key Competencies.

**Improved ethical dimension and fight against corruption in higher education** by adopting the law on academic integrity.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Increased capacity to address discrimination and hate-motivated incidents** through a harmonised and effective institutional approach.

**Enhanced judicial protection of freedom of expression and improved policy framework for media pluralism and freedom of the media**

Adoption of the Media Strategy for 2023-2027 and Action Plan for 2023-2024. Advanced capacity-building programmes for legal professionals on ECtHR case law on freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

**Enhanced AML/CFT prevention mechanisms and tools**

Comprehensive national risk assessment of money laundering and terrorism financing in place. The Montenegrin Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) readmitted to the Egmont Group, an informal network of FIUs for international co-operation on the prevention of money laundering.

**Enhanced Roma inclusion**

Strengthened capacities of institutions to work on Roma inclusion at local level with more than 214 local interventions carried out.

**Upgraded regulatory and operational framework of the prison and police system aligned with CPT standards**

Development of 29 standard operating procedures applied by prison staff and capacity building of police officers during apprehension and arrest lead to reduction of complains.

### HIGHLIGHT

As the result of the #TellTheWholeStory awareness raising initiative, launched under EU/Council of Europe joint programme, the number of requests for free legal aid in cases of domestic violence in Montenegro increased by 80% in 2022.

Two million people were reached in five months through social media with information about free legal aid services.

The theatre play "The Night of Tribades" on topics related to gender equality was prepared in co-operation with the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Dramatic Arts and civil society organisations, to enhance the results and sustainability of the awareness-raising initiative. The play referred to the free legal aid services available to victims of domestic violence and its income was donated to Civil Society Organisations actively working on the protection of women's rights.

Information provided dated as of 31 December 2023.

### MORE INFORMATION

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

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