

## Supporting enhanced access to higher quality Free Legal Aid (FLA) services in North Macedonia

### What is the goal?

The Action aims at enhancing the efficiency, quality, accessibility, and awareness of free legal aid in North Macedonia. More concretely the Action will focus on the:

- ▶ harmonization of provisions, policies and practices related to free legal aid in North Macedonia;
- ▶ capacity building for the main actors in the field (Ministry of Justice, Bar Association and CSOs) including more structured and continuous coordination between the main stakeholders;
- ▶ awareness raising for the public and related institutional actors in the country to support increased access to free legal aid.

### Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ Direct beneficiaries are the Free Legal Aid applicants and the general population. For this reason, institutional entities and governing structures involved in providing Free Legal Aid, will be supported and assisted in building their capacities for a more efficient and accessible free legal aid system;
- ▶ The Action takes into account special needs of vulnerable groups (victims of domestic violence, children, Roma and other minorities) and gender related contexts in all stages of its implementation.

### How will the project work?

- ▶ The Action is based in a regular communication, exchange and co-operation with the Ministry of Justice, the Bar Association, Civil Society Organizations in the country, Centres for Social Welfare, and the judiciary system bodies.
- ▶ Training sessions are developed and delivered during the Action, following the Training of Trainers (ToT) approach to produce higher sustainability. In this process, successful self-learning and peer-to-peer exchanges will be also used.
- ▶ To ensure an inclusive and efficient exchange between different actors, a coordination mechanism for improved communication and co-operation among stakeholders will be applied.

### What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ The legal and policy framework related to the provision of Free Legal Aid will be harmonised in line with Council of Europe standards
- ▶ Capacities of Free Legal Aid providers to deliver quality legal aid are strengthened
- ▶ Access to Free Legal Aid by the population will be enhanced and the efficiency of the Free Legal Aid in North Macedonia will be strengthened

### How much will it cost?

- ▶ the total budget of the Action is 800 000 EUR

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

- ▶ the budget allocated to the overall Horizontal Facility programme amounts to ca. 41 Million EUR (85% funded by the European Union, 15% by the Council of Europe)

## How to get more information?

- ▶ Project Co-ordinator, Rita MARASCALCHI: [Rita.MARASCALCHI@coe.int](mailto:Rita.MARASCALCHI@coe.int)
- ▶ Senior Project Officer, IRENA CUCULOSKA JAKIMOVSKA: [irena.CUCULOSKA-JAKIMOVSKA@coe.int](mailto:irena.CUCULOSKA-JAKIMOVSKA@coe.int)
- ▶ Project assistant, Anamarija Mitrovska: [Anamarija.MITROVSKA@coe.int](mailto:Anamarija.MITROVSKA@coe.int)
- ▶ Horizontal Facility website: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility/home>
- ▶ Marija Simić, Horizontal Facility Communication Officer, [Marija.SIMIC@coe.int](mailto:Marija.SIMIC@coe.int), +381 63 601 337  
Besnik Baka, Horizontal Facility Communication Officer, [Besnik.Baka@coe.int](mailto:Besnik.Baka@coe.int), +355 69 217 8430

## About Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey

The “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022” is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe that enables the Beneficiaries to meet their reform agendas in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy and to comply with the European standards, including where relevant within the framework of the EU enlargement process. This three-year programme covers actions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, as well as Kosovo\* and it is implemented by the Council of Europe from May 2019.

*\*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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