



## Enhancing the capacities of the penitentiary system and the External Oversight Mechanism in North Macedonia

### What is the goal?

The Action will assist the authorities in North Macedonia in overcoming identified shortcomings related to the protection of human rights, by strengthening the capacities of the penitentiary system and the External Oversight Mechanism (EOM) over the work of the officers with police authority.

### Who benefits from the Action?

The Action will be implemented in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice (Directorate for Execution of Sanctions), the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ombudsman's Office, and the Ministry of Health. It will also involve key partners and stakeholders, including civil society organizations. The citizens in North Macedonia will be impacted from the Action, which contributes in building a more secure and humane society that respects and protects the rights of detained and sentenced persons in line with the Council of Europe standards.

### How will the Action work?

Aiming to better protect the rights of sentenced persons, the Action directly supports the implementation of the recommendations from the latest European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) report, the National Strategy for Development of the Penitentiary System and the National Strategy for Prevention of Violent Extremism by using a tailor-made approach and peer exchanges. The Action builds on the results of the co-operation activities achieved under the two previous EU and Council of Europe Actions, namely "Strengthening the protection of the rights of sentenced persons" and "Enhancing Human Rights Policing", implemented in the period 2016 – 2019.

### What do we expect to achieve?

The Action will contribute to a safer and more humane society by:

- ▶ increasing the capacities of prison managers and staff on radicalisation in prisons
- ▶ improving the treatment and rehabilitation of inmates
- ▶ strengthening the provision of health care in prisons
- ▶ increasing the EOM staff capacities on conducting investigations into cases of police ill-treatment

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Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## How much will it cost?

- ▶ the total budget of the Action is 1,050,000 EUR
- ▶ 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?

- ▶ Council of Europe Criminal-Law Cooperation Unit <https://www.coe.int/en/web/criminal-law-coop>
- ▶ Horizontal Facility website: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility/home>
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## 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.*

The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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

The Member States of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

*This leaflet was produced with the financial support of the European Union and the Council of Europe. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of either party.*

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and the Council of Europe



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