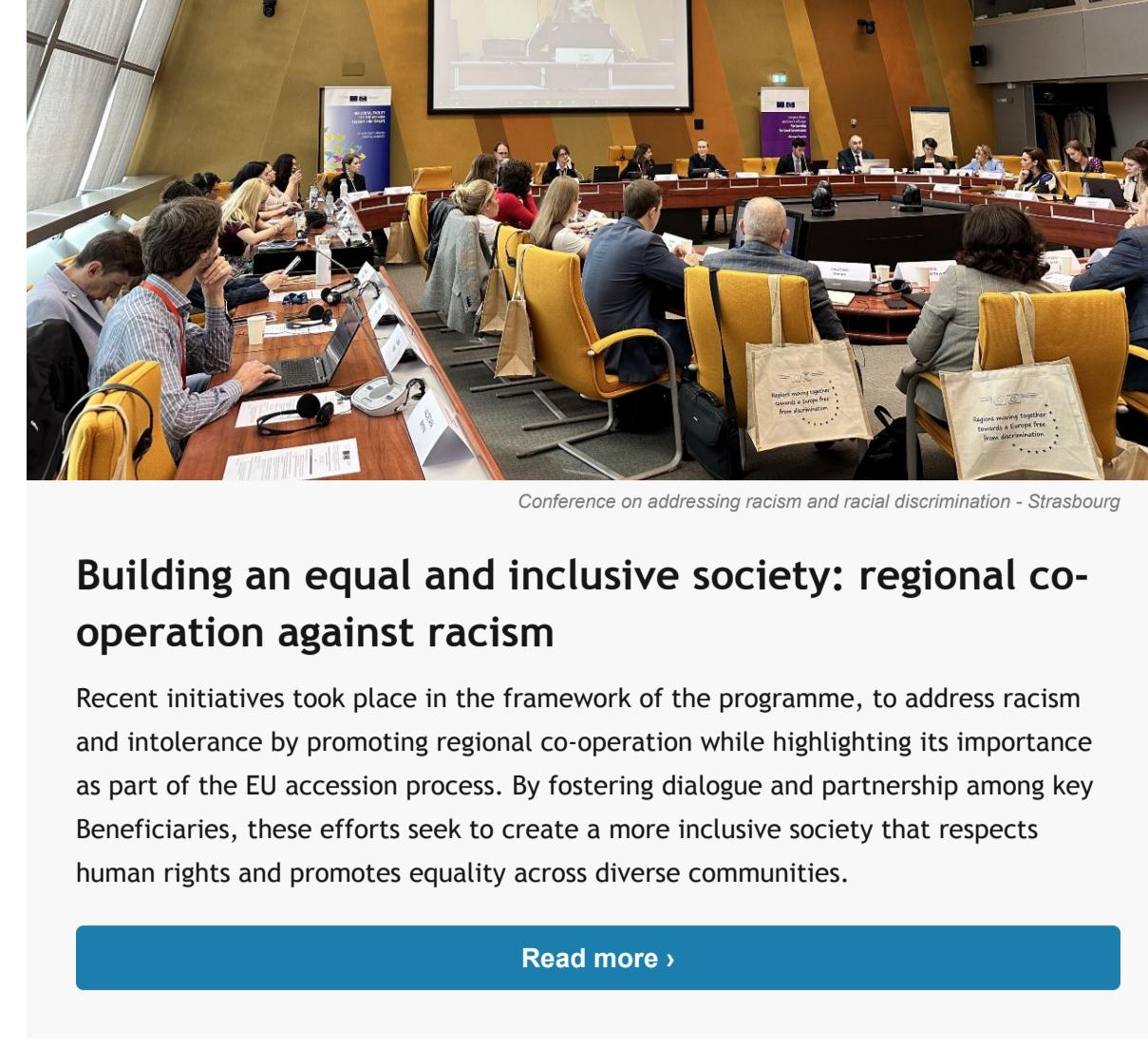


## Highlights 6 July - September 2024



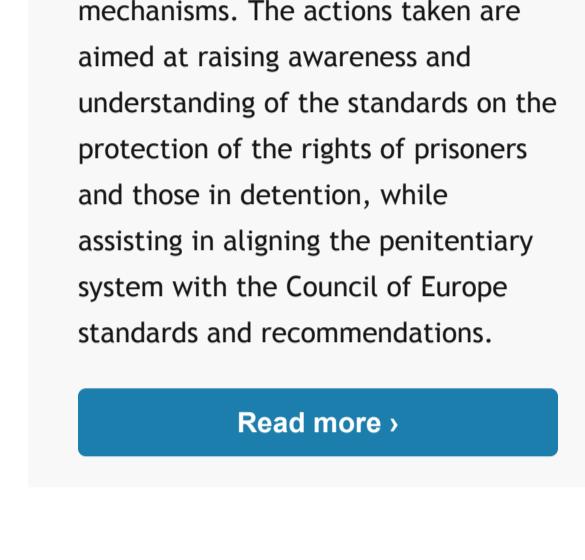
Conference on addressing racism and racial discrimination - Strasbourg

### Building an equal and inclusive society: regional co-operation against racism

Recent initiatives took place in the framework of the programme, to address racism and intolerance by promoting regional co-operation while highlighting its importance as part of the EU accession process. By fostering dialogue and partnership among key Beneficiaries, these efforts seek to create a more inclusive society that respects human rights and promotes equality across diverse communities.

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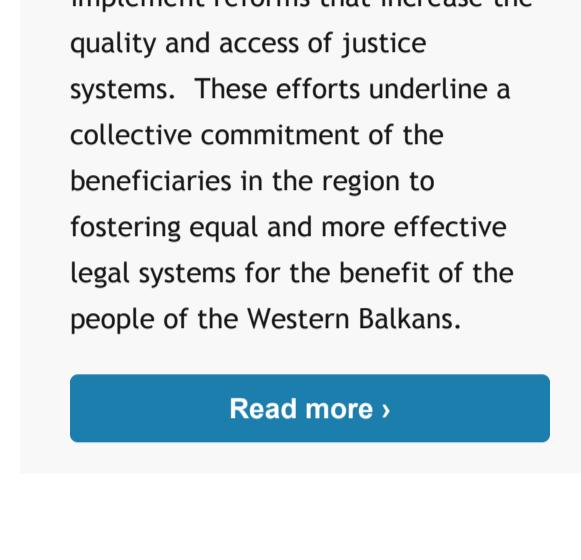
### STRENGTHENING JUSTICE



#### Protecting human rights of persons deprived of liberty, in line with European standards

One of the programme's priorities is to support public authorities and local actors to improve the protection of human rights of persons deprived of liberty in the areas of police, prisons, mental health care institutions, and monitoring mechanisms. The actions taken are aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the standards on the protection of the rights of prisoners and those in detention, while assisting in aligning the penitentiary system with the Council of Europe standards and recommendations.

[Read more >](#)

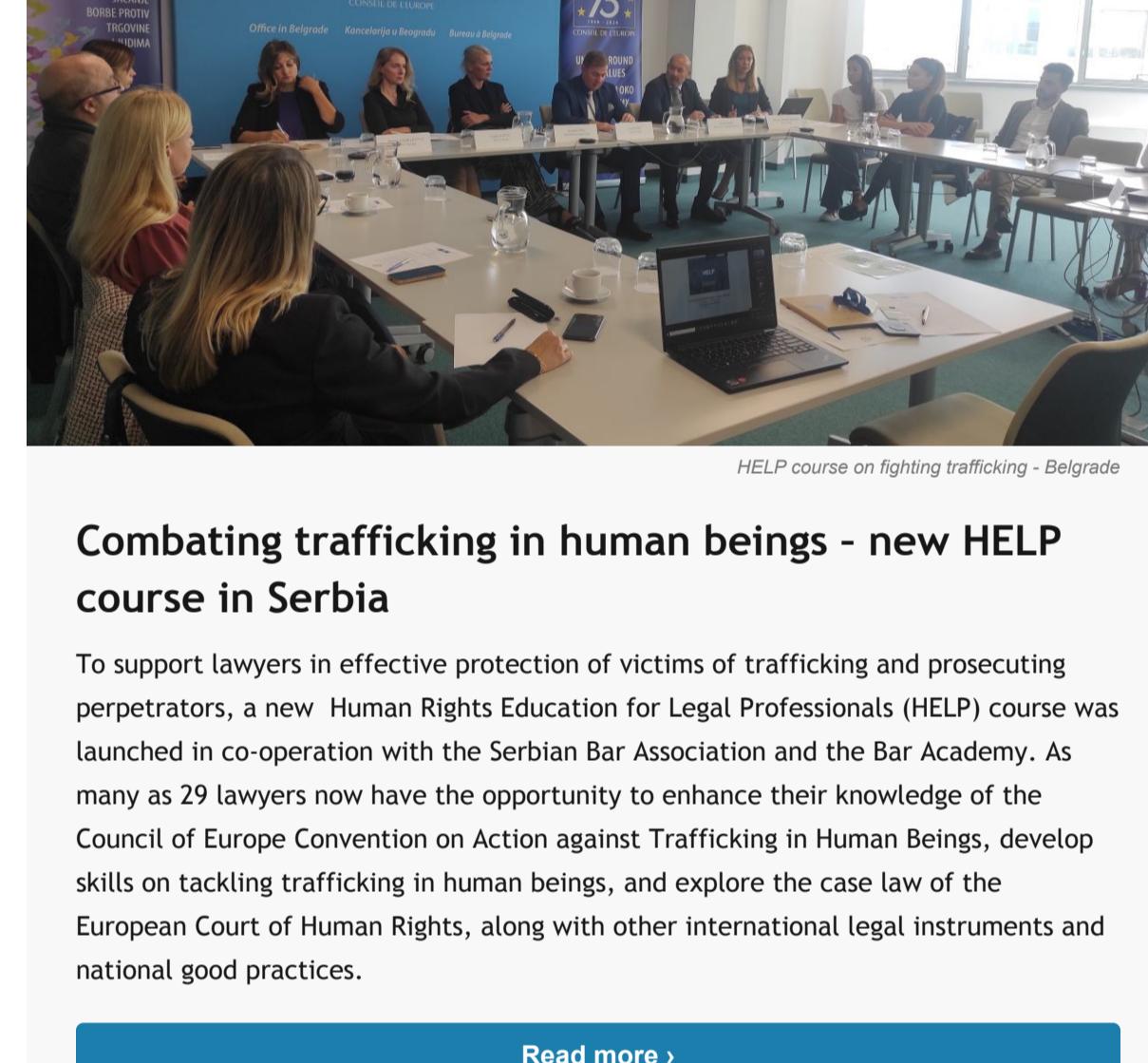


#### Ensuring efficient, accessible and quality legal aid in the Western Balkans

Enhancing legal practices in line with European values and promoting an efficient justice across Western Balkans Beneficiaries is a primary goal of respective actions in the field of strengthening justice. They are working closely with justice governing institutions, courts and local actors to implement reforms that increase the quality and access of justice systems. These efforts underline a collective commitment of the beneficiaries in the region to fostering equal and more effective legal systems for the benefit of the people of the Western Balkans.

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### FIGHTING ECONOMIC CRIME & CORRUPTION

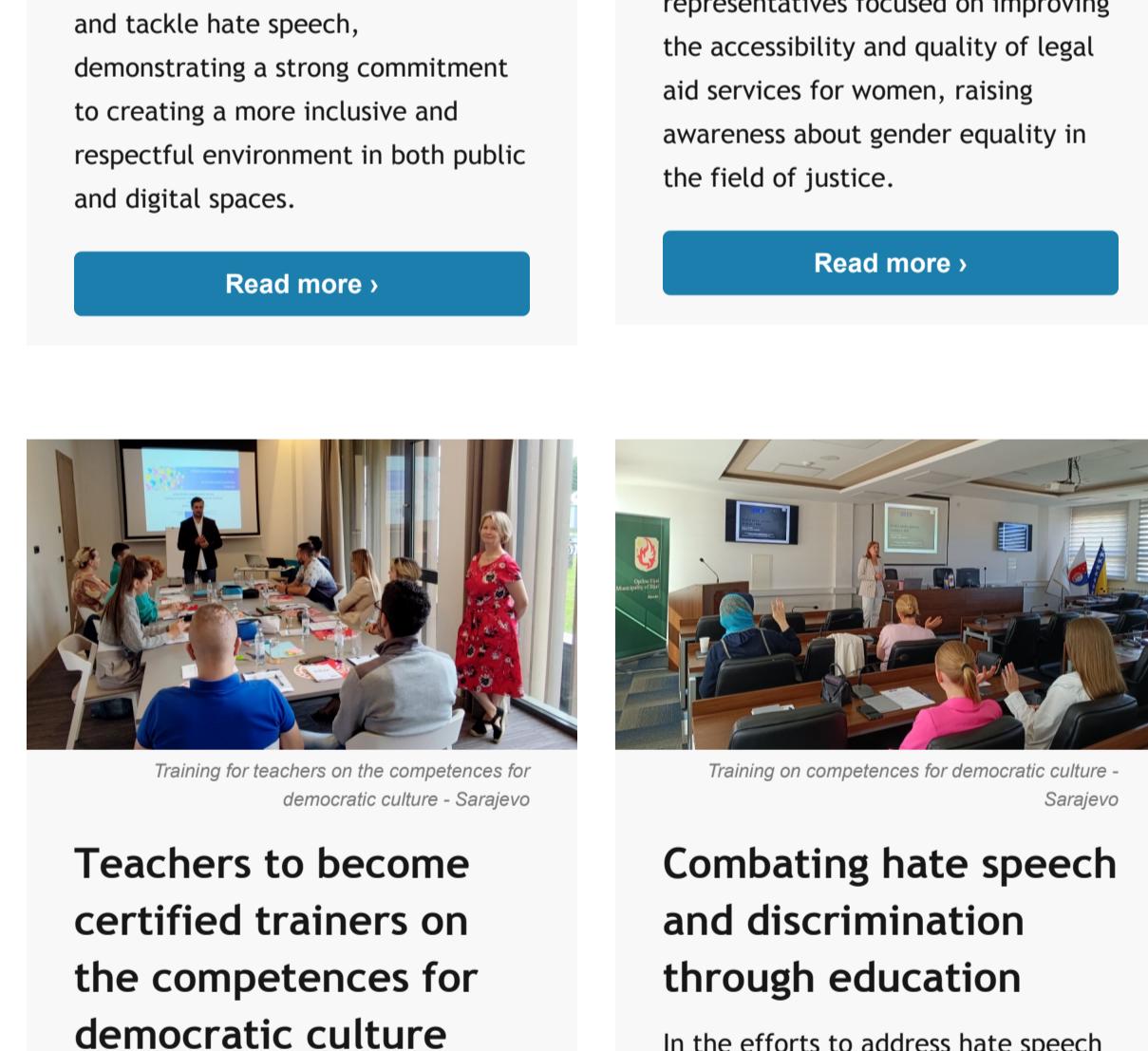


#### European standards and approaches for establishing an effective Asset Recovery Office discussed in Türkiye

A workshop entitled "Comparative Practices on Setting up and Functions of Asset Recovery Office and Asset Sharing in the EU Member States" organised in Ankara brought together representatives of the Türkiye's Ministry of Finance and Treasury Financial Crimes Investigation Board, the Ministry of Justice, and Law Enforcement Agencies, alongside EU practitioners and experts from the Council of Europe. The workshop highlighted approaches to establishing an effective and comprehensive asset recovery system.

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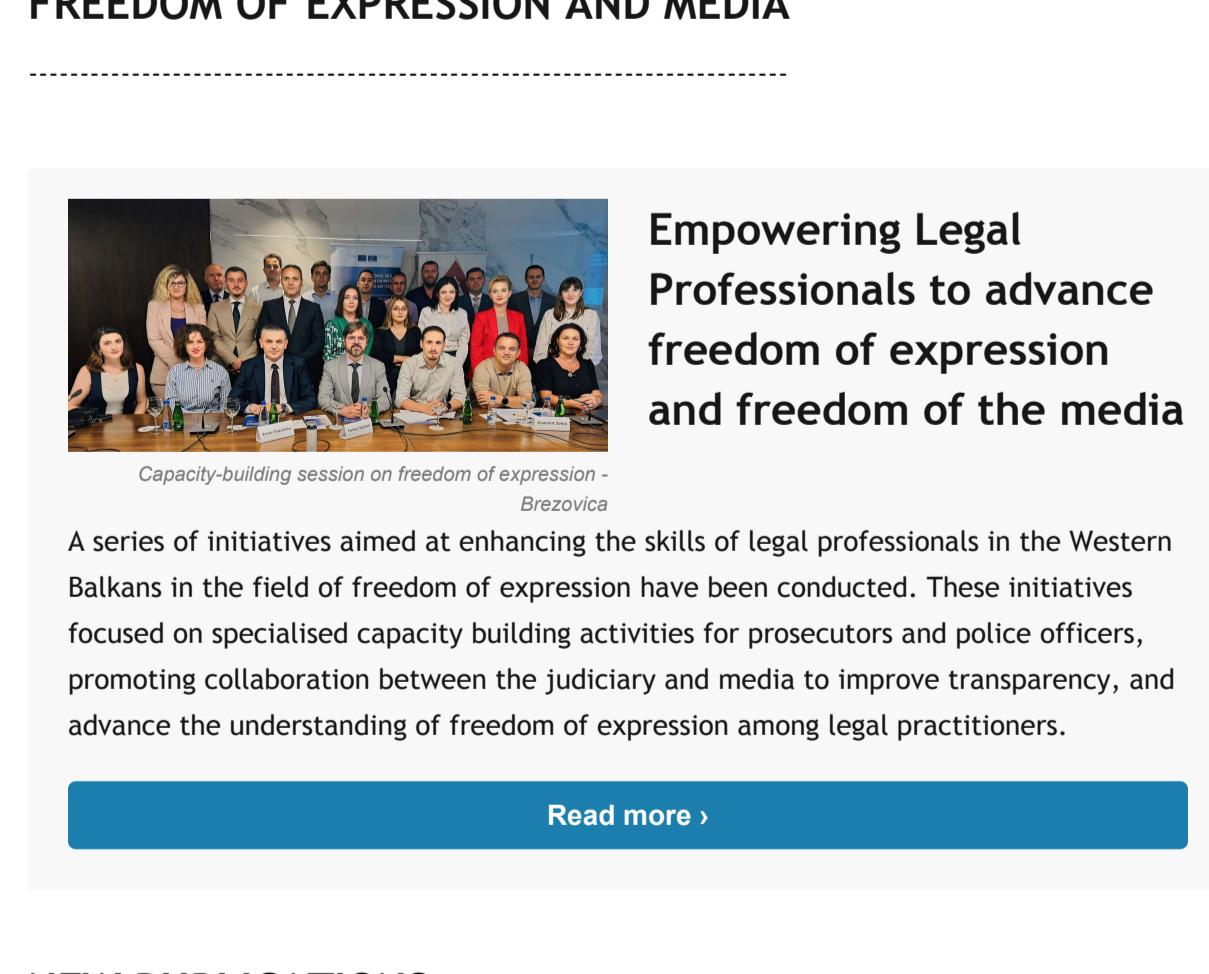
### PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY



#### Combating trafficking in human beings - new HELP course in Serbia

To support lawyers in effective protection of victims of trafficking and prosecuting perpetrators, a new Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) course was launched in co-operation with the Serbian Bar Association and the Bar Academy. As many as 29 lawyers now have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, develop skills on tackling trafficking in human beings, and explore the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, along with other international legal instruments and national good practices.

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#### Teachers to become certified trainers on the competences for democratic culture

Ten teachers from primary and secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the Training of Trainers for teachers from resource centers. This group of teachers has been selected to further enhance their capacity to disseminate the knowledge, practices and skills acquired to their communities including with their peers and other schools in their areas. These future experts will also take part in the second cycle of capacity building sessions during the next school year helping pilot schools to transform them into resource centres for democratic culture.

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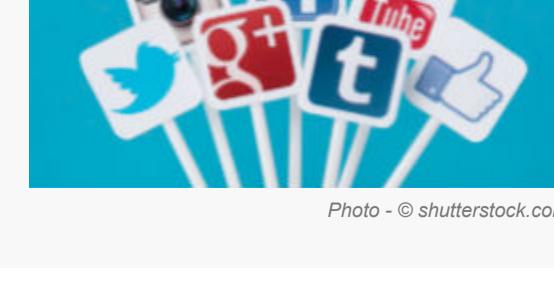
#### Strengthening women's rights in Türkiye by supporting civil society

The European Union and the Council of Europe joined forces to assist civil society initiatives which aims at empowering women in Türkiye.

[Grants were awarded to three civil society organisations](#) to conduct key activities for the benefit of the most vulnerable women and girls throughout Türkiye. In addition [an online discussion](#) with civil society representatives focused on improving the accessibility and quality of legal aid services for women, raising awareness about gender equality in the field of justice.

[Read more >](#)

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA



Capacity-building session on freedom of expression - Belgrade

A series of initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills of legal professionals in the Western Balkans in the field of freedom of expression have been conducted. These initiatives focused on specialised capacity building activities for prosecutors and police officers, promoting collaboration between the judiciary and media to improve transparency, and advance the understanding of freedom of expression among legal practitioners.

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### NEW PUBLICATIONS



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#### Get to know the most recent publications published under the Horizontal Facility programme!

In this edition of Highlights, we present the main publications produced under the framework of the Horizontal Facility III programme with an aim to enhance knowledge and bring European standards in various areas closer to the beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and in Türkiye.

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