

# HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY 2019-2022

*FOR YOUR RIGHTS:  
TOWARDS  
EUROPEAN STANDARDS*



Ensuring justice

Fighting corruption, economic crime and organised crime

Combating discrimination and protecting  
the rights of vulnerable groups

Freedom of expression and freedom of the media

Expertise co-ordination mechanism

<http://horizontal-facility-eu.coe.int>

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Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Implemented  
by the Council of Europe



## DEEPENING EFFORTS WITH ENLARGED PRIORITIES

■ The Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (Horizontal Facility II) 2019-2022 is a co-operation initiative of the European Union and Council of Europe with the Western Balkans region and Turkey. The programme supports tailored reform processes agreed with the authorities, in line with relevant Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies' recommendations, in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy. It builds upon the results and progress achieved under the first phase of the programme, implemented in the period 2016-2019, which include:

- ▶ Advances in the implementation of reforms of the judiciary, prisons and police through technical support provided to the Beneficiaries;
- ▶ Strengthened harmonisation of legislation and practices with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR);

Bringing policies, institutions and practices further in line with the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) and the opinions of the Venice Commission and standards of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).

- ▶ Strengthened policies against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism in the Beneficiaries;

Addressing shortcomings identified in the evaluations by the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) and the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

- ▶ Strengthened legislation/policies and capacities on inclusiveness and integrity in education, anti-discrimination, protection of minorities and the fight against trafficking in human beings;

Implementing recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and the Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as those emanating from the monitoring of the Framework Convention on National Minorities (FCNM) and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

- ▶ Guidance provided to Beneficiaries on drafting legislation and policies through the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism. For example, expertise was provided on the Law on Treatment of Property (Albania); the Law on the rights of the victims of torture (Bosnia and Herzegovina); the Law on Foreigners relating to migration (Montenegro); the Law on protection against discrimination (North Macedonia); and Constitutional provisions relating to the judiciary (Serbia)

## HORIZONTAL FACILITY II AT A GLANCE

**The geographical scope** of the second phase of the programme covers actions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey, with a distinct regional dimension.

**The themes** covered by the Horizontal Facility include:

- Ensuring justice;
- Fighting economic crime;
- Combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups (including LGBTI, minorities and Roma) and
- Freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

**The budget** allocated for the programme amounts to ca. 41 Million EUR (85% funded

by the European Union, 15% by the Council of Europe)

**The structure** of the Horizontal Facility Programme, as established in the first phase of the programme, follows a two-fold approach:

- Technical co-operation, in the form of capacity-building, advice and other forms of technical support tailored to the needs of each Horizontal Facility Beneficiary to achieve increased compliance with European standards;
- The Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism, a flexible tool through which the Council of Europe provides ad hoc legislative expertise and policy advice in response to requests made by the Beneficiaries. These requests may address one of the four thematic areas of the programme but can also address other issues falling under the mandate of the Venice Commission.

\* 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.



## WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME AIM TO ACHIEVE?

■ The programme enables the Beneficiaries to meet their reform agendas and to comply with the European standards, including where relevant within the framework of the EU enlargement process. Tailor-made and demand-driven support is provided to further improve legal and policy frameworks and build institutional capacities, reinforcing the functioning of institutions.

■ To this end, the programme activities include capacity development, technical support and expertise, and awareness raising in all four thematic fields.

■ The second phase of the programme aims to strengthen the sustainability of results achieved during the first phase, while ensuring ownership by the Beneficiary institutions.

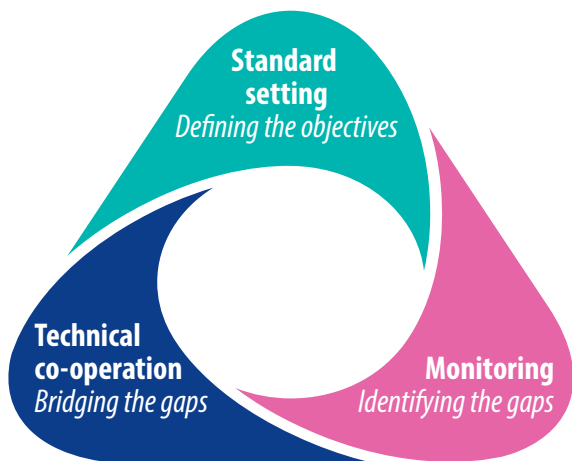
■ The programme aims at bringing substantial improvements directly to the lives of citizens through its actions, while enhancing communication on the tangible results achieved.

## A unique approach

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- ▶ **Tailor made actions** are designed to address the specific needs in each Beneficiary following consultations with the respective authorities.
- ▶ **The Flexibility** of the Horizontal Facility is extremely valued by the beneficiary institutions as it enables adaptation of the programme to changing circumstances and domestic priorities, while fostering strong local ownership of the results. Resources can be reallocated in the course of the implementation, to respond to emerging needs.
- ▶ **The Regional Dimension** has been introduced in the course of the implementation of the first phase of the programme. The increased regional dimension featured in phase II allows for a cross-border exchange on addressing common challenges, sharing best practices and establishing platforms and networks to this end.

- ▶ **Cross cutting issues** are integrated into the actions. All activities under the Horizontal Facility II are conducted with a human rights approach, incorporating principles of gender equality – in line with the Gender Equality Strategy of the Council of Europe and based on the Gender mainstreaming toolkit for co-operation projects – as well as non-discrimination, equality and inclusive participation, focusing on vulnerable groups and minorities. Co-operation with civil society organisations is ensured in accordance with the Council of Europe’s Guidelines on Civil Society Organisations’ participation in Council of Europe co-operation activities and in line with the European Commission Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries.
- ▶ **A unique working method, through the Council of Europe strategic triangle**



Council of Europe technical assistance programmes form an integral part of the unique strategic triangle of standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation: the development of legally binding standards is linked with their monitoring by independent mechanisms and supplemented by technical co-operation to facilitate their implementation. The Council of Europe’s actions are developed and implemented in areas where the Council of Europe has strong expertise and added value.

## MORE INFORMATION

<http://horizontal-facility-eu.coe.int>

 [jp.horizontal.facility](https://www.facebook.com/jp.horizontal.facility)

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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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