



NEWSLETTER

DG Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI)

June 2023

CPT

A delegation of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out a periodic visit to [Estonia](#) from 29 May to 8 June 2023.

The Committee published 4 reports in June 2023: the report of its June 2022 ad hoc visit to [Montenegro](#), together with the response of the Montenegrin Government, was published on 22 June. Then on 23 June, the Committee published the report of its May 2022 periodic visit to the [Netherlands](#), together with the response of the authorities. On 27 June, the report on the November 2021 periodic visit to [Austria](#) was published, together with the response of the authorities. Finally, on 29 June, the report on the 2022 ad hoc visit to the [United Kingdom](#) was published, together with the response of the UK authorities.

Venice Commission

In June the Commission held its [135th plenary session](#) in Venice on 9-10 June 2023 and the [77th meeting](#) of the Council for Democratic Elections. The Commission received / started working on the following **requests for opinion**:

- **Georgia** - Opinion on the amendments to the Organic Law on Common Courts adopted by the Georgian Parliament on 13/06/2023 - PACE Monitoring Committee
- **Netherlands** - Opinion on the Law on the Organisation of the Judiciary- PACE Monitoring Committee – 02/06/2023
- **Poland** – Urgent Opinion on the Law on the State Commission to Investigate Russian Influence on Internal Security in the Republic of Poland between 2007 and 2022 - PACE Monitoring Committee.

The Commission organised the following events:

- “Digital Technologies: Democracy and Regulation in Europe and America” - Hybrid Congress – Mexico, 20 - 21/06/2023
- **Kyrgyz Republic**: “The Constitution as a foundation for building a democratic state under the rule of law” - International conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Constitution – Issyk, Kul, 21 - 22/06/2023

The Commission participated in the following events:

- **Montenegro** - Early parliamentary elections – legal assistance to the PACE election observation mission - 11/06/2023

- Conference on democracy in Europe : "How can parliamentarians help safeguard and strengthen democracy and the rule of law? – Stockholm, 18-19/06/2023
- PACE - hearings of Political Affairs Committee and Monitoring Committee – Strasbourg, 20-21/06/2023
- Stockholm Symposium on Democracy and the Rule of Law – Stockholm, 21-22/06/2023

On 16/06/2023 the Commission issued [a statement](#) on the Constitutional Court of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

REGISTER OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE AGGRESSION OF THE RF AGAINST UKRAINE

The Conference of Participants of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (Resolution [CM/Res\(2023\)3](#)) held its 1st meeting in a hybrid form on 27 June.

Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards

The CEPEJ's 40th meeting, held on 14-15 June, and was marked by the adoption of the following tools: [Backlog Reduction Tool](#), [Guide on Judicial E-Auctions](#), [Time Management Checklist](#). [The CEPEJ organised meetings with judges aimed at addressing the backlogs in Kosovo* courts](#). Several trainings on judicial time management and mediation were held **Albania**. The CEPEJ prepared and submitted comparative tables for **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Serbia** and **Kosovo*** to the European Commission.

Key HELP courses were launched: [Freedom of Expression](#) for **Greek** judges and prosecutors, and [Cybercrime](#) in **Morocco**. A seminar was held in **Bulgaria** on Procedural Safeguards in Criminal Proceedings and Victims' Rights. Legal professionals from the **Western Balkans** benefitted from a [HELP Training of Trainers](#). A [Council of Europe, EU and UNHCR seminar](#) on Implementation of the Temporary Protection Status in Europe for people from **Ukraine** fleeing the war was organised jointly with the **Slovakian** Bar.

Among the activities organised by the Division of Co-operation Programmes are the following: a [meeting](#) on Ukrainian domestic redress mechanisms for damage caused by the aggression of the Russian Federation; high-level meetings of the Ukrainian High Council of Justice and a workshop on judicial self-governing bodies; a closing conference on [Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood](#); a workshop on the abolition of [Death Penalty](#). Key activities: in **Azerbaijan** – a workshop on analytical work for criminal justice stakeholders; in **Georgia** – a training for civil and criminal mediators; in the **Republic of Moldova** – training and study visit for the Moldovan Ombudsperson Office; in **Montenegro** – amendments to the law on domestic violence prepared with co-operation project support; in **North Macedonia** – trainings on access to justice in the cases of domestic violence; in **Serbia** – development of the Rules of Procedure for the High Prosecutorial Council supported; in **Türkiye** - roundtables on procedural safeguards and the effective implementation of the Turkish Constitutional Court's judgments in the field of human rights.

On 1-2 June, the [TJENI](#) project held a [roundtable](#) on the publication and dissemination of case law and materials, bringing together representatives of the CoE, ECtHR and EU (ECLI), governments, judiciaries, as well as experts and private publishers. In the context of the EU-Council of Europe joint project in support of the Moroccan NPM, a Steering Committee meeting was held in **Rabat** on 2 June. As part of the [project](#) "Enhancing subsidiarity: support to the ECHR knowledge-sharing and superior courts dialogue", the 6th Superior

Courts Network Forum took place on 8-9 June 2023 in hybrid format, focusing on the independence of the judiciary. On 28 of June, a [workshop](#) was organised by the CDDH and within the project “Fostering Human Rights in the Armed Forces in **Armenia**” on human rights of members of the armed forces.

Execution of Judgments of the ECtHR

The Department for the execution of ECHR judgments was engaged in the **June CM DH meeting** at which the Committee adopted [38 decisions](#) concerning 19 states, including Interim Resolutions in cases concerning Poland (*Xero Flor w Polsce sp. z o.o.*) and the United Kingdom (*McKerr*).

The Department participated in the 5th Regional Conference on the Role of the Judicial Councils in Ensuring a Right to Fair and Efficient Court Hearing in Split, **Croatia**. The participants, including the top management of the judicial councils coming from all Western Balkan countries, discussed the major challenges faced in ensuring the right to a fair trial under Article 6 of the European Convention.

The Department held meetings in Geneva with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **the Russian Federation**; as well as with the Secretariat of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID), and the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division. The meetings focused on exploring ways to coordinate efforts to ensure that the Russian Federation complies with its binding international law obligation to execute judgments of the European Court.

The Director of Human Rights and the Department carried out a mission to Paris, to discuss execution of several **French cases** pending before the Committee of Ministers relating to: the safeguards against arbitrariness when examining requests to repatriate French women and children from Syria (*H.F. and Others*); the administrative detention and collective and expeditious expulsion of foreign minors from Mayotte and the lack of an effective remedy (*Moustahi*); the care of isolated foreign minors in the Calais region (*Khan*); the effective possibility of applying to the ECHR for interim measures and compliance with them (*M.A. group*); the administrative detention of families with minor children (*M.D. and A.D. group*) and removals of Chechen nationals to the Russian Federation (*K.I. group*).

The Department carried out a visit to Berlin to present in a workshop the practice and procedures of the Committee of Ministers related to the supervision of the execution of ECHR judgments and discuss certain issues on pending cases concerning **Germany**. Meetings were held among others with the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Government Agent and the German national human rights institution.

Lastly, the Department participated in the launch of the **Greek version of the HELP course on freedom of expression**. The launch was accompanied by an online seminar, attended by judges and prosecutors, which was organised by the HELP Programme in cooperation with HELP’s national partner, the Greek National School of Judges.

Social Rights



The Council of Europe and the Ministry for Social Policy and Children’s Rights of Malta, under the auspices of the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS), held a Conference on [“The Transition of Jobs: Changing Labour Markets and the Impact on Social Cohesion”](#) – in Malta, on **14 June 2023**.

The Conference brought together national policymakers, civil servants, representatives of academia and other stakeholders to discuss risks and possible policy-level responses to the challenges for the labour market stemming from digitalisation and IT developments and from the transition to a green economy.

On **15 June** the above-mentioned discussion was pursued at the **3rd meeting** of European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS), where a Report on the Transition to a Green Economy -a Review of Distributional Effects in Europe -was adopted. The report emphasises the role of the Council of Europe and the European Commission in facilitating the transition and the importance of increased social dialogue, as well as the democratisation of institutions.

The 24th meeting of the Mutual Information System on Social Protection of the Council of Europe ([MISSCEO](#)) network took place on **22 June 2023**. The network, which brings together 11 Member States* of the Council of Europe, is complementary to the European Union's MISSOC network. In this context, the MISSOC secretariat presented the latest developments within the EU network. In addition, the MISSCEO correspondents discussed the annual update of the comparative tables on social protection systems, presented in the form of a database.

On 23 and 28 June, the Social Rights Department held two meetings with the European Commission to discuss the operationalisation of the Social Rights Agenda in the "[Conclusions on EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe 2023-2024](#)" adopted by the Council of the EU on 30 January 2023. Participants from the Council of Europe and DG Employment, DG Near and External Action discussed the need for regular exchanges, possible joint activities to harmonise the interpretation of social rights under the European Social Charter and the European Pillar of Social Rights, and to enhance the implementation of social rights in EU member states, EU candidate countries and other third countries that are members of the Council of Europe.

The following decisions of the ECSR were made public in June 2023:

- The decision of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) on the merits in [European Roma Rights Centre \(ERRC\) v. Belgium, Complaint No. 185/2019](#) : the Committee decided that there is no violation of Article 13§1 of the Charter but that there is a violation of Article E taken in conjunction with Article 16 of the Charter.
- [The decision on admissibility in Associazione Sindacale Militari \(ASSO.MIL.\) v. Italy, Complaint No. 213/2022](#) - The ECSR declared the complaint admissible on 23 May 2023.
- [The decision on admissibility in Federação Nacional dos Professores \(FENPROF\) v. Portugal, Complaint No. 216/2022](#) - The ECSR declared the complaint inadmissible on 23 May 2023.

Police, Detention, Drugs and Addictions

Pompidou Group

The second module of the *Drug Policy Executive Course* focusing on the competency areas health, safety and human rights took place in **Strasbourg** on 6-9 June.

On 20 June, the 92nd Permanent Correspondents meeting took place in **Venice**, at the invitation of the Pompidou Group Italian Presidency. On this occasion, the Executive Secretary informed the PG member states about the outcomes of the 4th Council of Europe Summit, and made proposals for a possible follow-up.

Seminar on drug prevention and youth (21 June, **Venice**): 80 participants from 28 countries along with EMCDDA and UNODC, attended the seminar. PG countries shared

information on the prevention strategies which are implemented in their countries. Recent PG work on children and families affected by parental drug use was praised.

On June 26 and 27, the Secretariat of the Pompidou Group participated in the organisation of a hybrid training on Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) in prisons in **Ukraine**. With the support of international (online) and local experts, this intensive and interactive training allowed to provide in-depth knowledge on substance use disorders, OAT in prisons and international case studies to a multidisciplinary group of prison staff composed of medical and healthcare staff, security and educators from 2 different prisons.

Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty :

At a [regional conference](#) in Durres, Albania on 22 June 2023, over forty professionals from the **Western Balkans** representing penitentiary, social welfare and protection sectors, adult education, employment services, civil society organisations active in the field of prevention/countering of violent extremism and post-penal assistance to former detainees, discussed challenges to and agreed on the necessary preconditions for a sustainable rehabilitation of violent extremist prisoners, vulnerable and marginalised prisoners at risk of radicalisation after release, and learned about the best EU practices in respect of exit programmes for these categories of prisoners.

On 9-10 June 2023 in Tsaghkadzor, **Armenia** representatives of the Probation Service, courts, other state institutions, local government bodies and CSOs [discussed](#) cooperation in the field of resocialisation of probation beneficiaries and implementation of electronic monitoring. The findings from the discussions will be used to finalise the Council of Europe needs assessment and recommendations on improving cooperation in this field.

On 13-14 June 2023, 21 medical professionals of Temporary Detention Isolators of the Georgian police [enhanced their knowledge](#) of medical ethics applicable in the care of persons deprived of liberty, standards and new techniques of treatment of substance use disorder cases, including clinical management of detainees with such disorders. By applying this knowledge in their work, the medics will contribute to improving the treatment of persons in police detention in **Georgia**.

A high-level conference on the role of Special Investigation Service (SIS) of **Georgia** in ensuring effective investigation of ill-treatment and protection of victims' rights was held on 27 June 2023 in Tbilisi. It focused on the new function of the SIS on (re)investigating cases in which the ECtHR has established violations of the ECHR.

Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standard-Setting activities

Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation

The Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) held its 98th [meeting](#) on 27-30 June, during which it held a [Workshop](#) on Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces. It exchanged views with Siofra O'LEARY, President of the European Court of Human Rights, and Christoph HENRICHS, Chairperson of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ). It also took note of progress in its drafting groups on issues relating to judges of the Court (DH-SYSC-JC), the environment and human rights (CDDH-ENV), and human rights in situations of crisis (CDDH-SCR), and of developments concerning EU accession to the ECHR. Finally, the CDDH reviewed progress on its 2022-2025 terms of reference and discussed its draft 2024-2027 terms of reference.

Legal Co-operation:

The Bureau and the Working Group of the CCJE met on 21-23 June 2023 to pursue the preparation of the CCJE Opinion No. 26 (2023) - "Moving forward: use of technologies in the judiciary" that the committee is intended to adopt at its 24th plenary meeting (29 November – 1 December 2023).

Human Rights and Biomedicine:

The [Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health \(CDBIO\)](#) organised on 6 June 2023 a [pilot youth forum](#) on Artificial Intelligence in healthcare. Youth participants and CDBIO delegations exchanged views on various relevant aspects, and the pilot allowed the CDBIO to develop its reflection on the future engagement and consultation of young people in its intergovernmental work. At its [3rd plenary meeting](#), the CDBIO, *inter alia*, issued a [new report on the impact of artificial intelligence on the doctor-patient relationship](#), pursued the examination of the draft Recommendation on respect for autonomy in mental healthcare services, took note of the publication of the report on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights entitled "The rights of persons subject to non-consensual placement and treatment in mental health facilities" and finalised the mid-term report of its Strategic Action Plan on Human Rights and Technologies in Biomedicine.

Information Society – Action against crime

Media



[CDMSI met in Strasbourg](#) on 14-15 June 2023 to assess the work progress of the three expert committees: on Increasing Media Resilience (MSI-RES), on the Integrity of Online Information (MSI-INF) and on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (MSI-SLP). [Public consultations](#) were engaged on the draft CM Recommendation on Countering Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs). Council of Europe

actively engaged in [EuroDIG 2023](#) to strengthen digital governance in **Finland** and in [RightsCon 2023](#) in **Costa Rica**, a global summit on human rights in the digital age.

Cooperation on Freedom of Expression



In **Azerbaijan**, [PRO-M-FEX](#) concluded a Baseline Review of the country's legal and institutional framework on right to Information. Similarly work on developing a curriculum on Conflict-sensitive Journalism was concluded. In **Georgia**, a [Roundtable](#) discussed key findings of the [SMIP-GE](#) "Review of the legal and policy framework of Georgia with regard to the protection and safety of journalists". In **Moldova**, [MP-FEX](#) project supported the production and screening of three [documentaries](#) on social/human rights produced by the Telefilm. Moreover, peer institutional support to the Moldovan Audiovisual Council (AC), continued this month with the visit of the UK's Ofcom focused on strategic peer advisory discussions.

Steering Committee meetings of HFIII/PRO-FREX took place in [Albania](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Montenegro](#), and [Serbia](#). In **Kosovo***, interventions on freedom of expression, media and of information were presented at the [Co-operation Overview](#)

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Document. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, [EEx Project](#) held its [1st Working Meeting](#) aimed at establishing a mechanism on monitoring and reporting on Freedom of Expression and Information in BiH. PRO-FREX actions in **Serbia** and **Montenegro** enabled key partners to participate to the [Workshop on existing initiatives for the safety of journalists](#). In **Serbia**, the office of the Commissioner for Access to Information and Personal Data Protection received training on ECtHR standards (Art 10) when journalists are “receiving and imparting” information. Technical advice on reviewing the Albanian Broadcasting Code was made available **Albania’s** Audiovisual Media Authority; and CoE standard promotion support was given to the 5th National Conference on the right to Information Openness, transparency and digitalisation – [IDP](#).

In MENA region, the [SP V action \(FREX-PLUM\)](#), Tunis hosted the [1st training for the General Authority for Monitoring Media Content \(GAMMC\), Libya](#). In **Tunisia**, a [workshop](#) on Tunisian framework on Access to Information and Tromsø Convention discussing *inter alia* potential treaty adherence processes.

Artificial Intelligence



The CAI Secretariat took part in the Annual Conference on AI Systems and Fundamental Rights organised by the Academy of European Law (ERA) on 5 June in Trier, **Germany**. Ms Louise Riondel, Co-Secretary to the Committee, updated the participants on the state-of-play of the negotiations of the Framework Convention on AI, and presented Council of Europe policy developments on the topic of AI. Besides this, the Digital Development Unit of the Council of Europe contributed to two sessions: “Trustworthy AI: Large Language Models for Children and Education” and “Building cross-stakeholder awareness and understanding of the direct and indirect environmental impacts of digital/internet technologies and how to mitigate them” within the framework of [EuroDIG 2023](#) in **Finland**. The Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence of the Council of Europe Thomas Schneider moderated the panel debate in the first event, whilst the Head of the Information Society Department Patrick Penninckx moderated and lead the discussions in the second event. Both sessions included representatives of academia, government and civil society and revolved around issues of policy choices, multilateral cooperation and interaction with civil society on the road to trustworthy AI and better management of environmental impacts of digital technologies.

Data Protection



Convention 108+ steadily continues its march towards entry into force with two ratifications: [Slovakia](#) on 15 June and [Slovenia](#), on 20 June. Convention 108+ now counts 26 ratifications. In addition, [Cabo Verde](#) signed Convention 108+ on 28 of June. On 13 June, the Chair of the Committee of Convention 108 was heard by the GR-J on the occasion of the tour de table of the state of play of ratification of Protocol CETS No. 223 The Committee of Convention 108 held its [44th plenary meeting](#) in Strasbourg, from 14 to 16 June during which it finalised and adopted two important texts: the Guidelines on Data Protection for the Processing of Personal data for Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorism Purposes, on the one hand, and a first module of the [Model Contractual Clauses for the Transfer of Personal Data](#) from Controller to Controller. Furthermore, on 21 June, the Data Protection Unit intervened on comparative perspectives in the Brussels Privacy Hub Summer Academy 2023 held on the topic, ‘How to **Govern** Data in the Age of Analytics and AI?’. It also contributed to the Council of Europe EPAS Forum on Human Rights in Sports, focused this year on personal data protection, on 30 June.

Cybercrime

[Canada](#) (20 June) and [Malta](#) (22 June) signed the [Second Additional Protocol](#) to the [Budapest Convention on Cybercrime](#). Other countries ([Cabo Verde](#), [Ghana](#) and [Hungary](#)) did so during the [28th T-CY Plenary](#) which took place in Strasbourg on 27-28 June 2023, increasing the number of signatures of the Second Additional Protocol to 42. [Slovakia](#) deposited the instrument of ratification of the [First Additional Protocol](#). A guidance note on the “scope of procedural powers and international cooperation provisions” was adopted by the T-CY Plenary. Steering Committee meetings of [GLACY+](#) and [iPROCEEDS -2](#) also took place within the framework of the T-CY Plenary. The Plenary was preceded by a Workshop on capacity building held on 26 June in Strasbourg.

Cybercrime Programme Office ([C-PROC](#)) supported various capacity building activities in all regions of the world. More specifically, [The CyberSouth](#) organised a study visit to [Multinational Service Providers](#) on 6-7 June 2023 in Dublin, Ireland and together with Jordanian national institutions organised [a national conference on cybercrime](#) on 20-21 June 2023, in Amman, Jordan. On 8-9 June 2023, [GLACY+](#) and [Octopus](#), together with the Cyber Security Authority of Ghana, organised a [high-level workshop](#) to raise awareness about the benefits of the Second Additional Protocol. [CyberEast](#) supported participation of law enforcement representatives of the Eastern Partnership region in this year’s European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG), held on 19-21 June 2023, in Tampere, Finland and organized [trainings on the handling of cyber incident and cybercrime taxonomy in the Eastern Partnership countries](#).

GRECO

GRECO published its [2022 General Activity Report](#), which received extensive media coverage across the GRECO membership. The President of GRECO presented the Report to the [Committee of Ministers](#) at an exchange of views on 14 June. GRECO carried out an evaluation visit to [Georgia](#) under its 5th Evaluation Round. During its 94th [Plenary Meeting](#) on 5-9 June 2023, GRECO adopted 3 evaluation reports relating to the 5th Evaluation round (**Cyprus, Czech Republic and Romania**) and 9 compliance reports relating to the 5th and 4th Evaluation Rounds (**Andorra, Austria, Estonia, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Sweden, Türkiye and United Kingdom**). The 5th Evaluation Round deals with preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies, while the 4th Evaluation Round covers prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors. GRECO also published six Compliance Reports relating to the 4th Round on [Andorra](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Hungary](#), [Malta](#) and two Reports relating to the 5th Round on [Hungary](#) and [Estonia](#).

The Executive Secretary of GRECO spoke at the [Stockholm Symposium on Democracy and the Rule of Law](#) organised by the Swedish EU presidency on 22 June.

MONEYVAL



Mr Ioannis Androulakis, President of the Conference of the Parties to CETS 198 held an exchange of views with the CDPC on 13 June regarding the need to strengthen the international legal framework through the elaboration of a future protocol to the Warsaw Convention.

Elżbieta Frankow-Jaśkiewicz, Chair of MONEYVAL presented MONEYVAL’s achievements and strategic directions before the Committee of Ministers on 14 June

2023 (see [annual report for 2022](#)). The follow-up reports on [Albania](#) and [Slovenia](#) were also published in June 2023.

In June, the MONEYVAL secretariat spoke at the [12th International AML and Compliance Conference](#) (Budapest), at the 2023 MONEYVAL Forum organised online by the [School of International Financial Services](#), and the FSRBs Forum organised by GAFILAT and GiZ (Bonn). On 21 June, the Chair of MONEYVAL and the Executive Secretary participated in the [FATF-FSRB Annual High level meeting](#) to discuss progress in the implementation of the [Strategic Vision](#) for the Global Network and future priority actions to enhance inclusiveness and cohesiveness of the Global Network. A wider delegation, including MONEYVAL members, the President of the COP to CETS 198 and a Council of Europe delegation contributed to the plenary meeting and working groups of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), from 19 to 23 June 2023.

Economic Crime and Cooperation

The Closing Conference of the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project on “Effective implementation of EU sanctions’ regime” took place in Brussels on 13 June. The aim of event was to present the project results and achievements and also discuss the way forward. Representatives of National competent authorities from twenty-two **EU Member States** participated in the event and had the opportunity to reflect on conclusions that could be drawn from the studies conducted and the multilateral discussions held throughout the ten months of project implementation.

Representatives from eight EU Member States, including **Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland** and **Portugal**, benefited from a workshop on “Implementing an AML/CFT risk-based supervision of virtual assets service providers (VASP): good practices and lessons learnt”. The event provided a platform to exchange information on the good practices related to the AML/CFT sectoral risk-assessment of VAs and VASPs, as well as their risk-based supervision.

A needs assessment of the **Croatian** National Bank’s human and technical resources and a workshop to present the results and potential options for an effective allocation of resources for the different AML/CFT supervisory activities was organised in Zagreb.

Representatives of municipal authorities in **Georgia** benefited from awareness raising activities relating to prevention of corruption and integrity tools in the public sector.

At the request of the **Hungarian** authorities undertook an analysis of the draft Hungarian National Anti-corruption strategy and Action Plan 2023-2025 and provided recommendations for their strengthening.

At the request of the authorities of **Kazakhstan**, the Head of the Action against Economic Crime Department met with the Chairman of the Financial Monitoring Agency - FMA (Kazakh Financial Intelligence Unit) on 19 June to explore possible avenues for becoming an observer to MONEYVAL and joining the COP 198, as well as to go over the different aspects of cooperation and technical assistance that the authorities benefit from.

Within the framework of the Central Asia Rule of Law programme organised two workshops on “Corruption Risk assessment methodologies” and “Practices and experience of implementation of GRECO recommendations” for representatives of **Kazakh** institutions.

The Head of the Economic Crime Cooperation Division met with the Minister of Justice of **Kosovo*** Albulena Haxhiu on 23 June. She expressed the authorities’ high appreciation for the cooperation to date through the Project(s) against Economic Crime in Kosovo* (PECK) and confirmed the commitment to continue the good cooperation in the future, highlighting

also priority areas such as capacity building for the law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary, where assistance is needed.

Practitioners from the **Slovak** Law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial authorities dealing with criminal asset recovery were trained on asset recovery, confiscation modalities and asset management.

Criminal Law

The 28th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services (CDPPS) "Management of Prisons and Probation: New Challenges and Innovative Responses" took place on 6-7 June 2023 in Berlin, **Germany**. It was attended by 150 participants and was organised in plenary sessions and in six workshops which dealt with medical care, including remote medical care; ways to decrease the penal response to offending; dealing with sex offenders and with gender-based violence; dealing with drug addiction; social reintegration and the use of restorative justice. It was followed by visits to two prisons in Berlin.

The European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) held its 83rd meeting on 13-15 June, in Strasbourg, **France**. It discussed the current work on a Convention for the protection of the environment through criminal law; the implementation of the Action Plan on Smuggling of migrants; a draft Recommendation on Hate Crime; the work of the Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP) on two recommendations (on mental health and AI) and the work of the Committee of Experts on the operation of European conventions on co-operation in criminal matters (PC-OC).

The Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics related to prisons (SPACE I) for 2022 were published on 26 June 2023 and attracted as usual a lot of media attention. They demonstrated that the incarceration rates and the prison density in the majority of European countries increased following the end of Covid-19 lockdown measures.

MEDICRIME, Trafficking in Human Organs and Cultural property



The work has mainly been centred around the promotion of the criminal-law conventions: a [workshop](#) on the MEDICRIME Convention for more than 130 customs representatives from 13 francophone countries was held in Strasbourg (1 June);

the Convention was introduced to the national authorities from **Senegal** (2 June); the kick-off session of a MEDICRIME training course has been launched in **Spain** (20 June) in collaboration with the Spanish National School of Judges and the Spanish Prosecutor Office. The [Republic of Congo](#) signed the MEDICRIME Convention (5 June). An [international Conference](#) entitled "The Nicosia Convention: a criminal justice response to offences relating to cultural property" was organised in **Latvia** (15-16 June) in the framework of the [Latvian Presidency](#) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Counter-Terrorism

The Council of Europe Network of Contact Points for Victims of Terrorism held its first Study Visit in collaboration with the Spanish Ministry of Interior in Madrid, on 5-6 June 2023. The visit provided an insight into the Spanish legal approach to public policies and support programmes as well as an exploration of psychological support, legal counselling, financial assistance, the role of associations, remembrance policies and memorials.

The Council of Europe Counter-terrorism Coordinator, Mr Carlo Chiaromonte, participated in the UN Counter-terrorism Week 2023 "Addressing Terrorism through Reinvented

Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation". Mr Chiaromonte presented the Council of Europe work on counter-terrorism at the High-Level plenary session and moderated a side event organised by the Council of Europe with opening remarks delivered by Ambassador Päivi Kairamo in her capacity as Chair of the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-terrorism (CDCT) and Ambassador for Counter-terrorism Cooperation in Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event was opened by Ms Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of UNODC, Ambassador Alena Kupchyna, Co-ordinator to address Transnational Threats at the OSCE, and Ms Natalia Gherman, Executive Director of UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). Mr Chiaromonte had also several bi-lateral meetings with personalities working on counter-terrorism matters, such as Mr Gregory D. LoGerfo, Deputy Coordinator, Bureau of Counter-Terrorism, U.S. Department of State, Ms Natalia Gherman, Executive Director of CTED, Mr Stefen Hill, Executive Secretary at the International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law. They discussed the important work carried out in the area of counter-terrorism and the need for international counter-terrorism efforts to be conducted in respect of human rights and the rule of law.

On 20 June 2023, the Working Group on Preparedness and Emergency response (CDCT-PER) held its first meeting online to discuss the way forward in the preparation of Guidelines for public and private sector authorities on preparedness and emergency responses to the immediate aftermath of terrorist attacks and to identify the scope of the document.



European Audiovisual Observatory

June wrap-up [here](#).

ⁱ *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.