



CRIMINAL LAW CO-OPERATION



Highlights 2019

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List of Abbreviations

CLCU	Criminal Law Co-operation Unit
CMB	Civil monitoring board
CMS	Case management system
CoE	Council of Europe
CPT	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CSO	Civil Society organisation
CVE	Countering violent extremism
DGPDG	Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses
DICCIPS	Department for Internal Control, Criminal Investigation and Professional Standards
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EOM	External Oversight Mechanism
EU/CoE JP	European Union and Council of Europe Joint Programme
HF	Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans
JADES	Juvenile and Adult Detainees Support
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
RNA	Risk and Needs Assessment
SIS	State Inspector service
VEP	Violent and extremist prisoner

Some of CLCU achievements in 2019



163 prison managers/staff and probation officers enhanced their knowledge on **human rights**, increased awareness on **radicalisation in prisons** and received a practical guidance on drafting **pre-sentence reports**



254 of prison health care staff, including mental health staff learnt about **treatment plans** for psychiatric patients, **documentation of injuries**, **screening tools** and **health monitoring instruments**.



954 police staff is able to apply **human rights standards**, and follow good police practices when preventing ill-treatment of persons in police custody.



22 legislative reviews, operational procedures, instructions, guidelines and strategies were drafted / developed under **7** projects.



12 rehabilitation and treatment programmes and risk and needs assessment tools were developed and piloted in **5** prisons and **1** psychiatric hospital.

Criminal Law Co-operation Unit

1 SUMMARY

Instead of summarising the main achievements of 2019, the reader will find in this Highlights some impressions from Council of Europe (CoE) consultants involved in the implementation of several activities and projects implemented by the CLCU. It should be noted that 2019 was a special year in which the Phase I of the Horizontal Facility¹ was wrapped up and its Phase II was prepared in parallel which enabled a smooth transition between the two Programmes both in six beneficiaries and at the regional level (Western Balkans). At the same time, other several projects were prepared and by the end of 2019 a total of 12 projects were initiated, a work which was not only intensive substance wise but also required significant administrative work accompanying such undertaking. Apart from these new projects (and some old ones) bilateral and multilateral cooperation has continued based on the CoE “Programme of Activities” – just to mention as illustrations the most recent publication on “*Implementing Community Sanctions and measures*” and a highly prized conference on police and domestic violence entitled “The police, a key player in the fight against domestic violence” about which you can read more further down.

In conclusion, 2019 was an intensive and challenging year, but equally successful, and the whole CLCU team is very proud of the achievements that are presented in these 2019 Highlights.

Impressions 2019:

“In 2019 we had objective measures to demonstrate that the region (Western Balkans) holds great knowledge and wisdom and in sharing this amongst each other, we have objective measures that capacity building and support comes from within. We were able to quantify the transfer of knowledge amongst beneficiaries not seen on this level before. The result of this gives confidence that the CoE is doing what it sets out to do, effective capacity building and supporting beneficiaries in meeting their goals. It has been an absolute privilege to work with such a committed bunch of people in 2019 and one can only reflect as a consultant on what a humble experience it continues to be.

The project in the Republic of Moldova, supporting both, the penitentiary and probation service, improved joint practice between the two organisations; the evaluation and feedback received from the piloting has been tremendously positive, with participants indicating a huge learning curve in-terms of knowledge and skill. In BiH, following the development of protocols and roll out of staff training at Sokolac Forensic Facility, the feedback was extremely positive, and the final evaluation visit demonstrated that staff were utilizing the protocols on a daily basis, significantly improving patient care and increasing their knowledge and skill. Again, in BiH, in two projects dealing with Violent Extremism, the level of commitment, professionalism

¹ EU/CoE Joint Programme Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey

and engagement of those involved was outstanding, leading to the development of very effective and user-friendly systems which were statistically evaluated as effective using inter-rater reliability principles. In Montenegro, the regional response to Violent Extremism was launched with the first thematic group meeting on Risk/Needs and screening practices, attended by multi-disciplinary beneficiaries from across the region. The end result was very positive, providing a 'snapshot' of current practices, a way forward for further development and an opportunity for collegial working across the region that has hitherto not been possible. A further assessment visit of risk/needs and screening took place in Serbia, with a very positive level of commitment and engagement from both penitentiary system, law enforcement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to tackle the problem."

Catherine Creamer, Forensic Psychologist, Ireland

"As in the previous years, in 2019 I enjoyed the concise setting of tasks and the thorough preparation of the CoE Projects resulting in evident engagement of the beneficiaries, excellent co-operation and concentrated working atmosphere in the working groups, visits and interviews.

In 2019, I contributed as consultant in the field of prison health care to CoE projects in Albania, North Macedonia and Republic of Moldova. In Albania, my contribution was related to the strengthening of the provision of health care to prisoners, including mental health care, as part of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Penitentiary Reforms. In North Macedonia, my assessment mission on provision of health care in prisons, consisted of visits to prisons and interviews with prison governors, medical and non-medical prison staff and inmates and with meetings with representatives of the Department for Execution of Sanctions, the Ministry of Health and regional Primary Health Care Centres, the Ombudsman Office and NGOs. At the time of the assessment visit, the transfer of the responsibility of prison health care from the Department for Execution of Sanctions of the Ministry of Justice to the Agency for Public Health Administration of the Ministry of Health was being accomplished. The recommendations and proposals in the assessment report, support the improvement of the prison health care, particularly during the critical period of the administrative transfer process.

The consultancy in the Republic of Moldova included analysis, comments and reviewing of three regulations, drafted by national experts, harmonizing them with CoE standards. The revised drafts were discussed with national medical and legal experts and consented final drafts were elaborated."

If adopted by the authorities, the revised regulations will be aligned to the standards of the CoE, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) in the field of prison health care, particularly regarding patients' autonomy, medical confidentiality and professional independence of health care providers in prison, effective prevention of ill-treatment, medical screening on admission, prevention of suicide, provision of essential medication and efficient application procedures

for release of seriously ill inmates. It is my strong wish that the commonly elaborated documents, regulations, recommendations and proposals will find their way from the written form to their practical implementation.

Jörg Pont, MD, former Medical Adviser to the Ministry of Justice of Austria

“It was an honour and privilege to participate in a number of meetings to promote the development of community sanctions and measures, in Greece and Slovenia, as well as a multilateral meeting on the social reintegration of prisoners through enhanced cooperation between probation, prisons and other agencies, in Strasbourg. The level of positive engagement and energy from those attending all these events was uplifting and a real sign of the commitment by participants to return to their own situations with a renewed focus on developing good practice, based on the relevant Council of Europe standards and the learning shared at the meetings. Discussions at these meetings were so successful because everyone attending brought ideas and practices from their own experience that they shared with the group, providing multiple opportunities for shared learning by everyone. It was also a real pleasure and honour to draft, with Prof. Ioan Durnescu of Bucharest University, the guidelines on the implementation of community sanctions and measures, which was published by the Council of Europe in December 2019. I envisage that this publication, which is now available on the internet, will be a useful resource in the further development of community sanctions and measures in Member States.”

Vivian Geiran, Member of the Council for Penological Cooperation – PC-CP (Council of Europe) and former Director (2012-2019), Irish Probation Service

For more information on individual projects and the teams involved please visit our website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/criminal-law-coop>



■ CLCU geographical presence in CoE member states in 2019

2 ALBANIA

2.1 Protection of human rights of prisoners

The Action “Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners” assists the Albanian authorities in (i) introducing of effective human resource model and sustainable training programmes for prison management; (ii) strengthening of healthcare provision to prisoners with a focus on detainees with mental disorders, including the implementation of a suicide prevention strategy; (iii) designing and piloting rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for prisoners in parallel with the application of a standard risk and needs management system; (iv) improving the differentiated treatment of vulnerable groups of prisoners.

The Action is built up upon the results achieved under the first phase of the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility Programme (including the Manual on Mental Health, the Strategy on the Prevention of Suicide, the Staff Recruitment Rulebook, the Code of Ethics for Prison Staff, the Reintegration Programmes and the Dynamic Risk Assessment and Initial Categorisation of Prisoners). These deliverables laid down a sound basis for the current Action that should facilitate their implementation in practice and ensure piloting of the developed instruments throughout the prison system.



First Steering Committee Meeting, Tirana

On 18 November 2019 the SC members endorsed the workplan under the project highlighting the continuous importance of the assistance provided by the CoE and the EU to the Albanian authorities in the penitentiary area reform process. The project plan has been fine-tuned with the priorities of the prison reform providing thus an impetus to the implementation of some of the objectives foreseen in the “National Action Plan on Prisons”, developed by the national authorities together with the CoE, adopted and launched by the Albanian Government on 26 July 2019. The project workplan took also into consideration the need

expressed by the beneficiary institutions for concrete and sustainable action, including its piloting in new “Transitional Structure in Lezha” and Durres Prison.

Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners in Albania

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 640,000

Impact:

To enhance human rights protection of detained and sentenced persons in Albania in line with CoE and CPT standards

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/tirana/home>

2.2 Prison reform and the fight against radicalisation in prisons

The project supported the development of a **4-year Action Plan on the Development of the Prison System (2019-2022)**, adopted by the Ministry of Justice of Albania in June 2019. This comprehensive strategic document identifies the main shortcomings and gaps in the Albanian penitentiary system and sets forward clear goals and standards to be followed within the prison reform process in Albania in the next four years.



Round table on the Presentation of the draft Prisons Action Plan, Tirana

Upon request by the Albanian authorities in September 2019, the **draft Law on the organisation and functioning of the Probation Service** was assessed with reference to recommendations made under the auspices of the project in 2018, in order to ensure of being in line with Council of Europe and other applicable international standards.

As part of the **institution building of the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Centre**, Rules of Procedures were established with reference to Guidelines developed earlier within the Project and adopted by the CVE Centre. The Rules define the functions and the role in relation

to other CVE stakeholders, the organizational structure, internal work division, management and decision-making, well-being at work and the code of ethics for staff. To support a further strengthening of the CVE Centre, Information Managing and Sharing Protocol was developed to guide the CVE Centre to safely handle data in the Information and Communication Technological environment, in particular regarding the processing of confidential information.

Support to prison reform and the fight against radicalisation in prisons

Duration: 6 months

Budget (€): 127,000

Impact:

The capacities of the national authorities to plan long-term reforms in the penitentiary sector and to counter radicalisation in the society have increased.

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/tirana/home>

3 ARMENIA

3.1 Health Care in Prison and Probation

In the framework of the CoE Action Plan for Armenia 2019-2022, two new projects started to be implemented at the end of 2019, respectively, on “Enhancing Health Care and Human Rights Protection in Prisons in Armenia” and “Support the Scaling-up of the Probation Service in Armenia”. Both projects provide a closer alignment of the country’s penitentiary and probation systems with the relevant CoE standards. They **assist the national authorities to strengthen the functioning of the criminal justice system** based on the principles of protection of human rights, resocialisation and restorative justice.

More specifically, the implementation of the projects will assist the relevant national authorities:

- to improve the protection of prisoners’ human rights and their access to health care by introducing a quality monitoring and supervision control mechanism, improving preventive healthcare, setting up new technologies (telemedicine and electronic database system of medical records), and enhancing the capacity of the newly established Penitentiary Medicine Center;
- to establish a national fully-fledged probation service in line with the CoE standards by strengthening the institutional capacity, increasing the professional skills of the probation

“We rarely have opportunity to attend events that are grounded on our needs and problems; I really enjoyed user-friendly, hands-on approach by the Council of Europe expert that helped me understand what we are doing wrong.”

Doctor, about developed treatment programmes, Sremska Mitrovica Prison

staff, developing necessary legislation and working tools and raising awareness of the role of probation among key professional groups, NGOs, volunteers and the public.

The importance of good co-operation and co-ordination for bringing the expected changes within the prison and probation systems in Armenia was highlighted at a meeting with the Ministry of Justice officials.

1. Enhancing Health Care and Human Rights Protection in Prisons in Armenia

Duration: 30 months

Budget (€): 750,000 Euros

Impact:

Healthcare provision is improved in line with European standards and human rights of detained and sentenced persons in Armenia are better protected

2. Support the scaling-up of the probation service in Armenia

Duration: 32 months

Budget (€): 871,995 Euros

Impact:

Probation in Armenia is organized and operates in line with CoE standards

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/yerevan>

4 AZERBAIJAN

4.1 Further Support to the Penitentiary Reform (SPER-A)

Recently initiated prison reform process in Azerbaijan aims to address the main shortcomings in the penitentiary system, such as improvement of the detention conditions (notably modernisation of penitentiary infrastructure), prison regimes and training of staff by increasing transparency and the prevention of corruption. Long awaited CPT reports on the last six visits to Azerbaijan (2004 to 2017), along with the responses of the Government of Azerbaijan, were made public which is a major step forward that constitutes an important basis for the implementation of the project but also for other interventions of the Azerbaijani authorities.



Launching event, Baku

To this end, more than 300 legislative changes were introduced into the national legislation to improve the penal policy and expand the range of applicable non-custodial sanctions. The current Joint Project “Further Support to the Penitentiary Reform in Azerbaijan” (SPERA) therefore, aims at providing the required imminent assistance to the penitentiary service of Azerbaijan to carry out this reform.

The SPERA project intends to enhance human rights protection of sentenced persons in line with the CoE, in particular the CPT standards, through introduction of effective prison management, improved provision of health care in prisons and enhanced post release reintegration of prisoners.

Further support to the penitentiary reform II

Duration: 24 months

Budget (€): 773,940

Impact:

To enhance human rights protection of sentenced persons in Azerbaijan in line with CoE and in particular CPT standards

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/baku/home>

5 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

5.1 Protection of the detained and sentenced persons’ rights

The protection of human rights and the treatment of detainees were in the focus of the two subsequent HF Actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The key results of the Phase I, such as the enhanced training structures within the law enforcement agencies and the offender management programmes, implemented in prisons, have created a solid ground for establishment, under Phase II, of a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of detainees.



Training of law enforcement trainers on crime scene investigation, Mostar

The staff from all 10 law enforcement agencies with detention centres in BiH and from prison establishments increased their human rights protection capacities through a series of training sessions provided by local professionals. The training programme was based on the *Guidelines for dealing with persons deprived of liberty in closed environment* and the *Training Manuals for prison officers on core and advanced competencies*, prepared under previous projects. This approach served as a multiplier of good practices and increased local ownership over project proceedings. The rate of transferred knowledge revolved between 85% (for law enforcement staff) and 65% (for prison staff).

“Professional pride that we now work in one of the leading forensic institutions in the region, partly owing also to our staff undergoing human rights training modules”

Staff of Forensic Facility Sokolac during the assessment visit further to the training of staff, Bosnia and Herzegovina

An expert assessment visit was carried out in the Forensic Facility Sokolac (for forensic patients from all four jurisdictions in BiH) further to the training of staff based on earlier developed *Protocols for dealing with forensic patients*. The overriding conclusion was that the **achieved rate of transferred knowledge (around 90-95%, depending on the training module) was reflected in improved practices**, particularly regarding patients’ rights on admission and the protocols for restraining agitated patients. Senior managers tested the knowledge of the staff trained by the CoE training team in relation to the embedded level of the training programme in practice, ownership and sustainability.

Upon request from the Ministers of Justice to be assisted with introduction of electronic data exchange in entity prisons, **technical specifications for software and hardware for future IT system(s) and a Human Resources module were developed and basic IT equipment were purchased for two pilot prisons** (Zenica and Banja Luka).

Two Assistant Ministers of Justice (the FBiH and RS), prison governors and the accredited team of trainers from law enforcement agencies and from prisons, exchanged good practices and reinforced regional professional networks through three study visits, respectively, on the treatment of prisoners and purposeful regime (Serbia), training capacities (Montenegro) and the use of information technologies in prisons and the treatment of prisoners (Slovenia).

The accredited trainers have mapped out the structure of the training programme and have developed a common multidisciplinary work approach for all staff of law enforcement agencies, prisons and the forensic facility. In the meantime, twenty-one new trainers have developed training and presentation skills through a four-session train the trainer's cycle.

1. Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons (HF I)

Duration: 34 months

Budget (€): 1 084,000

Impact:

To support BiH authorities in ensuring compliance with European standards as necessary and to assist them in advancing further towards the stabilization and European integration

2. Strengthening human rights treatment of detained persons based on European standards and best practices (HF II)

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 1 000,000

Impact:

Safety, security and protection of persons deprived of liberty are further strengthened in line with European standards from their apprehension in the law enforcement agencies, to their rehabilitation in prisons and closed environments and through reintegration upon the release

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sarajevo>

5.2 Reintegration of violent and extremist prisoners

The project, financed by the United States Agency for International Development and Government of United Kingdom, builds upon the results achieved from the previous Project "Supporting reintegration of violent and extremist prisoners (VEPs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina", implemented by the CoE (May 2017 – March 2018) and financed by the United Kingdom Government.

Professionals from the ministries of justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina and prison establishments, treatment and security officers, representatives of law enforcement agencies and social welfare services and CoE international consultants contributed to:

- Development of a Case Management System (CMS) Manual for VEPs;
- Enhancement of the risk and needs assessment tool (RNA) and specific treatment programmes for VEPs;

- Initiation of the development of a Strategic Policy document to facilitate the implementation of operational procedures for VEPs in prisons, rehabilitation programmes and multi-agency co-operation.

The CMS Manual establishes a multi-disciplinary case management approach in dealing with VEPs, strengthens the prison staff skills and abilities in the case management of VEPs and facilitates a functional and efficient data exchange among institutions and a multi-agency co-operation. The Manual can be considered as a relevant document for all other stakeholders that are directly or indirectly involved in the criminal justice system, such as law enforcement agencies, social work centres, local community and civil society. It also serves as a support material for a training programme.



Study visit for Prison and Probation staff, Denmark; WG on the development of CSM for VEPs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The RNA tool (introduced under the previous project in a Manual on assessment and rehabilitation of violent extremist prisoners in BiH, first such document in the Western Balkans region), was enhanced through peer review and its piloting in the everyday prison practice. The piloting of the RNA tool was conducted by 15 prison practitioners, members of the multi-disciplinary teams, from five prison facilities in Zenica, Banja Luka, Foča, Tuzla and Bihać. The Manual focuses on development of a set of indicators of signs of possible or already existing radicalisation and disengagement interventions for changing violent behaviour, introduction of additional operational procedures and tailored designed motivational interviewing programme for treatment officers working with VEPs.

The Strategic Policy is a document that represents a steppingstone for further strengthening the capacity of the prison service to provide a safe, humane and secure custody that guarantees the protection of the human rights of VEPs and facilitates their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. The Strategy focuses on: prison management, prisoners' rehabilitation and reintegration, staff training, drafting of necessary legislation and secondary legislation and multi-agency co-operation. The Strategy will be accompanied by an Action Plan and will include the endorsement of a joint mechanism for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the Action plan.

“My own journey has caused me to think deeply in how to prevent, counteract these narratives with an alternate narrative and also how to tackle ideologies that have taken many young people’s lives around the world. If we do not engage, someone else will definitely and they will definitely exploit or groom vulnerable young individuals. Call it a cycle or revolving door, as part of my intervention I have to identify, understand where the seeds, the root cause, are planted for me to be able to make a positive transition in someone’s life.”

Omar Mulbocus, CVE therapist and interventionist about his own experience as interventionist in countering violent extremism

The existing human resources aspects were assessed in four prison establishments, particularly in relation to the recruitment and training of the staff assigned to deal with VEPs with recommendations for improvements in the current organisational structure. The main findings pointed out that there is no sustainable methodology in place for working with VEPs, while a significant lack of understanding of the prevention of violent extremism in prison establishments is still present. The main recommendations focused on **development of a holistic approach towards all aspects of radicalisation to violent extremism** – from early prevention for targeting risk groups to interventions against individuals involved in violent extremism, and establishment of harmonised curriculum and planning and training programmes for prison staff.

In two study visits, to the Danish Prison and Probation Service and to the Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) Prison, Probation and Police Service, , respectively BiH beneficiaries gained experiences and knowledge regarding legal and institutional framework and acquired a better understanding of how to address VEPs and radicalisation, to make necessary improvements and to apply them efficiently in the BiH penitentiary institutions.

Structured sentence management for violent and extremist prisoners

Duration: 24 months

Budget (€): 800,000

Impact:

Safety of and security in the society is enhanced through rehabilitation and reintegration of violent and extremist prisoners upon their release from prison.

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sarajevo>

6 GEORGIA

6.1 Mental health care of detained persons

The implementation of the Project (January 2018 to July 2019), contributed to the development of mental health care services in prison with a systematic approach, revised legislative framework and increased staff capacity.

In 2019, the focus was placed on the development of policy documents and capacity-building.

As a result, the revised **Prison Health Care Standards** include treatment of individuals outside of the prison system but with prisoners' status and without prison medical insurance; the description of the health care model stipulating that a prison health care unit (within the penitentiary



Training Programme for Psychiatric nurses, Georgia

system) is multidisciplinary, including psychiatrists; the extension of the package of services to elderly prisoners.

The new **Methodology** for the inspection of the prison health care standards' application aligns the service delivery practices regarding primary check-up; disease prevention and health promotion; in-patient and out-patient emergency services; medical care emergency services; mental health care services; pharmaceutical supply and security; harm reduction strategies and services; additional health care service standards for women, juveniles, elderly prisoners and individuals with disabilities.

The new **Methodology** for the inspection of the prison health care standards' application aligns the service delivery practices regarding primary check-up; disease prevention and health promotion; in-patient and out-patient emergency services; medical care emergency services; mental health care services; pharmaceutical supply and security; harm reduction strategies and services; additional health care service standards for women, juveniles, elderly prisoners and individuals with disabilities.

The new **Quality Monitoring Tool** for mental health services in closed institutions will allow the Public Defender's Office to assess better and improve human rights standards in mental health and social care facilities.

Training and capacity building activities carried out within the Project will increase the prison medical staff's capacity to apply the mental health screening tool upon admission and health monitoring instruments to document injuries. Furthermore, prison governors and other managerial staff of the penitentiary service benefited from a three-day study visit in the United Kingdom in order to get familiar with the mechanisms and regulations applied in high-security prisons and contemporary treatment approaches.

Improving mental health care of persons detained in Georgia

Duration: 18 months

Budget (€): 535,000

Impact:

To strengthen the Human rights observation and the rule of law in treatment of prisoners with mental health problems in Georgia

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/tbilisi/home>

6.2 Juvenile and Adult Detainees Support (JADES)

The Georgian authorities were supported to combat ill-treatment and protect the human rights of juvenile offenders by improving the management of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' (MIA) Temporary Detention Isolators (TDI) and increasing the professionalism of police officers and investigators working with juvenile offenders and victims. The national monitoring bodies (the Public Defender's Office (PDO), the State Inspector's Service (SIS) and the civil society organisations (CSOs) were also supported to effectively monitor the compliance by police and investigative authorities with human rights standards.

"If you give them a piece of clay, put it in front of them, they will either do something concrete or they can do something abstract which can also be nice. Of course, we are always here to guide, assist, sometimes even finish half the item. Even if they just paint something of their own, it would be of their satisfaction."

Defectologist on provided furnace for clay and material for production of clay products, Special psychiatric hospital "Dobrota", Montenegro



Launching event, Georgia

A new **SIS Communication Strategy and Action Plan** will contribute to the SIS effective communication with state authorities, CSOs and media. **Guidelines** for the police officers and investigators dealing with juveniles will allow the creation of a special working group on the juvenile-related questions, the assignment of the staff specialised in juvenile-related questions to MIA territorial units, the recruitment process as well as the capacity-building activities through developing the relevant training programmes and methodology.

In 2019, a series of training and capacity-building activities supported by JADES improved the capacity of the prison medical staff and the MIA representatives working with juveniles to

document injuries, questioning techniques, manage the interview process and address psychological issues of juvenile offenders/juvenile victims with special attention and attitude.

JADES also supported the **information campaign** at schools drawing the children's attention to the main aspects of juvenile crime and the characteristics of the violence they could experience or could be involved in.

Juvenile and Adult Detainees Support

Duration: 24 months

Budget (€): 600,000

Impact:

The human rights of the adult and the juvenile detainees are reinforced in the justice system and their treatment is strengthened

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/tbilisi/home>

7 GREECE

7.1 Strengthening prison health care

In the last four years, the CLCU has closely worked in the penitentiary field with the Greek authorities, particularly with the General Secretariat for Crime Policy, currently under the Ministry of Citizens Protection.

One of the results of this co-operation is the project "Strengthening prison health care in Greece". The prison health care system in Greece is currently under transition. Following the strategic decision to gradually incorporate prison health care into the public health care, the Ministry of Citizens Protection is closely co-operating with the Ministry of Health and the competent authorities of Primary Health Care. The project is supporting the Greek authorities to improve health care and to address overcrowding in prisons in line with the relevant CoE standards and with reference to the Greek Strategic Plan for the Penitentiary System (2018-2020).

Strengthening prison healthcare in Greece

Duration: 24 months

Budget (€): 600,000

Impact:

The Project will contribute to a better protection of the rights of the sentenced persons in Greece

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/criminal-law-coop/strengthening-prison-health-care-in-greece>

8 KOSOVO*

8.1 Enhancing Human Rights policing

During the final stage of the implementation of the project, until May 2019, over 1500 trained law enforcement officials increased their capacity to apply in practice ethical standards, safeguards against ill-treatment, inspection and respect for gender equality and non-discrimination. Advanced teaching methodology, tools and materials, integrated in the initial and in-service training curricula (improved under the project in 2018), were used for this purpose. **A media campaign** reached out persons in police custody and the general public, through **a video clip** broadcasted in both official languages on TV and through distribution of **information leaflets and publications on the rights of persons in police custody**.



Cascade training for police officers and Closing event, Kosovo*

Enhancing Human Rights policing in Kosovo*

Duration: 18 months

Budget (€): 600,000

Impact:

To enhance the human rights protection by the police and to further strengthen the system of independent police control

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/pristina/home>

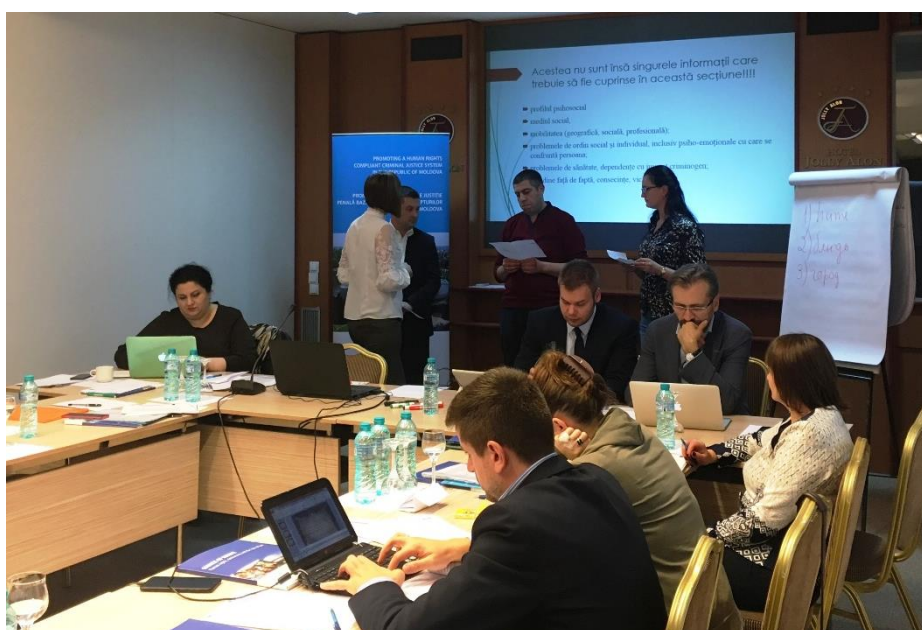
* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

9 REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

9.1 Promoting a human rights compliant criminal justice system

Further strengthening of the national prison and probation systems of the Republic Moldova is supported through Component II of the Programme “Promoting a human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova”. This support has so far resulted in:

- **recommendations for necessary amendments to the regulatory framework** on the functioning of the prison administration were submitted to the national authorities for their swift adoption and implementation into practice;



Cascade training on piloting the training Curriculum for probation councillors on drafting pre-sentence reports, Republic of Moldova

- **recommendations for amendments to the regulations regarding the provision of health care in prisons, as well as the draft of new regulations on the management and circulation of medicines within the prison system** were submitted to the national authorities for adoption; moreover all 17 prison health institutions - 16 medical units and the prison hospital - were supported to identify their needs for purchasing medical equipment; the equipment will be purchased by summer 2020.
- enhancement of the knowledge and skills of various categories of prison and probation staff:
 - development of an **Initial Training Curriculum** for prison staff to be piloted in spring 2020;
 - a **RNA tool** for pre-release and post-release supervision was developed, and prison employees (social assistants and psychologists) and probation councillors were trained on its use. It started to be piloted in Leova, Rusca and Soroca prisons. The RNA

tool created preconditions to strengthening the co-operation between prison and probation services;

- a new **Curriculum for training probation staff on drafting pre-sentence reports was developed and piloted**. A pool of trainers within the NIP was created to ensure continuous and uniform training within the probation system and the probation councillors from different regions received a practical guidance in drafting pre-sentence reports. The curriculum is based on an analysis of several study cases from probation practices in the country. The feedback from the cascade training sessions was in general very positive, especially regarding the relevance of topics, the well-structured contents of the Curriculum, the coherence of the training methodology and the level of trainers' professionalism.

"The Curriculum is unique – the first of its kind in the probation system. It is going to become a useful and valuable induction guide for both, newcomers in the probation system and experienced staff."

Deputy Head of a Regional Probation Office on Curriculum for training probation councillors on drafting pre-sentence reports, Republic of Moldova

A post-session assessment of the Curriculum and trainings revealed that a number of probation staff found useful the novelty of the information and the methodology integrated into this document.

Promoting a human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 1,196,000

Impact:

The criminal justice system of the Republic of Moldova is effective, functions in line with the European human rights standards.

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/chisinau>

10 MONTENEGRO

10.1 Protection of human rights for detained and sentenced persons

The first phase of the HF Action, completed in January 2019, supported the national authorities to enhance the human rights protection of detained and sentenced persons. In 2019, and in the Phase II of the Programme, the prisoners' reintegration was further improved with the support of CSOs. Patients in the Dobrota Psychiatric Hospital (the only institution in Montenegro providing treatment to prisoners with mental health problems (forensic wing))

were provided with a furnace for clay and material for production of clay products to support their creativity and occupation. Training was provided to the staff of the hospital's rehabilitation unit and to 20 patients to improve their skills to continue working independently with the provided equipment after the end of the Action. In order to assess the efficiency of the invested resources, the effectiveness and the impact of the rehabilitation and reintegration program, implemented by CSOs during the Phase I, were evaluated at the end of the Action. The evaluation report found the positive effect of engaging CSOs in delivering psychosocial support to prisoners in their pre-release phase.



Meaningful activity as part of the rehabilitation programme for persons with mental disorders and illnesses in Special Psychiatric hospital "Dobrota", Montenegro

At the same time, it highlighted the need for cooperation between prison and social services, the

provision of motivation to prisoners to take part in reintegration program, clarification of the role of the Treatment Department and the lack of established rehabilitation Programs in prisons.

Towards the end of the Phase I and based on the findings of the above evaluation a series of consultations with national stakeholders took place and provided an insight in the results of the first phase and have identified the main priority areas and issues to be addressed on the second phase, as follows:

- ✓ Prevention of ill-treatment and combating impunity by police and prison staff;
- ✓ Increasing capacities of Police to investigate cases of ill-treatment;
- ✓ Combating violent extremism in prison;
- ✓ Development of reintegration programmes for prisoners;
- ✓ Establishment of safeguards against ill-treatment at the Dobrota Psychiatric Hospital.

In this regard, the work has already started of the development of **detailed procedures for carrying out an arrest or detaining a person** in line with CoE standards.

A Working Group that will produce a **legislative and operational framework for effective investigation into the cases of ill-treatment by police officers** within the Internal Control Department of the Ministry of Interior has been established and has started working with assistance of the CoE experts.

1. Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons (HF I)

Duration: 28 months

Budget (€): 782,000

Impact:

To enhance human rights protection of detained and sentenced persons in Montenegro in line with CoE and in particular CPT standards

2. Further enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in Montenegro (HF II)

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 750,000

Impact:

Enhance the respect of human rights standards when handling persons deprived from liberty

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/podgorica/home?desktop=true>

11 NORTH MACEDONIA

11.1 Strengthening the protection of the sentenced persons' rights and enhancing the external oversight mechanism

The staff in charge of monitoring the implementation of the current National Strategy for the Development of the Penitentiary System and representatives of all relevant ministries and agencies agreed on an inter-institutional approach for the development of the next, 2020-2024 National Strategy and Action Plan for the Development of the Penitentiary System. Supported by national and international consultants they have already developed the framework, the vision and mission and the strategic goals of the new National Strategy.

RNA tools for identifying radicalised inmates and individual treatment programmes were developed by staff of the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions and prison staff. The tools **were piloted in two biggest penitentiary institutions in the country**. The staff involved in the prisoners' rehabilitation benefited from the 'on-the-job' coaching during the piloting.

Thirty trained staff from 5 prisons gained the professional capacity to identify signs of radicalization in prison and to apply the Screening and RNA tools in practice. Best practices of addressing radicalisation in prisons and knowledge of relevant international standards were provided to prison governors and senior prison management staff. In addition, some 150 prison police officers and rehabilitation staff received basic information on the issue of

radicalization in prisons, raising the awareness on this phenomenon among the general prison staff.



Training for prison governors and high-level prison management on radicalisation in prisons, North Macedonia

The assessment report on the provision of healthcare services to prisoners identified the most urgent needs to be addressed under HF II. Namely, the knowledge and skills of prison healthcare and rehabilitation staff on addressing mental health issues, application of medical ethics, as well as prevention ill treatment, will be increased.

Four rulebooks, as foreseen in the Law on the Execution of Sanctions, on procedures regarding disciplinary measures against sentenced persons, categorization of penitentiary institutions, general competencies of the prison police and on trial work, initial training, mentoring and evaluation, were developed with the support of national consultants. As a result, staff recruitment policies, as well as appraisal and performance procedures are improved. Moreover, the procedures regarding disciplinary measures against prisoners are in line with CoE standards and best practices and are taking into consideration the specific needs of female prisoners and other vulnerable groups.

Following the adoption of the legislation for the establishment of an external oversight mechanism (EOM), awareness was raised among relevant national stakeholders and professionals (in three seminars across the country), of **the important role of EOM**.

Institutional relations among the Public Prosecutor's EOM Unit, the Ombudsman's Office EOM Unit and the Department for Internal Control, Criminal Investigation and Professional Standards (DICCIPS) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) were strengthened through the coordination workshops. The EOM model, which is *sui generis* and developed specifically for North Macedonia was presented at the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Human Rights Meeting on the thematic debate on execution of judgments with focus on effective

investigations. The model was presented by the representatives of the Public Prosecutors Office (Head of the EOM Unit), Deputy Ombudsman, Assistant Minister in charge of the DICCIPS – MoIA and by a civil society representative, involved in the process of establishment of the EOM since 2015. The capacities of the newly appointed EOM staff on conducting independent and effective investigation into police ill-treatment will be further strengthened in the second phase of the Action.



Coordination workshop on EOM, North Macedonia

1. Strengthening the protection of the rights of sentenced persons (HF I)

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 995,700

Impact:

To strengthen the protection of the rights of sentenced persons in line with CoE standards

2. Enhancing human rights policing (HF I)

Duration: 33 months

Budget (€): 550,000

Overall Objective:

To strengthen the protection of the rights of apprehended and persons in police custody in the country in line with CoE and international standards.

3. Enhancing the capacities of the penitentiary system and the external oversight mechanism (HF II)

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 1,050,000

Impact:

To contribute to safer and humane society that respects and protects the rights of detained and sentenced persons.

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/skopje>

12 NORWAY GRANTS

Under the EEA/Norway Grants 2014 – 2021 cycle, the CoE is acting as an International Partner Organisation. In this role, in 2019, it **provided advice on the design and implementation of six programmes in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, particularly within the Correctional Services**, in the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania. The programmes focused on strengthening the training capacities of the prison training centres and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders by piloting new open space model prisons and half-way houses. To this end, during the inception phase the CoE provided advice to the beneficiary countries to develop and start the implementation of ten pre-defined projects based on the CoE standards in the prison and probation fields, the CPT country-based recommendations and the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). In the meantime, the CoE was active member in three thematic Working Groups (WGs): 1. education of prison and probation staff, 2. synergy conferences and 3. monitoring and evaluation of programmes. The aim of the WGs is to bring together all six beneficiary countries to create synergies and exchange good practices. In this regard, the CoE provided advice to WG members to integrate in their systems the CoE *Guidelines regarding recruitment, selection, education, training and professional development of prison and probation staff*, and shared training tools and good practices developed through technical co-operation activities in other CoE member states.

“The process of designing and implementing individual treatment plans is demanding and time-consuming but indispensable...we should pass the message to all colleagues.”

Participant on development and implementation of model individual treatment plans for detained patients with mental disabilities, Psychiatric hospital in Novi Knezevac, Serbia

13 REGIONAL ACTION

13.1 Addressing radicalisation in prisons and disengagement from violence

Experiences and good practices were shared among the Western Balkans beneficiaries through three thematic working groups, focusing on risk and needs assessment, rehabilitation and disengagement from violence and capacity building. **Discussion papers on the ‘state-of-play’ throughout the region, the main findings and recommendations for improvements and unification of practices**, were prepared as a basis for strengthening co-operation in the region.



Launching event, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Regional Conference *“Facilitating regional collaboration on addressing radicalisation in prisons and supporting the authorities in overcoming the main challenges of the penitentiary systems in the Western Balkans region”* marked the launching of the regional action, gathering 80 prison practitioners, probation officers and representatives CVE Centres from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. *The participants concluded that the growing number of violent extremist offenders, including foreign terrorist fighters, in prisons in Western Balkans calls for reconsidering the existing measures and the common approaches in dealing with this category of inmates.*



Working group meetings on Rehabilitation and disengagement from violence of VEPs/ training of prison and probation staff on addressing violent extremism and radicalisation, Western Balkans

Under a specific component on Serbia and in close collaboration with the relevant national institutions, an assessment was conducted of the needs to further strengthen the

professional capacities of the prison staff to recognize, address and prevent occurrences of radicalisation and to develop specific screening instruments, risk/needs assessment tools and adequate rehabilitation programmes for VEPs. These tools will support the penitentiary system to make accurate assessment of indicators of radicalised attitudes and behaviour upon prisoners' entry into prison, during imprisonment and before release. The collected Information will feed into the post-penal support system to shape in the most effective way the individual needs of the VEPs.

Enhancing penitentiary capacities in addressing radicalisation in prisons in the Western Balkans

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 2,000,000

Impact:

Regional security enhanced by addressing radicalisation in prisons and disengaging radicalised prisoners from violence

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/criminal-law-coop/home>

14 SERBIA

14.1 Protection of human rights for detained and sentenced persons

In 2019, as in the two previous years, the focus of the CoE support was to enhance human rights protection of detained and sentenced persons within the penitentiary system, the psychiatric institutions and police.

The development and adoption of a **new Mental Health Strategy and respective Action Plan** is a significant break-through for the protection of persons detained under involuntary psychiatric hospitalization and of persons with mental disabilities placed in social welfare institutions, the key words being recovery, community-based service, phasing out of psychiatric institutions and human rights-based approach.

Several tools and guidelines were developed and submitted to the prison administration to better protect prisoners' rights and meet their needs, ensuring a solid ground for more effective reintegration of prisoners into the community.

“It was refreshing not to have one more monotonous training focused on presenting legal provisions but instead lively presentations and examples...It really helped in learning.”

Participant, Cascade police training session on safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, Nis

The establishment of the **“Protocol on medical services in prison – from admission to release”** in line with CoE standards, has improved the medical screening of prisoners. Medical staff from all 28 penitentiary institutions, trained on Istanbul Protocol and CPT standards are

better aware of their role and of the procedures to identify and report ill-treatment and to address common health issues, such as suicide prevention and hunger strike.



Cascade police training/Working Group meeting on Treatment programme, Serbia

Five treatment programs were developed by prison treatment staff under the guidance and support of the CoE consultants. A pre-release course for prisoners serving more than 5 years was finalised and will be implemented in close co-operation with CSOs.

The development of a **new in-service training course and a Manual for Trainers**, incorporated in the mandatory annual training for police staff, has established a new approach within the continuous training for police staff related to safeguards against torture and ill-treatment.

Around 220 police officers were trained through cascade training. Post-training surveys indicated that more training is needed due to the changed methodology – new approach with direct beneficial effect on the knowledge acquired.

The development and implementation of individual treatment plans has ensured a more human approach towards detained patients with mental disabilities. A unified methodology and template for individualised approach to patient treatment were developed under the guidance of the CoE experts, piloted in one of the five psychiatric hospitals (Vrsac) and followed by the training of 250 psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and nurses from all five psychiatric hospitals.

The evaluation of the training indicated high level of success ranked with 4,6 as average mark and with increase of knowledge between 12% and 22% compared to the level before the training.

1. Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons (HF I)

Duration: 29 months

Budget (€): 858,000

Impact:

To strengthen human rights of detained and sentenced persons in Serbia, focusing on issues highlighted in CPT reports and ECtHR judgments.

2. Enhancing the human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons in Serbia (HF II)

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 900,000

Impact:

To enhance human rights protection of detained and sentenced persons in Serbia in line with CoE and CPT standards

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/belgrade/home>

15 TURKEY

15.1 Enhancing the Effectiveness of Civil Monitoring Boards in line with European Standards

The Project is being implemented by the CoE in close co-operation and partnership with the Civil Monitoring Boards (CMBs), the Directorate General of Prisons and Detention Houses (DGPDH) and national partners and stakeholders.

The project builds upon the results achieved from the project “Dissemination of Model Prison Practices and Promotion of the Prison Reform”, implemented by the CoE in Turkey until 2012.



Launching conference, Turkey

The Project addresses the needs identified in related to the functioning and the mandate of the CMBs and their recommendations at the end of the “Dissemination” project. It is also based on the results from a survey conducted among the members of the CMBs and the outcome from the discussion at a workshop that took place in March 2019, which confirmed the need and the relevance of this Project.

“It is crucial to have transparent and independent monitoring, particularly in penitentiary institutions. Based on the past experience of implementing projects with the Council of Europe (2009-2012) to modernise the prison system, the aim of the project launched today is to strengthen the civil monitoring boards and other monitoring bodies on the ground of national and international human rights standards by establishing a coordinated work methodology”.

Yilmaz Ciftci, Director General of Prisons and Detention Houses

The Project implementation started with a launching conference (in June 2019), which gathered more than 200 prison practitioners, officials from the Ministry of Justice and the DGPDH, members of the CMBs, prison governors, enforcement judges, prosecutors, academics as well as representatives of the Ombudsman Office, the National Preventive Mechanism, civil society and several Embassies in Turkey, including the donors of the Project. **The highlighted message was that only a national monitoring mechanism with necessary knowledge, adequately resourced and truly independent can make a significant contribution to the prevention of ill- treatment in places of deprivation of liberty.**



Regional meeting on discussing the findings of baseline survey on collecting and processing data and assessment visit on development needs of CMB, Turkey

An assessment report and a baseline study have been prepared in the framework of the new project, identifying the needs for establishing efficient civil monitoring over prisons and providing a clear picture of the current ‘status quo’. They both contain qualitative, quantitative, relevant and measurable data that will facilitate an efficient functioning of the CMBs.

Enhancing the Effectiveness of Civil Monitoring Boards in line with European Standards

Duration: 36 months

Budget (€): 1,600,000

Impact:

To contribute to a safer society that provides full protection of the rights and dignity of persons deprived of their liberty

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ankara/home?desktop=true>

16 UKRAINE

16.1 Penitentiary Reform (SPER-U)

Since 2016, the prison system in Ukraine went through a number of restructuring processes, such as the setting-up of the Penitentiary Inspection Department within the Ministry of Justice and the reduction of the number of regional prison administrations. Part of the reform has brought about a decrease in the prison population due to *inter alia* some legislative improvements and implementation of community sanctions and measures.

Despite a significant progress since 2016, the Penitentiary Service of Ukraine still faces longstanding challenges and weaknesses, leading to a growing number of cases lodged by prisoners at the ECtHR that need to be executed.

To accompany Ukraine in this concrete reform in the prison field for the protection of prisoners’ rights, the EU/CoE Joint Project “Support the Prison Reform in Ukraine (SPERU) will provide support for a follow-up and revision of the prison reform Strategy (named “Passport of reforms”) to address some of the above-mentioned issues, ensure coordinated and systematic approach to improve the conditions of detention, to develop the capacities of the medical and non-medical staff to provide adequate health care services in detention facilities, implement a standard system of risk management and support national authorities



Meeting with Ukrainian authorities, Kyiv

to develop a strategy for improving the educational and re-socialisation possibilities for prisoners.

EU and Council of Europe working together to Support the Prison Reform in Ukraine

Duration: 24 months

Budget (€): 1,173,200

Impact:

Treatment and rehabilitation of prisoners in Ukraine improved in line with the Council of Europe's standards

Website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/kyiv/home>

17 Council of Europe Budgetary Programmes

17.1 POLICE

17.1.1 Conference of high-ranking representatives of Ministers of Internal Affairs on dealing with domestic violence "The police, a key player in the fight against domestic violence" (Strasbourg, 24-25 September 2019)

The CoE conventions on combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and on children's rights (Lanzarote Convention) call upon member states to consolidate their legal basis and to effectively face the encountered challenges. The principles of these conventions were presented at the high-level Conference alongside with experiences and good practices shared by **specialized police officers from France, Belgium, Scotland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey.**

The important role of social networks, internet and new technologies (NICTs) in preventing and combating the violence against women and domestic violence and the need to develop planning capacities to **work in multidisciplinary teams** (state, local authorities, associations, etc.), to provide effective support to the victims of domestic violence and to **strengthen mutual trust between victims and police forces** to develop a peaceful and



constructive relationship and **raise the voices of victims and witnesses**, were highlighted at the Conference.

Concrete examples of how to stop the threat, provide protection to the victim and prosecute the perpetrator were shared by specialized police officers, such as the Integral Monitoring System for cases of Gender Violence used by Police in Spain, the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) and the Teleassistance service in Portugal, which provides free 24 hour/day emergency assistance to victims.

Representatives of International NGOs and Foundations involved in the fight against domestic violence and in protection of women exchanged their work experiences with police officers, lawyers, magistrates, forensic medical experts and psychologists present at the Conference.

The Conference was co-organized within the framework of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe as an important awareness raising event for combating violence against women, which has caused numbers of femicides in Europe. It brought together senior officials and police officers from Ministries of the Interior from 38 member states, representatives of permanent representations of member states to the CoE, officials of the CoE (Parliamentary Assembly, European Court of Human Rights, GREVIO, DGII) as well as international, national and local associations involved in the fight against domestic violence and in protection of women victims of violence (97 participants).

17.1.2 Law enforcement trainings

With reference to the recently published guide “A brief introduction to investigative interviewing”, **Armenian police officers**, working in criminal investigation departments, were trained to apply modern investigative methods to obtain reliable information from the suspects and to collect relevant information to investigation from victims and witnesses.



At a workshop on “Improving modern interviewing techniques”, **police officers in Georgia** were assisted to interact and discuss problematic human rights issues in the context of investigative procedures and were encouraged to use the PEACE model so that **under no circumstances a suspect can be subject to intimidation, threats, abuse or violence in order to obtain information.**

In **Poland**, the workshop with staff from investigative units focused on the importance of police behavior and actions in establishing positive relations with citizens and on ensuring effective collaboration for identifying suspects, taking evidence and using it in the court, in order to keep the community safe.

In **Portugal** assistance was provided to effectively interview victims, witnesses and suspects in full respect of human rights and in line with the principle of presumption of innocence, as the most important tool for successful crime detection and investigation.



In **North Macedonia**, the crime investigators increased their professional understanding, knowledge and skills in using tested and proven methods of investigative interviewing and thereby increasing the effectiveness of the investigation.



17.2 PRISONS

The technical assistance provided to Council of Europe member States through multilateral, regional and bilateral co-operation activities, facilitated the integration of a more positive and efficient approach in their prison and probation systems. Such professional fora with exchange of experiences and good practices and with peer-to-peer discussion, provided a better understanding for implementation in practice of the relevant Council of Europe standards.

17.2.1 Multilateral meeting on Management of Prisoners' Regime

The case law of the ECtHR and the findings of the CPT have revealed that in a number of member States there are situations where prisoners are subjected to poor regimes or even special restrictive regimes with attention to rehabilitation that would reduce re-offending after release. Such impoverished regimes can lead to violation of Article 3 of the ECHR. To change this situation and bring it in line with the CoE standards such as the European Prison Rules, and with the CPT recommendations in country-visit reports, 27 member States, represented at the multilateral meeting, shared their experiences on how to put in place **prison regimes which aim at reintegration of all prisoners, individual sentence planning, necessary interventions and how to encourage participation in rehabilitation programmes.**



Member States are developing their own working methods and practices which in many cases need further improvements and adjustments in order to address the shortcomings and challenges in line with the required standards. To this end, the multilateral meeting became a forum where senior officials and professionals discussed complex prison issues from all aspects: concrete violations and shortcomings identified by the ECtHR and the CPT, implementation of Council of Europe standards in practice and exchange of good practices. Focus was mainly placed on assessment and management of prisoners' risks and needs; detection, prevention and dealing with radicalization and violent extremism in prison;

management of regimes for different categories of prisoners: vulnerable groups of prisoners (juvenile offenders, women, foreign prisoners, prisoners with mental disorders and ill, elderly and disabled prisoners), remand and sentenced prisoners and prisoners under high security measures.

17.2.2 Multilateral meeting on the social reintegration of prisoners to reduce re-offending after release – co-operation with probation and other support agencies

Reducing re-offending to make the society safer is among the main challenges faced by the Council of Europe member States. **The Council of Europe standards highlight that whether or not probation agencies and prison services form part of a single organisation, they should work in close co-operation in order to contribute to a successful transition from life in prison to life in the community.**

The multilateral meeting provided to senior officials and professionals from 30 member States standards and good practices on how to establish and strengthen such a co-operation in order to reduce prisoners' re-offending.

Focus was mainly placed on the support to prisoners to overcome the particular situation of moving from lengthy incarceration to a law-abiding life in the community, their preparation for release with specific pre-release and post-release plans and the close collaboration between the prison administration and post-release



supervising authorities, social and medical services. A comprehensive approach, based on professional standards in dealing with radicalization and violent extremism leading to terrorist acts, was shared, highlighting that prison and probation services need to co-operate with each other and with other law-enforcement agencies, other public and private agencies and wider civil society in order to provide aftercare and to contribute to the resettlement and reintegration of such offenders.

A number of other specific areas of policy and practice were discussed at the meeting, such as RNA, case management planning, especially before release, and the resettlement needs in the community after release.

17.2.3 Regional meeting on the role of probation agencies in the effective implementation of community sanctions and measures

Senior officials and professionals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia exchanged experiences and

good practices regarding establishment and functioning of probation agencies and the effective implementation of community sanctions and measures.

The countries represented at the meeting are currently at different stages of introduction and implementation of community sanctions and measures. Some of them have earlier or recently established probation agencies to supervise and assist offenders in the community and support their reintegration for reducing re-offending. Some are at the initial stage of the process with limited use of community sanctions and measures, mainly due to lack of both, sufficient provision in the legislation and the supervisory mechanism, the probation agency. These countries need guidance in the process of establishment/functioning/strengthening of the probation agencies with clear structure, role and tasks in line with the relevant Council of Europe standards.



The regional meeting became a professional forum for disseminating and discussing the implementation in practice of the Council of Europe standards, particularly the CM/Rec (2010)¹ on the Council of Europe Probation Rules, CM/Rec (2017)³ on the European Rules on community sanctions and measures, CM/Rec.(2018)⁸ concerning restorative justice in criminal matters and the Guidelines on recruitment, selection, education, training and professional development of staff.

The meeting **facilitated a more efficient implementation in practice of probation work,** such as: assessment of the risks and needs of suspects and offenders, pre-sentence reports, case planning and management, community service work, restorative justice practices, offender supervision, rehabilitation and reintegration interventions and the training and professional development of staff.

17.2.4 Greece – Meeting on the role of probation agencies in the effective implementation of community sanctions and measures

Following discussion, in 2016, of Council of Europe (CLCU and CPT) and the Greek authorities about the necessity and modalities for developing a strategy on the reform of the prison

system, a national Strategic Plan for the Penitentiary System 2018-2020 was adopted in January 2018. The authorities requested the CLCU to provide expert support to analyse the reasons which cause overcrowding in prison and to recommend possible solutions. Such support was provided through an expert meeting (Athens, December 2018) and an expert report (March 2019).

In line with the Council of Europe standards, particularly the White Paper on prison Overcrowding, the CM Rec.(2010)1 on the Council of Europe Probation Rules and CM Rec. (2017)3 on the European Rules on community sanctions and measures, **the experts recommended specifically necessary reforms to increase the role of the community sanctions and alternatives to detention alongside with the development and implementation of a strategy for the establishment of a fully- fledged probation service in Greece.**



At the meeting, policy makers, judges, prosecutors, probation staff and representatives of other relevant institutions discussed possible steps in this regard. Good practices were shared by consultants from countries with more advanced probation systems regarding the organisation, functioning and tasks of their probation agencies and the practical implementation of community sanctions and measures.

17.3 MEDICRIME - Counterfeiting medical products and similar crimes

The first and the only international criminal-law instrument which tackles the falsification of medical products and other similar crimes, the **MEDICRIME Convention**, was opened to signature on 28 October 2011 and it entered into force on 1 January 2016 (after ratification by Guinea, the 5th country). The number of Parties to the Convention has now increased to 16, following the ratification by Croatia. There is an increasing interest by CoE member and non-member States to join the MEDICRIME Convention. In 2019 it was signed by Belarus, Ivory Coast, Serbia and Slovenia.

At an **Informal Session** addressed to all Permanent Representations/Diplomatic and consular missions of the member States of the CoE, observer States and non-member States was organised in November 2019. The legal provisions included in the MEDICRIME Convention were introduced and experiences and views on the current concerns, risks and trends regarding the falsification of medical products and similar crimes were exchanged. The judicial, health and law-enforcement perspectives of this scourge were presented by representatives of Eurojust, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency from the United Kingdom and Europol, partners that the CLCU is daily working with.



The effective application of the MEDICRIME Convention is supported by the **Committee of the Parties**, which represents the Parties to the convention. The second meeting of the Committee, held in Strasbourg, on 12 and 13 December 2019, focused on the monitoring of the implementation of the convention, followed by the adoption of the Rules of Procedure for evaluating the implementation of the convention. Mr Sergei GLAGOLEV (Russian Federation) and Mr Christian TOURNIÉ (France) were elected by the Committee of the Parties as Chair and vice-Chair respectively, along with three other members of the Bureau from Armenia, Spain and Switzerland.

For promoting the MEDICRIME Convention, the CLCU joined synergies with the PACE and EDQM to provide intellectual input to different CoE publications, such as *“The MEDICRIME Convention in 10 Question and Answers”* and *“MEDICRIME vs Volcano: a practical case study on how the Council of Europe convention could improve the fight against pharmaceutical crime”*, and contributed to their translation into non-official languages.

The MEDICRIME Convention was also introduced to Mr Menardo Guevarra, Secretary of Justice, and Mr Eduardo Año, Secretary of the Interior and Local governments of the Philippines in the framework of their official visit to the Council of Europe as well as to other different groups (judges and magistrates) during official visits. The CLCU Secretariat has

provided expertise to third countries (Ecuador, Chile, Senegal), interested in joining the group of countries to combat fake medical products and similar crimes.

17.4 Fight against Trafficking in Human Organs

Frequently linked to the activities of transnational organised criminal groups which profit from the vulnerable situation of donors from poverty-stricken and deprived areas and from the desperation of recipients, the trafficking in human organs erodes the public confidence in existing transplantation systems, thus perpetuating its root cause: organ shortage. Although it is difficult to precisely quantify the scale of this criminal activity because of being hidden, the proliferation of these cases is a significant problem.

Opened to signature in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs entered into force on 1 March 2018. The year 2019 was a positive drive insofar as France signed the Convention and Croatia, Latvia and Montenegro ratified it, increasing the Parties of the Convention to 9.



In 2019, the ratification of the Convention was promoted through two events, organised respectively, in Yerevan, Armenia, on 28 March 2019, in the framework of the 10th Anniversary of the CoE on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and in Brussels, Belgium, in November 2019, in the framework of the 5th annual symposium « From organ donation to transplantation », organised by the University Clinical Transplantation Service of Université libre de Bruxelles, where the Council of Europe commitment with regard to the fight against such trafficking was discussed, alongside with introduction of the legal provisions included in the Santiago de Compostela's Convention and an exchange of views and experiences on current concerns.

In the meantime, the CLCU co-operated at horizontal level with the PACE and EDQM to provide intellectual input to different CoE publications, such as the “Handbook for parliamentarians on the CoE Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs” as well as two PACE reports on “organ transplant tourism” and “combating trafficking in human tissues and cells”, to be adopted at the plenary PACE part-session in January 2020.

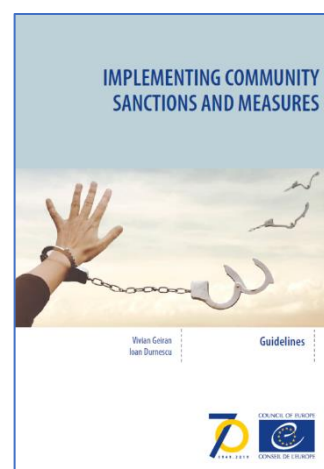
The Convention was also introduced to Mr Menardo Guevarra, Secretary of Justice, and Mr Eduardo Año, Secretary of the Interior and Local governments of Philippines, in the framework of their official visit to the Council of Europe and to other groups (judges and magistrates) during official visits to the Council of Europe.

18 PUBLICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

During 2019, the CLCU continued to produce Publications, translations, Guidelines.

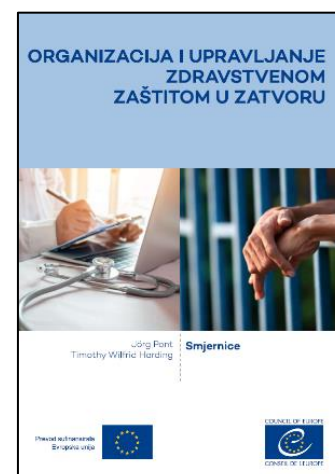
Guidelines – Implementing community sanctions and measures were published through Prisons budgetary programme of the CoE.

These Guidelines are designed for policy makers and for management and staff of agencies implementing community sanctions and measures, and especially those responsible for the provision of what are generally known as probation services. The aim is to promote the development and implementation of community sanctions and measures across Europe and to serve as a useful source for the establishment of relevant policy and practice.



Guidelines – Organisation and management of health care in prison were published through Prisons budgetary programme of the CoE. They were translated into Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language and into Macedonian language.

This publication aims at providing guidance to policy makers and officials of relevant institutions to ensure that the health policy in prisons is integrated into, and compatible with, national health policy.



Through the HF Regional Action “Enhancing penitentiary capacities in addressing radicalisation in prisons in the Western Balkans” a short movie was produced: [Regional conference on addressing radicalisation in prisons in the Western Balkans](#) where it is explained why the topic is important for the Western Balkans as well.

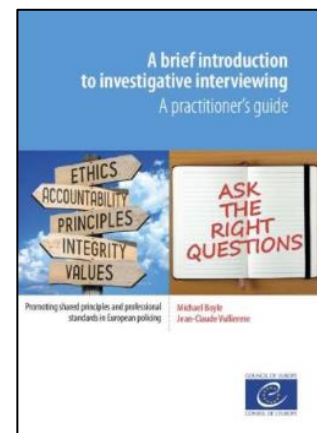


will be discussing good practices and addressing challenges relating to violent extremism and radicalisation in prison.

Through the HF Project “Enhancing Human Rights policing in Kosovo*” a video clip was produced and broadcasted on television **promoting the mandate of the Kosovo* Police inspectorate** by elaborating the complaints procedure against police misconduct.

The **A brief introduction to investigative interviewing - A practitioner's guide** was translated into Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language.

This guide emphasised the role of proper and professional conduct of police interviewing of victims, witnesses and suspects in the successful crime detection.



The Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)3 on the European Rules on community sanctions and measures and the Recommendation CM/Rec (2018)8 concerning restorative justice in criminal matters were translated into Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.

The CoE Guidelines regarding Recruitment, Selection, Education, Training and Professional Development of Prison and Probation Staff were translated into Macedonian Language and into Romanian.

In addition, around 36 project-specific publications/guidelines/training materials were produced.

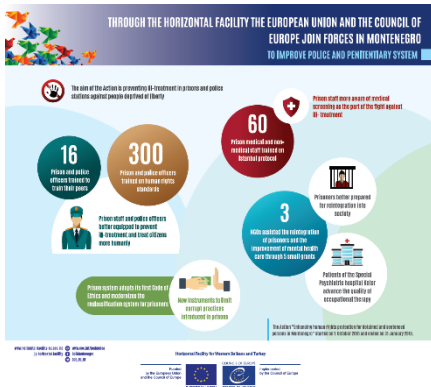
The visibility of the Projects, the Unit and the CoE was constantly ensured through web publications, visual materials and media outreach.

Web publications covered all activities and were made available on the [CLCU website](#), [HF website](#), the dedicated project websites, on partner institution websites as well as on the websites of different Media in order to communicate the results of the activities and to provide the transparency. The key activities were equally reported on the [DGI website](#), social media and on CoE Programme offices websites. A constant effort was made to provide the information in the languages most accessible to beneficiaries.



Visual material: CoE flags and stationery, roll-ups of the CoE and of specific programmes, leaflets and other materials were produced and used throughout project activities to ensure

the largest possible reach as well as a clear recognition of the Organisation’s role and contribution.



Project infographic: Montenegro



Project banner: Regional HF II Action



Project Brochure: Turkey

19 STATISTICAL DATA

Table 1: Overview of the Projects figures

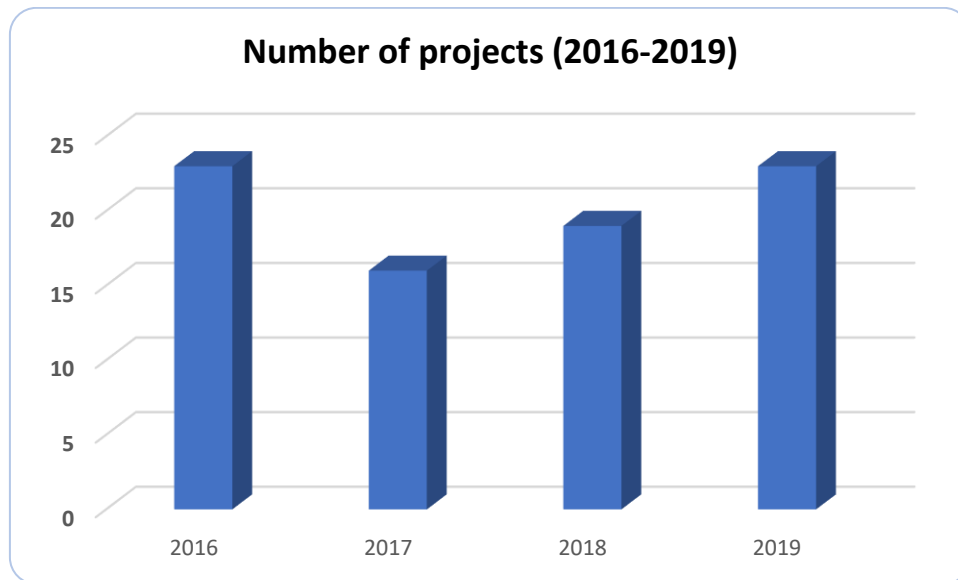
Project/Budgetary Programmes	Duration (months)	Overall budget (in eur)	Number of activities	Number of participants	Number of women	Number of men	Financed by
VC - Albania	6	127,000.00	3	50	21 (42%)	29 (58%)	UK
HF - BiH (prison and police)	34	1,084,300.00	17	375	85 (22.7%)	290 (77.3%)	EU/CoE
HF - Kosovo* (police)	18	600,000.00	25	697	162 (23.2%)	535 (76.8%)	EU/CoE
HF - Montenegro (prison and police)	28	782,000.00	5	34	20 (58.8%)	14 (41.2%)	EU/CoE
HF - Serbia (prison and police)	29	857,720.00	29	640	409 (63.9%)	231 (36.1%)	EU/CoE
HF - MKD (prisons)	36	995,700.00	13	320	105 (32.8%)	215 (67.2%)	EU/CoE
HF - MKD (police)	33	550,000.00	4	150	50 (33.3%)	100 (66.7%)	EU/CoE
VC - Georgia	18	578,250.00	11	132	85 (64.4%)	47 (35.6%)	Action Plan
VC - BiH	24	800,000.00	26	38	8 (21.1%)	30 (78.9%)	UK/US
VC - Moldova	36	1,196,716.00	35	253	146 (57.7%)	107 (42.3%)	Norway
VC - Armenia (probation)	32	817,430.25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Action Plan
VC - Armenia (health care)	30	750,000.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Action Plan
JP - Ukraine	24	1,173,200.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Action plan
VC - Turkey	36	1,600,000.00	8	360	134 (37.2%)	226 (62.8%)	HRTF, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Canada
JP - Azerbaijan	24	773,940.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	EU/CoE
VC - Georgia	24	600,000.00	11	258	160 (62%)	98 (38%)	Action Plan
VC - Greece	24	600,000.00	2	13	7 (53.8%)	6 (46.2%)	HRTF
HF 2 - BiH (prison and police)	36	1,000,037.00	11	231	46 (19.9%)	185 (80.1%)	EU/CoE
HF 2 - Albania	36	640,036.55	1	20	10 (50%)	10 (50%)	EU/CoE
HF 2 - Serbia (prison and police)	36	910,373.12	13	228	34 (14.9%)	194 (85.1%)	EU/CoE
HF 2 - Montenegro (prison and police)	36	750,000.00	3	41	17 (41.5%)	24 (58.5%)	EU/CoE
HF 2 - North Macedonia (prison/police)	36	1,050,001.49	11	78	36 (46.2%)	42 (53.8%)	EU/CoE
HF 2 - Regional	36	2,001,229.56	7	146	62 (42.5%)	84 (57.5%)	EU/CoE
CoE Budgetary Programmes	n/a	236,000.00	32	445	185 (41.6%)	260 (58.4%)	OB
TOTAL		20,473,933.97	267	4509	1782 (39.5%)	2727 (60.5%)	

Completed in 2019

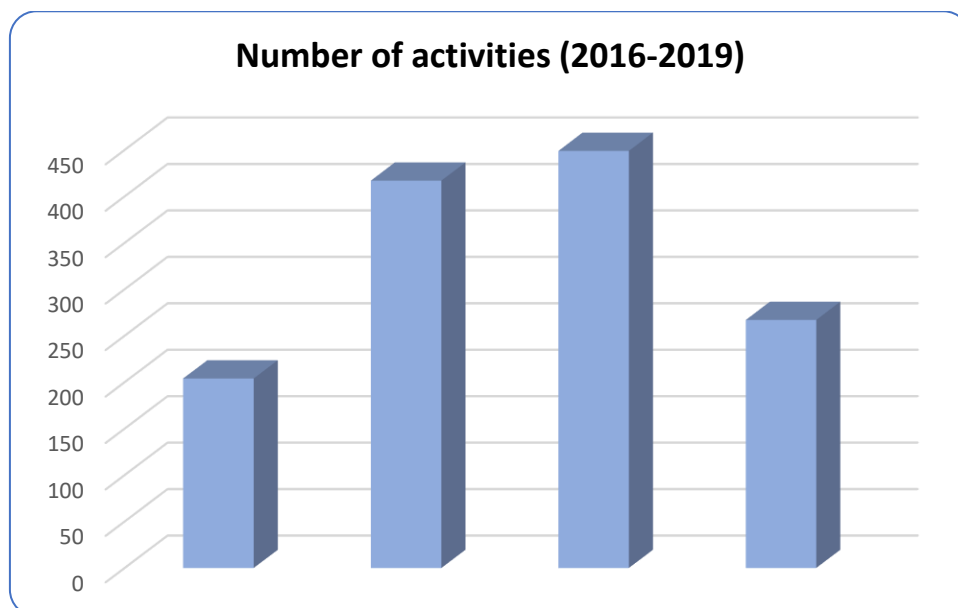
On going

Since 2012 the number of projects and the overall operational funds has constantly increased. Compared to 2018, the number of participants in 2019 was lower, due to the fact that 8 projects ended in May, 6 projects started in September and 3 projects in December. The number of female participants increased with 6%. Most project funding comes from joint programmes co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

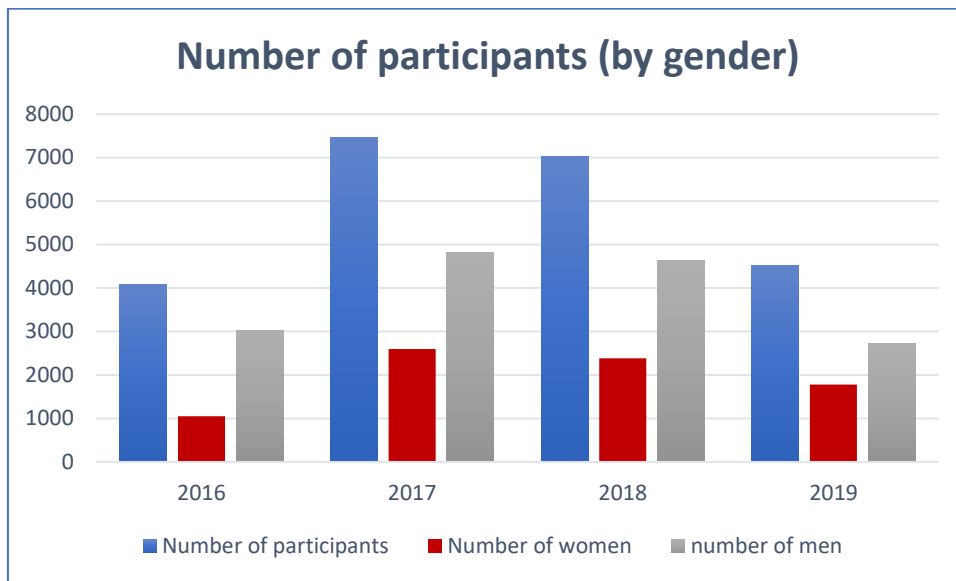
Graph 1: Number of projects between 2016 and 2019



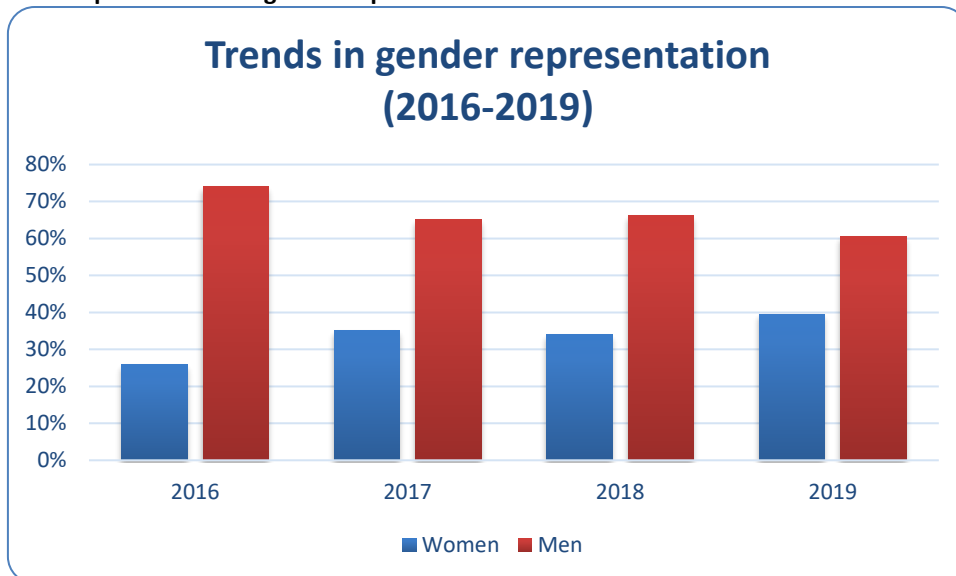
Graph 2: Number of activities between 2016 and 2019



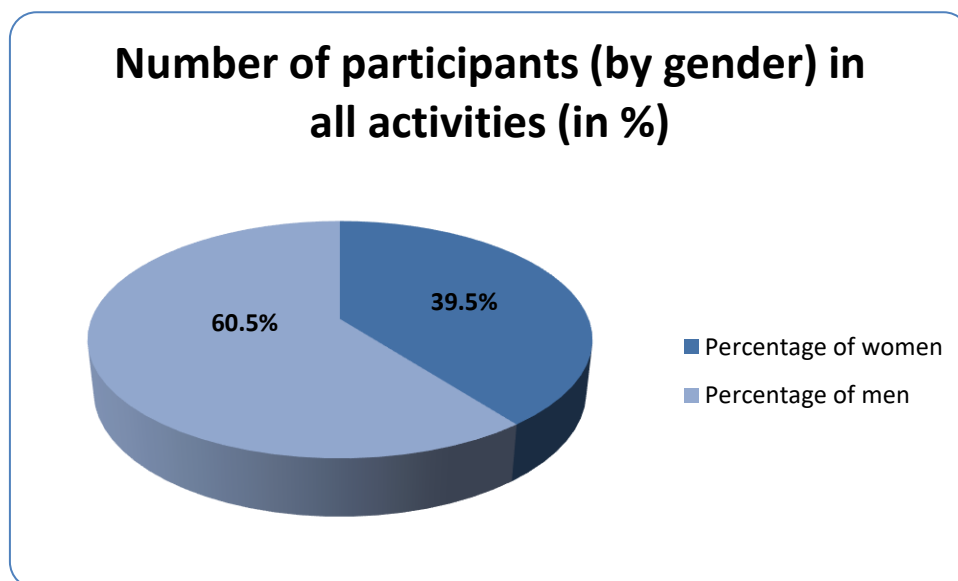
Graph 3: Comparison of the number of participants (by gender) between 2016 and 2019



Graph 4: Trends in gender representation within activities between 2016-2019

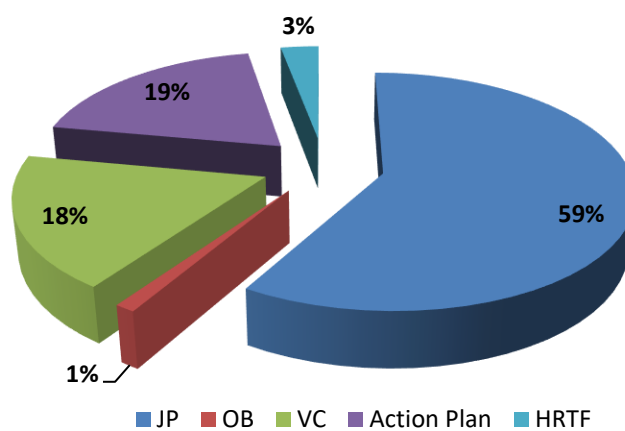


Graph 5: Number of participants engaged in the activities, divided by gender (%) in 2019



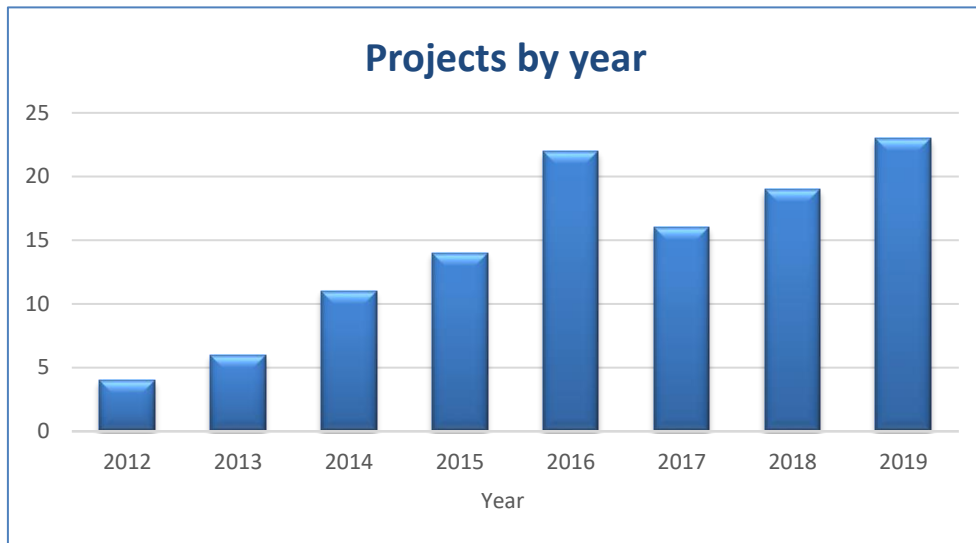
Graph 6: Source of funding of the projects and other activities in 2019[†]

Source of funding

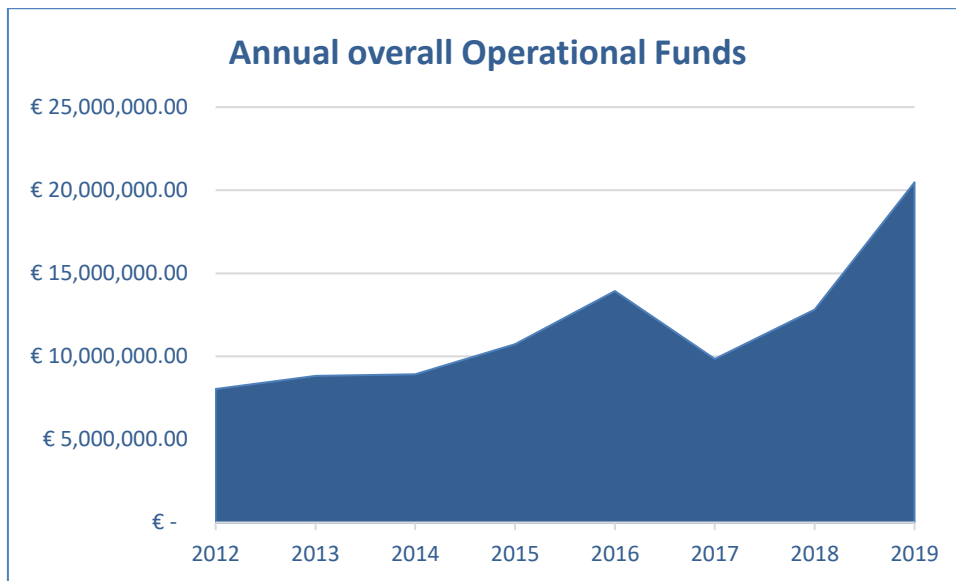


[†] ■ Joint Programmes co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe
■ Council of Europe budget
■ Voluntary contributions from member states
■ Voluntary contributions from member states through a Council of Europe country-based Action Plan
■ Council of Europe Human Rights Trust Fund

Graph 7: Projects from 2012-2019



Graph 8: Comparison: overall operational funds annually from 2012-2019



CLCU

Through bilateral co-operation activities and projects, the **Criminal Law Co-operation Unit** plays a major role in assisting the beneficiary countries to integrate the Council of Europe standards in their penitentiary, probation and law enforcement institutions. The work related to prisons, probation and the police is an integral part of the overall work of the Council of Europe related to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the three pillars of the *raison d'être* of the Organisation, in accordance with its Statute. The main objective is to help the Member States improve their legislation and practice related to the work of the police as well the execution of penal sanctions and measures.

PolicePrisons.Projects@coe.int

www.coe.int/criminal-law-coop

www.coe.int

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.