

Initiative for Legal Certainty in the Western Balkans

What is the goal?

- ▶ to reinforce public trust in the judiciary whose practice is consistent, predictable and in line with the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights.
- ▶ to ensure the consistent application of the national legislation and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights by providing to Beneficiaries expertise and best practices from across the 47 Members States of the Council of Europe.

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ courts, judicial training institutions and other public bodies responsible for the implementation of European human rights standards in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo*.
- ▶ citizens in the Western Balkans who will benefit from a more reliable and predictable justice compliant system based on European fair trial standards

How will the project work?

- ▶ by creating and/or strengthening judicial tools for a better access to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights available in the local languages
- ▶ by expanding a peer-to-peer judicial dialogue on human rights at a regional and European level for national judges to have a comparative perspective when dealing with human rights issues
- ▶ by providing the public authorities with the expertise and best European examples on ensuring the consistency of judicial practice

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ strengthened and more efficient mechanism for the consistent application of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and domestic judicial practice in all the Beneficiaries.
- ▶ through the development of a regional judicial dialogue platform, the action will establish common approaches between beneficiaries to address contentious human rights issues and ensuring that the European Convention on Human Rights is well embedded into domestic legal orders.

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



Implemented
by the Council of Europe

How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the action is 300 000 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?

- ▶ Human Rights National Implementation Division: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/national-implementation>
- ▶ 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 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 46 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

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