

## Strengthening independence and accountability of the judiciary

### What is the goal?

- ▶ building the capacities of judges, prosecutors, judicial and prosecutorial assistants to detect and counter risks of undue influence
- ▶ reinforcing internal mechanisms, rules and procedures within the High Judicial Council (HJC) and the State Prosecutorial Council (SPC) to guarantee judicial and prosecutorial independence

### Who benefits from the Action?

- ▶ the High Judicial Council, the State Prosecutorial Council, the Judicial Academy and the Ministry of Justice
- ▶ court users will benefit from a more transparent and effective judiciary
- ▶ Serbian citizens will benefit from the judiciary that is more independent and accountable

### How will the Action work?

- ▶ through expert advice/opinions, round tables, expert meetings/working groups, training session, peer-to-peer discussions organised in co-operation with beneficiaries
- ▶ through preparing publications that will contribute to strengthening the independence and the accountability of the judiciary and of the prosecutorial service of the Republic of Serbia and to improving the public confidence in the judicial system

### What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ The establishment of a fair and merit-based system of performance evaluation and career advancement of judicial professionals
- ▶ The enhancement of the co-operation and the information flow between the executive and the judiciary

### How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the Action is 750.000 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).

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## How to get more information?

- ▶ Directorate General I: Human Rights and Rule of Law <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law>
- ▶ Horizontal Facility website: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility/home>
- ▶ Marija Simić, Horizontal Facility Communication Officer, [Marija.SIMIC@coe.int](mailto: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](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)

*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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