

## Improved procedural safeguards in judicial proceedings in Montenegro

### What is the goal?

- ▶ To support Montenegrin authorities to further align procedural rights of victims, accused and suspected persons with the EU *acquis* and the European Court of Human Rights' standards
- ▶ To facilitate access to free legal aid system
- ▶ To enhance human rights education through establishment of legal clinics at the faculties of law
- ▶ To strengthen legal certainty for citizens through consistent application of EU *acquis*, the European Court of Human Rights' case law and reinforced judicial dialogue in the field of human rights

### Who benefits from the Action?

- ▶ Citizens of Montenegro affected by judicial proceedings, who will be able to fully enjoy their rights and legal certainty.
- ▶ Constitutional Court, Supreme Court / courts, Prosecution Offices, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Judicial Training Centre, State Agent before the European Court of Human Rights, Police Directorate, Law Faculties, Bar Association, Free Legal Aid Offices and Human Rights specialised NGOs

### How will the Action work?

- ▶ Through development of recommendations for legislative and policy changes and support in their implementation
- ▶ Through development of recommendations for enhancement of the access to justice, particularly for marginalised and vulnerable groups
- ▶ Through establishment of pilot legal clinics at the Montenegrin Law Faculties
- ▶ Through regular inter-judicial meetings and exchanges of experiences and practices between legal practitioners

### What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ Procedural rights of victims, accused and suspected persons are harmonised with the European Union legal framework and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights
- ▶ Improved access to free legal services for vulnerable and marginalised groups
- ▶ Enhanced human rights dimension in the educational cycle under the auspice of Law Faculties
- ▶ Improved legal certainty for citizens through consistent application of legislation and reinforced inter-judicial dialogue in the field of human rights

### How much will it cost?

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



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Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

- ▶ The total budget of the Action is 900.000 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?

- ▶ Human Rights National Implementation Division: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/national-implementation/montenegro-improved-procedural-safeguards-in-criminal-proceedings>
- ▶ 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)

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