

HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TÜRKİYE

The “**Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye**” is a flagship joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe that helps partners align legislation, policies, and practices with European standards **in strengthening justice, fighting corruption, promoting freedom of expression, combating discrimination, and advance on their EU accession paths.**

In its **third phase**, the programme delivers **tailored legal and policy support, regional peer learning, and rapid legislative expertise through the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism (ECM)**; creating a flexible, results-driven platform that strengthens institutions and delivers tangible benefits for people across the region.

BY THE NUMBERS | AS OF JANUARY 2026



38 BENEFICIARY-SPECIFIC ACTIONS IN ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, KOSOVO*, MONTENEGRO, NORTH MACEDONIA, SERBIA, AND TÜRKİYE



6 REGIONAL ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE “DASHBOARD WESTERN BALKANS”



A BUDGET OF 42 MILLION EUROS



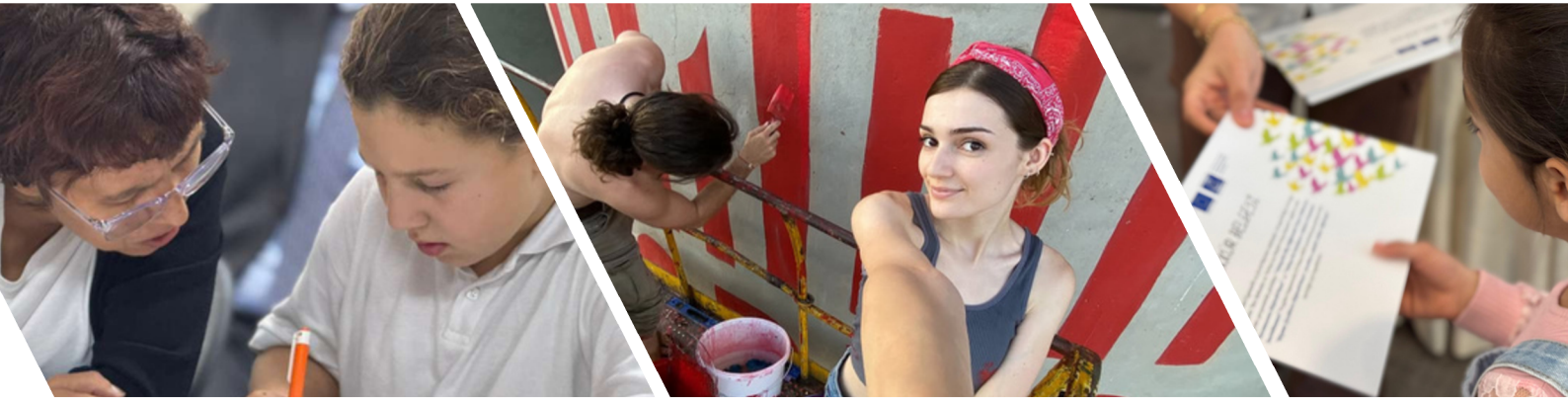
*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

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IMPACT OF THE HORIZONTAL FACILITY PROGRAMME



STRENGTHENING JUSTICE

More efficient, and accountable, justice and detention systems. Justice in **Albania** and **Kosovo** is more predictable and accessible for the population as courts improved performance and accountability through modern digital solutions. In **Serbia**, long-pending European Court cases were closed, strengthening the rule of law. Over 1 800 lawyers and 300 law students in **Türkiye** now provide gender-sensitive legal aid in cases of discrimination and violence. New partnerships between municipalities, bar associations, and civil society improve women's access to justice. Standards across penitentiary institutions of **North Macedonia** rose. Four prisons now offer child-friendly spaces. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** police officers integrate human rights principles into daily policing.

FIGHTING CORRUPTION, ECONOMIC CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Stronger institutions against corruption, money laundering and related crimes. Financial transparency and upcoming conflict-of-interest legislation in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** move forward with strengthened asset declaration systems and revised rulebooks, alongside concrete steps towards a central register of bank accounts. In **Montenegro**, automated, risk-based systems help institutions to better detect and prevent money laundering and terrorism financing. In **Albania**, response to money-laundering risks such as criminal infiltration by supervisory authorities is now more efficient.

PROMOTING ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Communities taking a stand against hate and exclusion. Over one million people across the **Western Balkans** were reached with messages promoting equality, dignity and respect, through the regional "Block the Hatred. Share the Love 2.0" initiative. In **Kosovo**, temporary shelter was secured for LGBTI persons.

Fairer education and democratic culture in action. The Senate of the University of **Montenegro** adopted the Ethical Code and the Regulation on Breaches of Academic Integrity. In **Serbia**, the Education Portal of the Institute for Education Development launched a dedicated page on Democratic Culture in Education.

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

Safety of journalists and access to information's practices gained ground. In **North Macedonia**, judges and prosecutors improved their capacities to apply self-regulation and anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) standards in judicial proceedings. The **Western Balkans** regulatory authorities are engaged in European-level dialogue on digital governance and harmful content.



VISIT THE PROGRAMME WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

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