

Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia 2026-2029

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SUMMARY

Developed jointly with the Tunisian authorities, the Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia for 2026-2029 aims to continue supporting Tunisia in tackling challenges relating to human rights, the rule of law and democracy, with key Council of Europe conventions as a point of reference.

This document also follows on from the *Reykjavík Declaration – United around our values*, which guides the Council of Europe's work with other regions and recognises the importance of the Council's co-operation dimension, which is part of the Organisation's strategic triangle of standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation.

Tunisia has continued to enter into new commitments with the Council of Europe, especially by acceding to a number of its conventions. In connection with this Neighbourhood Partnership, the Council of Europe and the Tunisian authorities have agreed to go on working together to facilitate the practical implementation of the ratified conventions, such as the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) and the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention). The Partnership will also provide an opportunity to continue assisting the authorities in their efforts to complete ongoing accession processes (including for the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention) and the MEDICRIME Convention) and raising their awareness of the value of other legal instruments with the aim of strengthening national regulatory frameworks and international co-operation in fields such as artificial intelligence.

In addition, Tunisia is an active participant in a number of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreements, including in particular the North-South Centre, and has observer status with the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). The Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) has been very successful in the country, which has many tutors certified in fields that are essential for the protection of human rights. The authorities have also pledged to promote the Human Rights Education for Youth (HEY) programme, in the light of the country's demographic make-up.

In addition to consolidating the ongoing work in relation to conventions, Enlarged Partial Agreements and bodies in which Tunisia participates, this Neighbourhood Partnership confirms the priority importance previously attached to combating trafficking in human beings and seeks to involve Tunisia in the work initiated by the Council of Europe in relation to the smuggling of migrants. It also aims to launch collaboration in relation to other conventions aimed at tackling organised crime, including the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs and the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention).

The Neighbourhood Partnership aims to support Tunisia in its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, in particular goals 3 ("Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"), 4 ("Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"), 5 ("Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"), 8 ("Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all") and 16 ("Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels").

The Neighbourhood Partnership's overall budget is estimated at EUR 8.7 million.

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PART I – INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.1.1 COUNCIL OF EUROPE’S POLICY TOWARDS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

At its 121st Session on 11 May 2011 in Istanbul, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM) endorsed the proposals made by the Secretary General regarding a Council of Europe policy towards its immediate neighbourhood (hereinafter: Neighbourhood Policy) aimed at promoting dialogue and co-operation with the countries and regions in the vicinity of Europe which express a desire to co-operate with the Council of Europe on the basis of the common values of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The CM further invited the Secretary General to draw up action plans for the implementation of this policy.

The Council of Europe Policy towards neighbouring regions, which is demand-driven and country-specific, contributes to:

- supporting the strengthening of democracy;
- promoting good governance through the protection of human rights and the rule of law; and
- reinforcing and enlarging Council of Europe regional action in combating transborder and global threats.

On the basis of the arrangements endorsed by the CM, the Neighbourhood Policy is made up of two components:

- the Neighbourhood Co-operation Dialogue, carried out at political level; and
- the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities, setting out specific co-operation activities to be carried out in the fields of human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

The primary aim of the Neighbourhood Policy is to extend co-operation beyond the European continent and develop a common legal area. It is based on the 2011 “Istanbul parameters”, according to which co-operation with the countries concerned must in particular be demand-driven, tailored to needs and flexible.

The Neighbourhood Policy in the southern Mediterranean region is implemented in close partnership with the European Union (EU). In addition to regular consultations, including at a high level between the two organisations, the region is among those identified as priorities for joint EU and Council of Europe action.¹

In the run-up to the 10th anniversary of the Council of Europe Policy towards neighbouring regions, the CM underlined, in 2021, the positive outcomes of the Neighbourhood Policy.² In addition, at the fourth Council of Europe Summit in Reykjavík (Iceland) in May 2023, the heads of state and government of the Organisation’s 46 member states committed themselves to “strengthening the role of the Council of Europe in the evolving European multilateral architecture and in global governance by enhancing its external dimension through a new engagement based on its core values with democracies in the world and its southern neighbourhood.”

1.1.2 THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND TUNISIA

Although Tunisia had relations with the Council of Europe before the Neighbourhood Policy was adopted, it was only during its implementation that the relations between the Council of Europe and Tunisia became closer, making Tunisia a key partner in the region. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and Tunisia paved the way for the opening of the Council of Europe office in Tunis in 2013.

The priority areas of co-operation between Tunisia and the Council of Europe, which focus on themes that are central to the Organisation’s work, have been set out in successive framework co-operation agreements adopted by the CM and the Tunisian authorities:

- Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Tunisia 2012-2014
- Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia 2015-2017
- Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia 2018-2021
- Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia 2022-2025

¹ EU/CoE Statement of Intent (1 April 2014).

² Based on document SG/Inf(2021)14 “Review of the policy towards neighbouring regions and the Council of Europe contribution to global governance”.

Through the implementation of the priority areas for co-operation set out in these documents, Tunisia has gradually entered into new commitments with the Council of Europe by becoming, for example, the first Arab country to accede to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention).

At the time of writing this document, Tunisia has acceded to several Council of Europe conventions and, at the request of the authorities, has been invited by the CM to become a contracting party to a number of others. It is also a member of several Partial Agreements and has been invited to participate in others. It is also an observer of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). Appendix I gives full details of this dimension of the relations between the Council of Europe and Tunisia.

During regular consultations held in 2025, the Tunisian authorities expressed a desire to continue with their co-operation with the Council of Europe.

1.1.3 ADDED VALUE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

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

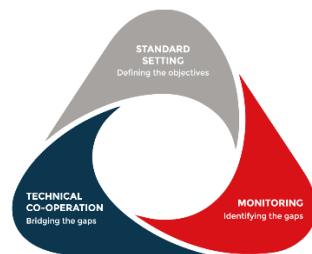


Figure 1: Council of Europe strategic triangle

In the case of Tunisia, as a non-member state of the Council of Europe, monitoring mechanisms begin to apply as and when the country accedes to conventions open to non-member countries.

In addition, the methodologies of a number of monitoring mechanisms are used to assess the country's situation in certain fields and to make recommendations, enabling roadmaps to be drawn up to support the reforms. In addition, other tools such as the Council of Europe's European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) are being actively used in Tunisia. A wide range of Council of Europe tools are being used to ensure fruitful, needs-based co-operation, including:

- the Council of Europe conventions open to non-member states and, more generally, Council of Europe standards in the priority areas identified;
- the long-standing expertise of several Council of Europe bodies, such as the intergovernmental organs, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (the Congress), the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre), and the International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group);
- the methodologies developed within the Council of Europe to assess regularly and respond to shared challenges (such as those of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)), anti-cybercrime tools, tools such as those of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), and the Human Rights Education for Youth (HEY) programme of the North-South Centre.

The working methods to make Council of Europe expertise available to Tunisia include:

- help to assess the existing legal and institutional framework in selected areas and identify needs and follow-up actions;

- assistance in drafting new legislation, revising existing legislation and establishing human rights institutions and new governance bodies, based on European and other international standards, Council of Europe expert networks in key priority areas and reference documents;
- transferring knowledge and expertise on specific subjects to strengthen national capacities;
- sharing of experience and good practices between Europe and the southern Mediterranean partner countries benefiting from Council of Europe co-operation projects, as well as between countries in the region, and creating formal and informal networks.

Tunisia is also one of the priority partners of joint European Union/Council of Europe regional programmes, especially the various phases of the South Programme,³ phase VI of which began in November 2025, and of GLACY+⁴ as well as CyberSouth⁵ and CyberSouth+⁶ in relation to cybercrime. At the bilateral level, Tunisia has also benefited from joint European Union/Council of Europe programmes including “Improving the functioning, performance and access to justice in Tunisia” (AP-JUST, January 2019 – September 2023) and “Project to Support Independent Bodies in Tunisia” (PAII-T, January 2019 – March 2023). In addition to the regional programmes, Tunisia is currently benefiting from a joint bilateral European Union/Council of Europe programme entitled “Improving economic governance by fighting corruption in Tunisia” (AGELA).⁷

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

The main objective of the co-operation between Tunisia and the Council of Europe, in line with the Council of Europe’s Policy towards neighbouring regions, is to assist Tunisia with its ongoing democratic reforms by helping it to tackle challenges relating to human rights, the rule of law and democracy, including support for the development of standards, in accordance with international norms as enshrined in the instruments ratified by Tunisia. This Neighbourhood Partnership is a strategic, flexible and dynamic programming instrument that sets out the priorities for co-operation between Tunisia and the Council of Europe for the period 2026-2029. It may be revised in the light of developments in Tunisia.

It aims in particular to:

- consolidate the results of the co-operation implemented since 2012 and initiate new areas of co-operation in line with national reform priorities, in accordance with the demand-driven approach, in areas of Council of Europe expertise;
- continue with the political dialogue at a high level and by different means, including through the participation of Tunisian experts in relevant intergovernmental committees and the Council of Europe’s convention bodies;
- continue with the efforts being made to support the expansion of the common legal area between Europe and Tunisia by encouraging the harmonisation of Tunisian legislation with European and international standards and the ratification of Council of Europe conventions open to non-member states, in accordance with the procedures set out in the relevant conventions, and conclude the accession processes currently under way; in this context, provide support, according to needs, for drafting and effectively implementing new laws in line with European and other international standards;
- make Tunisia aware of the importance of new Council of Europe conventions, such as the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence or the Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer;
- support the establishment and effective operation of human rights Protection bodies and good governance structures;
- in addition to Tunisia’s presence in the Council of Europe bodies in which the country already has member or observer status, promote its participation in other Council of Europe bodies.

³ “Strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood” (South Programme, 2012-2014); “Towards strengthened democratic governance in the southern Mediterranean” (South Programme II, 2015-2018); “Ensuring sustainable democratic governance and human rights in the southern Mediterranean” (South Programme III, March 2018 – February 2020); “Regional support to reinforce human rights, rule of law and democracy in the southern Mediterranean” (South Programme IV, March 2020 – August 2022); “Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the southern Mediterranean” (South Programme V, September 2022 – October 2025).

⁴ Global Action on Cybercrime Extended (GLACY+).

⁵ “Co-operation on cybercrime in the Southern Neighbourhood” (CyberSouth, 2017-2023).

⁶ Enhanced co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the Southern Neighbourhood region (CyberSouth+, 2024-2026).

⁷ 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027.

The main areas of co-operation for the 2026-2029 period were identified during high-level consultations and detailed technical consultations with the Tunisian authorities concerned.

Consultations have also been carried out with other international organisations – especially the European Union (EU) as the Council of Europe's principal partner in the region – and bilateral stakeholders active in Tunisia, including the main contributors to the financing of the Council of Europe action in the country, in order to ensure a co-ordinated approach. Accordingly, the priority areas of co-operation aim to foster synergies between all the relevant stakeholders in order to avoid duplication.

In achieving its objectives, the Neighbourhood Partnership will also support Tunisia in its efforts to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PART II – POLITICAL DIALOGUE

The Reykjavík Declaration, which was adopted at the fourth Council of Europe Summit in May 2023, aims to strengthen the Council of Europe's role in the evolving European multilateral architecture and in global governance by enhancing its external dimension, particularly in relation to the MENA region. Political dialogue is a key tool which provides various opportunities, ranging from high-level dialogue on issues on the bilateral agenda and subjects of common interest to more technical consultations on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership. In addition, the arrangements set out below cover the full range of Council of Europe intergovernmental bodies, from political bodies to expert committees. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM) will closely monitor the implementation of the enhanced political dialogue. Like the previous framework co-operation agreements entered into with Tunisia, this Neighbourhood Partnership is a framework for political dialogue between the Council of Europe and the Tunisian authorities. The political dialogue may take various forms:

High-level political dialogue

The Committee of Ministers may invite the Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, or other high-level government representatives, to attend its sessions.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs will hold consultations, whenever they deem it necessary, on issues covered by the bilateral agenda and matters of common interest.

Ministers from Tunisia may be invited to participate as observers in the Conferences of Specialised Ministers relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership, as provided for in Resolution CM/Res(2011)7.

Consultations

The Ministers' Deputies may invite relevant Tunisian ministries and institutions for consultations on issues related to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) may hold exchanges of views with representatives of the Tunisian ministries and institutions concerned when examining issues relating to co-operation with Tunisia and follow-up to the implementation of the Partnership. Other rapporteur groups may also hold such exchanges.

Participation in intergovernmental committees of experts

Representatives of Tunisia will be able to attend certain parts of relevant meetings of intergovernmental committees of experts as observers when matters relating to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership are being discussed.

The Consul General of Tunisia in Strasbourg has been appointed by the Tunisian authorities as the Neighbourhood Partnership representative to the Council of Europe to liaise on its implementation.

PART III – CO-OPERATION PRIORITIES

The proposed co-operation priorities are set out below by pillar of action, adhering to the structure of the Council of Europe's Programme and Budget for 2024-2027.

3.1 SECURING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

The actions taken under this operational pillar will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the following goals: Goal 4 (target 4.4⁸), Goal 8 (targets 8.3⁹ and 8.7¹⁰), Goal 10 (target 10.2¹¹), Goal 13 (target 13.3¹²) and Goal 16 (targets 16.1,¹³ 16.3,¹⁴ 16.5,¹⁵ 16.6,¹⁶ 16.10¹⁷ and 16.a¹⁸).

3.1.1 Capacities of the national authorities, legal professionals and civil society for better protection and promotion of human rights (European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals programme, HELP)

One of the main objectives of the co-operation with the Council of Europe, whose expertise is being made available to Tunisia through this Neighbourhood Partnership, is to help, by various means – including in particular through the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) – to build the capacities of all relevant national stakeholders to provide better protection for human rights.

Tunisia's participation in HELP over the past few years has contributed to a better understanding of European and international human rights standards by the national authorities, with a focus on legal professionals. This training has also raised awareness of European and international standards among civil society representatives and law students.

Several HELP courses have been translated into Arabic and adapted to the Tunisian national context since 2015, in accordance with the priorities of successive Neighbourhood Partnerships. Over the last few years, the focus has been on training relating to combating trafficking in human beings, the environment and human rights, ethics for judges, prosecutors and lawyers, the fight against corruption, companies and human rights, and the standards of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT).

Expected outcome: Legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers), representatives of national authorities, civil society representatives and law students have acquired and/or improved their knowledge of European and international human rights standards and are thus better able to promote and protect human rights in their fields of activity. Trainers will also continue to be trained under this partnership, with a focus on courses relating to the protection of human rights.

Main national partners: National institutions which train legal professionals (including in particular the Higher Institute of the Judiciary (ISM)), bodies responsible for training other professionals (such as the National Administration School (ENA)), the National Bar Association of Tunisia (ONAT), the Ministry of Justice and other specialised ministries, civil society organisations, universities/law faculties.

⁸ Goal 4, target 4.4: "By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship."

⁹ Goal 8, target 8.3: "Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services."

¹⁰ Goal 8, target 8.7: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms."

¹¹ Goal 10, target 10.2: "By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status."

¹² Goal 13, target 13.3: "Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning."

¹³ Goal 16, target 16.1: "Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere."

¹⁴ Goal 16, target 16.3: "Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all."

¹⁵ Goal 16, target 16.5: "Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms."

¹⁶ Goal 16, target 16.6: "Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels."

¹⁷ Goal 16, target 16.10: "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements."

¹⁸ Goal 16, target 16.a: "Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime."

3.2. PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

The actions taken under this operational pillar will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the following goals: Goal 3 (targets 3.5,¹⁹ 3.8²⁰, 3.9²¹ and 3.c²²), Goal 16 (target 16.6²³) and Goal 17 (target 17.6²⁴).

3.2.1 Health and human rights

Combating the counterfeiting of medical products

Tunisia signed the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention) on 7 February 2024.

Counterfeiting of medical products has increased very significantly in Tunisia, where, as in other countries, it is now a serious public health problem which compromises the credibility of the system and is endangering human lives.

Expected outcomes:

- Tunisia completes the process of acceding to the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention) and adopts a legislative framework aligned with the Convention.
- The skills of stakeholders in combating the counterfeiting of medical products and other similar crimes are enhanced, with a focus on the judiciary and law enforcement officers.
- Tunisia participates in the 24/7 network to combat these illegal activities, as part of enhanced international co-operation in criminal matters.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, Customs Directorate General.

International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group)

Tunisia was invited by the CM to join the International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group) in December 2017.

This invitation follows on from co-operation between Tunisia and the Pompidou Group. For example, the Faculty of Medicine in Tunis has benefited since 2011 from training sessions on addiction for general practitioners, school doctors, university doctors, doctors working at detention centres, psychiatry students, psychiatrists and psychologists. As a member of the Committee of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (MedSPAD), Tunisia also benefits from its participation in this Euro-Mediterranean network to improve its expertise in gathering, analysing and interpreting results as well as using them in national prevention policies. The Ministry of Youth and Sports will also be involved in activities pursued by the Pompidou Group where they focus on young people. Tunisia has support mechanisms for the institutions responsible for combating drugs and drug addiction, including a network of specialised health centres, as well as established partnerships with European institutions in this field. Likewise, financial and logistical support measures for research, as well as programmes aimed at supporting treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration centres, are in place.

¹⁹ Goal 3, target 3.5: "Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol."

²⁰ Goal 3, target 3.8: "Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all."

²¹ Goal 3, target 3.9: "By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination."

²² Goal 3, target 3.c: "Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states."

²³ Goal 16, target 16.6: "Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels."

²⁴ Goal 17, target 17.6: "Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international co-operation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved co-ordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism."

Expected outcomes:

- Tunisia completes the process of joining the Pompidou Group and adopts a legislative framework in relation to preventing and combating drugs based on respect for human rights.
- Tunisia participates in the stakeholder survey on the use of MedSPAD/MESPAD surveys in drawing up prevention policies.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Customs Directorate General, healthcare professionals, medical schools.

3.2.2 Organ trafficking

Trafficking in human organs poses a serious threat to the right to life and public health. Since it is a global threat, including because of the involvement of criminal organisations which operate across borders, the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (Santiago de Compostela Convention) is open to non-member states. By making preventive measures its overarching aim, the Convention seeks to prevent and combat this trafficking by providing for the criminalisation of certain acts, protecting victims, and facilitating co-operation at the national and international levels. It should be noted that, in this context, Tunisia has established a comprehensive legislative framework to combat trafficking in persons, including the trafficking of human organs, through Organic Law No. 2016-61 of 3 August 2016 on the prevention and fight against trafficking in persons. This law criminalises all forms of human exploitation and, under its provisions, the removal of organs or tissues, cells, gametes, or embryos.

Expected outcome: The main Tunisian partners are made aware of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (Santiago de Compostela Convention) with a view to Tunisia's possible participation in the Convention.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, National Centre for the Promotion of Organ Transplantation (CNPTO).

3.3 ACTING FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND RESPECT

Combating violence against women and domestic violence, tackling trafficking in human beings and protecting the rights of children, especially with regard to sexual abuse and exploitation, have been among the priorities of successive Neighbourhood Partnerships and are also among the main themes covered by this document. They are areas in which Tunisia has made significant progress in harmonising its legal and institutional frameworks with the Council of Europe standards. Emphasis will be laid on supporting their implementation in practice. The activities will include strengthening gender equality, in full accordance with the national legal framework, and co-operating and sharing expertise in relation to the protection of children and women online.

With regard to migration, Tunisia has gradually become one of the main transit points for illegal migrants (from both Tunisia and sub-Saharan Africa) attempting to enter Europe, where migrant smugglers are active. The situation in some regions of the country, where there is a large concentration of illegal migrants, has become difficult to manage. The Council of Europe began work on the issue of migrant smuggling in 2024, and this Neighbourhood Partnership aims to involve Tunisia in this work.

The actions taken under this operational pillar will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the following goals: Goal 5 (targets 5.1,²⁵ 5.2²⁶ and 5.c²⁷), Goal 8

²⁵ Goal 5, target 5.1: "End all forms of discrimination against women and girls."

²⁶ Goal 5, target 5.2: "Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation."

²⁷ Goal 5, target 5.c: "Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels."

(targets 8.7²⁸ and 8.8²⁹), Goal 10 (targets 10.3³⁰ and 10.7³¹) and Goal 16 (targets 16.1,³² 16.2,³³ 16.3³⁴, 16.6,³⁵ 16.10³⁶ and 16.a³⁷).

3.3.1 Violence against women and domestic violence

In April 2020, Tunisia became the first southern Mediterranean country to be invited by the CM to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). Representatives of the Ministry of the Family, Women, Childhood and Senior Citizens (MFFES) already attend meetings of the Committee of the Parties.

Tunisia's commitment to the Istanbul Convention was reconfirmed in February 2025 by the request to extend the time limit for accession made to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, which will give the authorities the time they need to complete the required domestic process. The CM decided to give Tunisia until 23 April 2027 to complete the accession process.

In addition to its great symbolic value, accession to the Istanbul Convention will mean that the monitoring mechanism of the Group of Experts on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) will go into operation in Tunisia.

Under previous Neighbourhood Partnerships, the Council of Europe supported the drafting and implementation of Institutional Law No. 2017-58 of 11 August 2017 on the elimination of violence against women. Subsequent to the implementation of this law, key stakeholders' institutional capacities and professional skills have been enhanced as a result of addressing such issues as the effective implementation of protection orders, the prosecution of perpetrators, preventive measures, assistance with and the establishment of shelters, legal advice for victims and the role of the judiciary. This work has also been supported by HELP courses on combating violence against women.

The present Neighbourhood Partnership aims to support the development of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for women victims of violence by establishing co-ordination mechanisms under the auspices of the Ministry of the Family, Women, Childhood and Senior Citizens (MFFES). There was a previous plan to develop an NRM, but it could not be carried out due to other national priorities. Ultimately, the Neighbourhood Partnership will contribute, in co-ordination with other relevant international players, to the national efforts to raise public awareness of the need to tackle violence against women and domestic violence by various means.

Expected outcomes:

- Tunisia completes the process of acceding to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).
- The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for women victims of violence is established and put into operation.
- The public is made more aware of domestic violence and violence against women, including by building the capacities of media professionals.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of the Family, Women, Childhood and Senior Citizens (MFFES), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, National Observatory for Combating Violence against Women, National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT), National Press Council (CNP), civil society.

²⁸ Goal 8, target 8.7: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms."

²⁹ Goal 8, target 8.8: "Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment."

³⁰ Goal 10, target 10.3: "Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard."

³¹ Goal 10, target 10.7: "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies."

³² Goal 16, target 16.1: "Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere."

³³ Goal 16, target 16.2: "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children."

³⁴ Goal 16, target 16.3: "Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all."

³⁵ Goal 16, target 16.6: "Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels."

³⁶ Goal 16, target 16.10: "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements."

³⁷ Goal 16, target 16.a: "Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime."

3.3.2 Trafficking in human beings

Tunisia has been strongly committed to combating trafficking in human beings for several years, and successive Neighbourhood Partnerships have supported efforts to combat this problem. The CM invited Tunisia to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2018, and since then, the Council of Europe has supported the accession process by various means. Tunisia is moving forwards with the process of ratifying the Convention and the CM has extended the time limit for completion to February 2026.

Tunisian legislation is broadly in line with the provisions of the Convention. In addition, Tunisia is the only country in the region to have developed a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for victims of trafficking, an outcome achieved through co-operation between a large number of partners under the auspices of the National Authority for Combating Human Trafficking (INLTP), in collaboration with the relevant ministries, various professional groups and civil society. Although it sets an example, there have been difficulties in making this mechanism fully operational which have necessitated additional support. Moreover, several specialised units within the Ministry of the Interior are actively involved in combating trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. However, the number of victims identified has fallen over the last few years, which highlights the need to strengthen the efforts made in this regard. Implementation of the non-punishment principle remains problematic, and this is hindering effective access for victims to justice and protection.

The Council of Europe's online HELP course on combating trafficking in human beings is helping to build the capacities of the relevant professionals, particularly in terms of identifying victims and implementing the non-punishment principle. In this context, cooperation with the Ministry of Justice will include capacity-building activities to combat international human trafficking networks, as well as support for international judicial cooperation, in accordance with the national legislation in force and the international conventions ratified by Tunisia in this field.

Involvement of Tunisian professionals in the Council of Europe Network of Anti-Trafficking Lawyers and NGOs is also envisaged.

Expected outcomes:

- Tunisia completes the process of acceding to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for victims of trafficking is fully operational.
- The capacities of Tunisian professionals to identify victims and apply the non-punishment principle are strengthened.
- Cross-border co-operation between the authorities of Tunisia and other countries in relation to combating trafficking in human beings is stepped up.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, National Authority for Combating Human Trafficking (INLTP), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, training institutions and legal professions, civil society.

3.3.3 Migrants

Managing migrant flows is a growing challenge for the Tunisian authorities due to the significant and continuous rise in the number of illegal migrants and the increase in the activity of migrant smuggling networks in the country.

Tackling migrant smuggling requires the ability to carry out in-depth investigations, gather evidence and protect victims and witnesses on the one hand, and effective international co-operation on the other hand. Tunisia has recorded progress in the fight against criminal networks and migrant smugglers. Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the competent authorities, several organised structures have been dismantled, significantly reducing the operational capacities of these networks. For this reason, the present Neighbourhood Partnership seeks to build the capacities of criminal justice professionals and raise Tunisia's awareness of, and involve it in, Council of Europe initiatives in relation to migrant smuggling. The goal is to build the investigative capacity of the authorities and encourage more seamless co-operation with other countries, which is vital given that organised crime operates across borders. In this context, co-operation between Tunisia and the Council of Europe will be promoted through the Council of Europe Action Plan on Fostering International Co-operation and Investigative Strategies in Fighting the Smuggling of Migrants, including by inviting Tunisia to be represented in the Network of Focal Points on Migration established by the Council of Europe.

Expected outcomes:

- The capacities of the national authorities to investigate organised crime networks involved in migrant smuggling are built while ensuring compliance with the national legal framework and human rights.
- Enhanced operational co-operation between Tunisia, the countries in the southern Mediterranean region and Europe is facilitated in order effectively to dismantle the criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling, making use of international legal instruments for criminal justice co-operation.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice.

3.3.4. Children's rights

The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) entered into force in Tunisia in February 2020. Since then, Neighbourhood Partnerships have supported the implementation of the Convention in practice by all relevant national actors. The co-operation will continue to focus primarily on harmonising Tunisia's legal framework with the Council of Europe standards and other international standards and on building stakeholders' capacities in this field. With assistance from the Council of Europe, the Ministry of the Family, Women, Childhood and Senior Citizens (MFFES) developed an action plan for the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in 2024.

Expected outcomes:

- Legislative and institutional frameworks and bodies for the protection of children's rights are strengthened, including at the regional level, in line with international and European standards.
- National co-ordination between stakeholders is strengthened through the National Cross-sector Commission for Combating Violence against Children.
- The "Barnahus" (children's house) model is promoted in Tunisia and the Partnership supports institutions in their co-ordination efforts with a view to introducing this model in the national system.
- The general public is made more aware of exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including by strengthening the skills of media professionals.

Main national partners: Ministry of the Family, Women, Childhood and Senior Citizens (MFFES), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Child Protection Officers, National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT), National Press Council (CNP), National Observatory for Children's Rights, civil society.

3.4 STRENGTHENING TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The actions taken under this operational pillar will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 16 (targets 16.3,³⁸ 16.5,³⁹ 16.6⁴⁰ and 16.a⁴¹).

3.4.1 Independence and efficiency of justice

Tunisia participates in regional actions of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). In particular, the General Inspectorate of the Ministry of Justice has participated in the Arab Network of Justice Inspection Services (ARNJIS). The authorities of Tunisia, particularly justice stakeholders, have been familiarised with the CEPEJ's tools through Tunisia's participation in the Commission as an observer, and as a result of the implementation of specific co-operation projects in this field until 2023. The CEPEJ remains willing to provide specific assistance to Tunisia as needed. Cooperation could also include capacity-building activities and training sessions for various judicial actors (judges, clerks, administrators) with a view to improving the quality and efficiency of the daily work of the courts, including in the context of a justice system that is undergoing digitalisation.

³⁸ Goal 16, target 16.3: "Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all."

³⁹ Goal 16, target 16.5: "Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms."

⁴⁰ Goal 16, target 16.6: "Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels."

⁴¹ Goal 16, target 16.a: "Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime."

In addition, since lawyers play a vital role in the smooth running of the judicial system, and in the light of the recent adoption of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, this Neighbourhood Partnership will enable the Tunisian authorities to familiarise themselves with the provisions of this new international legal instrument and to organise capacity-building activities and training sessions for lawyers with a view to improving access to justice and users' satisfaction in relation to their justice needs.

Expected outcomes:

- Tunisia participates actively in the Arab Network of Justice Inspection Services (ARNJIS).
- The authorities are familiarised with the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Justice, National Bar Association of Tunisia (ONAT).

3.5 ENSURING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF SOCIETY AND PERSONS

The actions taken under this operational pillar will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the following goals: Goal 9 (target 9.b⁴²), Goal 16 (targets 16.3,⁴³ 16.5,⁴⁴ 16.6,⁴⁵ 16.7,⁴⁶ 16.10⁴⁷ and 16.a⁴⁸) and Goal 17 (target 17.6⁴⁹).

3.5.1 Corruption – Money laundering – Economic crime

Corruption

The successive Neighbourhood Partnerships have supported the Tunisian authorities in their objective of strengthening the legislative framework and the procedures for the prevention of and fight against corruption. In close cooperation with the General Directorate of Governance and Corruption Prevention (DGGPC) of the Presidency of the Government and the “governance units” (specialised units responsible for promoting good governance within public institutions), progress has been made towards the effective management of conflicts of interest, as well as in the protection of whistleblowers and the prevention of corruption in public procurement processes, notably through the use of technology, across the entire public administration.

The “control bodies”, which are responsible for overseeing governance and transparency in public services, play a decisive role in improving accountability and strengthening corruption prevention. The Council of Europe is already working with the General Finance Inspectorate to provide training on tools to strengthen public expenditure auditing capacities. It is envisaged to further strengthen cooperation with this body and to extend cooperation to other control bodies, including those involved in recruitment and public procurement, as well as, possibly, other entities such as the Court of Auditors or the Judicial, Economic and Financial Pole, all of which play a key role in monitoring and supervision in the fight against corruption.

Moreover, the Legal Adviser and Legislation Department will be supported in the implementation of the anti-corruption legislative screening methodology, which has just been completed within the framework of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Department.

⁴² Goal 9, target 9.b: “Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, *inter alia*, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.”

⁴³ Goal 16, target 16.3: “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.”

⁴⁴ Goal 16, target 16.5: “Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.”

⁴⁵ Goal 16, target 16.6: “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.”

⁴⁶ Goal 16, target 16.7: “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.”

⁴⁷ Goal 16, target 16.10: “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.”

⁴⁸ Goal 16, target 16.a: “Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.”

⁴⁹ Goal 17, target 17.6: “Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international co-operation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved co-ordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.”

Furthermore, with a view to preventing corruption and equipping senior officials of the Tunisian administration with effective tools, the Council of Europe has established cooperation with the National School of Administration (ENA) and has trained more than 300 senior civil servants and administrative executives in various fields directly related to the fight against corruption. It is envisaged to continue these training activities and to further deepen reflections on possible improvements to the legal and institutional frameworks, as well as to the procedures for combating corruption in the country.

Although accession to the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) is not currently among Tunisia's priorities, the invitation extended to Tunisia by the Committee of Ministers in 2017 remains valid.

Money Laundering

Through its co-operation with the Tunisian Commission for Financial Analyses (CTAF), the Council of Europe has strengthened Tunisia's institutional and operational capacities and provided tools aimed at assessing, evaluating and managing the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing (notably online gambling and drug trafficking). This support has included assistance in improving the legal and regulatory framework in this area, as well as the analysis of the regulatory framework relating to virtual assets and virtual asset service providers (VA/VASPs), by assessing the needs for regulation and supervision of the sector.

In addition, the Central Bank of Tunisia has been supported in strengthening risk-based supervision in the field of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) for exchange offices through capacity-building actions and the development of sectoral guidelines. Furthermore, in cooperation with the CTAF, the Council of Europe has supported the organisation of specialised activities aimed at strengthening the understanding and implementation of compliance obligations and measures expected from stockbrokers, insurance companies, investment funds, mutual funds and venture capital investment companies, real estate agents, notaries and drafters of legal instruments.

Within the framework of the present Neighbourhood Partnership, it is recommended to support the competent Tunisian authorities in strengthening the effectiveness of the AML/CFT system by improving the capacities of AML/CFT supervisory authorities as well as of the CTAF, in line with the follow-up results of the FATF/MENAFATF. Particular attention will be paid to improving the regulatory and supervisory framework applicable to virtual asset service providers and to designated non-financial businesses and professions representing a high risk, as well as to strengthening the transparency of information on beneficial ownership.

Expected outcomes:

- The capacities of institutions responsible for combating corruption are strengthened with a view to implementing effective procedures for the prevention of and fight against corruption through priority and targeted actions.
- New legislative texts are made more resilient to corruption through anti-corruption legal screening.
- The capacities of the competent authorities are strengthened through priority actions aimed at improving the effectiveness of the AML/CFT system in line with the follow-up results of the FATF/MENAFATF.
- The capacities of the competent Tunisian authorities are strengthened through targeted actions in priority areas such as the regulation and supervision of virtual asset service providers and designated non-financial businesses and professions representing a high risk, the strengthening of the legal and operational framework relating to the transparency of information on beneficial ownership, as well as targeted assistance for the CTAF in the area of financial intelligence.

Main national partners:

Presidency of the Government, Ministry of Finance, Tunisian Commission for Financial Analyses (CTAF), Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of National Security (DGSN), General Directorate of Territorial Surveillance (DGST), National Guard, National School of Administration (ENA), Assembly of the Representatives of the People (ARP), private sector.

3.5.2 Digital challenges: Artificial intelligence – Cybercrime – Data protection

Artificial intelligence

Tunisia has been observing the work done in relation to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence since the end of 2024. The Neighbourhood Partnership will continue to involve the country in this area, including in work to identify and effectively manage risks inherent in the development of artificial intelligence technologies based on an approach that respects human rights. The co-operation and expertise-sharing in relation to artificial intelligence will also focus on its use in the areas of innovation and digitalisation.

Expected outcomes:

- The national legislative framework in relation to artificial intelligence is developed in line with the standards of the Framework Convention on AI in order to build the capacity of Tunisian society to deal with risks in relation to the development of new AI technologies.
- The technical skills of professionals and players in various sectors in relation to AI are strengthened with CoE tools such as HUDERIA and the HELP and HEY programmes.
- Co-operation in the field of AI between the Tunisian authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the southern Mediterranean region is strengthened.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Communication Technologies, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Directorate General of National Security (DGSN), Directorate General of Territorial Surveillance (DGST), National Guard, Ministry of Justice, civil society.

Cybercrime

In 2024, Tunisia became the 70th Party to the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), an important step in delivering on its commitment to tackling cybercrime.

In accordance with Article 35 of the Budapest Convention, Tunisia has designated a point of contact available on a twenty-four hour, seven-day-a-week basis within the cybercrime units of the Ministry of the Interior. This operational unit plays a crucial role by facilitating cross-border co-operation, accelerating requests for digital evidence and strengthening international co-operation in cybercrime investigations. In addition, Tunisia attends meetings of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) and has participated in regional and international cybercrime and cybersecurity forums.

There has been notable progress in the area of cybersecurity, where the relevant ministries and bodies have taken a proactive and co-operative approach to assessing national capacities and promoting international partnerships. The authorities have actively sought to boost Tunisia's cybersecurity resilience by engaging with regional and international stakeholders, including through the sharing of best practices. Tunisia has strengthened its role as a regional cybersecurity co-operation hub by hosting a number of regional and international cybercrime and cybersecurity events in 2024. The country has played a particularly constructive role by collaborating with the League of Arab States and the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organisation (AICTO) and by promoting dialogue and joint initiatives aimed at strengthening digital security and preventing cybercrime in the region.

As a result of Tunisia's accession to the Budapest Convention, the Council of Europe has focused its efforts on improving the understanding and application of the Convention by the relevant national institutions. Since the country's accession, there has been momentum in Tunisia towards evaluating the country's cybercrime legislation and bringing it fully into line with international standards. The Council of Europe's efforts have also focused on training for law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

Expected outcomes:

- National legislative framework brought into line with the Cybercrime Convention (Budapest Convention).
- Tunisia accedes to the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention on enhanced co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence.
- National judicial capacities in relation to cybercrime and electronic evidence are strengthened, with courses for prosecutors and judges arranged through the CyberSouth+ project.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Communication Technologies, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General of National Security (DGSN), Directorate General of Territorial Surveillance (DGST), National Guard, Higher Institute of the Judiciary (ISM), National Authority for the Protection of Personal Data (INPDP), Presidency of the Government.

Data protection

The Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and its Additional Protocol entered into force in Tunisia in November 2017. Moreover, Tunisia was the first southern Mediterranean country to sign the Protocol amending the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+), which modernises Convention 108, the aim being both to meet the challenges arising from the use of the new information and communication technologies and to strengthen the effective implementation of the Convention. In addition, Tunisia has decided to apply some of the requirements of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), for example with regard to the appointment of data protection officers (DPOs).

Following on from the previous actions, this Neighbourhood Partnership aims to promote a culture of respect for privacy and protection of personal data in Tunisia.

Expected outcomes:

- The legislative framework in relation to protection of personal data is strengthened in line with European standards.
- The technical skills of professionals and actors in different sectors, including civil society and young people, in relation to data protection are strengthened through programmes such as HELP and HEY.
- Co-operation between the Tunisian authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the southern Mediterranean region in relation to data protection is strengthened.

Main national partners: National Authority for the Protection of Personal Data (INPDP), Presidency of the Government, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Youth and Sports, legal professionals, private- and public-sector actors, civil society.

3.5.3 Integrity and governance of sport

Tunisia has been invited by the CM to accede to the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention).

Expected outcomes:

- Tunisia completes the process of acceding to the Macolin Convention.
- The technical skills of professionals and actors in various sectors, including civil society and young people, are strengthened in relation to the manipulation of sports competitions.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Youth and Sports, legal professionals, private- and public-sector players, civil society.

3.6 ANCHORING DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN THE SOCIETY

At the fourth Council of Europe Summit in Reykjavík (Iceland) in May 2023, the heads of state and government of the member states of the Council of Europe, warning against democratic backsliding, adopted the “Reykjavík Principles for Democracy”, which include democratic participation of civil society and young people. The beneficiaries of the actions proposed in the present Neighbourhood Partnership include civil society where relevant. The Partnership also pays particular attention to raising awareness and strengthening the skills of young people in relation to international human rights standards in line with the standards of the CoE that have been identified as priorities in the work done with Tunisia.

The actions taken under this operational pillar will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the following goals: Goal 3 (target 3.8⁵⁰), Goal 4 (targets 4.4⁵¹ and 4.7⁵²), Goal 8 (targets 8.5⁵³ and 8.6⁵⁴), Goal 11 (target 11.4⁵⁵) and Goal 16 (targets 16.3⁵⁶, 16.4⁵⁷ and 16.7⁵⁸).

3.6.1 Access to information

The Partnership aims to promote a culture of transparent governance and protect the right of access to information while encouraging sharing of good practices and knowledge in the field, based on the Council of Europe standards. The Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (Tromsø Convention) is the first binding international legal instrument to recognise a general right of access to official documents held by public authorities without discrimination and regardless of the requester’s status or motives in seeking access.

Expected outcomes: The main Tunisian partners are made aware of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (Tromsø Convention).

Main national partners: National Authority for Access to Information (INAI), Ministry of Communication Technologies, High Independent Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HAICA), Audiovisual Communication Authority (ICA), civil society.

3.6.2 Democratic governance and dialogue – Civil society – Young people

Democratic governance and dialogue – Civil society

The capacities of young Tunisian leaders involved in the democratic and civic development movement have been strengthened through the Council of Europe’s continuous support since 2013 for the annual training courses run by the Tunis School of Politics (TSoP), hosted by the Centre for Mediterranean and International Studies.

Young people

Young people under the age of 30 make up nearly half of Tunisia’s population. As well as having rights, they also play an important role in the country’s economic, social and political development. In line with the Reykjavík Declaration, this Neighbourhood Partnership puts particular focus on assimilation of democratic values, the rule of law and human rights by the new generations, which will be crucial in ensuring the success and permanence of democratic reforms.

⁵⁰ Goal 3, target 3.8: “Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.”

⁵¹ Goal 4, target 4.4: “By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.”

⁵² Goal 4, target 4.7: “By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”

⁵³ Goal 8, target 8.5: “By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.”

⁵⁴ Goal 8, target 8.6: “By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.”

⁵⁵ Goal 11, target 11.4: “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.”

⁵⁶ Goal 16, target 16.3: “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.”

⁵⁷ Goal 16, target 16.4: “By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime.”

⁵⁸ Goal 16, target 16.7: “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.”

Tunisia has been a member of the Council of Europe's European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) since 2016. Various Tunisian actors within the government, civil society and the youth sector contribute to the Centre's work and benefit from its programmes. Several Euro-Mediterranean co-operation initiatives, including various editions of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni), have contributed to strengthening the skills of youth organisations and young people. Since 2012, Tunisia has hosted MedUni, which is attended annually by a hundred or so young people from civil society organisations in Council of Europe member states, Africa and the Middle East. This unique forum for intercultural learning and capacity-building enables young people to develop a common understanding of global issues relating to human rights and democratic citizenship. This event is held in partnership with the National Youth Observatory of Tunisia (ONJ).

In November 2024, during the Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the North-South Centre launched the Human Rights Education for Youth (HEY) programme. Inspired by HELP, this programme aims to build young people's capacity to promote human rights and the rule of law by improving their understanding and knowledge of European and international standards for the protection of human rights, such as specific treaties, conventions, protocols and charters of the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the African Union. The courses developed within this framework are aimed at young people aged between 18 and 30 in Europe, Africa and the Middle East and take an interactive approach to teaching based on the North-South Centre's expertise in global citizenship education and co-operation with young people. The programme also includes a dedicated training process for young tutors, ensuring cascading of national courses. Like the HELP programme by which it was inspired, the HEY programme also offers the opportunity to adapt courses to the Tunisian national context.

Expected outcomes:

- Young people are made aware of European and international human rights and rule of law standards through the implementation of the HEY programme, cycles of the Rule of Law Youth Network (RoLYN) and editions of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni).
- Training is given to a pool of young HEY tutors who will be able to pass their knowledge on to their peers thanks to the HEY training methodology.

Main national partners: Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Youth Observatory (ONJ), civil society organisations.

3.6.3 Culture and cultural heritage

Combating offences relating to cultural property

The illegal trade in cultural goods is a form of international organised crime which contributes to the financing of corruption, money laundering and other crimes, and it can even be a source of financing for terrorism. In addition, the removal of cultural and archaeological objects from their country or place of origin is an act against national identity and collective memory and destroys historical knowledge for all of humankind.

The Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention) sets out preventive measures at the national and international levels (inventories or databases of cultural property, monitoring and reporting of transactions, import and export control procedures, etc.). It seeks to establish cross-border co-operation to stop illegal trading of cultural property. It constitutes a major step forward in terms of international law as it is the only treaty that criminalises offences relating to cultural property. In view of the importance of the country's cultural heritage, the Neighbourhood Partnership will support the competent Tunisian authorities in promoting a better understanding of the Nicosia Convention with a view to possible participation in this treaty as part of strengthened international co-operation in this field.

Expected outcome: The main Tunisian partners are made aware of the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention) with a view to Tunisia's possible participation in the Convention.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Ministry of the Interior.

Cultural Routes

The Council of Europe's Cultural Routes are networks that contribute to promoting cultural diversity and identity and mutual exchange and enrichment across borders. In view of the country's rich historic heritage, it is envisaged that representatives of Tunisia will be helped to participate in the work of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes.

Expected outcome: The main Tunisian partners are made aware of the work of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes with a view to Tunisia's participation.

Main national partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Ministry of State Property.

PART IV – IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 METHODOLOGY

The overall co-ordination of technical co-operation carried out by the Council of Europe falls within the remit of the Directorate of Programme Co-ordination (DPC), which steers programming and fundraising for co-operation actions while ensuring that the Council of Europe's offices in the field operate properly.

Responsibility for co-operation projects lies, in principle, with the Council of Europe "Major Administrative Entities" that have the relevant expertise. In accordance with the Organisation's decentralised implementation policy on technical assistance and co-operation, the Council of Europe office in Tunis is responsible for project implementation on the ground. Since July 2021, the Tunis office has also co-ordinated regional co-operation. In December 2025, 16 Council of Europe staff members were working there.

4.1.1 A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH

The Council of Europe prioritises a human rights approach at all levels and stages of its activities. Its *acquis*, including Council of Europe legal instruments and institutions, combined with the principles of participation and inclusion, equality and non-discrimination, accountability, transparency and access to information, brings further added value to its activities.

The Council of Europe Human Rights Approach – Practical Guide for Co-operation Projects aims to enhance understanding of the realisation of human rights as the ultimate objective of the Organisation's co-operation activities and to apply the core principles to all Council of Europe interventions as part of project cycle management and strategic orientation.

The Council of Europe emphasises gender mainstreaming throughout its project activities, in line with its Gender Equality Strategy (2024-2029). The Strategy underlines the need to ensure that gender equality policies and relevant instruments benefit disadvantaged groups of women in particular, but also persons facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

The Council of Europe Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for Co-operation Projects provides practical guidance on gender mainstreaming in the Organisation's co-operation activities and those run by national partners and other players. Its aims to assist the Council of Europe in identifying the priorities, key objectives and actions of the Neighbourhood Partnership, and to encourage the Tunisian authorities to implement gender mainstreaming in reforms in order to maximise efforts to achieve gender equality. The implementation of the Toolkit will be accompanied by gender mainstreaming training provided by the Organisation to all staff working on co-operation activities, as well as to national partners and stakeholders. Gender-balanced participation will be ensured, subject to fulfilment of requirements in terms of experience and local knowledge. For example, gender equality and women's rights standards will be taken into account when revising national laws and frameworks in the light of European standards. Gender equality will also be included in training activities and programmes. Gender impacts will be analysed in the design, implementation, reporting and evaluation of projects. In addition to gender mainstreaming, specific actions to promote gender equality will be considered.

As part of its long-standing commitment to putting children at the heart of its work, the Council of Europe is committed to advancing the protection and promotion of children's rights, in line with its Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2022-2027 developed as part of the "Building a Europe for and with children" programme launched in 2006. The Strategy, which includes a focus on children's rights in the digital environment, is backed up in this regard by Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment.

Similarly, the Council of Europe encourages active participation of civil society in project activities, in accordance with the Guidelines on civil society organisations' participation in the Council of Europe's co-operation activities. The online resource for civil society gives easy access to its handbook entitled "Working with the Council of Europe: a practical guide for civil society", which provides in-depth information on the various forms of access, co-operation, input, participation and/or partnership that are possible and relevant for non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The Secretary General's Roadmap on the Council of Europe's Engagement with Civil Society 2024-2027 marks a significant step in the follow-up to the Reykjavik Declaration – United around our values and presents proposals aimed at shaping a policy for meaningful and effective participation of civil society, including youth civil society, in all aspects of the Organisation's intergovernmental standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation activities. The participation of civil society will be ensured by various means throughout the Neighbourhood Partnership, with the aim of strengthening its role in the country by promoting dialogue between it and the authorities and developing its capacities. To this end, consideration is being given to involving civil society actors in relevant activities within certain projects or implementing projects targeted at civil society specifically by providing services and subject-specific expertise, allocating grants to be launched during the Partnership, monitoring reforms, and preparing analytical reports. This will contribute to protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the country.

The Council of Europe Policy on reporting wrongdoing and protection from retaliation (Speak Up Policy), which entered into force on 1 June 2023, is an integral part of the Organisation's ethical framework.

The Reykjavik Declaration – United around our values is also committed to strengthening the environmental aspect of human rights and aims to focus and reinforce the Council of Europe's work in this field.

Within this context, the Council of Europe co-operation sector aims to make the fight against climate change and environmental damage an integral and more explicit part of its action. This can be done through:

- 1) mainstreaming environmental protection and climate change considerations in co-operation projects;
- 2) designing and developing co-operation projects with environment-specific objectives; and
- 3) improving the Council of Europe's working methods and practices so that its co-operation activities are more environmentally sustainable.

The Council of Europe has continued to play a leading role in developing standards in the digital age to protect human rights both online and offline and in many contexts. The adoption in May 2024 of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, based on Council of Europe and other relevant international standards and with potential global application, was a major achievement of the Organisation.

The implementation of Neighbourhood Partnership projects can include, but is not limited to, needs assessments, legislative expertise, capacity-building, awareness-raising, peer reviews and gender analyses. The implementation methodology, which is aligned with the Council of Europe's Project Management Methodology (PMM), reinforces ownership by national stakeholders and ensures the sustainability of the outcomes. The PMM enhances the quality of project implementation in terms of planning and monitoring, cost efficiency and effectiveness. It also allows for improved risk assessment, incorporation of a human rights approach and greater attention to the gender dimension.

Furthermore, the co-operation developed by the Council of Europe follows a "multi-institutional approach" which allows different Council of Europe bodies and institutions to reach out to government actors, parliaments, civil society, academia, professional associations and local and regional authorities. This creates leverage for comprehensive, inclusive, successful and lasting reforms.

4.1.2 LESSONS LEARNED

The present Neighbourhood Partnership takes account of the lessons learned from the implementation of the co-operation with Tunisia since 2012, which include the following points.

The interest shown by the Tunisian authorities in several Council of Europe conventions has been of key importance in the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnerships. The Council of Europe's high-level expertise in supporting the implementation of standards has continued to be highly valued by the competent authorities, and this has enabled the Partnership to continue with its human rights and rule-of-law activity.

The use of monitoring mechanism methodologies and the content of conventions in designing projects and co-operation activities, even in fields where Tunisia has not yet been invited to accede to the relevant convention, has proved very helpful.

The decentralisation of financial planning and the co-ordination of project implementation from the Tunis office since 2021 have been essential to adapt quickly to institutional changes and ensure effectiveness of implementation.

A flexible approach and tailored methodologies have enabled projects to be adapted to priority needs at a speed matching that of reforms and changes in the institutional framework. This adaptability has also enabled projects to remain demand-driven, resulting in relevant interventions that meet partners' needs and are more likely to have an impact.

Strategic communication has given visibility to the Council of Europe and the Neighbourhood Partnership in Tunisia. The use of social media and the improvement in communication in Arabic and in relation to topical issues have proved fruitful.

The participation of a growing number of Tunisian experts in projects has enabled national expertise and international experience to complement each other better and is boosting beneficiary engagement.

The regional dimension of the work in the southern Mediterranean has provided opportunities for mutual learning and co-ordinated approaches. The outcomes achieved in Tunisia (such as the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking) have provided leverage for a number of regional actions.

4.1.3 RISK MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Owing to the nature of its mandate, the Council of Europe operates in complex and unstable environments that expose it to risks. The risk analysis of the Neighbourhood Partnership and possible mitigation strategies are based on the Council of Europe's Risk Management Policy⁵⁹ and Risk Management Guidelines, which were adopted in June 2016. All projects implemented within the Neighbourhood Partnership have their own risk assessment and mitigation strategies. Risks identified within co-operation activities are fed into the organisational risk register, which is periodically brought to the attention of the Secretary General and the Senior Management Group of the Council of Europe. Internal audit, external audit and the Oversight Advisory Committee will analyse the results.

4.2 CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As stated above, the Neighbourhood Partnership will support the Tunisian authorities' efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goals 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 15 and 16.

4.3 CO-ORDINATION

Co-ordination to ensure that resources are used efficiently and that the Council of Europe's actions are relevant is carried out at various levels and within various bodies, including the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (CM).

⁵⁹ The revised Risk Management Policy was adopted by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 15 December 2023 and entered into force immediately. To foster a pragmatic, consistent and transparent approach to risk management at the Council of Europe, this version updates the provisions of the previous policy (adopted in 2016) by placing risk management in a wider institutional perspective; ensuring complementarity with the other components of the Organisation's governance system (such as internal control, data protection, ethics, crisis management and business continuity); implementing recommendations from the Directorate of Internal Oversight and the Oversight Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe; and clarifying roles and responsibilities throughout the Organisation. By contributing to a greater maturity in managing risks that may affect the Council of Europe, the revised policy will also strengthen the Organisation's governance system.

The Council of Europe designs and carries out measures in areas in which it has strong expertise and produces real added value. Joint co-operation with the Tunisian authorities is implemented on the basis of in-depth analysis of the goals of other international organisations and actors on the ground and of their actions, implemented and/or planned to achieve these goals.

To ensure that its action is relevant, the Council of Europe works in close co-ordination with relevant international partners, including the European Union (EU) and especially the EU Delegation in Tunisia. Since 2012, Tunisia has been a beneficiary of the South Programme, a joint EU/Council of Europe regional programme. It has also benefited from the bilateral joint programme entitled “Improving economic governance by fighting corruption in Tunisia” (AGELA).

To ensure efficiency and avoid duplication of activities, the Organisation also co-ordinates its activities with other international organisations active in Tunisia, in particular relevant UN agencies as well as development agencies of its member states.

4.4 FUNDING

This Neighbourhood Partnership’s overall budget is estimated at EUR 8,7 million.

The Neighbourhood Partnership projects have multiple sources of funding. They are mainly funded through voluntary contributions (VCs) from donor countries and international organisations, including bilateral and regional joint EU/Council of Europe programmes.

The co-ordination required to implement the Neighbourhood Partnership will incur general management costs up to a maximum of 7% of the Neighbourhood Partnership’s direct costs.

In line with the Council of Europe’s resource mobilisation strategy, fundraising efforts co-ordinated by the Directorate of Programme Co-ordination (DPC) are focused on the Neighbourhood Partnership as a whole. Neighbourhood Partnership funding particularly provides flexibility, with funds allocated to those projects most in need and most likely to contribute to the long-term implementation of major policy and institutional reforms. The Council of Europe also works towards entering into longer-term co-operation agreements and multi-year contracts with key partners and donors in order to facilitate effective strategic partnerships and ensure predictable and adaptable funding.

The structure of the Neighbourhood Partnership 2026-2029 is aligned with that of the Council of Europe’s Programme and Budget and harmonised with its two biennial budget cycles in order to enhance consistency, complementarity and co-ordination.

Figure 2

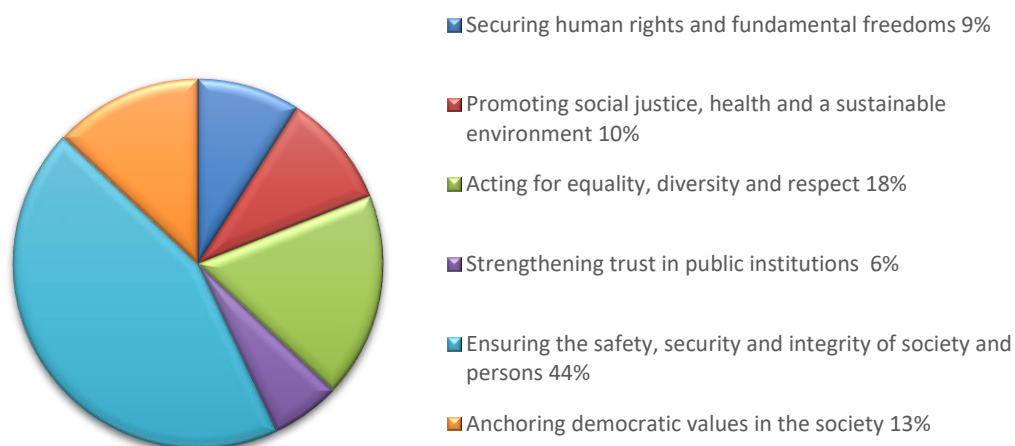


Figure 2: Estimated budget detailed by sectors of the Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia 2026-2029

4.5 GOVERNANCE

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM) is responsible for assessing the overall outcomes of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership through its Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT).

The Council of Europe will provide regular updates on the progress and outcomes of the Neighbourhood Partnership. To this end, the Directorate of Programme Co-ordination (DPC) will submit interim and final reports to the CM, as follows:

- oral reports – 12 months and 36 months after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Partnership, to present the progress made since its official launch;
- a comprehensive mid-term monitoring report – 24 months after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Partnership;
- a final progress review report at the end of the Neighbourhood Partnership implementation period.

The progress made in implementing the Neighbourhood Partnership will also be regularly assessed by the Council of Europe and the Tunisian authorities.

In addition, the DPC will send annual reports on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership to donors who make financial contributions to the Neighbourhood Partnership, in line with contractual requirements.

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ANNEX I: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Cross-cutting issues such as **gender equality, gender mainstreaming and civil society participation** are key elements of the Council of Europe's human rights-based approach.

Overall objective: Human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Tunisia are strengthened in accordance with European and other international standards.

3.1 GUARANTEEING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS	
Thematic outcome: Contribute to strengthening human rights in Tunisia by supporting institutions and the harmonisation of legislation and practices with European and international standards and practices.	
Interventions in this area will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular: Goal 4 (target 4.4 ⁶⁰), Goal 8 (targets 8.3 ⁶¹ and 8.7 ⁶²), Goal 10 (target 10.2 ⁶³), Goal 13 (target 13.3 ⁶⁴) and Goal 16 (targets 16.1 ⁶⁵ , 16.3 ⁶⁶ , 16.5 ⁶⁷ , 16.6 ⁶⁸ , 16.10 ⁶⁹ and 16. a ⁷⁰).	
Results	Indicators
Capacity of national authorities, legal professionals and civil society to better protect and promote human rights (European Human Rights Training Programme for Legal Professionals HELP)	Percentage of trainees who apply the specific skills or knowledge acquired in their professional duties within six months of completing the training.
Legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers), representatives of national authorities, representatives of civil society and law students have acquired and/or improved their knowledge of European and international human rights standards and thus have enhanced skills to better promote and protect human rights in their fields of action. Training of trainers will also continue under this partnership, with a focus on courses related to the protection of human rights.	Number of legal and other professionals trained through tutored courses (disaggregated by gender and profession) Success rate for tutored courses (percentage of participants who have successfully completed the course) Number of Tunisian users registered on the HELP platform (disaggregated by profession)

⁶⁰ Goal 4, Target 4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have the skills, including technical and vocational skills, needed for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship

⁶¹ Goal 8, Target 3: Promote development policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and their integration into the formal sector, including through access to financial services.

⁶² Goal 8, Target 7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

⁶³ Goal 10, Target 2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

⁶⁴ Goal 13, target 3: Improve education, awareness-raising and the capacity of individuals and institutions on climate change adaptation, mitigation, impact reduction and early warning systems.

⁶⁵ Goal 16, target 1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

⁶⁶ Goal 16, target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and provide access to justice for all on an equal basis

⁶⁷ Goal 16, target 5: Significantly reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

⁶⁸ Goal 16, target 6: Build effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

⁶⁹ Goal 16, target 10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

⁷⁰ Goal 16, target a: Support, including through international cooperation, national institutions responsible for strengthening, at all levels, the means to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime, in particular in developing countries

3.2. PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Thematic outcome:

The actions undertaken under this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 3 (targets 3.5⁷¹ , 3.8⁷² , and 3.9⁷³ , 3.c⁷⁴), Goal 16 (target 16.6⁷⁵), and Goal 17 (target 17.6⁷⁶).

Health and human rights

Results	Indicators
<i>Combating counterfeit medical products</i> - Tunisia finalises the process of acceding to the Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (MEDICRIME Convention) and adopts a legislative framework aligned with the convention. - The skills of stakeholders in combating counterfeit medical products and other similar offences are strengthened, with a focus on magistrates and law enforcement agencies. - Tunisia participates in the 24/7 network to combat this type of illegal activity, as part of enhanced international cooperation in criminal matters. <i>International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addiction (Pompidou Group)</i> - Tunisia is completing the process of joining the Pompidou Group and adopting a legislative framework for drug prevention and control based on respect for human rights. - Tunisia participates in the stakeholder survey on the use of MedSPAD/ESPAD surveys in the development of prevention policies.	- A national transposition law, in line with the provisions of the MEDICRIME Convention, is adopted and published in the Official Journal. - Number of persons trained in preventing and combating counterfeiting of medical products and other similar offences (disaggregated by gender and occupation) - Percentage of 24/7 network meetings organised during the period 2026-2029 with the participation of Tunisian representatives - Tunisia formally confirms its intention to become a member of the Pompidou Group in accordance with the applicable procedures and adopts a national law or strategy on drugs in line with international standards. - Tunisia submits a MedSPAD/ESPAD questionnaire.

Organ trafficking

⁷¹ Goal 3, target 5: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drugs and alcohol

⁷² Goal 3, target 8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

⁷³ Goal 3, Target 9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution

⁷⁴ Goal 3, target c: Substantially increase health financing, recruitment, development, training and retention of health personnel in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

⁷⁵ Goal 16, target 6: Build effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

⁷⁶ Goal 17, target 6: Strengthen access to science, technology and innovation and North-South and South-South cooperation and regional and international triangular cooperation in these areas and improve knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through better coordination of existing mechanisms, particularly at the level of the United Nations, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

The main Tunisian partners are made aware of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (Convention of Santiago de Compostela) with a view to Tunisia's possible participation in the convention.	Number of Tunisian institutions and actors that have benefited from actions on the Santiago de Compostela Convention (broken down by institution/type of actor)
3.3. ACTING FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND RESPECT Thematic result:	
The actions undertaken within the framework of this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations <u>Sustainable Development Goals</u> (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 5 (targets 5.1 ⁷⁷ , 5.2 ⁷⁸ , and 5.c ⁷⁹), Goal 8 (targets 8.7 ⁸⁰ and 8.8 ⁸¹), Goal 10 (targets 10.3 ⁸² and 10.7 ⁸³), and Goal 16 (targets 16.1 ⁸⁴ , 16.2 ⁸⁵ , 16.3 ⁸⁶ and 16.6 ⁸⁷ , 16.10 ⁸⁸ and 16.a ⁸⁹).	
Results	Indicators
Violence against women and domestic violence	
- Tunisia completes the process of acceding to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). - The National Referral System for Women Victims of Violence (SNO) is created and operationalised. - The general public is made more aware of the phenomenon of domestic violence and violence against women, including through the strengthening of the skills of media professionals.	- Tunisia's accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) - Adoption of the National Referral System for Women Victims of Violence (SNO) - Number of awareness-raising campaigns and other initiatives carried out on domestic violence and violence against women.
Human trafficking	
- Tunisia is completing the process of acceding to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. - The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for victims of trafficking is fully operational. The capacity of Tunisian professionals to identify victims and apply the principle of non-punishment is strengthened.	- Tunisia's accession to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings - Adoption of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) - Number of national institutions that have integrated the NRM into their internal procedures

⁷⁷ Goal 5, Target 1: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls worldwide

⁷⁸ Goal 5, Target 2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private life, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

⁷⁹ Goal 5, target c: Adopt and implement effective policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels and strengthen existing ones

⁸⁰ Goal 8, Target 7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

⁸¹ Goal 8, Target 8: Uphold labour rights, promote safe workplaces and ensure protection for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women and those in precarious employment.

⁸² Goal 10, Target 3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting the adoption of appropriate laws, policies and measures in this regard.

⁸³ Goal 10, target 7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

⁸⁴ Goal 16, target 1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

⁸⁵ Goal 16, target 2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

⁸⁶ Goal 16, Target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and provide equal access to justice for all

⁸⁷ Goal 16, Target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

⁸⁸ Goal 16, target 10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

⁸⁹ Goal 16, target a: Support, including through international cooperation, national institutions responsible for strengthening, at all levels, the means to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime, in particular in developing countries.

Transnational cooperation between the Tunisian authorities and other countries in the fight against trafficking in human beings has been strengthened.	- Number of victims of trafficking identified by relevant professionals through NRM procedures - Number of professionals trained in victim identification (disaggregated by institution and gender) - Number of trafficking cases handled jointly with foreign authorities (comparison with the period 2022-2025)
Migrants	
- The capacity of national authorities to investigate organised crime networks involved in migrant smuggling is strengthened by ensuring compliance with the national legal framework and human rights. - Enhanced operational co-operation between Tunisia, countries in the southern Mediterranean region and Europe is facilitated in order to effectively dismantle criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling, by mobilising international legal instruments for cooperation in criminal justice matters.	- Number of investigators, magistrates and law enforcement officers trained in investigations related to migrant smuggling (disaggregated by institution and gender) - Percentage of participants demonstrating improved skills - Number of requests for judicial or police assistance sent or received concerning migrant smuggling (comparison with the period 2022–2025)
Children's rights	
- Legislative and institutional frameworks and structures for the protection of children's rights are strengthened, including at the territorial level, in accordance with international and European standards. - National coordination between stakeholders is strengthened within the framework of the National Multisectoral Commission for the Fight against Violence against Children. - The <i>Barnahus</i> (children's house) model is promoted in Tunisia and the partnership supports institutions in their coordination efforts to introduce this model into the national system. - The general public is made more aware of the phenomenon of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including through capacity building for media professionals.	- Number of protocols, guidelines or standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed or updated in line with international/European standards - Number of meetings of the National Multisectoral Commission organised annually - Number of events, workshops or technical meetings organised on the Barnahus model - Number of national institutions officially committed to the process of adapting the Barnahus model - Number of awareness-raising campaigns and other initiatives carried out on the sexual exploitation and abuse of children
3.4. STRENGTHENING TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	
Thematic outcome:	
The actions undertaken under this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 16 (targets 16.3 ⁹⁰ , 16.5 ⁹¹ , 16.6 ⁹² , 16.a ⁹³).	
Results	Indicators
Independence and effectiveness of the judiciary	

⁹⁰ Goal 16, target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and provide access to justice for all on an equal basis

⁹¹ Goal 16, target 5: Significantly reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

⁹² Goal 16, target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

⁹³ Goal 16, target a: Support, including through international cooperation, national institutions responsible for strengthening, at all levels, the means to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime, in particular in developing countries

- Tunisia actively participates in the Arab Network of Judicial Inspection Services (ARNJIS). - The authorities are familiar with the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Legal Profession.	- Percentage of ARNJIS network meetings organised during the period 2026-2029 with the participation of Tunisian representatives. - Number of Tunisian authorities/institutions that have benefited from actions on the Convention for the Protection of Lawyers (disaggregated by institution/authority)
3.5 ENSURING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF SOCIETY AND INDIVIDUALS Thematic outcome: The actions undertaken under this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations <u>Sustainable Development Goals</u> (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 9 (target 9.b ⁹⁴), Goal 16 (targets 16.3 ⁹⁵ , 16.5 ⁹⁶ , 16.6 ⁹⁷ , 16.7 ⁹⁸ , 16.10 ⁹⁹ and 16.a ¹⁰⁰), Goal 17 (target 17.6 ¹⁰¹).	
Results	Indicators
Corruption - Money laundering - Economic crime	
- The capacities of institutions responsible for combating corruption are strengthened with a view to implementing effective procedures for the prevention of and fight against corruption through priority and targeted actions. - New legislative texts are made more resilient to corruption through anti-corruption legal screening. - The capacities of the competent authorities are strengthened through priority actions aimed at improving the effectiveness of the AML/CFT system in line with the follow-up results of the FATF/MENAFATF. - The capacities of the competent Tunisian authorities are strengthened through targeted actions in priority areas such as the regulation and supervision of virtual asset service providers and designated non-financial businesses and professions representing a high risk, the strengthening of the legal and operational framework relating to the transparency of information on beneficial ownership, as well as targeted assistance for the CTAF in the area of financial intelligence	- Priority anti-corruption themes such as conflict of interest management, whistleblower protection, asset declarations, and prevention of corruption risks in public procurement, etc., are included in the training programs for new civil servants and senior executives. - The legislative, regulatory, and operational framework governing virtual asset service providers, as well as high-risk designated non-financial businesses and professions, is strengthened. - The anti-corruption legal verification methodology is adopted by the competent authorities, integrated, and applied consistently to the new legislative texts. - The knowledge and capacities of CTAF agents, AML/CFT supervisory authorities, and obliged entities are strengthened in priority areas to improve the understanding, prevention, and detection of ML/TF risks.

⁹⁴ Goal 9, target b: Support domestic research, development and technological innovation in developing countries, including by creating enabling conditions such as industrial diversification and adding value to commodities.

⁹⁵ Goal 16, Target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and provide equal access to justice for all

⁹⁶ Goal 16, Target 5: Significantly reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

⁹⁷ Goal 16, Target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

⁹⁸ Goal 16, target 4: Ensure that decision-making is dynamic, open, participatory and representative at all levels

⁹⁹ Goal 16, target 10: 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

¹⁰⁰ Goal 16, target a: Support, including through international cooperation, national institutions responsible for strengthening, at all levels, the means to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime, in particular in developing countries

¹⁰¹ Goal 17, target 6: Strengthen access to science, technology and innovation and North-South and South-South cooperation and regional and international triangular cooperation in these areas and improve knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through better coordination of existing mechanisms, in particular at the level of United Nations agencies, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

Digital challenges : Artificial intelligence - Cybercrime - Data protection	
<i>Artificial intelligence</i> - The national legislative framework for artificial intelligence is developed in accordance with the standards of the Framework Convention on AI, with the aim of increasing the capacity of Tunisian society to deal with the risks associated with the development of new AI technologies. - The technical skills of professionals and stakeholders from different sectors in the field of AI are strengthened through CoE tools such as HUDERIA and the HELP and HEY programmes. - Co-operation between the Tunisian authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region in the field of AI is strengthened. <i>Cybercrime</i> - Alignment of the national legislative framework with the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention). - Tunisia has acceded to the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention on strengthening cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence. - National judicial capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence have been strengthened, with training courses for prosecutors and judges provided as part of the CyberSud+ project. <i>Data protection</i> - The legislative framework for personal data protection is strengthened in line with European standards. - The technical skills of professionals and actors from different sectors, including civil society and young people, in the field of data protection are strengthened through programmes such as HELP and HEY. - Cooperation between the Tunisian authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region in the field of data protection is strengthened.	- A draft law or national regulatory framework on AI in line with the principles of the Council of Europe Framework Convention is developed and submitted for adoption. - Number of people trained in the HUDERIA methodology and international AI standards, including through the HELP and HEY programmes (disaggregated by gender and occupation). - Number of meetings and other joint actions in the field of AI between the Tunisian authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region (disaggregated by type of CoE and other meeting/action). - A law/regulations strengthening the Tunisian legislative framework for personal data protection aligned with European standards is/are adopted and published in the Official Journal. - Number of people trained in personal data protection, including through the HELP and HEY programmes (disaggregated by gender and occupation). - Number of meetings and other joint actions in the field of personal data protection between the Tunisian authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region (disaggregated by type of CoE meeting/action and other)
Integrity and governance in sport	
- Tunisia completes the process of acceding to the Macolin Convention. - The technical skills of professionals and stakeholders from different sectors, including civil society and young people, are strengthened in relation to the manipulation of sports competitions.	- A national transposition law, in line with the provisions of the Macolin Convention, is adopted and published in the Official Journal. - Number of people trained in preventing and combating the manipulation of sports competitions (disaggregated by gender and sector/profession)

3.6. ANCHORING DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN SOCIETIES	
Thematic outcome:	
The actions undertaken under this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 3 (target 3.8 ¹⁰²), Goal 4 (targets 4.4 ¹⁰³ , 4.7 ¹⁰⁴), Goal 8 (targets 8.5 ¹⁰⁵ and 8.6 ¹⁰⁶), Goal 11 (target 11.4 ¹⁰⁷), Goal 16 (targets 16.3 ¹⁰⁸ , 16.4 ¹⁰⁹ , 16.7 ¹¹⁰).	
Results	Indicators
Access to information	
The main Tunisian partners are aware of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (Tromsø Convention).	Number of Tunisian authorities/institutions that have benefited from actions on the Tromsø Convention (disaggregated by institution/authority)
Democratic governance and dialogue – Civil society – Youth	
- Raising awareness of European and international standards on human rights and the rule of law among young people through the implementation of the HEY Programme and the Mediterranean Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni). - Training of a pool of young HEY tutors who will be able to disseminate their knowledge to their peers, thanks to the HEY training methodology.	Number of young people trained by the HEY Programme and within the framework of MedUni (disaggregated by gender) Number of certified tutors (disaggregated by gender) Number of courses implemented by young tutors and number of young people trained (disaggregated by gender)
Culture and cultural heritage	
<i>Combating offences against cultural property</i> The main Tunisian partners have been made aware of the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention) with a view to Tunisia's possible participation in the Convention.	Number of Tunisian authorities/institutions that have benefited from actions on the Nicosia Convention (broken down by institution/authority)
<i>Cultural routes</i> The main Tunisian partners have been made aware of the work of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes with a view to Tunisia's participation.	Number of Tunisian authorities/institutions that have benefited from actions under the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (broken down by institution/authority)

¹⁰² Goal 3, Target 8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

¹⁰³ Goal 4, target 4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

¹⁰⁴ Goal 4, Target 7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and the contribution of culture to sustainable development

¹⁰⁵ Goal 8, Target 5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

¹⁰⁶ Goal 8, Target 6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in education, employment or training.

¹⁰⁷ Goal 11, Target 4: Strengthen efforts to protect and preserve the world's cultural and natural heritage.

¹⁰⁸ Goal 16, target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and provide access to justice for all on an equal basis.

¹⁰⁹ Goal 16, target 4: By 2030, substantially reduce illicit financial flows and arms trafficking, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime.

¹¹⁰ Goal 16, target 7: Ensure that decision-making is dynamic, open, participatory and representative at all levels.

ANNEX II: RISK REGISTER

Description of risks	Mitigation measures
Risks related to the political and institutional context	
Institutional changes Slowdown or interruption of legislative processes Political instability Social instability Military conflict	Continue political dialogue, including at the highest level. Continue dialogue with the EU in particular and with other international partners and actors, including with a view to examining risk mitigation strategies. Strengthen dialogue with authorities, parliamentarians and civil society. Raise awareness among Target groups about the values, principles and standards of the Council of Europe in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and their link to democratic security. Adapt work programmes and diversify beneficiaries in order to continue progress towards achieving the objectives of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Lack of sufficient political will and/or consensus among national actors to carry out legislative and/or institutional reforms	Continue to raise awareness among groups about the values and principles of the Council of Europe and the benefits of harmonising legislation and practice with European standards. Promote ongoing dialogue with authorities, institutional partners, parliamentarians and civil society. Facilitate contacts and cooperation between supporters of reform in the various branches of government and within civil society.
	Create spaces for dialogue and exchange at national and international level, particularly between independent and constitutional bodies. Strengthen the capacities of relevant national actors so that they can proactively contribute to reform processes. Encourage and provide further support to national institutional partners who are committed to promoting European standards and raising public awareness.
Change in context or political direction, decline in the authorities' interest in implementing the Neighbourhood Partnership, reluctance of the authorities to undertake concrete and specific activities.	Promote constant dialogue with the authorities, institutional partners, parliamentarians and civil society. Ensure close collaboration with national authorities and institutional partners and their administrative staff in order to guarantee institutional memory, strengthen ownership of achievements and ensure their sustainability. Raise awareness among target groups to inform them about the benefits of Council of Europe standards on human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and the importance of implementing them.

Democratic backsliding leading to the weakening of certain institutional actors and the deterioration of fundamental rights.	Examine mitigation strategies with international partners (the European Union in particular). Strengthen efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, where necessary with non-institutional actors. Awareness-raising campaigns.
Risks related to project/programme planning and implementation	
Lack of available funding to ensure implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.	Allocate funds to projects with the highest added value.
	Step up efforts to mobilise resources in a coordinated manner. Continue to take into account feedback from partners and donors to improve project design and implementation. Strengthen and improve communication and visibility regarding project results.
Lack of coordination with other international organisations in the field, leading to duplication of effort.	Establish contact with international organisations in the field and set up coordination mechanisms to ensure effective exchange of information on planned and ongoing activities, as well as synergies between the actions implemented. Organise activities in collaboration with other organisations and actors active in certain areas.

High staff turnover in partner institutions, leading to difficulties in implementing planned actions.	Maintain ongoing dialogue with partner institutions and organise meetings with newly appointed staff members, particularly the presidents of constitutional and independent bodies. Implement procedures to support long-term institutional memory for partner institutions. Ensure the sustainability of the knowledge acquired by partner institutions by providing appropriate tools.
At the level of national partners and project teams, lack of knowledge and skills to analyse gender issues and integrate gender mainstreaming.	Support capacity building for national partners to collect, analyse and use relevant information. Raise awareness among relevant actors of gender inequalities and gender mainstreaming through cooperation activities.
	Continue to strengthen the capacities of human rights defenders.
Unbalanced representation of women and men among decision-makers and target groups.	Ensure that gender and human rights considerations are integrated into all stages of the project lifecycle in order to guarantee positive outcomes for the entire population. Encourage the participation of people from the under-represented gender in project activities. Continue to raise awareness among national partners and the population about gender equality. .

Communication risks	
Lack of awareness among key national and international partners, target groups and the general population of the Council of Europe's contribution to the reforms undertaken in the country.	Improve the scope of communication activities in order to better inform the various national and international partners, target groups and the general public. Increase the dissemination of information and documentation in Arabic.
Confusion between the Council of Europe and the European Union.	Ensure the application of the visibility rules agreed between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the implementation of joint programmes.
Health risks	

Inability to organise in-person events due to physical distancing rules and restrictions on gatherings and travel.	Use alternative methods for conducting meetings, consulting services and training: videoconferencing, webinars, online monitoring of beneficiaries' learning progress, development of specific online training and support materials, etc. Organise online communication campaigns/events (social media, websites, newsletters, etc.), strengthen the dissemination and production of relevant content and resources (Organisation documentation, audio-visual awareness-raising tools, etc.), and promote the use of online tools, in particular distance learning tools (HELP platform). Encourage the use of evaluations and satisfaction questionnaires on new working methods in order to improve their effectiveness. Focus on activities that can be carried out remotely (production of studies/documentary work and expert analyses, translations, etc.) until restrictions are lifted. Adapt work programmes.
Change in priorities of national authorities and partners in response to an unprecedented health situation.	Maintain close communication with national authorities and partners in order to analyse their priorities and respond to their changing needs without losing sight of the Organisation's fundamental values and the objectives of the Neighbourhood Partnership. Adapt work programmes.
Security and logistical risks	

Deterioration of the security situation in the country, leading to limited access to certain regions and hampering the implementation of planned actions.	Regular monitoring of security risk management measures in coordination with other international organisations operating in these regions. Monitoring of the Tunis office's security plan to ensure the continuity of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership and the safety of Council of Europe staff and experts.
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ANNEXE III : FINANCIAL TABLE

(amounts in euro)

Secteurs	Budget total
3.1 ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS	750 000
Capacity of national authorities, legal professionals, and civil society to better protect and promote human rights	750 000
3.2. PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT	900 000
Health and human rights	800 000
Organ trafficking	100 000
3.3 ACTING FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND RESPECT	1 550 000
Violence against women and domestic violence	200 000
Trafficking in human beings	700 000
Migrants	450 000
Children's rights	200 000
3.4 STRENGTHENING TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	500 000
Independence and efficiency of the judiciary	500 000
3.5 ENSURING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF SOCIETY AND INDIVIDUALS	3 850 000
Corruption – Money laundering – Economic crime	1 900 000
Digital challenges: Artificial intelligence – Cybercrime – Data protection	1 800 000
Integrity and governance of sport	150 000
3.6 EMBEDDING DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN THE SOCIETY	1 150 000
3.6.1 Access to information	100 000
3.6.2 Democratic governance and dialogue – Civil society – Youth	850 000
3.6.3 Culture and cultural heritage	200 000
TOTAL	8 700 000

ANNEX IV: STATE OF ACCESSION TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTIONS AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS

1. Participation in Conventions

Accession		
ETS 185	Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention)	08/03/2024
CETS 201	Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)	15/10/2019
ETS 108	Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108)	18/07/2017
ETS 181	Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows	18/07/2017
ETS 127	Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters as amended by the 2010 Protocol (CETS No 208)	31/10/2013
ETS 135	Anti-Doping Convention	26/02/2004
ETS 188	Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention	26/02/2004
ETS 104	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention)	12/01/1996
ETS 027	European Agreement concerning Programme Exchanges by means of Television Films	23/01/1969
Signature		
CETS 211	Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention)	07/02/2024
CETS 223	Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+)	24/05/2019
Invitations to accede		
CETS 210	Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)	1375 th CM meeting 22/04/2020
CETS 197	Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	1306 th CM meeting 07/02/2018

ETS 189	Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems	1306 th CM meeting 07/02/2018
Invitations to sign		
CETS 215	Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention)	1494 th CM meeting 05/04/2024

2. Participation in Partial Agreements

Title	Status
European Pharmacopoeia	Observer 07/11/1997

3. Participation in Enlarged Partial Agreements

Title	Status
International Co-operation Group on drugs and addictions (Pompidou Group)	Invited to accede 1302 nd CM meeting 13/12/2017
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)	Member 16/12/2016

4. Participation in Enlarged Agreements

Title	Status
Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)	Invited to accede 1299 th CM meeting 08/11/2017
European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	Member 01/04/2010

5. Participation in Committees established by a Committee of Ministers Resolution

Title	Status
European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)	Observer April 2015



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.