

Promotion of diversity and equality in the Western Balkans

What is the goal?

- ▶ To address the phenomena of hate speech and support Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans on countering hate speech and hate crime;
- ▶ To promote and protect the rights of LGBTI persons and other vulnerable social groups in the region.
- ▶ To strengthen institutional capacities and coordination, as well as to improve anti-discrimination mechanisms in line with Council of Europe standards;
- ▶ To support the public authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey in applying the recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Who benefits from the action?

- ▶ Equality Bodies / Human Rights Institutions in the Beneficiaries;
- ▶ Law enforcement authorities;
- ▶ LGBTI communities, and other vulnerable social groups;
- ▶ Civil society organisations engaged in promoting and protecting human rights;
- ▶ General public.

How will the action work?

- ▶ The action supports further research and data collection from Equality Bodies and organisations in the field focusing on the situation of hate speech and sharing their experiences and good practices concerning fight against hate speech;
- ▶ The action assists Equality Bodies and law enforcement authorities in their efforts to raise awareness against hate speech and hate crime at local and regional level;
- ▶ The action supports the capacity building process for Equality Bodies and law enforcement authorities on assistance to victims in order to reduce underreporting of hate speech and hate crime cases.

What do we expect to achieve?

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- ▶ People and communities in the Western Balkans region are more aware about the imminent danger of hate speech and its negative effects in our society;
- ▶ Ensure independent and effective Equality Bodies that are easily accessible for victims or communities at risk from discrimination and intolerance;
- ▶ Establishment and development of a common knowledge and practice in the field of combating hate crimes and fighting discrimination based on the Council of Europe standards and best experience;
- ▶ Strengthened cross-border response to hate crime and discrimination, contributing to the overall cooperation between law enforcement authorities and related actors in the field to reinforce dialogue and trust by LGBTI communities and organisations.

How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the action is 400,000 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: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and-antidiscrimination>
- ▶ 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.*

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HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY 2019-2022

FOR YOUR RIGHTS: TOWARDS EUROPEAN STANDARDS

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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