

Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners in Albania

What is the goal?

The Action aims to enhance the protection of human rights of prisoners in Albania by assisting the Albanian authorities in:

- ▶ introducing an effective human resource recruitment and management model and sustainable provision of training for prison staff;
- ▶ strengthening the provision of health care services to the prisoners with a particular focus on detainees with mental disorders, including the development of a suicide prevention strategy;
- ▶ preparing and piloting rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for prisoners in parallel with the application of a standard risk and needs management system;
- ▶ improving the differentiated treatment of vulnerable groups of prisoners.

Who benefits from the Action?

- ▶ public authorities such as: Ministry of Justice; General Directorate of the Prison Administration and prisons' staff, Ministry of Health and Social Protection;
- ▶ partners and other stakeholders: Ombudsman, Ministry of Education, civil society organisations that provide services to persons in prisons and other closed institutions;
- ▶ as well as prisoners and related family and society at large.

How will the project work?

- ▶ through regular exchanges and close coordination with the project beneficiaries and key stakeholders to identify practical challenges and accordingly develop tailor-made methodologies;
- ▶ through a combination of technical expertise and participatory working groups with beneficiary institutions to develop tailor-made training materials, action plans, monitoring practices, and legislative advice etc.
- ▶ through capacity building and development of tailored trainings and implementation of pilot programmes targeting prisons' staff and offenders.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ the action contributes in improving the organisational and performance capacities of the penitentiary system to ensure human rights protection for prisoners;
- ▶ ensures improved provision of health care in prisons, particularly for prisoners with mental problems and for forensic patients;
- ▶ enhances the rehabilitation of prisoners through the application of a well-defined individual sentence planning and reintegration programmes for offenders.

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How much will it cost?

- ▶ the total budget of the Action is 640 000 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 do we get more information?

- ▶ Criminal Law Cooperation Unit of the Council of Europe: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/criminal-law-coop>
- ▶ Horizontal Facility II 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 until May 2022.

**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.

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