

Promotion of diversity and equality in Serbia

What is the goal?

- ▶ To strengthen the capacity of national and local stakeholders to better address issues related to anti-discrimination, combating hate-speech and protecting rights of national minorities and LGBTI persons in line with the standards and recommendations set by the Council of Europe – especially those of the European Commission on Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).
- ▶ The action also aims at supporting Serbia's accession negotiations with the European Union in the field of fundamental rights

Who benefits from the Action?

- ▶ The citizens of Serbia
- ▶ National and local authorities, including law enforcement agencies
- ▶ Education professionals
- ▶ National minorities, LGBTI population, and other vulnerable social groups
- ▶ Civil society organisations engaged in promoting and protecting human rights

How will the Action work?

- ▶ Through a combination of legal and strategic support to institutions; capacity building activities; peer-to-peer exchanges with regional and European partners; raise-awareness campaigns and public discussions on selected anti-discrimination topics; support to CSOs and local authorities by small grant schemes, to enhance their capacities to tackle discrimination and reach out to the citizens.
- ▶ It builds on the results of earlier co-operation programs in the field of anti-discrimination in the country, also co-funded by the Council of Europe and the European Union.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ To improve the record of implementation of anti-discrimination policies and legislation, at the central and local level (especially on protection of the rights of LGBTI persons, and on combating hate speech/hate crime).
- ▶ To enhance the dialogue and co-operation between institutions and civil society organisations in promoting and protecting human rights.
- ▶ To strengthen the awareness of citizens on their rights and mechanisms to defend them.
- ▶ Ultimately, to achieve better protection of human rights of the citizens of Serbia and build a more diverse, equal and tolerant society.

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How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the Action is 650.000 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, website of the Anti-discrimination Department: www.coe.int/antidiscrimination
- ▶ Social media: www.facebook.com/coeantidiscrimination
- ▶ Horizontal Facility website: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility/home>
- ▶ Marija Simić, Horizontal Facility Communication Officer, Marija.SIMIC@coe.int, +381 63 601 337
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About the 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

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

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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