

## ■ THE COUNCIL OE EUROPE

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It has 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.

## HEADQUARTERS AND OFFICES

The Council of Europe has its headquarters in Strasbourg, France. It employs some 2 200 people, and maintains 17 offices in member states, including Serbia, and its neighbours. The offices play an active part in identifying and implementing projects, and in raising funds. The Council of Europe also has liaison offices for contacts with international organisations. The European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest offer training for young leaders in democracy and human rights issues.

## OUR SYMBOLS

The European flag was chosen by the Council of Europe in 1955. It displays a circle of 12 gold stars on a blue background. The number of stars is invariable, twelve being a number symbolic of perfection. The same flag was adopted by the European Community (now European Union) in 1986. The European anthem, adopted by the Council in 1972 and later by the EU, is a musical arrangement by Herbert von Karajan of the prelude to the Ode to Joy from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.





## **Tobias Flessenkemper** Head of Office

"Since 1949 the Council of Europe has been upholding the values which are a common heritage of the European people and a true source of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law, principles which form the basis of genuine democracy."

## THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE **OFFICE IN BELGRADE**

he Council of Europe Office in Belgrade was opened by the Secretary General on 16 March 2001, as a contact point for co-operation with the then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which had applied for membership in the Council of Europe. The work was already underway on joint projects. It has remained in place ever since.

Serbia became the 45th member of the Council of Europe in April 2003, a development that was a natural consequence of the major political changes which took place in autumn 2000 and which allowed Serbia to claim its rightful place among the democratic states of Europe.

■ Through the Office in Belgrade, the Council of Europe continues to assist the country in its process of democratic reforms and its European integration. In recent years, the Office, in close co-operation with the Serbian authorities, has supported reforms of democratic institutions, the rule of law, human and minority rights, including of the Roma and the LBGTI communities, and local and regional self-government. The Office also continues to assist with co-operation regarding economic, social, cultural, scientific, legal and administrative matters, and in the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

■ Today, through the Office in Belgrade, acting in close co-operation with the Government and with other relevant authorities of Serbia and civil society, the Council of Europe provides targeted advice and assistance to more effectively support the process of reform, particularly in the promotion of democracy, good governance, the promotion and protection of human rights, and the rule of law, in line with the fulfilment the Council of Europe membership standards.

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE





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Information as of March 2021

www.facebook.com/CoEBelgrade



# ACTIVITIES

units in Serbia.



## **THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFICE IN** BELGRADE

**OUR RIGHTS OUR FREEDOMS OUR EUROPE** 



**CO-OPERATION** 

The Council of Europe is implementing country-specific and regional projects in Serbia, in close co-operation with the relevant authorities and stakeholders. Ongoing programmes and projects include:



Council of Europe's strategic triangle

Human Resources Management in Local Self-Government – phase 2 - Through this programme, jointly funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, support is provided to local self-governments (LSGs) throughout Serbia for the purpose of strengthening human resources management and professional development of employees, thus contributing to better quality of services provided to citizens. In addition, 50 LSGs benefit from support provided through specially designed modern tools intended for strengthening human resources management capacities in these LSGs. In 2006 the Council of Europe started implementing the first project in this field and local self-governments have been supported over the years through three projects aimed at strengthening its capacities.

Preventing Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Serbia - The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA). The implementation started in 2020 with the aim of supporting Serbia in addressing the remaining regulatory shortcomings in preventing and combatting money laundering and terrorist financing. This will be achieved by developing an effective and sustainable framework for preventing and fighting against money laundering and terrorist financing in Serbia, inclusive of primary and secondary legislation, organisational solutions, and specialisation.

## Promoting Good Governance and Roma Empowerment at Local Level (ROMACTED II)

is a joint programme funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe that follows the implementation of Phase I of the ROMACTED Programme in the Western Balkans and Turkey (2017-2020). The aim is to consolidate and expand efforts to improve the integration of Roma populations in local communities through enhanced participation in local policy making and implementation of local actions. ROMACTED II continues to assist local authorities to integrate Roma specific dimensions/measures into local policies, action plans related to these policies, budgets, and public service delivery, thereby enhancing the democratic participation and empowerment of local Roma communities. This programme targets over 70 municipalities in the Western Balkans and Turkey including a dozen local self-government



## MEMBER STATES

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

### OBSERVER COUNTRIES

Canada, the Holy See, Japan, Mexico, the United States of America.

Targeting crime proceeds on the internet and securing electronic evidence in South East Europe and Turkey (iPROCEEDS-2) is a joint project of the European Union and Council of Europe that builds on the results achieved during the implementation of the first iPROCEEDS project. The project seeks to further strengthen the capacity of authorities in South East Europe and Turkey to search, seize and confiscate proceeds from crime online, prevent money laundering on the Internet and secure electronic evidence. The new action focusses on specific issues and project areas that require further targeted assistance, as well as important international legal initiatives that will have a direct impact on securing electronic evidence and obtaining data from Internet Service Providers (IPS).

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

The "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022" is a programme whose second phase of implementation started in 2019. It is a joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe, aimed at helping Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and Turkey to meet European standards in the areas of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

This programme in Serbia works in the following thematic areas:

- Ensuring justice programme actions are focused on enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons, improving citizens' enjoyment of human rights through effective domestic remedies and mutual legal assistance, as well as strengthening independent and impartial tribunals;
- Promoting anti-discrimination and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups actions support fostering a democratic school culture, strengthening the protection of national and other minority groups and preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings;
- Freedom of expression and freedom of the media this action aims to improve the situation in the media and freedom of expression by enhancing the independence and effectiveness of media regulatory authorities and promoting the rights and responsibilities of journalists, as well as reinforcing judicial expertise on freedom of the expression and of the media.

The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) in the Western Balkans, as a part of the Horizontal Facility programme, supports the Western Balkans Beneficiaries in implementing the European Convention on Human Rights at a national level, by enhancing the capacity of judges, lawyers and prosecutors to apply the Convention in their daily work.

**The Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism** is the second component of the Horizontal Facility programme - the tool used to provide the Council of Europe with expertise to respond to ad hoc requests for legislative and policy advice.