

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Information Documents
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Quarterly report of Council of Europe Offices

July - September 2021

A. LIAISON OFFICES

Introduction

The Council of Europe Offices in charge of liaison with one or more international organisations or institutions:

- represent the Secretary General vis-à-vis international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- follow the activities carried out by the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s) and report on developments relevant to the Council of Europe activities and policies;
- provide support for the organisation of and follow-up to high level co-ordination meetings and other meetings or events between the Council of Europe and the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- promote effective co-operation between the Council of Europe and the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- identify opportunities for joint activities and provide advice and support in planning, negotiation, implementation and reporting on these activities;
- conduct a proactive media policy in order to raise the visibility of the Organisation.

The present document covers the reporting period July – September 2021. Following decision [CM/Del/Dec\(2013\)1175/1.6E](#) of 3 July 2013, activity reports have been published every three months, starting with July-September 2013.

Brussels - Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with the European Union

Highlights

PACE Secretary General, Ms Despina Chatzivassilou, met the Deputy Head of the EP President Cabinet, Ms Armelle Douaud, the Secretary General of the EP, Mr Klaus Welle, and the Chair of the EP-LIBE Committee, Mr Juan Fernando Lopez-Aguilar, on 7 July in Strasbourg.

PACE SG Chatzivassiliou met the Chair of EP AFET Committee on 15 September.

EU Commissioner Didier Reynders met the **Secretary General**, the ECtHR President and the Secretary to the Venice Commission in Strasbourg on 16 September.

PACE Rapporteur on Migration, Mr Oleksii Goncharenko, visited Brussels/EU on 20-21 September.

SRSB on migration, Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek, visited Brussels/EU on 22-23 September.

EU Commissioner Stella Kyriakides met the **Secretary General** on 26 September and addressed the PACE plenary session on 27 September.

The Deputy Head of Office received Ambassador Mara Mia, Representative of the ***Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*** auprès de l'Union Européenne, on 16 July.

The Acting Head of Office received former Norwegian Prime Minister **Kjell Bondevik**, President of the Oslo Center, accompanied by Dr Mohammad al Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, on 7 September. The Executive Secretary of the **CPT**, Mr Régis Brillat, paid a visit to the Office after meetings in the Commission on 17 September. The Acting Head of Office also met a member of the Cabinet of the **President of the European Council**, Mr Charles Michel on 27 September. He also met Mr Henri Malosse, former EESC President and President of the **Jean Monnet Association** on 30 September.

Main features – statistics

Some 381 information messages and documents and 10 weekly reports were prepared and sent to Strasbourg by the Information Officer. 34 notes for the file were sent from the Office in addition to information messages sent by the Office.

Meetings involving the Office

The Office was actively engaged in the preparations for the various high-level meetings mentioned below ("highlights"). To this end, it exchanged with the Cabinets of Commissioners Helena Dalli and Věra Jourová. The Office also facilitated Commissioner Dalli's and high-level participation from DG JUST in the PGG conference "Women's Access to Justice: Moving closer to full ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention", 7-8 October.

The Office maintained contact with the **Slovenian Presidency** and initiated contacts with the future **Czech Presidency** (July – December 2022).

In addition, the Office held consultations with the European Union on many aspects of co-operation, including, in particular, the following:

On political developments

The Office reported on the visit of the College of Commissioners to Ljubljana on 1 July with respect to the official **launch of the Slovenian Presidency** of the Council of the EU (1 July 2021 – 31 December 2021).

Other interesting developments:

- EU **Foreign Affairs Council** of 12 July: EU's priorities at the 76th UNGA, Belarus and sanctions against Russia.
- Second high-level meeting of the **Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue**, Brussels, 19 July.
- **State of the Union** address to the European Parliament by President Ursula von der Leyen, 15 September.
- EU participation in the 76th **UNGA**, New York, 20-28 September, with **President Charles Michel's** keynote address outlining the EU's position on major international and regional issues.
- First visit of **Moldovan Prime Minister** Natalia Gavriluța, Brussels, 27-28 September.

On human rights

10th round of negotiations on the EU's **accession** to the ECHR, Strasbourg, 29 June – 2 July.

DGI/media participation in the webinar on free and independent media organised by Vocal Europe, Brussels, 30 September.

The Office maintained contacts with relevant parts of the Commission (NEAR and EEAS) and reported on the latest developments in **Turkey** and **Tunisia**.

It also continued exchanges with DG JUST as regards the Commission legislative initiative on **gender-based violence** and on the revision of Article 83 TFEU. It also reported on related EP initiatives.

On migration

Working visits to the EU by PACE rapporteur on migration Oleksii Goncharenko, 20-21 September, and by SRSG Ambassador Drahošlav Štefánek, 22-23 September.

Working meeting (video) between Council of Europe staff, co-ordinated by the SRSG's Office and the Commission (DG HOME), on Council of Europe standards applying to the EU's Pact, on recent developments and on possible co-operation.

On thematic issues and programmes

Participation in DG JUST consultations with international organisations on the Commission's legislative work on gender-based violence.

Meeting (video) with DG REFORM on a new financial instrument.

Liaison work, notably on independence of media, safety of journalists, education, violence against women, anti-racism and Turkey.

Development of relations with DG HEALTH as regards programmatic co-operation.

Meetings with the Commission, DG NEAR, on the South programme (in the presence of the Head of the Tunis Office) and on Eastern Partnership countries.

The EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership

The Brussels-based staff of the Youth Partnership organised and/or participated in, *inter alia*, the following meetings:

- The preparation of the next biennial workplan 2022-2023, taking into account the "2022 European Year of Youth" announced by the Commission.
- The Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) Advisory Group, which took place on 5 July, on research priorities in the youth sector.
- The Steering Group meeting of the European Platform on Learning Mobility (EPLM), 8 July and 22 September.
- Online [EU Youth Conference](#) in Maribor, Slovenia, 27-30 September.

It also worked on a series of publications' analyses¹ and translations, such as:

- [Youth Knowledge book #28 – Youth Policy Reference Manual](#), with examples, standards and resources for all youth policy initiatives across Europe.
- A paper on [young people in rural areas](#) and the [briefing on the impact of COVID-19 on NEET youth in rural areas](#).
- Several visual and audio products as well as publications which were translated and published in September².

Visibility and relations with media

The Spokesperson/Media Officer continued to develop new content for the ongoing communications project highlighting the **impact of the ECHR**.

He represented the Council of Europe in regular contacts with the "C-9" group of senior communications staff from a number of different international organisations working on human rights in Brussels.

¹ New publications include: the [comparative analysis of the two European youth strategies](#), [analysis of the role of EU-CoE youth partnership in implementing the European Youth Work Agenda](#), [EPLM summer newsletter](#), two briefings on the impact of COVID-19 on young people's lives: [Briefing 3: Review of research on the impact of COVID-19 on young people and their access to services](#) and [Briefing 4: Review of research on the impact of COVID-19 on the youth work, youth organisations and the digitalisation of services and activities for young people](#), a [Call for papers](#) for the Youth Knowledge Book: Youth transitions in pandemic Europe – impacts, resources, policy responses, and the 2nd newsletter of the year. Several publications have also been translated into other languages.

And the three podcast episodes of *Under 30'* series covered the topics of [digitalisation and young people with disabilities](#), [digitalisation and young people's mental health and well-being](#) and [young migrants and refugees, social inclusion and digitalisation](#), all of which are part of the series aimed at promoting the [Youth Knowledge book on social inclusion, digitalisation and young people](#).

² Among others: an [animated video on youth climate strike movement](#), a [Perspectives on youth video](#), a [podcast on the sustainability checklist for greening the youth sector](#) and a [podcast on young people in rural areas](#)). Several translations of our publications have been published, including Youth research essentials ([HUN](#), [SVN](#)), Youth policy essentials ([HUN](#), [SVN](#)), [Insights into youth policy governance \(RUS\)](#), [T-kit 11 'Mosaic' \(ARA\)](#), Youth work essentials ([FRA](#), [RUS](#), [HUN](#), [SVN](#)), [Youth work in eastern Europe \(RUS\)](#) and [T-kit 8 'Social inclusion' \(FRA\)](#). We are currently translating Thinking Seriously About Youth Work into French and finalising translations of Youth Policy Manual into Russian and French.

The Spokesperson/Media Officer also maintained regular contacts with journalists and carried out online and social **media work** on topics including the Human Rights Commissioner's letter to the Lithuanian authorities on migration and the subsequent statement concerning Poland, as well as her statements on Greece, Turkey and the UK, the HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) courses on business and human rights and on the environment and labour rights, the Autumn PACE session, GREVIO reports on Poland and San Marino, SRSG Štefánek's visit to Brussels, the 8th Regional Rule of Law Forum for South-East Europe, the anniversary of the entry into force of the ECHR, the new thematic factsheet on the implementation of ECHR judgments relating to LGBTI persons' right and various judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights

The Spokesperson/Media Officer co-ordinated communications work around the September meeting of the Committee of Ministers on the **execution of judgments** from the European Court of Human Rights.

Geneva - Council of Europe Office/Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva

The *Chargée d'affaires* of the Permanent Delegation of the Council of Europe to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva ensured the liaison between the Geneva-based organisations and the relevant MAEs of the Council of Europe.

Furthermore, she participated online in:

- the Informal consultative meeting (ICM) on UNHCR's biennial programme budget for 2022, 13 August.
- the 26th session of the Human Rights Advisory Committee, 16-22 August.
- the opening of the 48th session of the Human Rights Council, 13 September.

She subsequently informed the relevant departments of the results/conclusions of said meetings.

Vienna - Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with the OSCE, United Nations Office and other international organisations in Vienna

Participation in OSCE Permanent Council Meetings

- OSCE Permanent Council, addressed by Ambassador Heidi Grau, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), 8 July.
- OSCE Permanent Council, addressed by the Polish Foreign Minister, Mr Zbigniew Rau, delivering a preliminary perspective of the Polish OSCE Chairpersonship in Office (CiO) in 2022, 15 July.
- OSCE Permanent Council, addressed by the Secretary General on the Annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the OSCE 2004 Action Plan on the Promotion of Gender Equality and the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation, 22 July.
- OSCE Permanent Council on the Review of Current Issues including the developments in Belarus, human rights violations in the Transnistrian region of Moldova and the situation in Ukraine, 29 July.
- OSCE Special Permanent Council dedicated to the discussion of the 2021 Unified Budget, the holding of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the Annual Security Review Conference, 30 July.
- OSCE Permanent Council addressing three important and up to this point unresolved issues: a. ASCR, b. HDIM and c. OSCE Unified Budget, 5 August.
- OSCE Permanent Council addressing current issues: a. the situation in and around Ukraine, b. the 13th anniversary of the Russian-Georgian conflict and the situation in South Ossetia, Georgia and c. the situation in Belarus following the presidential elections, 12 August.
- OSCE Special Permanent Council addressing three important and up to this point unresolved issues: a. ASCR, b. HDIM and c. OSCE Unified Budget, 13 August.
- OSCE Permanent Council addressing three important and up to this point unresolved issues: a. ASCR, b. HDIM and c. OSCE Unified Budget, 19 August.
- OSCE Special Permanent Council - with this meeting consensus was established for the holding of the ASCR and the Unified Budget; the HDIM issue was still unresolved, 20 August.
- OSCE Permanent Council with the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania, Ambassador Vincenzo Del Monaco, as well as Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints, Ambassador György Varga, 2 September.
- OSCE Permanent Council, addressed by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Ms Margareta Cederfelt, as well as the report by the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Michael Davenport, 16 September.
- OSCE Permanent Council, addressed by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä, as well as the presentation of the Financial Report and Statements of the External Auditor and the Audit Committee, 23 September.
- OSCE Permanent Council, addressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, Mr Ruslan Kazakbaev, 30 September.

Participation in expert committees and conferences

- Online conference organised by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the topic of COVID-19 measures in Austria, 1 July.
- OSCE High-Level Conference Promoting Economic and Environmental Co-operation, Security and Growth in the OSCE Region, 5 July.

- Online Event: Authors Talk Series of the United Nations Office in Vienna – “The Impact of Global Drug Policy on Women: Shifting the Needle”, 7 July.
- Third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on “Digital technologies and human rights: opportunities and challenges”, 12-13 July.
- UNODC marked the 2021 Nelson Mandela International Day, 18 July.
- Annual Security Review Conference, 31 August – 1 September.
- Meeting with the OSCE’s Asian Partners for Cooperation, 3 September.
- ELI’s (European Law Institute, University of Vienna) Annual Conference 2021, 6-8 September.
- The 29th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, 9-10 September.
- OSCE online briefing about the logistical issues for the Ministerial Council on 2-3 December in Stockholm, 21 September.
- Meeting of the Human Dimension Committee, 21 September.
- The OSCE Asian Conference, 20-21 September.

Secretary General

On 6 September, the Secretary General, Ms **Marija Pejčinović Burić**, took part in the Annual Conference of the University of Vienna’s European Law Institute (ELI), which was held in an online format. She delivered a keynote speech on “Challenges to Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe”.

Furthermore, the Secretary General met Mr Matteo Mecacci, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on 8 September in Strasbourg.

Warsaw – Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with international organisations or institutions in Warsaw, in particular with OSCE/ODIHR and the Community of Democracies**High-level visits/meetings**

Meeting between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, and the Secretary General of the Community of Democracies, Mr Thomas E. Garrett, 1 July.

Visit to Strasbourg of the Director of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Mr Matteo Mecacci – meetings, among others, with the Secretary General, the Secretary General of PACE and the President of the European Court of Human Rights, 8-9 September.

Activities of the Office**Enhancing the co-operation with OSCE ODIHR**

The Office co-ordinated the preparation of the ODIHR Director's visit to Strasbourg which, in addition to the meetings mentioned above, also included discussions with the Directors General of Human Rights and Rule of Law and of Democracy, the Director of the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, the Director of Political Affairs and External Relations and the Secretary to the Venice Commission. To this end, the Head of Office was in regular contact with the ODIHR Director's advisers, as well as with the newly appointed First Deputy Director of ODIHR, Ms Kateryna Ryabiko. As decided during the visit, the Warsaw Office will be responsible for following up with the ODIHR Director's Office in the upcoming weeks in order to review what has been agreed and to operationalise plans for further co-operation between the Council of Europe and ODIHR.

In addition to regular working relations with ODIHR experts, the Head of Office attended numerous ODIHR events and conferences, including the third 2021 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (Digital Technologies and Human Rights) and an event on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (Ensuring Inclusion of Victims and Survivors' Voices in All Anti-Trafficking Efforts).

Continuation of the co-operation with the Community of Democracies

Following a meeting between the Secretaries General of the two organisations, the Head of Office initiated a discussion with the Permanent Secretariat (PS) of the Community of Democracies with a view to operationalising plans for further co-operation, as discussed at the level of the heads of institutions. Particular emphasis was placed on the possibility of co-operation in relation to new technologies, including artificial intelligence, and their influence on democratisation processes. The Office closely followed the preparations for the 10th Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies and the Head of Office regularly participated in events and meetings organised by the PS on issues pertinent to the Council of Europe agenda (Youth Participation in Political Processes: Voters, Candidates, Elected Officials; Enhancing Peace Through Women's and Girls' Education).

Establishment of closer co-operation with Frontex

The Office focused on establishing the details of two key events for Council of Europe-Frontex co-operation, scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2021 – a virtual familiarisation meeting between both organisations and a study visit to Strasbourg by the Fundamental Rights Officer and his team. To this end, the Head of Office maintained a constant working relationship with both Frontex’s Fundamental Rights Officer, Mr Jonas Grimheden, and with its International and European Cooperation Division.

B. FIELD AND PROGRAMME OFFICES

Baku

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 5, Project staff – 7, Total staff – 12.

The Office implemented five country-specific projects, three in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Partnership for Good Governance”, one EU/CoE Joint Programme, and one funded through a voluntary contribution from Sweden.

State of implementation of projects

- EU/CoE - PGG “Strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in Azerbaijan”: (i) Five training modules on case and time management, collection, and analysis of judicial statistics, measuring quality of justice and evaluation of court performance based on the relevant CEPEJ tools and evaluation methodologies were developed, adapted to the local legal context, and translated into Azerbaijani for the Justice Academy. (ii) Expert advice was prepared for judicial authorities on streamlining the use of audio and video recording in court proceedings. (iii) Online consultation meetings were held with representatives of the beneficiaries, the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, Judicial Legal Council and Justice Academy to identify unified national-level indicators to measure the effect of judicial reforms in Azerbaijan.
- EU/CoE - PGG “Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery in Azerbaijan”: The second Project Steering Committee meeting took place on 16 July, with 20 representatives from 16 national authorities. The meeting served to provide an overview of the activities implemented since the beginning of the project, and present and discuss the ones envisaged in the project work plan until the end of the implementation period. It also ensured an open platform for national authorities to discuss and share their thoughts and feedback on the implemented actions, as well as to present their needs and suggestions on future priorities.
- EU/CoE - PGG “Raising Awareness on the IC and other Gender Equality Standards in Azerbaijan”: (i) 14 representatives of relevant authorities and CSOs increased their capacity to deliver a nation-wide “16 Days of Activism” campaign on combating violence against women/domestic violence (VAW/DV). (ii) Recommendations were provided on the draft law on free legal aid in the context of the specific needs of victims of VAW/DV. (iii) As a result of completing a HELP course, a group of 5 judges, 7 lawyers and 12 law professors strengthened their knowledge of the Istanbul Convention and skills in addressing cases of VAW/DV. (iv) 12 law professors became HELP-certified trainers and can now pass on their knowledge to others. (v) Factsheets on the case-law of the ECtHR on VAW/DV and gender equality were translated into Azerbaijani and published.
- EU/CoE JP “Further Support to the Penitentiary Reform in Azerbaijan-2” (“SPERA-2”): (i) Medical and non-medical staff of pilot prisons Nos. 1, 4 and 16 (Baku, Azerbaijan) improved their knowledge on the mental health care of prisoners with a focus on work with vulnerable groups, including female offenders. (ii) The project team assessed the status of implementation of the two grants awarded under the rehabilitation and reintegration component of the project being implemented in the Sheki region of Azerbaijan. (iii) An international expert commissioned by the CoE, developed a manual for prison staff on the application of the risk and needs assessment tool (RNA).
- VC Sweden “Reinforcing gender equality and media freedom in Azerbaijan”: (i) In July and August, a Handbook on Conflict Sensitive Journalism was developed by a group of national and international experts, which will be made available in Azerbaijani for the use of local media professionals. (ii) In September, two one-day training sessions on Freedom of the Media and Freedom of Expression along with relevant ECtHR case-law were organised respectively for

Azerbaijani judges and prosecutors. An international expert delivered online training sessions that were attended by 20 judges and 20 prosecutors.

Follow up action

- Organisation of the Steering Committee meeting on the Action plan for Azerbaijan for 2018-2021.

Other relevant activities

- 12 July: The HoO met with MP Samed Seyidov, Head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the PACE and attended a HELP certification event at the Azerbaijani Bar Association;
- 6 July: HoO participated in the 2nd SCM of EU/CoE PGGII Project "Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery in Azerbaijan";
- 10 September: HoO met with Aysel Yagubova, MFA HoD a.i. of Human Rights and Democracy;
- 27 September: HoO opened a training session on Freedom of the media/FoE with relevant ECtHR case-law;
- 28 September: HoO met with new Head of EUD, Ambassador Peter Michalko;
- 30 September: HoO participated in the 2nd SCM of the project "Raising awareness of the Istanbul Convention and other gender equality standards in Azerbaijan".

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 25-29 July: Paul Gavan, PACE rapporteur on the Humanitarian consequences of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, accompanied by the Head of Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly, visited Azerbaijan for the preparation of the report for the PACE autumn session.

Belgrade

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 7, Project staff – 27, Total – 34.

The Office implemented 12 projects, nine in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey”, two EU/CoE Joint Programmes and one project funded through a voluntary contribution.

State of implementation of projects / programmes / Action Plans / co-operation documents

- EU/CoE - HF “Quality ED-Serbia”: Face-to-face peer learning events for 201 representatives of 60 participating schools and policy makers were organised with the active participation of the State Secretary for Education and Heads of both Education policy institutes. School action plans for 2021/2022, including gender mainstreaming, were developed, as well as the online in-service teacher training as per the CoE methodology. A publication of best practices for development of the RFCDC in an online environment has been prepared. An online visibility campaign reached more than 254,000 people and resulted in 1,103 engagements.
- EU/CoE - HF “Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Serbia”: The Project provided an expert opinion on the amendments to the adopted Anti-Discrimination Law incorporating CoE standards and practices. An expert opinion on the draft Law on Same-sex Unions was also provided. Awareness was raised about marginalisation, persecution, discrimination, and violence against LGBTI persons; dialogue was encouraged, and the visibility of queer people increased during IDAHOT day. The Project presented the Guidelines for the Work of the National Councils of National Minorities and the Report on the Use of Hate Speech in the Serbian Media.
- EU/CoE - HF “Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia”: With project support, the Ministry of Education revised the indicators for the preliminary identification of pupils who are at risk of trafficking to be used by educational professionals. Awareness about trafficking in children was increased through two campaign grants awarded to the NGOs, World of Words and Atina, that gathered 15,000 young people and members of the public in 20 cities in Serbia. A practice-oriented document on hearing child victims of exploitation was presented at a round table on child sensitive communication that gathered more than 50 social care experts and practitioners.
- EU/CoE - HF “Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons”: Four peer-to-peer training sessions for treatment officers in prisons on specialised offender behaviour programmes developed within the Action’s framework were organised, and 76 out of 310 prison treatment staff were trained on delivering five specialised programmes. The Project provided expert support to MoI task forces with a mandate to improve custody regimes and the interviewing practices of police officers. Support to the WG tasked with drafting the new 2021-2027 Prison Strategy was continued by drafting the Action Plan for the Strategy. Assistance was provided to the National Preventive Mechanism in redrafting questionnaires for conducting monitoring visits to police and prison establishments.
- EU/CoE - HF “Enhancing penitentiary capacities in addressing radicalisation in prisons in the Western Balkans”: The multidisciplinary prison teams from the County Prison in Belgrade and the Special Detention Facility “Zabela” in Pozarevac took part in the 1st online coaching session led by an international expert, that improved their knowledge and understanding of the process of piloting of VEP3-specific instruments and programmes. Equipment for art

workshops was donated to a detention facility, as part of the Action's endeavours to enhance prison capacities to enable occupational therapy for VEPs, radicalised inmates, or those at risk of radicalisation.

- EU/CoE - HF "Independence & Accountability of the Judiciary": Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils were presented with an analysis on confidential counselling on ethical matters and followed up by amending their bylaws, introducing this mechanism for judges and prosecutors. The HJC and SPC Ethics Committees undertook a study visit to Ljubljana, Slovenia with a focus on ethics. HJC members enhanced their media and communication skills at a workshop held in July. The MoJ initiated the amending of bylaws aimed at improving the efficiency and impartiality of prosecutors, following a round-table presentation supported by the Action. Three brochures were produced and distributed to judges and prosecutors, two on new mechanisms for countering undue influence, and one on ethical standards for prosecutors.
- EU/CoE - HF "Strengthening the effective legal remedies to human rights violations in Serbia": The new HELP course modules on judicial reasoning and human rights were finalised. In July, 13 law students from Serbia were introduced to an environmental legal regime and human rights-based approach, at the Human Rights School in Trebinje. Representatives of judicial institutions discussed the execution of ECtHR judgements in Serbia during the Working Group meeting in July. Twenty-one judges of misdemeanour courts and trainees of the Judicial Academy started a HELP course on Environment and Human Rights. Twenty judges took part in the quarterly meeting on case-law harmonisation.
- EU/CoE - HF "Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Serbia (JUFREX 2)": The Project organised two training sessions on protection and safety of journalists for police officers in July and for judges and prosecutors in September, with both contributing to the improvement of the protection of media actors and the creation of a favourable environment for freedom of expression. These events were organised in cooperation with the Judicial Academy and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia. Three ECtHR judgements on freedom of expression were translated and made available to legal professionals in Serbia.
- EU/CoE - HF "Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX 2)": Thirty-seven law and political sciences students from the West Balkans took part in an online Regional Summer school on European standards: freedom of expression and freedom of the media and gained knowledge on relevant standards, the media system, roles and responsibilities of various actors in the field of the media (12-16 July). A regional conference on "The role of the media regulatory authorities in the new media paradigms" provided a platform for further peer-to-peer discussions on aligning the practices of regulators from the Western Balkans with European standards (Budva, 9-10 September).
- EU/CoE - HF "HELP in the Western Balkans": On 1-2 July, the HELP Annual Network Conference was held in a hybrid format to inform training institutions about current human rights challenges and the HELP response to them. The HELP e-learning platform reached 6,128 users from the region, an increase of 3% during the reporting period. Furthermore, seven online HELP courses were adapted to the beneficiaries' needs and their legal frameworks.
- EU/CoE JP "Human Resources Management in Local Self-Government - phase 2": The 24 selected LSGs, which will receive micro-grants for the implementation of accredited professional development training courses commenced the implementation of Organisational Municipal Support Packages (OMSP) in 15 selected LSGs and organised a conference in September for over 20 LSGs on the key results and upcoming reforms in the LSG-HRM system. A webinar on the CoE Leadership Academy Programme (Good Governance) for accredited trainers was held in September, while the CoE e-learning course on good governance at local level was standardised.
- EU/CoE regional JP "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level (ROMACTED)": Following successfully completed field missions to partner cities, a presentation of the Programme was organised for Ambassadors and Heads of Missions in Serbia with an introductory intervention by the Serbian Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, followed by a meeting with 15 selected facilitators to introduce the

programme and its working methods. On 21 September, a launch event was held with national/international stakeholders and representatives of 14 partner cities. A workshop on “Participatory Local Strategic Planning” for facilitators and municipal representatives was organised as a follow-up to the launch event.

- VC Sweden “Preventing money laundering and terrorist financing in Serbia”: The Project provided expert advice to the Working Group for the finalisation of the new ML/TF National Risk Assessment of Serbia, as well as in the application of CoE methodology for the first Serbian ML/TF Virtual Assets Risk Assessment. Experts were engaged to support the Customs Administration and Border Police in updating existing ML/TF indicators for risk-based border controls and to provide assistance to the Agency for Prevention of Corruption on better access to financial and non-financial sector information and related inter-agency cooperation.

Follow up action

- The ROMACTED signing ceremony of Protocols of Cooperation between the CoE, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue and 14 partner cities in Serbia is foreseen for October 2021;
- Within the HF cooperation programme and upon the request of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, CoE experts will be engaged to provide a follow up review of the enacted Law on Gender Equality, to be shared with the Ministry;
- In the same programmatic framework (HF-ECM), the Venice Commission will engage experts to provide a follow up expert assessment of the revised draft Law on the referendum, to examine its alignment with the VC recommendations issued earlier under an urgent procedure.

Other relevant activities

- 7 June: Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of Office, published an op-ed in the daily “Politika” highlighting that Council of Europe standards could provide a vital contribution for constitutional reform in Serbia;
- 14 September: The Office organised a presentation of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees in Serbia with the Ministry of Education, held at the Slovak Embassy, in co-operation with the UNHCR;
- 18 September: Belgrade Pride Parade 2021 was attended by international community members, including Office staff. Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of Office published an op-ed in the daily “Danas” to highlight the CoE cooperation activities promoting equality and diversity;
- 26 September: The European Day of Languages was marked with an online campaign to promote language learning.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 6-10 September: GRECO Fifth Round Evaluation visit to Serbia;
- 14-15 September: Ambassador Drahošlav Štefánek, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, visited the office and attended meetings in Belgrade.

Bucharest

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 0.5, Project staff – 33, Total – 33.5

The Office implemented five capacity-building projects on cybercrime, four EU/CoE Joint Programmes and one funded through voluntary contributions (currently Canada, Japan, Hungary, UK and USA).

State of implementation of projects

- VC “Cybercrime@Octopus”: Universality and implementation of the Budapest Convention were promoted through a series of [Parliamentary webinars](#) launched for Africa and the Caribbean region. Further reinforcement of the legislation on cybercrime and e-evidence was supported in [Barbados](#), and dialogue was reinitiated with South Africa on increasing the capacities of the criminal justice authorities. The [action against COVID-19 related cybercrime in Asia](#) was reinforced by preparing preliminary research on COVID-19 related cybercrime. The action against online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) was continued by drafting new country profiles, the organisation of a regional workshop for Asia, as well as legislative support to Nauru. The preparation of a bilingual [Data Preservation request](#) and [MLA request templates](#) was supported along with the setting up of a proof of concept for a dedicated global platform for online training.
- EU/CoE JP “iPROCEEDS-2”: The capabilities of law enforcement authorities from all iPROCEEDS-2 countries/areas in securing electronic evidence were increased through the CoE and [ECTEG’s](#) joint delivery of the [Python programming course](#) and the [Workshop on forensics tools](#) developed by [UCD](#). The [Regional meeting on seizing virtual currency](#) brought together in Bucharest, Romania law enforcement professionals, prosecutors, financial investigators and analysts with the dual aim of increasing their level of co-operation and knowledge on handling virtual assets. To reinforce trust and cooperation between the private sector and criminal justice authorities, the [Simulation Exercise on Joint Action against Cybercrime](#) was held in four iPROCEEDS-2 project countries/areas and will continue in all other project countries/areas.
- EU/CoE JP “GLACY+”: National efforts for the harmonisation of cybercrime and e-evidence legislation in line with the Budapest Convention were supported in the Maldives, Mauritius, Côte D’Ivoire and Burkina Faso. The universality and implementation of the Convention were promoted through webinars targeting policy makers organised jointly with the Octopus Project and Parliamentarians for Global Action. The capacities of law enforcement authorities were strengthened through technical training and advisory missions to Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Morocco, and Colombia. The implementation of the judicial training programme for the [ECOWAS region](#) was supported in cooperation with ECOWAS and the [OCWAR-C project](#). Capacities to conduct financial investigations were reinforced through the organisation of the [annual forum of the FIUs of the Portuguese Speaking African Countries \(PALOP\) and East Timor](#) jointly with the [PACED project](#) and Angolan authorities.
- EU/CoE JP “CyberSouth”: The establishment of the 24/7 contact point in Tunisia was supported as well as the development of domestic judicial training materials in Algeria. The Guide for first responders to cybercrime investigations was finalised with the aim to serve as best practice for law enforcement authorities. The fourth annual progress report was prepared and shared with the donor.
- EU/CoE JP “CyberEast”: Armenia and Azerbaijan continued the [development of policies](#) and legislative reforms in line with the [Budapest Convention on Cybercrime](#) with the support of the project, whilst the organisation of [public opinion surveys](#) on security and crime to contribute to policies in five of the regions’ countries was ongoing. The capacities of criminal

justice authorities as well as interagency cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence were reinforced through a series of training sessions, focusing on the Armenian judiciary as well as Georgian and Ukrainian prosecutors. International cooperation was addressed through the completion of a series of [national training](#) courses on cooperation request templates, while public-private cooperation was improved together with internet service providers by conducting [real-time national exercises](#).

Follow up action

- Support T-CY activities related to the adoption of the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention by the CoE and its further opening for signature;
- Preparatory activities for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Budapest Convention as well as an Octopus Conference (16-18 November 2021);
- Preparation and publication of the C-PROC annual report;
- Publication of the Guide for first responders to cybercrime investigations and Guide for law enforcement training strategy;
- Preparation of a study on the state of play of judicial training within the framework of the International Network of National Judicial Trainers, and organisation of the second plenary meeting of the Network.

Chisinau

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 7, Project staff –23, Total staff – 30.

The Office implemented ten projects, two in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Partnership for Good Governance”, two funded through voluntary contributions from the USA and Switzerland respectively and seven funded through voluntary contributions at Action Plan level.

State of implementation of projects / programmes / Action Plans / co-operation documents

- VC USA “Action Against Corruption in the Republic of Moldova”: National authorities benefited from advice and proposed solutions for implementing GRECO recommendations from the 4th evaluation round, 2nd compliance report, in the field of effectiveness of the National Integrity Authority through an assessment report and a workshop. In addition, a HELP course on ethics was launched for judges, prosecutors and lawyers and a workshop on reasoning of decisions in disciplinary cases was delivered for representatives of the Superior Council of Prosecutors.
- VC Switzerland “Education for Democracy in the Republic of Moldova”: Civic education teachers throughout the country received handbooks (for grades VII and XII) for teaching the new civic education subject “Education for society” developed and printed by the CoE. Before being finalised, the handbook was piloted during the school year 2020/2021. The authors, a team of international and national experts, considered the lessons learned from the one-year piloting process, as well as students’ and teachers’ feedback. The teachers’ handbooks are practical instruments designed to support the application of the new competence-based civic education curriculum.
- VC The Netherlands “Enhancing diversity and equality in the Republic of Moldova”: The project officially started on 15 September. The webpage of the new project has been created on the Office’s website. The first meeting of the Project Steering Committee is planned to take place in autumn 2021.
- EU/CoE – PGG “Strengthening the capacities of the justice sector actors to deliver justice in line with European standards, in particular to fight discrimination, in the Republic of Moldova”: Twelve trainers of the National Institute of Justice learned how to create a more conducive learning environment in judicial training courses, in the classroom or online. In turn, this will allow them to deliver more participant-centred and more interactive trainings. The 4th round table, organised jointly with the PGG regional project on tackling discrimination, contributed to fruitful discussions between the Equality Council and judges with regard to potential cases of harassment and sexual harassment.
- EU/CoE - PGG “Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova”: The Project finalised the Concept of the JUSTAT database, an instrument to consult and analyse judicial statistics based on the CEPEJ-STAT. The Concept proposes seven dashboards, each containing a cluster of indicators related to different aspects of court activity. The Project also delivered a report containing a comparative analysis of registers of enforcement procedures in use within the Ministry of Justice and National Union of the Enforcement Agents. The report aims to find the most suitable solution for the development of a tool for document/record management of enforcement procedures and an assessment of the performance of the enforcement system.

- AP “Strengthening the human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova”: A needs assessment on the investigation of torture, deliberate inhuman or degrading treatment in police custody was initiated with an expert meeting gathering relevant criminal justice actors to discuss shortcomings in national legislation and practices. A consultation meeting was conducted with police representatives as part of an expert review of the national normative framework and practices for the detention and escort of persons in police custody. The members of the National Preventive Mechanism and 13 representatives of the Ombudsperson’s Office strengthened their skills in drafting reports following preventive and monitoring visits to places of detention.
- AP “Strengthening the prison and probation reforms, provision of health care and treatment of patients in closed institutions in the Republic of Moldova”: Two induction training courses on piloting a Risk and Needs Assessment tool in prisons and probation were conducted with the National Administration of Penitentiaries and the National Probation Inspectorate. The pilot Day Centre for rehabilitation of offenders on probation was provided with modern IT equipment and furniture. Two professional development courses were offered to 35 prison medical and non-medical staff, on the Management of public health emergencies and on Quality Management in Hospital institutions.
- AP “Promoting European standards in the audiovisual regulation of the Republic of Moldova”: Three feature-length documentaries, developed with CoE support, premiered nationally with an audience of 150 people, including high-ranking government officials and representatives of the international community in the country. In addition, a five-day intensive course for filmmakers on the production of short documentaries on human rights; and a three-day training course for independent journalists on “Information disorder: misinformation, malinformation and disinformation” took place in Chisinau.
- AP “Improving Electoral Practice in the Republic of Moldova, Phase II”: The Project delivered training courses to electoral officials from 69 electoral management bodies to better conduct the September elections for the People’s Assembly of Gagauzia. In this context, a Democracy Café creating a dialogue platform for young voters was piloted. The design of new functionalities for the distance e-learning platform and electronic register of experts trained and certified by the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training was launched. In addition, the Project conducted a study that mapped obstacles to efficient cooperation/communication between the Central Elections Commission, political parties, and other electoral stakeholders.
- AP “Combating violence against children in the Republic of Moldova”: Fifty-four kindergarten teachers from all over the country increased their capacities and knowledge on child sexual abuse. With regard to the local interagency mechanism related to fighting violence against children, the Project involved more than 90 teachers, social workers, doctors, police officers in a training course, while safety in sport for children was discussed at a workshop with 25 sports managers and directors of sports schools. The Draft Methodology on psychological evaluation of children victims of abuse, and Draft Guidelines on the implementation of the local interagency collaboration mechanism, were developed via a public event in consultation with all relevant authorities and partners.

Other relevant activities

- On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the Republic of Moldova’s membership of the CoE, a video highlighting the key achievements since the last celebration reached 2,100 followers on Facebook and had 114 views on LinkedIn. In addition, a special press release was distributed through the database of the media partner IPN to 1500 entities. The Office newsletter was distributed monthly to over 800 national partners, donors, and beneficiaries of

CoE projects in the Republic of Moldova. By the end of September, the Office's Facebook page had reached 1,400 followers;

- 16-17 August: The Head of Office had meetings with the new Speaker of Parliament and with the heads of the parliamentary committees on legal affairs, foreign affairs and education, culture and media, to discuss possible areas of cooperation with the CoE;
- 7 September: The Head of Office participated in the meeting of the High-Level ad-hoc Working Group on the Judiciary Reform with national stakeholders;
- 15 September: The Head of Office held a meeting with the new Minister of Justice to discuss future areas of cooperation and developments pertaining to the justice reform and support to the High-Level ad-hoc Working Group on the Judiciary Reform;
- 17 September: The Head of Office met the new Minister of Labour and Social Protection to discuss areas of cooperation and prospects for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 8 -11 July: A 24-member delegation of the PACE observed early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova. The Office facilitated the organisation of meetings for the PACE pre-electoral and electoral missions with Moldovan authorities, electoral candidates, NGOs, media, and the diplomatic community and also translated and disseminated the press statement of the PACE mission.

Kyiv**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 11, project staff – 48, total staff – 59.

The Office implemented 19 projects, one in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Partnership for Good Governance”, three EU/CoE Joint Programmes, one funded through the HRTF, and 14 projects funded through voluntary contributions.

State of implementation of projects/programmes

- AP “Supporting institutions to combat ill-treatment in Ukraine”: In July, the Project together with the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) institutionalised through a degree for SBI-staff the “Standards and Standardized Programmes of Initial and In-service SBI Staff Training” and began the development of the first model course. In August, the Project completed the final phase of research on effective investigations covering prosecutors, investigators, judges, advocates, NGOs, forensic experts in five regions. In September, the SBI reported that 100% of its investigators and operative staff were using the internal online education platform created with project support. On 2 and 3 September, 40 investigators and operative staff of the SBI underwent two training courses.
- AP “Combatting violence against women in Ukraine”: Two CSOs have been awarded grants to raise awareness about the CoE Istanbul Convention. A documentary on the impact of the Istanbul Convention was translated into Ukrainian. A video about the Istanbul Convention in Ukraine was produced that outlines the history of Ukraine’s signature of the Istanbul Convention, explains its four pillars and describes the positive changes which will take place following Ukraine’s ratification of the Convention.
- AP “Combating violence against children in Ukraine”: On 26 August, the Project organised a workshop for the Office of the Ombudsperson and its regional representatives on monitoring children’s rights and child protection. Furthermore, on 6-7 September, a two-day online training on “Investigative Interviewing of Children” was organised for representatives of the investigative and juvenile prevention divisions of the National Police. A three-day online training of trainers to prevent and combat sexual violence against children (“KIKO AND THE HAND” “Protective teachers - Protected children”) was organised on 22-24 September.
- AP “Enhancing decentralisation and public administration reform in Ukraine” The Project has focused on the national legal framework relating to legal personality at local level: (i) In July-September it conducted six thematic meetings; (ii) In September, it prepared six reports analysing the legal frameworks and practices in the 20 selected CoE member States. In the context of improving the draft law on Public consultations for the Parliament’s second reading, the Project prepared a Comparative Analysis of European Practices on Public Consultations. As a follow-up to the legal analysis of this draft law, as well as the law on local state administrations, the project’s local experts took part in the specialised Task Forces in the Parliament to ensure incorporation of the CoE’s recommendations into the draft laws. The Project further produced three methodological recommendations relating to the transition from voluntary amalgamation to administration and human resources management at local level and the “starosta” institution. In September, the Project also supported two high-level policy development discussions, the round table on “Administrative-territorial set-up: new realities and rules” and the Richelieu Forum 2021 on modern public service in Ukraine.

- AP "Youth for Democracy in Ukraine": In July and September, the Project trained 37 women and 21 men representatives of ten local communities to apply standards and approaches of the CoE in the field of youth participation and civic engagement during three 5-day training seminars. During August-September, project experts provided mentoring to teams from 10 local communities and 14 youth centres. In August, young people who face discrimination and representatives of local public authorities, youth organisations and organisations working with young people in Ukraine learnt about CoE standards and tools for preventing and combating discrimination during a 4-day training seminar. The third Steering Committee meeting of the project was organised on 22 September.
- AP "Supporting the transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice in Ukraine – Phase II": More than 200 representatives of the national judiciary were familiarised with the results of the study on national court practice on application of the gender quota at 2020 local elections during a high-level conference on election dispute resolution held in cooperation with the Supreme Court. Offline and online participants of the V Ukrainian Women's Congress became aware of CoE standards and good practices on the promotion of non-discrimination and combatting sexism at the local level. A compendium of 20 CoE documents on "Gender Equality. Political participation and representation" was published and made available online.
- AP "Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine": The XVI Ukrainian Municipal Forum was organised jointly with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) in July with the participation of about 500 mayors and was used as an opportunity to present the results of the three-year project. A new e-learning module on preventing and combatting sexism at local level was developed to complement the gender mainstreaming e-course proposed by the AUC to the local authorities. A Handbook on Open Local Government and Public Ethics in Ukraine was updated to include the most recent international standards, domestic legislation, and case-law. Two assessments were conducted on open government and the implementation of human rights standards at local level.
- AP "Strengthening civil participation in democratic decision making in Ukraine": Five municipalities adopted a statute of a territorial community, featuring a comprehensive and facilitatory legal framework for participation, five municipalities introduced an innovative participation mechanism "School Participatory Budgeting", and three municipalities piloted a mechanism for engaging citizens in urban public space planning in accordance with the recommendations of the project. The Academy of Civil Participation in Stryi started the implementation of the participatory framework for joint development of the action plan on the implementation of the statute by local officials and civil society representatives. Through its Civiclub instrument in the Dubliany micro-community, the Project facilitated dialogue to elaborate a strategic plan. The Project managed to unite key stakeholders and obtain commitments around the goals of the advocacy plan to implement subnational participatory budgeting in Ukraine.
- AP "Protecting national minorities, including Roma, and minority languages in Ukraine": The Project provided technical support in organising regional consultations with national minorities and Roma for the State Service on Ethnic Policy and Freedom of Conscience. The consultations were conducted in the Transcarpathia region from 13-16 September (Uzhgorod, Beregovo, Mukachevo, Nizhnya Apsha) and included 30 minority representatives and local authorities. Separate meetings were conducted with Roma NGOs on the Roma National Action Plan. The Project supported the development of the National Roma Strategy that was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in July. An expert opinion on the Law on National Minorities was provided to the Parliament Committee on Human Rights. A round-table discussion on the Law

of Indigenous People was organised in Melitopol on 9 August. The Local Initiative Groups in Melitopol, Krasnosilka and Turrie-Remeta and Lutsk conducted six events and four working meetings. The working group on Codification of the Romani Language finalised the curriculum for the 1st-2nd grades and the Romani Alphabet. An Information Campaign on national minorities was launched in July.

- AP "Human Rights Compliant Criminal Justice System in Ukraine": In July, in support of the execution of general measures stemming from the judgments of the ECtHR against Ukraine concerning ill-treatment, at the request of the Verkhovna Rada's Law Enforcement Committee, the Project provided expert comments on the Draft Law No. 5336 aimed at amending the definition of torture. In July-August, the last phase of the research concerning the effective investigation of ill-treatment was completed in cooperation with the Project "Supporting Institutions to Combat Ill-Treatment in Ukraine". In August-September, the last phase of the research on the application of pre-trial detention and house arrest in Ukraine was conducted, pending drafting of a consolidated final report. In September, a high-level conference dedicated to the reform of the public prosecution service was held to discuss the achievements and challenges of the reform, as well as the next steps.
- AP "Supporting constitutional and legal reforms, constitutional justice and assisting the Verkhovna Rada in conducting reforms aimed at enhancing its efficiency - Phase 2": The Project provided expert assistance for improving the electoral legislation after the local elections in Ukraine and worked on the scientific and practical commentary to the Election Code of Ukraine. As a follow-up on the Venice Commission's Opinion on the Draft Law on Political Parties in Ukraine, a series of round tables were held on 23 April, 23 June and 2 July, to discuss improving the legal regulation of political parties and implementing the recommendations made by the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR. During July-September, project experts prepared an updated edition of the "Rule of Law Checklist for Ukraine". This research is a tool for the practical evaluation of the state of compliance with the rule of law and its constituents in both rulemaking and law enforcement activities.
- AP "Support for judicial institutions and processes to strengthen access to justice in Ukraine": During July-September, the VI International Forum «Mediation and Law» was held in Odessa with project support in a hybrid format, with more than 150 participants including judges, mediators, advocates, and legal practitioners. On 30 September – 1 October, the X Annual Judicial Forum "Independent judiciary – the basis of the state in time of turbulence" was held. The Forum was organised jointly by the Project and the All-Ukrainian NGO "Ukrainian Bar Association" with the support of the LCF Legal Group, with more than 300 participants, including judges, mediators, advocates, and legal practitioners.
- AP "Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions – Phase II": The Project launched a cooperation with five communities (Berdyansk, Kramatorsk, Kryvyi Rih, Storogynets, and Tairiv) selected as partners for the project component on promoting better integration of IDPs. In July, the Project in cooperation with the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories held the summer school "Local Initiatives for Lasting Solutions" for partner communities. As a result, five work plans were elaborated to be jointly implemented by the end of 2022. In September, the Project supported a two-day forum on internal displacement that brought together over 100 officials, public servants, and civil society activists, to elaborate practical recommendations on social allowance and pensions for IDPs, housing programmes and compensation for damaged housing, and digitisation of services for IDPs and the conflict-affected population. The recommendations will feed into the drafting of the government's new Action Plan for the Strategy on IDPs integration and durable solutions until 2023. During the Forum, the Strategy elaborated with project support successfully passed

through the Government Committee and was recommended to the Government of Ukraine for adoption.

- EU/CoE JP "EU and Council of Europe working together to support freedom of media in Ukraine": The Project organised training for prosecutors on efficient investigation of crimes against journalists. A platform for cooperation on the safety of journalists was set up as a result of a memorandum of understanding between civil society organisations and the Prosecutor General's Office with the support of the Project. The handbook for judges on criminal legal protection of journalists was finalised. The Project provided expert and organisational assistance to the strategic session for the public broadcaster's editorial teams producing content on and for national minorities, as well as to the presentation of the second season of documentaries "Shades of Ukraine" featuring minority communities and their way of life. The need to update Ukrainian audiovisual legislation according to CoE standards and the EU's Audiovisual Media Services Directive was discussed during Kyiv Media Week in September.

- EU/CoE JP "European Union and Council of Europe working together to strengthen the Ombudsperson's capacity to protect human rights in Ukraine": The Draft law of Ukraine on "National Commission in the field of data protection and access to public information" has been developed and presented for discussion at a round table organised jointly with two Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights and Digital Transformations, and the Ombudsperson's Office. The Project prepared two analytical documents: i) Analysis of the European models of the independent oversight authority in the field of data protection and access to public information, and ii) Analysis of the national judicial practice in the field of data protection. Assisting the Ombudsperson's Office, the Project developed Communication Strategies on the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and Data Protection. The Project, jointly with the Ombudsperson's Office and the Ukrainian School of Governance, launched an online training course on "Data Protection" for eight groups of public servants (with 430 participants so far). The online training courses were followed by off-line practical sessions. The Project developed training materials on data protection customised to the needs of judges and executive authorities. The revised version of the Handbook on Personal Data Protection was prepared and disseminated among the participants of the advanced training on data protection for public servants.

- EU/CoE JP "EU and Council of Europe working together to support the Prison Reform in Ukraine" (SPERU): The Project updated the Guide on Prisoners' Legal Rights and published its e-version on the CoE Ukraine website, 500 printed copies of the Guide were distributed among penitentiary institutions. The rehabilitation programme "Problem Solving as Transferrable Skills for Prisoners" was piloted in two correctional colonies, N 6 and N 65, separately for 14 female and 13 male adult prisoners. The 4th round of online training "Application of the Risk and Needs Assessment tool and individual sentence planning for sentenced offenders" started for the staff of eight selected prisons.

- EU/CoE - PGG "Strengthening measures to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism in Ukraine": On 7 September, 46 judges of district courts attended the online training on the adjudication of money laundering cases. Further to the request of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, work is in progress to prepare a legal opinion on the proposed draft legislative amendments concerning the indication and submission of information on the ultimate beneficial owner and ownership structure of a legal entity (draft Law No. 5807). With a view to enhance capacities of the reporting entities to detect and report on ML and related crimes on 28 September, the Project started a series of online training courses on various AML/CFT aspects for reporting entities (banks) under the supervision of the National Bank of

Ukraine. On 30 September, the Manual on Financial Investigations was presented to the national stakeholders.

Other activities

- Implementation of the Project “Promoting social human rights as a key factor of sustainable democracy in Ukraine” ended on 31 July, the Project “Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine” was completed on 30 September, and a new project was launched after allocation of additional funding.

Gender mainstreaming and gender equality

All projects and other activities in the office are supported by the Gender Advisor. The Office participated in the 5th Ukrainian Women’s Congress, which took place in Kyiv in hybrid format on 15-16 September. During the Congress, the HoO was interviewed about the CoE’s gender equality work, especially on women’s participation in decision making and the Istanbul Convention. Three projects also prepared a side event on combating sexism and discrimination at local level. In September, the Gender Advisor introduced a new gender sensitive communication guidance in the Ukrainian language. The fourth gender letter of the year was sent to staff on 29 September with current updates.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe contributed to the plenary sessions during the XVI Municipal Forum on 27 July in Odesa and held bilateral meetings with national and local stakeholders;
- 1-3 July: Visit of Christos Giakomopoulos and Alexandre Guessel;
- 5-7 July: PACE monitoring visit;
- 5-9 July: ECRML mission;
- 22-24 August: SG visit to participate in Crimea Platform;
- 20-21 September: Venice Commission mission.

Sarajevo

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 7, Project staff – 20, Total staff – 27.

The Office implemented eleven projects, five within the framework of the EU/CoE “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey”, one EU/CoE regional Joint Programme, and five are funded through voluntary contributions at Action Plan level.

State of implementation of projects / the Action Plan

- EU/CoE - HF “Strengthening human rights treatment of detained persons based on European standards and best practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina”: The Resource manual on rehabilitation of forensic patients was completed with direct contributions from beneficiary institutions. Ten local prison professionals increased their skills for managing electronic prison data exchange. Eighteen prison officers developed a training programme for the upcoming training cycle for their peers in police agencies. The CoE Human rights in policing manual was presented to Police Commissioners in the Federation of BiH (<http://fup.gov.ba/?p=24769>, July) and will be used in subsequent training aimed at combating ill-treatment by police. Following the project team's advice, a Temporary Detention Unit in Republika Srpska was refurbished to provide improved conditions for detainees.
- EU/CoE - HF “Promotion of diversity and equality in BiH”: Twenty-one police officers from ten local communities in Republika Srpska (RS) increased their knowledge on dealing with hate crimes/hate speech against LGBTI people, in the first such training implemented in co-operation with the RS Ministry of Internal Affairs. Using the Manual on combating hate speech produced earlier, the Action supported the Ombudsperson Institution in enhancing the capacities of 44 civil servants from Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo in combating hate speech and addressing its consequences. The HELP course “Fight against racism, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia” was made available in Bosnian and will be used by a human rights legal clinic organised in cooperation with the European Association of Law students from Sarajevo. The fourth Steering Committee was held in September and its members approved the new 6-month work plan.
- EU/CoE - HF “Quality education for all”: Through a dedicated workshop, 13 Policy network members, representing ministries of education of the Republika Srpska and the 10 cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, enhanced their knowledge and capacity to use the Reference Framework Competencies for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) for implementing the Policy Roadmap for inclusive education. Furthermore, 85 school network members, including 28 teachers and 57 students from 14 secondary schools from different parts of the country, including Brčko District, Republika Srpska and the cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, learned together about democratic school culture and shared their best practices and explored new models of student participation.
- EU/CoE - HF “Preventing and combating human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina”: Training on protection of private life and personal data of victims of trafficking (July and September) and on child trafficking (September) enhanced the capacities of 75 legal, social protection, health care, and media professionals. The new study [Phenomenon of child trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), was published, made available online, and presented and disseminated to training participants. In July, the Action hosted a coordination meeting of all relevant anti-trafficking actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, U.S. Embassy, World Vision, ICMPD, IOM, UNHCR, IFS EMMAUS, USAID,

EUD, GIZ, USAID/INSPIRE), aimed at strengthening coordination and creating synergies. Two awareness-raising campaigns on child trafficking were completed, reaching more than 10,000 people through direct activities and online content.

- EU/CoE - HF "Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Bosnia and Herzegovina – JUFREX 2": Eleven students from Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the "Online Regional Summer School on European Standards: Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media", that was organised under the regional component with the support of the Action. The HELP course on Freedom of Expression, updated and adapted to the local context, was launched with the kick-off event gathering 15 judges and prosecutors who will now take up the HELP course as tutors. An interprofessional seminar on the safety of journalists gathered 34 participants representing the judiciary and media actors.

- AP "Support to sustainable rehabilitation of violent extremist prisoners (VEPs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina": A three-month piloting of the rehabilitation tools and individual treatment programmes for violent and extremist prisoners (VEPs) developed under the revised "Manual on Assessment and Rehabilitation of VEPs", was conducted in three prison establishments (State Prison, Tuzla and Bijeljina Prisons). The piloting phase included an advanced-level training for 20 prison professionals (members of the prison multidisciplinary teams), on application of the VEP-specific tools and programmes, two onsite visits to prison facilities and one coaching session. The Project initiated the establishment of the BiH Penitentiary Virtual Centre of Excellence, an innovative collaboration platform for preventing and countering violent extremism in prisons.

- AP "Initiative for Legal Certainty and Efficient Judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Phase II": In July, the Project organised a workshop for five representatives of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) and seven staff of the case-law departments of the highest courts to promote a regular exchange on case-law, strengthen teamwork and determine needs for further professional development. A Regional Summer School on Environmental Protection and Human Rights gathered 37 students from law faculties from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, who were empowered to act together to protect the environment at national and regional level. In September, the second meeting with four HJPC representatives resulted in a defined methodology and approach for exchange of judicial practice of the highest courts in BiH. In September, a training on legal reasoning in civil cases enhanced the capacities of 27 judges and 10 legal advisers.

- AP "Building Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar": The Citizens' Assembly in Mostar was organised in July, following a transparent and inclusive process tailored to Mostar. It brought together a representative group of 47 randomly selected citizens who met during four consecutive weekends to deliberate upon and make recommendations on the cleanliness of the city and maintenance of public spaces. The topic was proposed by the citizens themselves and chosen after consultations with civil society and the city authorities. The process included a learning phase, including exchanging experience with other cities in the region, discussion with 15 experts and local stakeholders, and with 13 representatives of the City Administration and the City Council. The Citizens' Assembly recommendations were shared with the Mayor and the City Council and will be discussed at a regular City Council session with the participation of citizens representing the Assembly. The dedicated website (www.mostargradimo.ba) was widely consulted (more than 6248 visitors since March). In addition, more than 75 media items (articles, radio shows, interviews) referred to the Citizens' Assembly in July and August. The intervention in Mostar is included in a Memorandum of co-operation with the City of Mostar, signed by the Mayor and the Head of the CoE Office in Sarajevo in July.

- AP "Support to more integral and inclusive electoral processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina": Two three-day trainings on "Strengthening the capacity of media for professional monitoring and reporting on election process" gathered 60 representatives of 33 leading media outlets in the country, together with the Central Election Commission. The Project completed two follow-up studies entitled "Violence against women in politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina", and "Civil participation in the decision-making process in Bosnia and Herzegovina" aimed respectively at defining recommendations for promoting women's participation in political life and proper data-gathering on violence against women in politics, and enhancing civil participation.
- AP "Media and Information Literacy: for human rights and more democracy": A series of meetings were held with relevant stakeholders, including representatives of the Communications Regulatory Authority. The work plan for the upcoming period was discussed and endorsed by the respective actors. Experts were engaged to work on studies on "Gender and the Media" and "Responsibility and Artificial Intelligence", while research on "Adult's Media Habits and Attitudes" was finalised. All the foregoing studies will be presented in the next reporting period.

Implementation in BiH of regional projects (see also under 'Belgrade Office')

- JP EU/CoE "ROMACTED - Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level": Courtesy visits took place to Mayors of seven programme municipalities, leading to agreement on the next steps and the memorandum of understanding to be signed at an official launch in October. Each Mayor designated contact persons ("ROMACTED contact point") to act as a liaison between the municipality, the Roma community and the ROMACTED team. Fourteen newly elected ROMACTED facilitators were equipped with the necessary tools and skills for field work at two training events on ROMACTED methodology. Preparations for the official launch were pursued and agreed upon with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the EUD.

Other relevant activities

- 11 July: The HoO attended the 26th Commemoration of the genocide in Srebrenica;
- 15 July: The HoO met with the Director of the Federal Police Administration and discussed possible for new project initiatives;
- 26 July: The HoO addressed participants at the opening of the Compass National Training Course on Human Rights Education with young people at the invitation of the Council of Young Persons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 12 August: The HoO attended an online international human rights coordination meeting with the participation of civil society organisations and human rights defenders in BiH;
- 10 September: The DHoO attended the TAPA Co-ordinators meeting;
- 14 September: The HoO welcomed participants of the online practical exercise for developing skills on cooperation on cybercrime and electronic evidence for judicial, police and cybersecurity authorities in BiH with service providers (iProceeds);
- 15 September: The HoO and DHoO attended the promotional event: "Strengthening the Role of Local Communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina", organised by the embassies of Sweden and Switzerland and the UNDP;
- 17 September: The HoO held a meeting with the new Italian Ambassador to BiH, Marco di Ruzza, and his Deputy, Matteo Evangelista, where they discussed possibilities for the joint initiatives in the context of the upcoming Italian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

- 20 September: The DHoO met with UNDP Resident Representative Steliana Nedera;
- 22 September: The HoO joined international representatives in a high-level visit to Bosanski Petrovac, aimed at supporting reconciliation in a community of returnees;
- 23 September: The HoO and DHoO attended a meeting on HF III priorities in BiH;
- 27 September: The HoO held several meetings with representatives of the government of Republika Srpska in Banja Luka, as well as international and civil society representatives in that city. The meetings with government ministers related to the "Divided Municipalities" project of the CoE.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other official delegations

- 6-10 September: A delegation of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) carried out an evaluation visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina as a part of the third evaluation round of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings;
- 17-27 September: A delegation of the CoE's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) carried out an ad hoc visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, focusing mostly on law enforcement agencies. The Committee also examined treatment of pre-trial detainees in several prison establishments. In the course of the visit, the delegation met with officials from the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, prosecutors in addition to police and prison officials.

Tbilisi

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 30, Total staff – 36.

The DHoO completed his term at the office on 31 August.

The Office implemented fifteen projects, three in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme "Partnership for Good Governance", one funded through a voluntary contribution from Denmark, and 11 funded through voluntary contributions at Action Plan level.

State of implementation of projects/programmes/Action Plans/co-operation documents

- VC Denmark "Fighting Discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech in Georgia": Joint workshops with the Prosecutors and Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and separately with the judges, prosecutors and MIA enabled the project partners to discuss the challenges with regard to the investigation and prosecution of hate crime cases and developments of recent ECtHR case-law. Recommendations have been developed for the Public Defender's Office to improve its data collection methodology. A manual for prosecutors on investigation and prosecution of hate crimes in line with the ECHR standards and ECtHR case-law was also developed to guide the prosecutors. Twenty-seven court assistants from Tbilisi and the regions of Georgia learned about the importance of data collection.
- EU/CoE - PGG Project "Enhancing the Accountability and the Efficiency of the Judicial System and the Professionalism of Lawyers in Georgia": Eight media outlets in Georgia prepared video stories/articles on eight Constitutional Court decisions. These are the judgments that have changed people's lives. Thematic areas include property rights right to assembly age-based discrimination free of charge basic education for all-including the ethnic minorities repressive drug policy etc.
- EU/CoE - PGG Project "Supporting the Criminal Justice Reforms. Tackling Criminal Aspects of the Judicial Reforms in Georgia": Sixty prosecutors increased knowledge on ECHR standards and case-law of the ECtHR on the application of pre-trial measures. Fifteen prosecutors learned about the various modalities of International Cooperation in Criminal Matters. The Project developed guidelines for Legal Aid Service Lawyers on the protection of human rights in criminal proceedings and reviewed the draft strategy of General Prosecutor's Office.
- EU/CoE - PGG Project "Enhancing the systems of prevention and combatting corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing": The CoE in cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia organised a specialised training course on "Investigation and prosecution of corruption offences" (27-29 September). The event brought together 25 experienced investigators and prosecutors from all regions of the country and the Prosecutor's Office in Tbilisi. With the contribution of local trainers and international expertise from the CoE, participants discussed each stage of the investigation and prosecution of economic crimes, focusing on corruption and money laundering offences.
- AP "Promoting an Integrated Approach to End Violence against Women and Enhancing Gender Equality in Georgia": Ten representatives of the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs successfully passed a 4-day training for trainers on sexual violence cases. Participants learnt about key concepts of sexual violence, the international and European legal framework, national standards and practices, as well as psychological aspects of working with victims. The ToT was followed by the development of a training module for investigators of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. More than 120 investigators were trained during the reporting period. A new

Sexism brochure and leaflet on Gender Equality, Women's Rights, and CoE Standards, were translated into Georgian and are now publicly available.

- AP "Strengthening Freedom of media, Internet governance and Personal Data Protection in Georgia" SMIP-GE: A conference on the "CoE Convention on Access to Official Documents: Georgian perspective" was organised, which introduced this legal instrument to key stakeholders in Georgia and launched the discussion on the possibility of its ratification by Georgia. The State Inspector's Service was supported in effectively implementing the new Rule on Inspecting the Lawfulness of Data Processing. A series of online events "Media Talks: How(not) to cover?" continued and covered the topic of coverage of the LGBTQI community. The Project continues to work towards the finalisation of the Handbook on Ethical Journalism, which is currently being proofread.

- AP "Support to the Profession of Lawyer in Georgia": The work of an international expert was completed and approved, which reviews the Georgian Bar Association's existing electoral framework, namely the conformity of election-related provisions provided in the Charter to relevant provisions in the Law on Lawyers and provides recommendations. The expert also provided a substantial overview of the structures and election systems in various Bar Associations across Europe. The Project, with the help of national and international experts, completed the handbook for lawyers on obtaining criminal evidence and reasoning. The objective was to develop a practical guide summarising ECtHR practice and Georgian legislation related to obtaining evidence in criminal proceedings, rights of victims and their lawyers, rules of conducting investigative measures, advice on legal writing and other essential matters. The handbook will be published electronically by the GBA on its website and will also be published for the GBA's regional offices, where lawyers have less access to online resources. The Project completed a grant implemented by the GBA on pro bono legal aid covering consultations and representations on civil and administrative cases in courts, as well as administrative bodies. Beneficiaries of the project were socially vulnerable single parents. Within the framework of the Project, 11 lawyers provided free legal aid in five cities and regions of Georgia. The pro bono project received more than 3000 calls, provided more than 1000 consultations, and took on the cases of 31 beneficiaries. Twenty cases had been completed by the time of the submission of this report. These cases included property-related disputes, divorces, alimony, neighbour disputes and access to state-funded social assistance programmes.

- AP "Enhancement of Human Rights and Health-Care Support to Penitentiary System": The following activities were carried out within the reporting period: a 2-day working meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to review Mental Healthcare Standards and the Implementation Plan and contribute to their finalisation; a survey, interviews and focus group discussions to assess the training needs of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) staff and members of the Special Preventive Group; planning of training sessions on professional burnout for the penitentiary system personnel (social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and medical personnel); a study on best practice examples on out-of-cell activities and a report with recommendations to introduce out-of-cell activities for convicted persons in the penitentiary system of Georgia.

- AP "Supporting Transparency, Inclusiveness and Integrity of Electoral Practice and Process in Georgia": Through voter education campaigns and get out the vote initiatives, the Project encouraged the active participation of Georgian citizens in electoral processes, prior to the local elections of 2 October 2021. The campaign was conducted in cooperation with domestic civil society organisations, ISFED, GYLA and PMMG, targeting disabled voters, ethnic minorities, and youth. To promote a healthy and competitive electoral environment among electoral stakeholders, the Project developed and finalised toolkits on countering hate speech and the misuse of administrative resources in electoral processes. Voters in the Autonomous Republic of Ajara were informed of legal novelties and newly introduced electoral practices through a periodic journal "Elections and Democracy".

- AP "Strengthening protection of social and economic rights in Georgia": On 23 September, the Project hosted its official launching event online. The event was attended by representatives of the Government, as well as international and local organisations, working on the promotion and the protection of social and economic rights. In August and September, extensive needs assessment meetings were organised to identify the key shortcomings in the field of social rights, based on the examination of the situation in Georgia at a policy level, regulatory frameworks, and practices. The first draft of the needs assessment report was prepared and presented during the launching event of the project. On the same day, the Project hosted its first Steering Committee meeting and approved the project work plan.
- AP/VC Austria "Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at local level in Georgia": The assessment report on "Human Rights at Local Level in Georgia" was updated following a consultation meeting with the representatives of municipalities in July; it addresses the human rights responsibilities of local authorities, practical challenges and human rights mainstreaming in local planning. A guide for women and men in local politics in Georgia on "Preventing and Combatting Sexism at Local Level" was launched during an online workshop on 13 September, livestreamed on Facebook. To support local authorities in their efforts to improve the quality of local governance, a "Handbook on Open Local Government and Public Ethics" was prepared.
- EU/CoE JP "Support for a better evaluation of the result of judicial reform efforts in the Eastern Partnership" (Justice Dashboard EaP): As a follow-up to the data collection launch in June, a round of feedback e-sessions were organised with the EaP Dashboard national correspondents from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, aimed at supporting national counterparts in facilitating the submission of data in CEPEJ COLLECT by the agreed upon deadline of 1 October 2021.

Follow up action

- Quality Check of data provided in CEPEJ COLLECT.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 1-2 July: Christophe Lacroix, CoE Rapporteur on Alleged Violations of the rights of LGBTI people in Southern Caucasus, carried out an official visit to Georgia;
- 27-28 July: The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe carried out a working visit to Georgia;
- 20-22 September: A CoE Secretariat Delegation visited Tbilisi, in preparation of the next consolidation report on the conflict in Georgia;
- 30 September – 3 October: The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE carried out a mission to observe the local elections on 2 October.

Tirana

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 7, Project staff – 21, Total staff – 28.

The Office implemented eight projects, six in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey”, one regional EU/CoE Joint Programme and one funded through a voluntary contribution from Sweden.

State of implementation of projects / programmes / Action Plans / co-operation documents:

- EU/CoE - HF “Strengthening the Efficiency of Justice (SEJ III) in Albania”: The High Judicial Council was further supported with two reports on its obligations and the regulatory framework in compliance with CEPEJ standards, recommendations in developing the Roadmap for the new Case Management System for Albanian Courts and IT solutions in the development of an online Human Resource Management (HRM) system for non-judicial staff. Furthermore, the School of Magistrates was provided with local translations of four modules on CEPEJ tools (judicial statistics, case management system, time management and performance evaluation).
- EU/CoE – HF “Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners in Albania”: A newly developed methodology was used to enhance the capacities of the Training Centre for Prison Staff, including the training of 17 trainers and focal points from different prison facilities. The Action provided the authorities with a road map, which translates CPT standards into policy level by improving the treatment of forensic patients and guiding the Working Group established by the authorities to draft an action plan in setting up a special forensic institution. Doctors and psychologists from the prison service were also familiarised with the findings of the assessment on the provision of mental health services in the Durres prison facility during a workshop.
- EU/CoE - HF “Economic Crime in Albania”: The amended Law 10193/2009 on Foreign Jurisdictional Relations, which incorporated 80% of the Action’s recommendations, shall strengthen AML legislative and institutional mechanisms. A working group was established by the Prime Minister’s order to setting up an Asset Recovery Office. A toolkit for the implementation of a risk-based approach in the supervision of other high-risk non-financial institutions was provided to 50 representatives of relevant institutions. Fifteen inspectors and assistant inspectors of the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interests (HIDAACI) improved their knowledge on efficient verification of declarations of assets and private interests. The Central Election Commission (CEC) was supported with the provision of audit templates and training of five CEC staff and 15 auditors.
- EU/CoE – HF “Supporting effective domestic remedies and facilitating the execution of judgments (D-REX)”: The Project continued supporting the harmonisation of judicial practices in line with the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) “Beshiri v. Albania” and of the Albanian High Court by organising two discussions for 31 judges from district courts and the Durres administrative court. The Action also prepared expert research with recommendations for the upcoming revision of the Law on the Treatment of Property 133/2015.
- EU/CoE - HF “Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Albania”: Assistance was provided to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to evaluate the LGBTI Action Plan 2016-2020 and to prepare the new LGBTI National AP 2021-2027. A manual on an effective police response to hate crimes against the LGBTI community was produced in close consultation with CSOs and the police.

- EU/CoE - HF "Judiciary and Freedom of Expression (JUFREX)": The School of Magistrates was supported in equipping the newly appointed media magistrates (26 judges and 21 prosecutors) with public relations tools and skills necessary for communicating with the public and the media. The Bar Association of Albania added 11 lawyers to its pool of local trainers on freedom of expression and the media.
- EU/CoE regional JP "ROMACTED - Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level" Phase II: Sixty-three representatives of ten partner municipalities concluded the consecutive stage of the training for the capacity-building programme on Roma responsive budgeting. A series of training sessions, were organised from 7-10 September in Gjirokaster and Pogradec, aimed at supporting their capacities in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of Roma local action plans.
- VC Sweden "Strengthening Democratic Citizenship Education in Albania": Three hundred members of the Development Teams (comprising teachers, parents, students and school directors) in 25 primary and secondary pilot schools enhanced their capacities on democratic school culture and governance, and the Project supported the development of the respective Annual Action Plans and School Development Plans. One hundred and twenty-five teachers from 25 pilot schools, and members of TeacherNet, were capacitated on the CoE Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture.

Yerevan**Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 26, Total staff – 32.

The Office implemented 13 projects, four in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Partnership for Good Governance”, one funded by the UK, one funded by Switzerland, one funded by Austria, and six funded through contributions at Action Plan level.

State of implementation of projects/programmes/Action Plans/co-operation documents

- EU/CoE - PGG Component 1 “Support to the judicial reform – enhancing the independence and professionalism of the judiciary in Armenia”: The Project contributed to the improvement of the leadership skills of 10 Armenian women judges through a one-day training, where the important role of women judges in the judiciary and the existing gender stereotypes hindering the career promotion of women judges were discussed. The Project also provided support through the publication of a volume of indexed decisions passed in 2019 by the Civil and Administrative Chamber of the Court of Cassation of Armenia. The Project presented an expert opinion on the compatibility of draft amendments to the Law on Mediation and other related laws with CoE standards. Discussions were also held on the possible impact of the implementation of mandatory mediation on the development of the sector, as well as the peculiarities of mediation appointed by the court and online mediation.
- EU/CoE - PGG Component 2 “Support to the judicial reform - supporting the criminal justice reform and harmonising the application of European standards in Armenia”: A seminar on “Specific aspects of the application of Articles 5 and 6 of the ECHR” was organised for the legal expertise service and judicial assistants of the Court of Cassation of Armenia on 2 July. The subtopics were selected based on the problems referred to in the recent applications to the ECtHR against Armenia. A two-day seminar on “Selected issues of new criminal justice legislation of Armenia” was organised for the Staff of the Representative of the Government of Armenia at the ECtHR on 5 and 6 August. This was the first training seminar held after the adoption of the new Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code on 5 May and 30 June 2021 respectively. The needs assessment aimed at creating the new website of the Court of Cassation was completed. This initiative will ensure better access to decisions of the Court of Cassation and the transparency of its activities, which should in its turn contribute to the coherence of the judicial practice and increase public confidence in the judiciary.
- EU/CoE - PGG “Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia”: The Project supported the Corruption Prevention Commission (CPC) in developing a Code of Conduct for public officials and updated procedures for the registration of gifts, as well as in building capacities and developing methodologies in the areas of integrity checking of judicial nominees and verification of asset, income and interest declarations. The Project also supported the national authorities in developing procedures, mechanisms and enhancing capacities of law enforcement bodies to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate economic crimes. A handbook on the investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorism financing, specifically tailored to the Armenian context, was developed and shared with national beneficiaries for their review ahead of the upcoming training.
- EU/CoE - PGG “Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards”: The Project published a cross-country review on the Procedural safeguards and protection against undue interferences for lawyers in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Three other reviews were commenced: a) access to the profession of advocate and the systems of training for lawyers, b) codes of ethical standards for lawyers and c) interaction

of lawyers and judges. An assessment of support of for youth in the legal profession is ongoing. A communication and content development specialist was involved in keeping the regional cooperation website developed within the project up-to-date, and engagement of the regional community of lawyers and activation of the interactive tools of the website.

- AP “Human Rights and Women in the Armed Forces of Armenia – Phase II”: The 4th WG online meeting for the development of the HELP model course on human rights in the armed forces was held. Two animated films dedicated to the military service, with a particular focus on women, were produced. The “Methodology for assessing the needs of the social and health systems of the MoD” and “Methodological guide on internal monitoring on the rights of women servicepersons on gender equality and prohibition of discrimination in the armed forces” were developed and submitted to the MoD. An awareness-raising toolkit on civil and political rights of military servicepersons was developed. The ToR on the IT application on the rights of military servicepersons was developed and submitted to MoD and HRDO for approval. The Project produced the “Outline for comparative study on the whistle-blower protection systems in armed forces in several CoE member States”.
- VC Switzerland “Strengthening the Communities Association of Armenia and transparent, participatory local governance in Armenia”: The Project held Community of Practice WG meetings to discuss challenges faced by the local authorities in terms of public integrity, anti-corruption, procurement, and open government and agree on further steps. The Project accomplished series of workshops for local elected representatives on the principles of open government, fight against corruption and transparent public procurement procedures. Following the workshops, a Call for Grants has been launched for implementation of the local initiatives related to the recommendations of the CoP Working groups. The Project also supported the MTAI in developing model documents on the maintenance of normative legal acts, adopted by the local self-government bodies. The Handbook on Transparency and Citizen Participation has been updated.
- VC Austria “Democratic development, decentralisation and good governance in Armenia”: The Project initiated a series of activities to promote a Resilience Building Strategies toolkit among consolidated communities. The toolkit was presented during a launch event that was followed by targeted workshops for municipal staff. These follow-up workshops identified 12 consolidated communities that have demonstrated interest in piloting the toolkit. The Project launched the 2nd tutored e-learning course on 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance. Within the legal and financial component, legislative amendments based on the analysis of the relationships between the regional administration and local authorities, as well as a concept for local tax administration were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure.
- AP “Support the scaling-up of the probation service in Armenia”: Six 2-day specific skill-based training sessions on revised training modules were conducted for 30 probation officers. Three 2-day specific skill-based training sessions for around 60 probation officers were also conducted prior to the piloting of the RNA tool. Five monitoring visits were paid to regional units of the Probation Service to assess the piloting process of the RNA tool. The development of the technical specifications for hardware and software parts of IT system for Probation service was finalised. A rehabilitation programme for general offenders and a roadmap were developed and presented during a workshop on 24 September. An awareness-raising video on the role of the Probation service was produced and published via various media channels. A training module on probation for the Justice Academy was developed and presented during a workshop on 25 August.
- AP “Enhancing health care and human rights protection in prisons in Armenia”: The HELP course on CPT standards was successfully completed by the second group of professionals from the MoJ, the Prison Medicine Centre and the Human Rights Defender’s Office. A total of 146 medical staff of the penitentiary system completed the programme on prevention of ill-treatment in prisons. Given the recommendations developed within the

project, the MoJ amended Decree N-279 on “Approving the Order of the Activities of the Structural Subunits Implementing Social, Psychological and Legal Work with Inmates” and rectified the punitive approach to acts of self-harm in prisons. Employees of the Prison Medicine Centre subunits, prison psychologists, and officers from the Security Unit of the penitentiary institutions enhanced their knowledge on suicide and self-harm prevention during the training from 23 to 26 August. From 27 to 30 July, training on piloting the Toolkit for Mental Health Screening and Risk and Needs In-depth Assessment took place for representatives of the “Prison Medicine Centre” SNCO subunits, and psychologists of penitentiary institutions. The MoJ issued a Decree on Piloting of toolkits on Mental Health Screening and Risk and Needs In-depth Assessment, as well as on Screening and Risk and Needs Assessment of Suicide and Self-harm Behavior in three selected prisons. A three-day assessment mission to the Prison Hospital, Vanadzor Prison, Sevan Prison, Abovyan Prison, Prison Medicine Centre was conducted to discuss and reveal the capacity and needs of the prison healthcare services.

- AP “The Path towards Armenia’s Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”: To support the government’s efforts to assess the situation with prevention and combating domestic violence in Armenia, a research/baseline survey was carried out by the Project, which includes the analysis of over 100 cases of domestic violence cases handled by social support services and digitalizing and analysing over 1600 cases of the domestic violence handled by the state during 2019-2021. The new criminal legislation of Armenia was analysed against the recommendations that the CoE provided on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The courses developed for the Police Educational Center and the Academy of Justice were translated. Online media training on gender sensitive reporting was organised for a group of journalists from the regions of Armenia.

- AP “Protection of Human Rights in Biomedicine I”: Three HELP training sessions were launched for healthcare and legal professionals with a total group of 60 participants. As per the request of the Ministry of Health, the draft of the Government Decree on ethical rules for healthcare professionals and a draft of the Minister’s Order on Procedures of the National Ethics Committee in the field of healthcare was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Health. Project implementation and further progress were discussed with the Ministry of Health, the Human Rights Defender’s Office, the Standing Committees on Human Rights Protection and Public Affairs and Foreign Affairs of the Parliament, as well as UN agencies, and the EU delegation in Armenia, during the 5-day mission of the Head of the Bioethics Unit of the CoE in Armenia. A two-day capacity-building activity was organised for the staff of the Ministry of Health with the involvement of international and local experts on the Key Principles of Bioethics.

- AP “Support for the Execution by Armenia of Judgments in Respect of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights”: International consultancy work was carried out in relation to issues deriving from judgments of the ECtHR against Armenia, in particular, a SWOT analysis of the system of execution of judgments, the interaction strategy of execution of judgments, the legislative framework of the Government Agent of Armenia before the ECtHR, legislative proposals on Protocol 16 to the ECHR (advisory opinions), recommendations on access to justice, the excessive length of proceedings and impartiality of judges. Online round tables were organised on some of the above-mentioned issues, and the others will be held in October. Overall, six international expert opinions and two national expert opinions were requested, and three events (online round tables) were held or will be held in the framework of the July-September 2021 work plan.

- EU/CoE - PGG “Strengthening access to justice for victims of discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes in the Eastern Partnership countries”: In July, the Project concluded two grants awarded to two local NGOs aimed at tackling discrimination and hate speech respectively towards people with disabilities and transgender people. In cooperation with the

Human Rights Office, the Project finalised the Handbook for educators on online hate speech. In the scope of this cooperation, three videos on hate speech have been finalised and will soon be promoted on social media. The Project has also finalised a report on Hate speech in Armenia. The Armenian version of the report will be sent to the beneficiaries for their review.

Other relevant activities

- 6-10 September: A Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) carried out an evaluation mission (for the third time) on the implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Armenia;
- 23-24 September: Venice Commission rapporteurs held online meetings with the representatives of the Human Rights Defender's office, and a separate meeting with representatives of the Civil Service Office of the Staff of the Prime Minister of Republic of Armenia. The meetings were initiated at the request of the Human Rights Defender's Office for drafting an opinion on the changes in the Law on Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia, the Law on Public Service of the Republic of Armenia, and the Law on Civil Service in the light of the Prime Minister's Decree N 706-A.

Pristina

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff –16, Total staff - 22.

The Office implemented ten projects, three in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey”, one EU/CoE regional Joint Programme (ROMACTED), two EU/CoE Joint Programmes, and four funded through non-earmarked voluntary contributions.

State of implementation of projects/programmes

- EU/CoE - HF “Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media (JUFREX II)”: Three cascade and thematic trainings, attended by 64 media actors and legal professionals, were successfully organised. The events covered topics related to the protection of children and minors, safety, and protection of journalists, as well as the protection of whistleblowers. The regional publication “Media Regulatory Authorities and Media Pluralism” was translated and printed in the local language. Law and journalism students from the University of Pristina attended the regional Summer School, an event implemented by the JUFREX regional action.
- EU/CoE – HF “Ensuring Efficiency and Quality of Justice (KOSEJ II)”: New statistical reports incorporating key CEPEJ performance indicators made available to all courts, through the Case Management Information System (CMIS), for judges and court presidents. KoSEJ is currently working with EUKOJUST to follow-up with the MoJ to establish a statistical unit. The project also prepared joint comments for the KJC, with the EU Office, EULEX, and the USAID-Justice Activity, regarding the Draft Regulation on the Norm of judges. Several IT tools recently developed by the CEPEJ Cyberjustice Working Group were translated to prepare a compilation.
- EU/CoE – HF “Promotion of diversity and equality”: A high-level and hybrid event was organised to present the discrimination pattern survey and the new reporting and monitoring tool on the implementation of the Anti-discrimination Law. A ToT was delivered for the Office for Good Governance officials. The Project also supported the organisation of activities during Pride Week. Additionally, a methodology for the preparation of an ex officio report on hate speech in online/offline media was finalised. A three-day training on “Implementation of the Law on Protection from Discrimination and the role of Ombudsperson Institution”, was organised. The Project also designed the local Block the hatred campaign concept and planned its activities.
- EU/CoE JP “Building Capacity for Inclusive Education (INCLUDE)”: Training modules on Disability and Inclusive education as well as Planning for Individual Education were developed. A report with recommendations on the revision of the curriculum for teaching in the fields of activities for students with SEN was finalised, following a two-day workshop with the resource centres in Pristina. Grant agreements for supporting small projects in ten learning centres were signed with four local NGOs. Assessment teams in the resource centres and new members in the municipal assessment teams were trained on pedagogical assessment of students with SEN, based on the new instrument International Classification of Functioning. The 3rd project steering committee meeting was held on 8 September in Pristina.
- EU/CoE JP “Project against Economic Crime (PECK III)”: The Project finalised the Legal Opinion on Civil Confiscation of Inexplicable Wealth and shared it with the MOJ. It developed guidelines regarding “Typologies on Financing of Terrorism” which aimed at providing expertise to reporting entities through intelligence and law enforcement case studies, and subsequently organised an online presentation for 90 reporting entities. The Project also held a bilateral meeting with police related to the operationalisation of the whistleblowers’ channel and procedures. It shared the first draft of the expert recommendations on the

operationalisation of the whistleblowing system by the police in view of the legal framework in force.

- EU/CoE Regional JP “Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level (ROMACTED II)”: A grant agreement was signed to support the Roma Political School through the Pristina Institute for Political Studies. A 2-day training with the pool of facilitators was organised on ROMACTED II Methodology and Tools. Synergies were created with three CoE projects in the area of fight against torture, promotion of diversity and equality, and trafficking with human beings through the joint organisation of a workshop and training course. ToR on the assessment of the level of COVID-19 vaccinations among Roma communities in 10 municipalities was prepared and consultants have been engaged to carry out a study.
- VC “Reinforcing the fight against violence against women and domestic violence”: The project Phase II was completed on 30 June. The project Phase III started on 1 July and will end on 28 February 2023. The organisation of first Steering Committee meeting is planned for late October.
- VC non-earmarked “Strengthening the Institutions in Fight against Torture, Ill-treatment and Other Degrading Treatment IKOS”: The Project delivered a ToT on the UN Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Ill-treatment and finalised the 2021-2025 Strategy of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture (NPM). It supported the NPM in conducting 3-day monitoring visits to facilities in the Mitrovica region, followed by mentoring conducted by an international expert. It also completed an ex-post evaluation of the Mental Health Law on involuntary placement in closed mental health facilities and developed a Protocol on Inter-institutional Cooperation. Two training manuals were designed on stress management and emotional self-control for police and the correctional service, respectively.
- VC “Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings”: The Project organised a workshop to support local authorities in reviewing Standard Operating Procedures for trafficked persons, reflecting GRETA recommendations. In co-operation with the ROMACTED II project, it also delivered training on “Detection, early identification of, and assistance to victims of human trafficking” for ROMACTED Community Action Groups and the Institutional Working Group representatives. Training focused on international practices on combatting and preventing THB, the means and importance of central and local level co-operation, access to social services and victims’ assistance, as well as cooperation with law enforcement authorities.
- VC “Promoting Local Democracy”: The Project organised two one-day workshops on the European Charter of Local Self Government, with Collegiums of European Integration Officers and Legal officers. It also held 14 interviews with municipal mayors, MoF, MLGA, National Parliament, Ombudsperson, and National auditor, on a study on the application of EU standards in order to adapt the Handbook into the local context. The Project organised two two-day workshops on open government, political integrity, and public ethics, with Collegiums of Chairpersons of Municipal Assemblies, and EI Officers.

Follow up action

- KOSEJ II: Launching event of the CEPEJ 'Report on the use of IT in the courts in 2020' to the beneficiaries in December 2021;
- INCLUDE: Training courses will be delivered for teachers in the 25 pilot schools and in the six regional resource centres;
- PECK III: Presentation of findings and recommendations to the Kosovo Police on operationalisation of the Whistleblowing mechanism;
- IKOS: A Training of Trainers of the Justice Academy and follow up cascade training with judges and prosecutors on the training module Prohibition of Ill-treatment, Combating Impunity;
- Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings: Support to local authorities during the Anti-Trafficking Campaign, marking European Anti-Trafficking Day;
- Promoting Local Democracy: Finalising various studies including the Handbook (International context), on open local government and public ethics, the report on the application of EU standards, and the manual on open government, political integrity, and public ethics;
- Promotion of Diversity and Equality: Launching of the Share Love Campaign in Pristina has been planned for late October.

Rabat

Situation of the office

Core staff – 3, Project staff – 8, Total staff – 11.

The Office implemented eight projects within the EU/CoE regional joint programme “Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean” (South Programme IV) 2020-2022, the joint EU/CoE project “Support to the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture in Morocco” (2020-2023) and the joint EU/CoE project “Support for the development of the role of parliament in the consolidation of democracy in Morocco”. It also provided logistical support for a project on combating discrimination in Morocco, a project to promote freedom of expression and media pluralism in Morocco and another in support of personal data protection in Morocco, a project on “Strengthening democratic governance at local and regional levels in Morocco” and a project on “Improving the functioning of justice in Morocco based on the tools of the CEPEJ”, which are funded by voluntary contributions to the “Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco 2018-2021”.

State of implementation of projects

EU/CoE joint project: South Programme IV “Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean”

- “Action against trafficking in human beings”: From July until September 2021, the Council of Europe put in place several activities to train the academic sector in combating trafficking in human beings;
 - Doctors and master’s students from the University of Tangier attended a two-day course (6-7 July);
 - Students and lecturers from Mohammedia University attended a one-day course (1 July);
 - Essential documents, such as the manual on detecting and identifying victims and a glossary of the terms on trafficking in human beings, are also being drawn up in partnership with the National Commission. A training manual for field professionals is also being prepared.
- “Human rights capacity-building for prosecutors”:
 - Implementation of two training sessions (5th and 6th sessions) on the regional human rights protection systems. This topic is part of Module VI of the programme for building the human rights capacities of judges and prosecutors and is divided into two parts:
 - presenting the European human rights protection system with a focus on the principles and institutions developed by the CoE;
 - the case law of the European Court of Human Rights through analysis of a judgment;
 - Translation and legal adaptation of the HELP course on “Procedural Safeguards in Criminal Proceedings and Victims’ Rights”;
 - Upcoming launch of the translation into Arabic of the HELP course on the “Right to Liberty and Security - Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights”;
 - Workshops introducing and explaining the functioning of the HELP platform.
- As part of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) and in partnership with the Higher Judicial Institute:
 - a workshop to raise awareness of matters relating to combating violence against women and domestic violence took place on 2 July;
 - on 2 July, 15 people who received training in March were certified as HELP tutors.

EU/CoE joint project: "Support for the development of the role of parliament in the consolidation of democracy in Morocco"

- The first conference of the project "Women in politics: how to achieve equality" and the Steering Committee responsible for the project's policies took place on 13 July in the presence of the President of PACE, the President of the House of Representatives of the Moroccan Parliament and the EU Ambassador in Rabat. Several videos were produced on this occasion to raise the general public's awareness of the issue of women in politics and to raise the project's profile;
- The call for tenders for developing an app for the newly-elected members of the House of Councillors was launched and a service provider chosen;
- The communication plan for the project was validated internally and by the EU delegation and several communication materials, such as notepads, folders and pens, were produced and distributed.

Joint EU/CoE project: "Support to the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture in Morocco"

- European conference of NPMs held jointly by the European NPM Forum (20-22 September): Participation of representatives of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) and of the co-ordinator of the Moroccan NPM.

Voluntary contributions to the "Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021"

- "Improving the functioning of justice in Morocco based on the tools of the CEPEJ – phase II": several videoconference meetings were held to provide technical assistance to the Supervision Unit of the Presidency of the Public Prosecutor's Office. The report drawn up thereafter by the experts, which outlines the state of play and makes specific recommendations for improving the reference document on supervision, was presented to the representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office concerned on 9 July 2021, thereby bringing an end to this component. In parallel, work on improving work processes has continued with the Public Prosecutor's Offices at the Safi Court of Appeal and the Khemisset Court of First Instance, which are the pilot prosecution services for the project. The reports drawn up by the experts, which encourage, in particular, the pilot prosecution services to optimise their use of the case management system, were presented to them on 16 July 2021. In order to continue the work with the new teams established in the pilot prosecution services in August 2021, a meeting to resume the process was held with the two prosecution services on 22 September 2021.
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities: "Strengthening democratic governance at local and regional levels":
 - Legal expertise on decentralisation in Morocco: follow-up on the preparation of the draft report and preparation of workshops with local authorities' associations;
 - Further development of the website of the Moroccan Expertise Association of Presidents of Municipal Councils (AMPCC) and of the training platform of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Prefectural and Provincial Councils (AMPCPP);
 - Meeting of the steering committee of the project;
 - Preparation of the support activity for newly elected women local representatives (at the municipal, prefectural/provincial and regional levels) and networking between women elected representatives in the MENA region and Europe. The activity will seek to set up a supportive network of women elected representatives at the national level and beyond and to improve participants' knowledge of local governance, leadership, advocacy and communication.

Other action of note

- Support in organising the observation by a Congress delegation of the regional and municipal elections held on 8 September 2021;
- Support in organising the observation by a PACE delegation of the parliamentary elections held on 8 September 2021.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other official delegations

- Official visit of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (12-14 July) during which he met, among others, the Head of Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Family Affairs, the President of the House of Representatives and the Chair of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH);
- A delegation of 14 PACE members visited Morocco to observe the parliamentary elections held on 8 September;
- A delegation of nine members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe visited Morocco to observe the regional and municipal elections held on 8 September.

Tunis

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 5, Project staff - 18, Total staff -23.

The Office continued providing support to the coordination and implementation of the following country-specific and regional projects, within the framework of the Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2021:

- EU/CoE JP "Support to Tunisian independent bodies" (PAII-T)
- EU/CoE JP "Support to justice reform" (AP-JUST)
- Projects funded through voluntary contributions from CoE member States
- EU/CoE JP "Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme IV)
- EU/CoE JP "Cybersouth"

During the reporting period, consultations on the preparation of the Neighbourhood Partnership for Tunisia 2022-2025 between the Head of Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and stakeholders continued. Consultations included the Ministry of women, family and seniors resulting in a set of agreed activities to be conducted in the months to follow. Implementation of project activities, however, has been influenced by the political situation in the country and the COVID-19 pandemic.

State of implementation of projects / programmes

EU/CoE Joint Programme "support to Tunisian independent bodies"

➤ Fight against corruption and money laundering, support to the Anti-corruption body (INLUCC):

- A document on defining the structure and next steps for the development of a methodology on corruption proofing of legislation based on consultations with stakeholders was carried out and work completed in the previous quarter has been finalised. The drafting of the detailed methodology is currently on-going and is expected to be completed with accompanying training by the end of the year.
- Several visibility and training tools, notably "Main obligations of the civil servant regarding the management of conflicts of interest", two promotional videos and a teaser for the radio "Nazaha" of INLUCC have been finalised.

➤ Co-operation with the Venice Commission, support to independent elections instance (ISIE):

- A workshop on referenda organised by the Venice Commission and the ISIE with the participation of national and international experts has been held in order to complete and finalise the legal framework relating to the referendum in Tunisia in accordance with international standards, more particularly those of the Venice Commission and best practices, while considering local specificities. The workshop contributed to the clarification of fundamental concepts such as, for instance, the modalities of elaboration of the question submitted to the referendum, the control of its constitutionality, the organisation and observation of the referendum, its effects and legal actions.

➤ Freedom of expression, support to media regulatory authority (HAICA) and to the national body on access to information (INAI):

- The BETA version of the HAICA online Resource Centre on Media Regulation (CRRM) was developed. The platform aims to provide the general and specialised public with an online resource centre on the topic of media regulation, self-regulation and information literacy.
- The first part of content & scenarization of a "Massive Open Online Course" on the right of access to information, was finalised and approved by INAI and CoE; and this will enable the establishment of the technical component and subsequently the online launch.
- The INAI Study of Case Law issued during 2020 was elaborated to monitor the progress of the INAI work in terms of its extensive interpretation of Article 2 of Law No. 22 of 2016 relating to the general framework of access to information, requests for 'access to information and proactive publication'.
- Data protection, support to the national body on personal data protection (INPDP)
 - Work on an awareness Toolkit on personal data protection in the youth sector was launched with the main objectives to provide materials to the INPDP in its awareness raising work as well as to actors of the sector, to ensure that their activities, especially in the digital world, take into account the risks to personal data and their subsequent use.
 - A comparative study on the articulation of rights of access to information and data protection was prepared and shared with the two bodies INAI and INPDP. It presents, in synthetic and comparative form, different mechanisms aimed at reconciling the rights of access to information and data protection and will serve to establish compromises between the respective, often conflicting roles, of the two independent bodies.
- Fight against trafficking in human beings / support to the national body combating human trafficking (INLTP) and HELP programme:
 - Contextualised HELP course on Combatting Violence against Women in the Justice Sector was launched in the Higher Magistrates' Institute (ISM) for 100 justice auditors.
- Support to the National body in charge of combating torture (INPT):
 - Discussions are held on how to pragmatically set up the "Pôle Saisine" within the INPT with emphasis on the material and human resources required.
 - 30 pilot projects have been finalised with the aim of improving the situation of prisoners in Tunisia, based on the significant gap between the regulations in force in prisons and the relevant international standards.

EU/CoE JP « Support to justice reform » (AP-JUST)

- The roadmap for the actions to be developed with the Inspector General was adopted by the Ministry of Justice and the training module for the investigating judge finalised with the Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature.
- A videoconference was organised for 41 lawyers to consider possible approaches leading to the introduction of a mediation system in the country.
- Work on the sharing platform to allow lawyers to interact with courts in a secure manner was initiated, the translation of the study on commercial law was completed and version 0 of the guidelines improving judicial expertise submitted for comments to the Ministry of Justice.
- During the reporting period, the selection, indexing and anonymisation of civil and penal judgments continued reaching respectively 6000 and 3000 judgments and 19 courts were equipped with 3483 wires.

Projects implemented through voluntary contributions (it should be noted that voluntary contributions have also supported some of the above-mentioned actions)

- Training on internal control in municipalities was organised in co-operation with the national body on the fight against corruption, with the participation of elected representatives and administration of municipalities with an agreement with the INLUCC. Further discussions

were held with representatives of the national association of municipalities and the Ministry of Local Affairs on consultation mechanisms with the aim of drafting a memorandum on consultation. Preparatory work is being conducted in coordination with the High Authority for Local Finances on the revision of the Code of local taxation.

- A consultation workshop on the establishment of a National Referral Mechanism of Women Victims of Violence was organised. An evaluation of the victims' referral mechanisms and tools is being conducted and will be presented in November to start the NRM-development process. Within the same framework, a Hub site on gender and gender-based violence documentation and platforms in Tunisia, Toutes et tous uni.e.s, was launched with the organisations.

EU/CoE JP "Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme IV)

- The final version of the baseline study on the treatment of violence against women in the media in Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia has been delivered and will serve as a basis for discussions between media representatives and institutions in charge of combating violence against women and CSOs on a regional approach to ensure better media coverage of this issue.

- The CNIL's PIA software relating to privacy impact analysis was translated into Arabic. This version is being uploaded onto the CNIL website with corresponding credits to the South IV Programme. The objective is that Arabic-speaking countries and their data protection professionals, as well as all data controllers can resort to a recognised tool when carrying out data protection impact assessments.

- The Handbook on European data protection law (2018) was translated into Arabic and is currently being reviewed by a data protection specialist. It will serve a wide number of professionals concerned by data protection, providing a better and more harmonised understanding and appropriation of standards and best practices in the area.