

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CO-OPERATION WITH THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

Through an extensive co-operation in the last 14 years, the Council of Europe and the EEA and Norway Grants have supported member states in implementing European standards. Areas of focus include antidiscrimination, the rule of law, children's rights, justice and the judiciary, correctional, and domestic and gender-based violence.

The EEA and Norway Grants are financial mechanisms **funded by Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein** to support the reduction of **social and economic disparities across Europe**. Their primary goal is to reduce inequalities between countries and strengthen bilateral relations with the EU's 15 least prosperous states.

The Council of Europe has been involved in two previous seven-year cycles and is now engaged in a **new cycle of the Grants, lasting from 2025 to 2031**.

BY THE NUMBERS | FROM THE CURRENT CYCLE



SUPPORT TO 8 MEMBER STATES:

BULGARIA, CROATIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LATVIA, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SLOVAKIA, AND SLOVENIA.



4 PROGRAMME AREAS WHERE HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTISE IS PROVIDED:

- FIGHTING DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- ACCESS TO JUSTICE
- CORRECTIONAL AND SERIOUS CRIMES
- SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF BARNAHUS STANDARDS IN MEMBER STATES.

MISSION-DRIVEN INITIATIVES

As part of the new cycle, the Council of Europe is implementing **five mission-driven initiatives (MDIs) from June 2025 to May 2031, available to all 15 beneficiary states**.

These are areas in which the Council of Europe has robust instruments and can offer significant added value. Working together on these priorities will also be **consistent with the 2025 Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe "Towards A New Democratic Pact for Europe"**.



PATHWAYS TO
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN



RESPONSES TO
HATE SPEECH
AND HATE
CRIME



RESIST:
RESILIENCE TO
DISINFORMATION
IN EUROPE



TRANSPARENCY
AND INTEGRITY
OF FOREIGN
INFLUENCE



ACTION
AGAINST
CORRUPTION
AND MONEY
LAUNDERING

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SUCCESS STORIES

GENDER-BASED AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNERGY Network - Aligning national policymaking with the Istanbul Convention standards. Since 2018, the SYNERGY Network connects government and civil society actors from 15 EU members states to combat gender-based and domestic violence. The Council of Europe initiated and actively supported this network to exchange knowledge, guide national interventions on guidance on gender equality and Roma women's rights, and ensure the effective implementation of the standards set by the Istanbul Convention. The Council of Europe developed the handbook "Nothing about Us, Without Us" (2023) to address the specific needs of Roma women facing gender-based violence.

EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE

Increasing the expertise of the local judges with a one-year training at the European Court of Human Rights. As part of the EEA and Norway Grants, local judges were seconded to the European Court in Strasbourg for one year to gain hands-on experience and enhance their understanding of European human rights standards. These judges returned with advanced expertise in applying international human rights law, inspiring reforms in their national judicial system. Their experience supports fairer trials, better protection of rights, and increased public trust in justice.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Supporting the opening of Latvia's first Barnahus, a child-friendly justice model for abuse cases. A Barnahus (Children's House) is a specialised child-friendly facility designed to provide integrated support for children and their families who are victims of sexual or physical abuse, to ensure that they are protected and receive the care they need while minimizing trauma during investigations and legal proceedings. As part of the EEA and Norway Grants, the Council of Europe contributed to the establishment of Latvia's first Barnahus centre in Riga by providing expertise, training, and ensuring that the model aligns with international child protection standards, such as the Lanzarote Convention.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN JUSTICE

TJENI Project - Increasing transparency and trust in judicial systems through digital transformation. From 2022 to 2024, the TJENI project, implemented by the Council of Europe, has developed and tested tools for the anonymisation (pseudonymisation) and publication of court decisions, the project ensures a balance between privacy rights and public access to information. These tools make judicial data more accessible, improve consistency in case law, and enhance the overall accountability of justice systems. The project also promoted the use of open data to modernize court systems, enabling more efficient decision-making processes and better public trust in judicial transparency. TJENI created eLearning courses on open data, AI, and cybercrime and organised hackathon on the Digital Future of Justice.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

SECURE Project - Modernising prison services in line with European human rights standards. Through its capacity-building activities and exchanges among practitioners from correctional services, the SECURE project focused on improving prison conditions in Romania. It takes a multidisciplinary approach, targeting issues such as aggressive behaviours, addiction rehabilitation, and mental health support. By creating better conditions and implementing strategic public policies, the SECURE project not only improves the treatment of prisoners but also prepares them for successful reintegration into society. The Council of Europe provided expertise by sharing best practices, particularly in treatment programs for vulnerable prison populations, as well as ensuring that the project follows the recommendations of the **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CO-OPERATION WITH THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS SCAN THE QR CODE

