

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Information Documents
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Quarterly report of Council of Europe Offices

October - December 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 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 October - December 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

The **Secretary General** met Commissioner Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the Commission, in charge of Values and Transparency, and Commissioner Nicolas Schmit, in charge of Employment and Social Rights, and Commissioner Helena Dalli in charge of Equality (Strasbourg, 18-19 October 2021).

The **Deputy Secretary General** met Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, in charge of Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, and Ms Simona Kustec, the Slovenian Minister of Education, Sciences, and Sports, and exchanged views with the 27 EU Ministers of Sports (30 November).

The **President of the Parliamentary Assembly**, Mr Rik Daems, participated in the EP Interparliamentary Committee meeting on "The situation of the rule of law in the EU", (9 December 2021).

The **Secretary General of the Congress**, Mr Andreas Kiefer, met the Secretaries General of the European associations of local and regional authorities (1 December).

The **PACE rapporteur** on the misuse of the EU Schengen system met representatives from the Commission (DG HOME) and the European Parliament (LIBE Committee) by video call (17 November).

Visit of Ms Verena Taylor, **Director of the ODG Prog** (7-8 October).

Visit of Mr Daniel Höltgen, **Director of Communications and SRSG** on Antisemitic, Anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes (18 October).

Main features - statistics

Some 666 information messages and documents and 13 weekly reports were prepared and sent to Strasbourg by the Information Officer. 83 notes for the files were sent from the Office in addition to information messages sent by the Office.

Meetings involving the Office

Mr Humbert de Biolley and Ms Gisella Gori participated in the meeting of the Heads of the Council of Europe's External Offices (Strasbourg, 16-18 November).

Mr de Biolley accompanied the **Deputy Secretary General**, Mr Bjørn Berge, who was invited by the Slovenian Presidency of the Council (30 November) to participate in the informal lunch of the 27 EU Ministers of Sports and to discuss "future challenges of sports and the role of the EU". The Deputy Secretary General also met the Slovenian Minister of Education, Sciences and Sports, Ms Kustec, and with Commissioner Gabriel, responsible for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth.

Mr de Biolley had an exchange with the **Secretary General of the Congress** and the Secretaries General of the European Associations of Local and Regional Authorities (1 December). He also met a member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Ylva Johansson, in charge of Home Affairs to discuss developments in the fields of migration and security.

The Office facilitated the organisation of meetings between the **PACE rapporteur** on youth participation, Baroness Doreen Massey, and EU representatives (Head of the Cabinet of Commission Vice President, Ms Dubravka Šuica, and with EP Vice President, Ms Ewa Kopacz) as well as civil society representatives, in Strasbourg (6 October).

The Office further facilitated:

- the organisation of the meeting between the **Deputy Secretary General**, Mr Berge, and the Director General of the DG REFORM – European Commission, Mr Mario Nava, Strasbourg (1 December),
- discussions between the President of the **Macolin convention** Committee and the Secretariat (DG II) and EU interlocutors in Brussels (1 December),
- The participation of Director Giuseppe Abbamonte (**DG CNCT**) in the plenary of the CMDSI (3 December),
- the participation of **Moneyval** Secretariat (DGI) in the EP - LIBE working group on Democracy, Rule of Law, and Fundamental Rights (DRF WG) (2 December).

The Office initiated contacts with the **French Permanent Representation** to the EU (27 October), in view of its Presidency of the Council of the EU starting in January 2022. It reported on the main priorities of the **incoming French Presidency** presented by President Emmanuel Macron (9 December).

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

On political developments

The Office reported on:

- two meetings of the **European Council**: the **first** (21-22 October) focused on the rule of law situation in Poland and migration-related issues including the situation at the EU-Belarus border. The **second** (16 December) dealt with inter alia: the situation in Belarus and at the Ukrainian-Russian border,
- three meetings of the **Foreign Affairs Council**: **first** in Luxemburg, (18 October) focused on EU relations with the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans states as well as on developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, and in Belarus. The **second** (15 November), covered new sanctions against Belarus, strengthened EU engagement with the Western Balkans, and EU's strong commitment to Eastern Partnership partners. And the **third** also addressed the situation in Belarus, at the Ukrainian-Russian border, and in the Eastern Mediterranean,
- the **EU-Western Balkans Summit** in Brdo, Slovenia (6 October), the **EU-Ukraine Summit** in Kyiv (12 October), and the **Eastern Partnership Summit** (15 December),
- the EU-**Moldova** Association Council in Brussels (28 October), the 16th EU-**Uzbekistan** Co-operation Council in Brussels (16 November), the 17th EU-**Central Asia** Ministerial meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan (22 November), the 14th meeting of the Accession Conference with **Montenegro** (13 December) and the 13th meeting of the Accession Conference with **Serbia** (14 December),
- **Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** and **European Council President Charles Michel** participating in the COP 26 meeting in Glasgow (1-2 November). **President Michel** meeting with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on the situation at the border with Belarus (10 November).

The Office further reported on **EP Plenary** debates on the situation in **Belarus** (5 October), as well as on the conference organised by the Czech Permanent Representation to the EU ("Vaclav Havel dialogues" – civil society in exile) on the situation in and around **Belarus** (12 October), and on an exchange in the EP AFET Committee on developments in **Belarus** (26 October). The situation in Belarus was also discussed at the November session of the EP (23-24 November), featuring the address by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya.

Office reports also covered numerous debates in **EP** relevant Committees, as well as events organised by Brussels based **think tanks** and civil society, dealing with European policy matters that are of direct interest to the Council of Europe.

On human rights

The Office consulted various EU representatives on the analysis and possible consequences to be drawn from the ECJ Opinion 1/19 on the conclusion by the EU of the **Istanbul Convention**. And on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), the **EP** plenary held a debate with Commissioner Dalli on the lack of progress regarding the **ratification of the Istanbul Convention** by member states.

The Office facilitated the organisation of a series of meetings with the Commission (DG JUST and DG CNCT) and the EP on **media freedom** for Strasbourg colleagues (23 November) to exchange on their respective upcoming works.

The Office facilitated the Council of Europe's involvement in a series of events, such as:

- the Chair of **ECRI** in a hearing organised by the EP-LIBE Committee (30 November),
- the Chair of **GREVIO** in a hearing organised by the EP-FEMM Committee (30 November),
- Moneyval in the EP **LIBE** monitoring group on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental rights (2 December),
- **PACE** President in the EP interparliamentary Committee meeting on the **rule of law** (9 December).

Contacts were also taken with the Secretariat of the **European Economic and social Committee** (EESC) on a Council of Europe participation in its annual Rule of Law Conference (4 November).

The Office facilitated the organisation of the "CoE - EU/**CATS** Chair" meeting (6 December) covering mostly criminal law issues.

The Office followed the 47+1 meeting (7-10 December) on the EU's **accession** to the ECHR.

It also facilitated the participation of the Director General of DG EMPL, Mr Joost Korte, in a seminar organised by the CoE (DGI) on "**Social rights** in the digital age" (9 December).

The Office reported on the **Justice and Home Affairs Council** (9-10 December): state of play of the **EU's accession** to the ECHR, hate speech and hate crime, e-evidence, and the impact of the pandemic on the judicial system.

It also reported notably on:

- the Commission's initiative to extend the list of 'EU crimes' to hate speech and hate crime (Article 83(1) TFEU) (9 December),
- EU participation to the US-organised Summit for Democracy (9-10 December),
- the first Commission annual report on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, covering "fundamental rights in the digital age" (15 December).

On the rule of law

The issue was addressed in the **General Affairs Council** (20 October) and in the **European Council** (21-22 October). It was an important issue of the October **EP Plenary**, where the Commission President, Ms von der Leyen, spoke to defend the European values before Polish PM Morawiecki addressed the EP Plenary in Strasbourg (19 October). And on 27 October, the **ECJ** sentenced Poland to pay 1M€ per day, for non-execution of its previous decisions on the disciplinary chamber of the Polish Supreme Court.

The Office reported on the visit of a joint delegation composed of **MEPs** from the EP LIBE and Budgetary Control Committee (CONT) to **Slovenia** on 13-15 October to assess the latest developments in the area of rule of law, media freedom, and the fight against corruption.

The Office further reported on **rule of law**-related developments that occurred in the EU in November-December 2021 and notably:

- the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled against **Poland and Hungary** in relation to judicial independence and corruption,
- the European Commission sent letters to **Poland and Hungary** in the framework of the "Rule of law conditionality regulation" (19 November),
- the General Affairs Council held its third 'routine' **rule of law dialogue** with a specific focus on Cyprus, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia and Croatia (23 November),
- Commissioner Didier **Reynders** visited Hungary (10-12 November) and Poland (18-19 November),
- the **General Affairs Council** (14 December) regarding the state of play of the Art 7 procedure on Poland and Hungary.

On migration

The Office facilitated the organisation of a technical-level meeting on **migration**-related issues between the Council of Europe Secretariat, co-ordinated by the SRSG's Office, and the Commission (DG Home) (27 October).

The Office reported on the migration related topics covered by the **Ministers of Home Affairs** (JHA Council, 9-10/12) and in particular: **hybrid attacks** and the **smuggling** of migrants: Ministers discussed measures to avoid secondary movements within the EU and other measures to break the business model of migrant smugglers.

On thematic issues and programmes

The Office organised a series of bilateral meetings during the visit of Ms **Verena Taylor**, Director of ODGP, with DG NEAR Officials dealing with the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership, Ukraine and horizontal issues, as well with DG REFORM. The Office ensured the follow-up to these meetings with the Commission partners. It maintained regular contacts with

counterparts, in particular DG NEAR, DG JUST and DG REFORM, and facilitated co-operation with respect to the new programming phase to be negotiated in the frame of the new MFF 2021-2027. The Office notably participated in several meetings relating to the new call for 2022 projects with DG REFORM and held exchanges with DG NEAR for the third phase of PGG, and with DG JUST for projects concerning children, Roma, and LGBTI issues.

Youth Partnership

The Brussels-based staff of the Youth Partnership organised and/or participated in meetings including:

- the participation in the **Joint Council on Youth** meeting (11-13 October) and exchange on its 2022-2023 workplan,
- the meeting (19 October) with a representative from the **Icelandic** Youth Environmentalist Association, who took part in the EU visitors' programme,
- the participation in the **OSCE** Roundtable on Enabling a Youth Inclusive Environment, (28 October), in SALTO PI Awards' jury, and in European Youth Forum's jury for the selection of European Youth Capital 2024,
- the meeting of the [European Platform on Learning Mobility](#) (EPLM) online (25-26 October),
- the participation in the first meeting on the **European Year of Youth**, organised by DG EAC, the European Commission (16 November); and further meetings (22 November) with DG EAC on the contribution of the Youth Partnership to the European Year of Youth,
- the participation in two meetings organised by the European Youth Forum (8 November and 1 December), to prepare the **Youth Democracy Festival**, planned for October 2022,
- the presentation of the research findings on youth participation at the 5th **Eastern Partnership Youth Forum** (23 November),
- the annual meeting of the two core networks of the Youth Partnership, the [European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy](#) (EKYP) and the [Pool of European Youth Researchers](#) (PEYR), online (17-18 November 2021),
- a webinar on [young people's social rights: access to housing and co-working trends](#), (24 November),
- the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership's **workplan 2022-23 was approved** (8 December). As from 2022, the Youth Partnership will benefit from extra funds (200.000€) from the European Commission,
- the Youth Partnership's research on sustainability and learning mobility, and the sustainability checklist on greening the youth sector, were presented at the Assembly of European Regions meeting (3 December),
- the quality working group of the European Platform on Learning Mobility (EPLM) met (7 December) to plan the future work in this area.

It also worked on a series of publications, analyses and translations¹.

¹ On 5 October, Youth Partnership launched [About Time! the reference manual for youth policy from a European perspective](#). As a part of our contribution to **Youth Wiki**, we published new Youth Wiki chapters from [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Moldova](#) and [Montenegro](#).

Our work on Quality tools for **learning mobility** - [Q!App](#) and [Handbook on quality in learning mobility](#), part of the European Platform on Learning Mobility (EPLM) was presented at the **European Youth Event** in Strasbourg (8 October). We also supported the Offenburg Talks event (11-12 October), co-ordinated by the German NA, on the topic of youth work and climate change. The [Sustainability Checklist](#) and [video](#) were promoted at the event.

A [New Podcast Episode: European Youth Strategies](#) was published, looking at the common points of the [Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy](#) and the [EU Youth Strategy](#).

Brussels-based Secretariat of the Pompidou Group

On 12-13 October 2021, the Secretariat of the Pompidou Group organised the 14th meeting on the control of drug precursors' diversion in hybrid format in Strasbourg and online. The meeting aims to reduce illicit trafficking and prevent the abuse of (pre-)precursors. The focus was on precursors legislation, environmental impact of drug production, and on new trends and modus operandi such as MAPA case studies, recent fentanyl precursors and the raise of Delta-8-Tetrahydrocannabinol. The meeting gathered more than 90 experts from 33 different countries and 10 international organisations.

On 23-24 November 2021, the Secretariat of the Pompidou Group organised the 8th **annual meeting of the expert group on "Drugs Online"** in hybrid format in Strasbourg and online. The focus was mainly on e-evidence, blockchain analytics, the darknet and virtual assets and postal deliveries of drugs. The meeting also approached the Council of Europe Budapest Convention on cybercrime and its second protocol as well as a specific workshop for law enforcement officers on the 'Direct Disclosure of Subscriber Information' form the second protocol. The meeting brought together 70 experts from 23 different countries and 5 international organisations.

Visibility and relations with media

The Spokesperson/Media Officer co-ordinated **communications work** around:

- the December CM-DH meeting on the execution of judgments,
- the Council of Europe's participation in the EU's Fundamental Rights Forum,
- the World and European Day against the Death Penalty, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the European Day for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Human Rights Day, European Anti-Trafficking Day,
- the launch of a new video on a landmark LGBTI judgment from the European Court of Human Rights,
- three new thematic factsheets on (1) the execution of ECHR judgments concerning freedom of assembly and association, (2) asylum and migration and (3) health-related cases,
- the Special Representative on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred's participation in a public event in Brussels and in a GRETA report and a Venice Commission opinion on the UK,
- the Venice Commission plenary, the Secretary General's letter to the Polish authorities concerning the Article 52 procedure, the MONEYVAL follow-up report on Gibraltar and the handover of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers from Hungary to Italy.

A policy brief "[Towards a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the youth sector](#)" and a [regional study](#) on the impact of the pandemic on young people and the youth sector in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus were published by the Youth Partnership.

[EPLM: Winter-2021 newsletter](#) and [EPLM video presentations on sustainability and learning mobility](#) were published.

Some of our new publications were released, including the: [Meaningful youth political participation in Europe](#), [Guide to knowledge translation](#), Youth Wiki chapter 1: Youth Policy Governance: [Armenia](#) (2021), [Belarus](#) (2021), [Albania](#) (2021), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) (2021), [Kosovo*](#) (2021) and [Azerbaijan](#). The 32nd edition of [Coyote online magazine for youth workers focusing on young people's mental health and well-being](#) was published.

Our three flagship publications - [Youth work essentials](#), [Youth research essentials](#) and [Youth policy essentials](#) - are now available in Slovenian and Arabic.

* All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

He also maintained regular contacts with **journalists** and carried out online and **social media** work on topics including the Secretary General's statement on Belarus, the 50th anniversary of the Pompidou Group, the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention in Liechtenstein and various judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights.

In addition, the Spokesperson/Media Officer continued to manage and develop new content for the ongoing communications project highlighting the **impact of the European Convention on Human Rights**. He also represented the Council of Europe's Directorate of Communications in the monthly meeting of the "**C-9**" group of senior communications staff from several different international organisations working on human rights, as well as carrying out preparatory work on the forthcoming CM-DH meeting and the 20th anniversary of the Budapest Convention.

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

The *Chargée d'affaires* ensured the liaison between the Geneva-based organisations and the relevant MAEs of the Council of Europe.

She facilitated the participation of the SRSG on Migration and Refugees in the 72nd session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR High Commissioner's Programme, in the 33rd session of the UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) and organised his bilateral meetings with UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms Gillian Triggs, and UN Geneva General Director, Ms Tatiana Valovaya (4-7 October).

She also facilitated the SRSG's online participation in the High-Level Officials Meeting of the UNHCR (15-17 December).

Furthermore, she participated online in:

- the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) information meeting (11 October),
- the UN Social Forum (11-12 October) which focused on the pandemic and its human rights consequences,
- the IOM International Dialogue on Migration (14-15 October) where she represented the SRSG on Migration and Refugees in three panel discussions,
- the Briefing on the OHCHR management plan (28 October),
- the Geneva Peace Week (2-5 November),
- the UNOG Executive Briefing with Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (29 November),
- the Annual Meeting of the Focal Points of Regional Human Rights Mechanisms (RHRMs), organised by the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section of the OHCHR (2 December) where she represented DGI, ECRI and the ECtHR,
- the Organisational Session of the HRC for the 16th cycle (2022) (6 December),
- the UNHCR Strategic Directions meeting (9 December 2021).

She informed the relevant departments of the results/conclusions of such 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 Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Ambassador Mikko Kinnunen as well as a report by the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Halit Çevik, (7 October).
- OSCE Permanent Council, Review of Current Issues, (11 October).
- OSCE Permanent Council, the presentation by the OSCE Secretary General of the 2022 Unified Budget Proposal and the report of OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners, (21 October).
- OSCE Special Permanent Council, (25 October), Decision on the topic and dates of the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar and Decision on the agenda, timetable and other organisational modalities of the 2021 Human Dimension Seminar.
- OSCE Permanent Council, report of the Chief Observer of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk for the period 17 August - 30 September 2021 and report by the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, (28 October).
- OSCE Permanent Council, report by the High Commissioner on National Minorities and report by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (4 November).
- OSCE Permanent Council, address by the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions, (11 November).
- OSCE Permanent Council, address by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, address by the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference and report by the Head of the High-Level Planning Group, (18 November).
- OSCE Permanent Council, regular report by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and report by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-Ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, (25 November).
- OSCE Special Permanent Council on the forwarding of draft documents to the Ministerial Council, (30 November).
- OSCE Permanent Council, report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Ambassador Claus Neukirch and address by the Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, (9 December).
- OSCE Permanent Council, addressed by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr Peter Maurer, and report by the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), (16 December).

Participation in expert committees and conferences

- Online briefing on the work of the CND and CCPCJ (4 October).
- UNODC Knowledge Week, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (4-8 October).
- OSCE Logistical Briefing for the MC Stockholm (5 October).
- OSC PrepComm related to the Council of Europe-OSCE Coordination Group (7 October).
- Fundamental Rights Forum 2021 EU FRA (11-12 October).
- UNODC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (12-13 October).
- OSCE 2021 Mediterranean Conference (12-13 October).
- ODIHR 30th anniversary in Warsaw, online (14-15 October).
- 34th Meeting of the Council of Europe-OSCE Co-ordination Group (15 October).
- Vienna Migration Conference 2021 (19-20 October).

- OSCE 2021 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM) (18-19 October).
- OSCE Second PrepComm related to the Council of Europe-OSCE Coordination Group (21 October).
- The 4th Vienna Energy Security Dialogue (22 October).
- HCNM 15th anniversary of recommendations on policing (5 November).
- Council of Europe Security review and assessment of the Vienna office by Mr Arman Darbinyan, Deputy Head of Safety and Security Division (5 November).
- OSCE Annual Meeting of Heads of Security Co-operation Departments on Police-related Activities 2021 (8-9 November).
- Ambassador Rudolf Lennkh took part in the Heads of Offices and Heads of Liaison Offices meetings in Strasbourg (16-18 November).
- Human Dimension Seminar (16-17 November).
- Paris Pact Initiative, 15th Policy Consultative Group Meeting (16-17 November).
- Meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms in Strasbourg and online (15-16 November).
- Launch of the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy 2021-2025 (19 November).
- UNIDO, 19th General Conference (29 November - 3 December).
- 28th OSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm (2-3 December).
- Visit to Vienna by Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Dunja Mijatovic - launch event of the European Yearbook on Human Rights and meetings with the OSCE, the Austrian Government and NGOs (3-17 December).
- UNODC reconvened 64th session of CND (9-10 December).
- OSCE, 2021 International Migrants Day (17 December).
- OSCE-UNHCR Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Migrants and Refugees (17 December).
- UNOV Arabic Language Day (20 December).

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

Activities of the Office

Enhancing the co-operation with OSCE ODIHR

The HoO and CoE experts participated in two key events organised in the fourth quarter of 2021 by OSCE ODIHR, namely ODIHR 30th Anniversary event “Three decades and ready for the future. Democracy, human rights and security” and OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Girls. This second event, organized for the first time since 2017, allowed for a broad presentation of the Council of Europe's work in relation to the prevention of violence against women, with the President of GREVIO, Ms. Iris Luarasi presenting the latest trends in prevention efforts.

The HoO maintained close working relations with ODIHR experts, following the events and activities planned by the Office, which resulted in invitations for Council of Europe experts to participate in those events as panellists and speakers, including in the webinar presenting the 2021 ODIHR Background Paper on the Death Penalty in the OSCE Area and ODIHR Round table on the rule of law in Poland “Role of international courts and institutions” with a special briefing on the activities of ECtHR.

Within the framework of the Evaluation of the Venice Commission by the Evaluation Division of the Directorate of Internal Oversight, experts of the Council of Europe visited Warsaw with the support of the Office. One of the main points of the Mission was to meet with ODIHR experts to discuss the details of cooperation between the Venice Commission and ODIHR in presenting joint opinions and guidelines.

Continuation of the co-operation with the Community of Democracies

The Office closely followed the activities of the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies, in particular the Community's contribution to: (i) the US-organised Summit for Democracy, where CoD took an active part in the lead-up to and in the margins of the Summit; and (ii) the 9th edition of the Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy devoted to “Resilience of democracy in the times of COVID-19” (the HoO participated in this event).

Establishment of closer co-operation with Frontex

The Office, in co-operation with the SRSG's Office on migration and refugees, organised a study visit to Strasbourg in November for Frontex Fundamental Rights Officer, Mr Jonas Grimheden and seven monitors. The Frontex monitors met, among others, the CPT and GRETA Secretariats, advisers from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, lawyers from the ECtHR and the Department for the Execution of Judgments. Co-operation related to Human Rights Training for Legal Professionals (HELP) was also discussed.

Notwithstanding the Strasbourg visit, for which a follow-up is being planned, working relations with the Frontex team are becoming more and more regular. In addition to the contacts maintained by the Warsaw Office, Frontex Fundamental Rights Officer met with a PACE delegation visiting Warsaw in connection with the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border and presented a briefing during a meeting of the PA Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons.

B. FIELD AND PROGRAMME OFFICES

Baku

Situation of the Office

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

The Office implements 5 projects, 3 in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Partnership for Good Governance”, 1 EU/CoE Joint Programme, and 1 funded through a voluntary contribution from Sweden.

State of implementation of projects

1. EU/CoE-PGGII “Strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in Azerbaijan”: (i) The Project provided the Azerbaijani judicial authorities with a closer insight into the CEPEJ STAT (dynamic database of European judicial systems) and provided a possibility for national stakeholders to discuss the current system and data requirements for the implementation of the national public judicial database during a round table and workshop attended in total by 46 participants from the relevant administrative and judicial bodies. (ii) As a result of four online training sessions on court management, 130 court chairmen, judges and court staff from Baku and regions of Azerbaijan increased their knowledge on judicial time management and measuring the quality of justice.

2. EU/CoE-PGGII “Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery in Azerbaijan”: (i) Capacities of reporting entities were enhanced on identifying money laundering and terrorism financing (ML/TF) risks and employing relevant mitigation measures related to virtual assets and virtual asset service providers. (ii) Representatives of state authorities, involved in the National Risk Assessment process, and non-profit sector learned how to identify, assess and mitigate ML/TF threats and vulnerabilities. (iii) Trainee judges and sitting judges strengthened their understanding and enhanced their skills on judicial processing and adjudication of ML/TF cases.

3. EU/CoE-PGGII “Raising Awareness on the IC and other Gender Equality Standards in Azerbaijan”: (i) The second draft of gap analysis on policy and legislative frameworks in Azerbaijan, and a preparatory report on the Twinning methodology in the field of VAW/DV were prepared. (ii) Through a series of webinars, the project raised awareness about the Istanbul Convention (the IC) of about 60 representatives of the state authorities, civil society, social workers and journalists. The webinars were broadly covered by media. (iii) Several publications were translated into Azerbaijani and presented through the Baku Office’s website, where a dedicated section on VAW/DV was created. The number of visits of the Office website tripled during the reporting period with a news item explaining the IC in Azerbaijani being the most visited page.

4. EU/CoE-JP “Further Support to the Penitentiary Reform in Azerbaijan-2” (“SPERA-2”): (i) Medical and non-medical staff of pilot prisons enhanced their capacities in mental health care of prisoners. (ii) With regard to the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders component of the project, as a result of the project’s grant program, implemented by NGOs, ex-offenders started 16 small family businesses (e.g. fish farming, beekeeping, car repair workshop etc.), 122 underwent vocational training, out of them 11 persons found jobs, 342 released persons received legal aid, and 398 persons benefited from psycho-social support. The project ended on 31 October 2021.

5. VC Sweden "Reinforcing gender equality and media freedom in Azerbaijan": (i) Judge candidates, judges and prosecutors (some 80 participants overall) were trained on ECHR Freedom of Expression standards. Some 40 lawyers received online training on gender equality and media freedom. (ii) 15 representatives of the local online and offline media enhanced their conflict reporting skills through a training based on the Handbook on "Conflict Sensitive Journalism" developed as part of the project activity; (iii) An assessment of the national legislation on data protection against the background of the CoE Convention 108+ and the EU Data Protection instruments was conducted, recommendations were provided on further improvement of the national legislation and its implementation in line with the above-mentioned instruments.

Other relevant activities

- On 12 October, the HoO opened a webinar series on the Convention on preventing and combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence.
- On 19 October, the HoO opened the training session on CoE standards on VAW/DV for judge candidates.
- On 3 November, the HoO addressed the closing event of the Local Youth Peace Camp which is a follow-up project of the "Youth Peace Week 2021", implemented by the Education HUB in Baku and funded by the Council of Europe.
- On 10 December, the office organised a webinar (presentations followed by live exchange) with participation of ECtHR judge from Azerbaijan and senior ECtHR lawyer on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day.
- On 14 December, the HoO opened the round table: Presentation of CEPEJ STAT - Dynamic database of European judicial systems.
- On 15 December, the HoO opened the workshop on "Assessment of money laundering and terrorism financing risks related to legal persons and legal arrangements".

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

On 27-28 October, the delegation headed by Mr C. Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, visited Baku and met with representatives from the MFA, Presidential Administration, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, General Prosecutor's Office and Bar Association.

On 1-2 November Ms Verena Taylor, Director of ODGP, visited Baku and met with representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, MFA, Ombudsperson, Ministry of Culture, General Prosecutor's Office, and others.

Belgrade**Quarterly report, October-December 2021****Situation of the Office**

Core staff – 7, Project staff – 26, Horizontal Facility Coordination Hub (HFCH) – 1, Total – 34.

The Office is currently implementing 12 (country specific and regional) projects: 11 jointly funded with the EU (9 under the Horizontal Facility Phase II (HF), Human Resource Management in Local Self-Government (HRM/LSG), ROMACTED, and one project through Voluntary Contributions (VC) of the Swedish Foreign Ministry/SIDA on Anti-Money-Laundering and Countering Terrorist Financing (AML/CTF).

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

- EU/CoE HF "Quality Education for All-Serbia": Unique books for parents seeking to raise their children to be active citizens presented in October. The books guide the reader through models of parenting, daily life, and different situations where democracy can be used. The editing of the official Guidance of implementation of RFCDC in curricula is completed. The original, unequalled guidebook with examples of best practices regarding the development of democratic culture in an online environment was published. Developed online training on CDC implementation were integrated into the web portal of the Education Institute. 5th SC Meeting was held in October. Two schools organised Democratic School Days with at least 500 people.
- EU/CoE HF "Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Serbia": Action provided technical assistance and backstopping to the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue (MHMR) in preparing the Commentary to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities (ongoing). The Action is likewise providing support to the MHMR in drafting the new Action Plan on National Minorities (APNM) in Serbia, based on findings and recommendations from the previously prepared CoE Public Policy Impact Analysis on Implementation of the Action Plan for Realization of the Rights of National Minorities. Translation of the Guidelines for Work of the NMCs in 12 national minority languages in official use in Serbia (plus Romani) has been also completed.
- EU/CoE HF "Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia": Action provided trainings for education advisors on revised indicators for preliminary identification of pupils who are at risk of trafficking, as well as to labour inspectors and key anti-trafficking stakeholders on detecting THB for the purpose of labour exploitation. Presentation on new HELP module on preventing THB for the purpose of labour exploitation was organised for more than 100 participants from Serbia, North Macedonia and BiH. The 5th action Steering Committee was held on 8 December 2021.
- EU/CoE HF "Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons": With the Action's support, the new 2021-2027 Prison Strategy and accompanying Action Plan were finalised and submitted for further processing by relevant authorities. Support to MoI task forces mandated to improve custody regime and interviewing practices was continued. Revision of questionnaires used by National Preventive Mechanism for conducting visits to all places of detention was completed. Feasibility

Study on Mental Health Strategy was presented to relevant actors and comments on amendments to the Mental Health Act were submitted to authorities during public debate process. CSOs were supported in promoting and implementing revised mentoring programme for former offenders.

- EU/CoE HF "Enhancing penitentiary capacities in addressing radicalisation in prisons in Western Balkans": The Multidisciplinary prison teams (MDTs) from the County prison in Belgrade and the Special Detention Facility "Zabela" in Pozarevac completed piloting of VEP-specific instruments, i.e., Screening Instrument (SC) and Risk and Needs Instrument (RNA) on targeted prison population successfully. The piloting of the individual rehabilitation program aimed at VEPs is ongoing. The first piloting results prove that the instruments are functional and applicable in the context of Serbian prison system. The MDTs were supported in the process through online coaching sessions² led by the international expert.
- EU/CoE HF "Independence & Accountability of the Judiciary": 75 court and prosecution office spokespersons enhanced their digital media skills in a series of workshops. Outreach activities were organised to disseminate information about possibilities of reporting undue influence on judges to the HJC. MoJ and SPC were presented with the Analysis on the required number of administrative staff in PPOs. Members of HJC and SPC Ethics Committees gained knowledge on confidential counselling on ethical matters. Two publications were completed: "Guide on ethical usage of social media for judges and prosecutors" and "Full respect of decisions and the work of the judiciary by public officials and civil servants - international standards".
- EU/CoE HF "Strengthening the effective legal remedies to human rights violations in Serbia": In October, 50 judges, prosecutors and advisors of the Constitutional Court improved their knowledge on the right to peaceful enjoyment of property, functioning of the European Court of Human Rights, and the development of its knowledge-sharing tools. Technical needs assessment for the development of the websites of Constitutional Court and of the Government Agent before the ECtHR was completed. Analysis of effects of the Law on protection of the right to a trial within reasonable time is underway. 9-10 December, conference on effective implementation of the ECHR and execution of the ECtHR judgements brought together highest judicial authorities, independent human rights bodies and CoE experts.
- EU/CoE HF "Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Serbia (JUFREX 2)": Action initiated implementation of two online courses for judges and prosecutors - on "Freedom of Expression" and "Protection and Safety of Journalists". Also, one traditional, in-person Training on "Protection and safety of journalists" was organised and improved knowledge judges/prosecutors in this field, contributing to better protection of journalists and creation of a favourable environment for freedom of expression. Two publications were made available in Serbian language: Media regulatory authorities and media pluralism and Guide to Article 17.
- EU/CoE HF "Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX 2)": Action organised a Training of trainers on Methodology for the implementation of online courses on "Freedom of Expression" and "Protection and Safety of Journalists" developed under JUFREX, in cooperation with the HELP Programme. The Bulletin No 3 on the "Latest developments in the case-law of the ECtHR on Freedom of Expression"

² 2nd on-line coaching session (on 9th October 2021) and 3rd on-line coaching session (on 16th December 2021).

that constitutes a unique tool for sharing information on new trends and developments in the case-law of the ECtHR was made available to legal and media professionals from Western Balkans, and beyond.

- EU/CoE HF regional "HELP in the Western Balkans": 15 HELP online courses (on Admissibility criteria, Anti-discrimination, Asylum, Bioethics, Child-friendly justice, Environment and Human Rights, Labour rights) were adapted to domestic legislation and launched in the framework of the regional action in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The regional HF40 reached 6.660 users from the region in the HELP e-learning platform, increased by 9% in the reporting period.
- EU/CoE JP "Human Resources Management in Local Self-Government - phase 2": Council e-learning course on good governance was uploaded on NAPA platform; ToT on Leadership Academy Programme (LAP) was completed and certificates of attendance awarded, while a technical assistance within Organisational Municipal Support Packages (OMSP) was provided to 15 selected LSGs. Over 200 local education and construction inspectors received accredited webinars through Programme support. Developed methodology on accreditation of coaches and mentors and methodology for assessment of trainers' competencies. Legal framework on competencies for LSG employees was adopted.
- EU/CoE regional JP "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level (ROMACTED)-phase 2": Official kick-off conference of the programme was held on 2 November. On this occasion Protocols of Cooperation were signed by the Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Head of the CoE Office in Belgrade and representatives of 14 partner Cities and Municipalities. In accordance with the ROMACTED Methodology, 15 facilitators have started their interventions in partner local self-governments, including 13 training session with Roma community members on 'Participatory Local Strategic Planning' (130 people trained in total/ 59 women).
- VC (Swedish MFA) "Preventing money laundering and terrorist financing in Serbia ": Project provided advice for the development of indicators for risk-based border controls, as well as indicators for identifying suspicious transactions and persons related to virtual assets and money transfer services. In addition, the project delivered compliance training of trainers for lawyers, provided advice to the Agency for Prevention of Corruption in improving inter-sectoral cooperation on verification of asset declarations and organised awareness raising workshops on risks from abuse for the NPO sector for terrorist financing.

Follow-up action

- The new JP on support to the judicial reforms in Serbia will be launched on 1 of January 2022. The project will facilitate and contribute to the process of consolidation of the rule of law in Serbia, with particular attention to strengthening the independence and accountability of the judiciary, as well as improving access and quality of justice for all citizens. The project will also facilitate the reform of relevant legislation and capacity-building of relevant judicial bodies.
- Third Meeting of the Beneficiary Steering Committee of the Joint Programme of the EU and CoE "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey" (Phase II) in Serbia, will be held in Belgrade on 10 February, gathering representatives of beneficiary

institutions, CoE and EUD, to review the progress achieved in the areas of ensuring justice, combatting economic crime, as well as anti-discrimination and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.

Other relevant activities

- On 21 October, the Venice Commission rapporteurs on the revised Draft Law on Referendum and the People's Initiative, with assistance from Belgrade Office, held online meetings with representatives of the government, Parliament, Civil Society and Republic Election Commission.
- On 1 December, supporting the Council of Europe awareness-raising action on violence against women in the framework of the international 16 days of activism to stop violence against women, the Head of Office Tobias Flessenkemper gave an interview on the CoE cooperation in Serbia to the newspaper and portal nova.rs.
- On 10 December, Human Rights Day was marked jointly with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, UN Country Team and OSCE Mission to Serbia.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, no high-level visits were made in this period.

Bucharest

Situation of the Office

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

The office was responsible for the implementation of five capacity building projects on cybercrime with a combined budget of over 37 million EUR. Four projects are jointly funded with the European Union (EU) and one is funded by voluntary contributions (currently Canada, Japan, Hungary, United Kingdom and USA).

Given the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the project activities were delivered on-line/hybrid however we resumed the in-person organisation of few activities under the iPROCEEDS 2, CyberSouth and CyberEast projects.

State of implementation of projects (October-December 2021)

Octopus Project: Universality and implementation of the Budapest Convention as well as the benefits of its Second Additional protocol were promoted through the organisation of the [25th Plenary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee, 20th Anniversary of the Budapest Convention, Octopus Conference](#) and a series of regional webinars for Latin America and Caribbean countries. The development of Standard Operating Procedures on e-evidence in South Africa was supported. The [action against COVID-19 related cybercrime in Asia](#) was reinforced by the organisation of two roundtable meetings and finalisation of the research on COVID-19 related cybercrime. The capacities on cybercrime and e-evidence of the law enforcement representatives of the Caribbean countries were reinforced through [joint training](#) with the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS). The [process of drafting the cybercrime legislation](#) in Nauru was supported. The functioning of the on-line training platform developed by the office was tested with the representatives of Ukraine, Georgia and North Macedonia.

iPROCEEDS-2: Capabilities in the region to co-operate at the international level were further increased through a complex activity that concluded with a [Regional workshop](#) aimed at the development of guidelines for drafting and processing of mutual legal assistance requests and the third round of the online [Specialised Judicial Training Course on International Cooperation](#). The [4th Steering Committee Meeting](#) of iPROCEEDS-2 assessed the progress registered in the period and confirmed once again the validity of the action. The sharing of information between the cybercrime and cybersecurity communities was strengthened in Albania through the innovative activity "[Cyber Camp Albania](#)".

GLACY+: National efforts for harmonisation of the cybercrime and e-evidence legislation and cyber-related legislation (data protection) were supported in [Nauru](#), Vanuatu and Ecuador. The universality and implementation of the Budapest Convention were promoted through [webinars targeting policy makers organised jointly with the Octopus Project and Parliamentarians for Global Action](#). Knowledge on the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention was increased through webinars targeting [criminal justice authorities organised jointly with the Octopus Project and International Association of Prosecutors](#) and [civil society and private sector in LATAM region organized jointly with Octopus Project](#). The best practices and international standards on cybercrime, e-evidence, and international cooperation were promoted through the organisation of joint regional events ([Regional conference on cyberviolence and electronic evidence for LATAM and Caribbean, Countering disinformation webinar](#)), technical trainings ([use of electronic evidence](#) and [workshops on training strategies](#)

[on Ghana, Mauritius and Nigeria](#)) and advisory missions in [Ghana](#) and [Panama](#). The community of national judicial trainers was reinforced by the organisation of the [new series of practitioners-to-practitioners workshops](#) and the [Steering Committee of the International Network of Judicial Trainers](#).

CyberSouth: The development of a strategic approach on fighting against cybercrime was supported in all priority countries through the organisation of national workshops on cybercrime reporting mechanism. The international cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence in the region was reinforced through the organisation of the [Annual meeting](#) of the CyberSouth Judicial Network and participation of the countries in the [Annual meeting of the 24/7 Network](#) and [COE-Eurojust event](#). The competences and skills of the magistrates were strengthened through the delivery of the train the trainers course on cybercrime for [Tunisia](#) (on-line) and [Jordan](#) (in person). The new legal tools for an enhanced cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence offered by the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention were promoted in two regional workshops. The organisation of the [7th Steering Committee](#) of the project was an opportunity to assess the progress made and endorse the workplan for the upcoming period.

CyberEast – On request of the EU, CyberEast project performed further analysis and drafting of amendments to the Georgian Law on Information Security. [Public Opinion Surveys on Cybercrime Reporting and Online Security](#), involving both government and private sector entities, were completed in all of the region's countries except Belarus. The capacities on cybercrime and e-evidence of prosecutors and law enforcement were reinforced through [training activities](#) based on newly developed materials and [joint events](#) organised with EU-funded Training and Operational Partnership Against Organised Crime project (TOPCOP) and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Following the [Regional Meeting on Crime Proceeds Online](#), a new training course on financial investigations, virtual currencies and Darknet was developed and conducted in several countries. The international cooperation in the region was enhanced by supporting events organized by [24/7 Contact Points Network](#), [Eurojust](#) and the [Council of Europe](#).

Follow-up action

- Support T-CY activities in view of opening for signature of the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime;
- Organisation of a joint event with the Italian Embassy dedicated to the diplomatic community in Romania for exchanging views on cybercrime challenges and new opportunities for cooperation;
- Organisation of the Annual Planning Meeting of C-PROC;
- Publication of the Guide for law enforcement training strategy.

Other relevant activities

- The no-cost extension of the CyberSouth project by 24 months and the extension of the CyberEast project by 18 months with a top up of 1 million Euro were approved by the European Commission.
- Congress of Brazil approved accession to the Budapest Convention.
- Fiji and Vanuatu were officially invited to join the Budapest Convention.

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 a voluntary contribution from the USA and Switzerland respectively and six funded through voluntary contributions at Action Plan level, as detailed below. One project was closed on 30 November 2021, two others ended on 31 December 2021.

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

- VC United States of America (Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs) “Action Against Corruption in the Republic of Moldova”: a review of the Regulation on competences and functioning of the Judicial Inspection was discussed with the national authorities and a workshop on disciplinary case management was delivered for the representatives of the Superior Council of Magistracy. A HELP course on ethics was embedded in the National Institute of Justice’s initial training for judges and prosecutors. Project results and achievements were discussed at the final Steering Committee Meeting and Closing event.
- VC Switzerland “Education for Democracy in the Republic of Moldova”: 22 youth workers were trained on the application of the Council of Europe’s Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) in non-formal education. The participants examined the role and responsibilities of youth workers and civic education teachers in developing schoolchildren’s competences as active and engaged citizens. The event was the first experience for youth workers connecting with the RFCDC approaches and principles.
- VC The Netherlands “Enhancing diversity and equality in the Republic of Moldova”: the launching event and the first Project Steering Committee took place in November 2021. A series of 3 workshops on equality and non-discrimination were organized with 99 police officers in the context of the International Human Rights Day in December 2021 whereas ten online meetings with key national stakeholders facilitated the coordination of project activities.
- 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”: the capacities of 59 judges, prosecutors and judicial staff were enhanced as a result of the activities organised on non-discrimination jointly with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). In addition, 23 NIJ trainers strengthened their knowledge and skills through a training of trainers on non-discrimination and inclusive education.
- EU/CoE - PGG " Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova": based on the Concept of the JUSTAT database – an instrument to consult and analyse judicial statistics based on the CEPEJ-STAT, the Project delivered specific Terms of Reference (ToRs) for this tool to be developed in the Republic of Moldova. The ToRs will serve as a basis for the procurement of software and hardware as well as for the development of the database itself.

- AP “Strengthening the human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova”: research on the application of criminal sanctions in the Republic of Moldova was disseminated to relevant criminal justice actors. 15 police officers became national trainers on fundamental safeguards against torture and ill-treatment in the places of detention. During seven trainings, 312 criminal justice stakeholders enhanced their knowledge and skills in the area of the right to liberty and security. Furthermore, 300 copies of the *Report on the observance of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Moldova in 2020* prepared by the Ombudsperson were distributed.
- AP “Strengthening the prison and probation reforms, provision of health care and treatment of patients in closed institutions in the Republic of Moldova”: two rounds of consultations on piloting the Risk and Needs Assessment tool in prisons and probation as well as the final workshop on piloting the revised management of tasks in three pilot prisons were conducted. The Project also organised several new Working Groups, for the development of Policies & SOPs for prisons, a specialised training Module for the prison staff working with young offenders, and a Curriculum for the initial training of probation counsellors. The last module of professional development courses was offered to 35 prison staff.
- AP “Promoting European standards in the audiovisual regulation of the Republic of Moldova”: the project launched the first multimedia digital platform for children in the Republic of Moldova (Zuper.md), jointly with the Public Broadcaster, which was also equipped with an External Communication Strategy. Three high-quality short documentaries on human rights were developed with the Public Broadcaster’s Documentary Department. A multi-stakeholders’ National Conference on the state of Access to Information for mass-media in the country advanced the knowledge of the actors involved in this topic.
- AP “Improving Electoral Practice in the Republic of Moldova, Phase II”: alternative voting methods, a Comprehensive Analysis of the International Election Observation Missions and the Venice Commission’s recommendations as well as an Analysis of the Existing Legal Framework on Electoral Dispute Resolution were presented at public events in October 2021. Post-electoral conferences after the July 2021 early parliamentary elections and the September 2021 elections of the People’s Assembly of Gagauzia were organised. The project also equipped the Training Centre with materials for the future preparation of the election management bodies. A newly developed digital library made electoral knowledge more accessible, especially for the public.
- AP “Combating violence against children in the Republic of Moldova”: guidelines on the implementation of the local interagency mechanism were approved through inter-ministerial order. The project raised the awareness of the Parliament and the Government on children’s rights in the digital environment, as well as worked with 57 school psychologists and teachers on this topic. 120 sport coaches and managers were made more aware of risks and prevention measures against child sexual abuse. The capacities and knowledge on online child sexual exploitation and abuse investigations were increased for 40 judges, prosecutors and police officers.

Follow-up action

- In December 2021, the next phases of “Combating violence against children in the Republic of Moldova” and “Promoting European standards in the audiovisual regulation of the

Republic of Moldova” were approved. In addition, a new project “Supporting the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republic of Moldova” was endorsed. All three projects will be operationalized as of January 2022.

Other relevant activities

- The Venice Commission prepared and adopted during its online December session the Joint opinion of the Venice Commission and the DGI on some measures related to the selection of candidates for administrative positions in bodies of self-administration of judges and prosecutors and the amendment of some normative acts, the Opinion on the amendments of 24 August 2021 to the Law on the Prosecution Service and the Amicus curiae Brief for the Constitutional Court on the constitutional implications of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. The Office facilitated the organisation of meetings with national stakeholders and civil society on the opinions pertaining to the judiciary.
- Over a hundred children aged 7 to 10, from different regions in the Republic of Moldova participated with their parents in 6 workshops on understanding and accepting diversity. Further, the "[All different, all equal](#)" project supported the children in preparing audio messages on the workshop topics, which in turn became a series of 20 podcasts published on the Zuper.md of "Teleradio-Moldova". The beneficiaries also disseminated their messages at the final event in December 2021.
- A 5-minute video showcasing the stories of the final beneficiaries of the Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova (a doctor working in a prison, a film maker and a kindergarten educator) was released at the end of December 2021. The beneficiaries explained what knowledge and skills they have acquired thanks to the Council of Europe support and what changes these brought in their mindsets and others’.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- The Director of the ODGP Verena Taylor visited the country between 1 and 4 October 2021 and met with Government and Parliament leadership as well as international partners to discuss cooperation within the Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova 2021-2024.
- The PACE monitoring rapporteurs for the Republic of Moldova paid a stock-taking visit to Chisinau and Tiraspol on 13-15 October 2021 and issued a statement at the end of the visit.
- Members of the High-Level Working Group on Justice and the President of the Venice Commission came to Chisinau on 19-21 October to hold discussions on justice reform.
- Between 21 and 23 November 2021, the Secretary General paid her first official visit to the Republic of Moldova, held meetings with the country’s leadership as well as civil society and made joint press statements with the President of the country.

Kyiv

Situation of the Office

- Core staff – 11, project staff – 50, total staff – 61.
- The Office implemented 19 projects, including 14 projects funded by voluntary contributions, one funded under the CoE/EU PGG, three funded under the joint CoE/EU and one project funded by HRTF.

State of implementation of projects/programmes

- ***AP CoE Project "Supporting institutions to combat ill-treatment in Ukraine"***: the Project finalised the needs assessment on cooperation and coordination arrangements with the SBI and completed research on gender equality in the SBI. A network of gender focal points was created in all territorial departments and subsequently trained on prohibition of discrimination. The Project created a pool of 11 SBI trainers on human rights. In December, a working visit by SBI leadership to CoE HQ was organised to discuss further cooperation; the Project presented research on "Investigation into Alleged Ill-Treatment Contrary to Article 3 of the ECHR in Ukraine"; delivered a seminar on "Crime Scene Inspection and Respective ECHR Guarantees" for 80 participants; supported "Innovations in Criminal Justice Conference" and supported the Office of the Prosecutor General to consider the implementation of the new Counter Torture Strategy and Action Plan .
- ***AP CoE Project "Combatting violence against women in Ukraine"***: the Project completed two grants to raise awareness about the Istanbul Convention (IC). NGO La Strada-Ukraine conducted awareness raising activities throughout Ukraine. NGO "Faith. Hope. Love" focused on Odesa region. The Project translated and disseminated: the VC opinion regarding compatibility of IC with the Armenian legal framework; GREVIO General Recommendation No.1; brochure "Towards an ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality". Under the 16-days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV), CoE supported a briefing by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine; and issued a statement together with EUDEL and EUAM dedicated to 16 Days of Activism against GBV. The Statement was joined by 22 embassies and 2 international organisations.
- ***AP CoE Project "Combating violence against children in Ukraine"***: the Project developed [methodological recommendations on monitoring the right of the child to protection from violence and abuse](#), to provide framework for a unified approach to conducting monitoring visits and reporting for domestic actors. At the request of the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Project conducted an evaluation and analyses of the draft standards for the implementation of the Guiding Principles of the Committee of Ministers on Child-Friendly Justice. The HELP course "Family Law and Human Rights" was adapted to the Ukrainian context and launched on 11 October. The Project also conducted a workshop on Lanzarote Convention for CSOs and organised a training for 20 juvenile prosecutors on crimes related to sexual violence against children. The final conference of the project gathering relevant actors was held on 30 November.
- ***AP CoE Project "Enhancing decentralisation and public administration reform in Ukraine"***: The Project prepared Opinion CEGG/LEX(2021)2 on the revised Draft Law "On the city of Kyiv – the Capital of Ukraine" and Policy Advice on legal personality at local level. In partnership with the Ministry for Communities Development it produced the

methodological recommendations relating to rules and procedures on “starosta”, completed the annual round of the National Local Government Best Practice Contest and awarded 28 local authorities for their innovations implemented between 2019 and 2021, conducted the National Media Contest on Local Self-Government Reform, and commissioned the annual opinion poll on decentralisation. Jointly with the National Agency on Civil Service it supported the Best Practices Contest in Professional Training System for Public Authorities. In addition, it organised the 6th Local self-government forum (11-12 November), which brought together over 750 participants (on-line). The Project also offered a discussion platform on developing metropolitan governance in the Lviv sub-region and presented the findings on the population’s attitudes to this topic surveyed in 15 municipalities through 2000 face-to-face interviews.

- **AP CoE Project "Youth for Democracy in Ukraine"**: the Project supported 10 local communities in 7 regions reviewed processes of designing youth policy at local level based on evidence and needs of young people. 9 local, 4 regional and 1 national partner youth centres in 12 regions reviewed their approaches to ensure that their strategies meet the needs of young people and are in line with CoE standards. As a result, young people practised youth participation and civic engagement through the implementation of local projects. The Project developed a procedure for CSOs to be involved in the processes of organising youth work related educational programmes. The Guide to Recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4 on youth work and “Don’t judge a book by its cover! The Living Library Organiser’s Guide” were translated into Ukrainian.
- **AP CoE Project "Supporting the transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice in Ukraine – Phase II"**: the Central Electoral Committee increased its knowledge on gender mainstreaming and hate speech during elections, 73 TEC members were trained on gender quota application in local elections at 3 thematic workshops. An online training course on election observation was produced. The toolkit on enhancing political participation of young women from disadvantaged groups was piloted in Poltava. The Project also developed research on decentralised election management; a compendium of 10 CoE documents on “Inclusive policies and politics: people with disabilities”; a compendium of 12 ECtHR election-related decisions; an assessment methodology within the “Functioning of democratic institutions” component of Kyiv Mohyla Annual Report on the “Rule of Law in Ukraine”, and draft research on national minorities’ political rights.
- **AP CoE "Project Strengthening local democratic governance in Ukraine"**: coordination between central and local authorities was strengthened at the Second meeting of the Platform of national – local dialogue on Open Government in December 2021, which allowed effective discussion between central authorities and mayors from 17 municipalities representing 3 regions. An assessment of youth policies at local level was conducted with the participation of 275 local communities; it analyses existing practices that local authorities are taking to engage young people in local decision making. The draft law “On the City of Kyiv - Capital of Ukraine” was reviewed, and recommendations were provided on its compatibility with the proportionality principle laid down in Article 8.3 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Congress and the Association of Ukrainian Cities to enhance advocacy for the interest of local authorities and strengthen local democracy.
- **AP CoE Project "Strengthening civil participation in democratic decision making in Ukraine"**: additional 6 municipalities adopted the statute of territorial community enabling legal framework for civil participation, 4 municipalities implemented

the Regulation on School Participatory Budgeting, and 2 municipalities introduced a mechanism for engaging citizens in urban public space planning (including Kyiv city). Methodological support was provided to Stryi city council on participatory budgeting mechanism. School students from Drohobych and Kamianske were equipped with practical skills on School PB. As a result of a high-level online webinar the Project united the key stakeholders and led the process of re-engineering of the national participatory budgeting in Ukraine. In synergy with the CoE election project 14 young women leaders from Poltava region received trainings on participation in decision-making processes at local level. As a result of CivicLab Certification course, delivered to the representatives of the Ministry of Youth, 14 public officials acquired knowledge on using CivicLab methodology. A series of awareness raising articles with a total reach of 20.000 unique readers on project intervention in the municipalities of Lviv region were published in local media outlets.

- ***AP CoE Project "Protecting national minorities, including Roma, and minority languages in Ukraine"***: the Local Initiative Groups on national minorities in five pilot municipalities Nizhyn, Lutsk, Melitopol, Perechin and Krasnosilka developed and approved their Work Plans. The implemented activities included: 3 trainings for 60 NM representatives; local information campaigns on national minorities; a round-table discussion on minority languages education and social issues (30 participants); 2 events for children and students to promote multicultural society. The results of the regional visits to Chernihiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia and Volyn regions were presented at the Inter-ministerial working group on Roma inclusion organised by the Ombudsman's office on October 7. On October 25, the Ministry of Economy issued an order approving the profession Community Mediator (Roma mediator). In November, the project supported 2 online events (in Lutsk and Melitopol) dedicated to the International Romani Language Day. The project officer presented the results of the Codification of the Romani Language in Ukraine at the high level CoE International Romani Language Conference. Parliament was supported to hold a discussion on Roma inclusion. 25 representatives of the local authorities and Roma civil society representatives attended a seminar on regional implementation of the Roma National Strategy 2030. On December 9 the Project contributed to the round table discussion on human and civil rights organised by the Parliament and the Ombudsperson's office. 67 participants attended the meeting. The project launched information campaign on "Community without prejudices".
- ***AP CoE Project "Human Rights Compliant Criminal Justice System in Ukraine"***: in cooperation with CoE SICIT Project research on effective investigation into ill-treatment attributable to law enforcement officials in line with Article 3 of the ECHR was presented to national authorities, experts and NGOs. The consolidated report on the research on the application of pre-trial detention and house arrest in Ukraine was prepared. Expert comments on the regulations regarding recruitment and promotion of prosecutors were provided to the prosecutorial disciplinary body and subsequent expert consultations regarding these regulations were facilitated. Two HELP courses on the right to liberty and on pre-trial investigation for the investigative judges were completed.
- ***AP CoE Project "Supporting constitutional and legal reforms, constitutional justice and assisting the Verkhovna Rada in conducting reforms aimed at enhancing its efficiency. Phase 2"***: in October, the Project organised a roundtable on "Cooperation of Different Branches of State Power in Ensuring the Integrity of Public Officials and Members of the Judiciary" and on November 26, an international workshop on "Application of the Constitution of Ukraine as an Act of Direct Effect in Administrative Proceedings". The scientific and practical commentary on Chapter 1 of the Electoral Code was finalised and published. On November 12-14 and December 17, several meetings of

national experts were held to prepare the methodology for Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Annual Index "Rule of Law in Ukraine" based on the Rule of Law Checklist of the Venice Commission.

- **AP CoE Project "Support for judicial institutions and processes to strengthen access to justice in Ukraine"**: in November, the Project organised the third meeting of the working group of judges for the development of the training course on the principle of legal certainty. The Project jointly with the Supreme Court held an on-line round table where a new Opinion of the Consultative Council of European Judges № 24 on evolution of the Councils for the Judiciary was presented. In December, the Project organised a round table on "Improvement of legislation on the provision of free legal aid" where an expert Opinion as to the improvement of the standards on quality of the secondary free legal aid for civil, administrative proceedings and Overview of the national systems of the CoE member-states offering free legal aid services to children were presented. In December the Project jointly with the OSCE, Law Faculty of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Supreme Court, and the National School of Judges organised the X International Forum on ECtHR case-law.
- **AP CoE Project "Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions – Phase II"**: the IDP integration strategy and its Action Plan were developed and approved by the Government on 28 October. In December, the Government Resolution # 947 (the "Compensation Decree") was amended to simplify the procedure of compensation for destroyed housing. The Project also assessed the draft law on protection of property; assisted to develop the ToR for the creation of an e-register of destroyed property; supported the Ombudsperson on a monitoring visit to Luhansk region to test the draft methodology on monitoring and access to temporary and social housing and application of compensation mechanism for destroyed housing. Stakeholders from five selected communities (Berdyansk, Kramatorsk, Kryvyi Rih, Storogynets, and Tairive) were trained on community development, gender mainstreaming and strategic fundraising. the Project contributed to raising awareness of over 120 judges regarding relevant experiences from the Balkans as well as on application of the Constitution in transitional justice through the workshop on "Application of the Constitution as an Act of Direct Effect in Administrative Proceedings".
- **EU/CoE Project "EU and Council of Europe working together to support freedom of media in Ukraine"**: two strategic documents of the Ukrainian Public Broadcaster UA:PBC (Gender Equality Strategy and Strategy of relations with public institutions), one document on Content recommendations for the UA:PBC's platforms and two analytical documents for the UA:PBC multi-platform brand development were developed with the Project support. An expert report on the models of government support to the local print media was developed and discussed with stakeholders. Judges and prosecutors were trained on international standards on the safety of journalists and effective investigation on violence against journalists. Subject matter handbooks of the training course were printed and distributed. A discussion on Ukraine's international commitments to protect journalists was organised. A training course for judges on access to public information and information with restricted access was developed in partnership with the National School of Judges, and 4 trainings for judges of administrative jurisdiction were held.
- **EU/CoE Project "European Union and Council of Europe working together to strengthen the Ombudsperson's capacity to protect human rights in Ukraine"**: the Project prepared a legal opinion on the draft amendments to the law on

Ombudsperson and presented it at expert discussions in December 2021. Modernisation of the data protection legislation resulted in registration of the Draft law on "National Commission in the field of Data Protection and Access to Public Information" No.6177 on 18 October. An analysis of the national judicial practice in the field of data protection was prepared. To strengthen the NPM monitoring work on psychiatric and social care institutions, the Project prepared research on legal grounds ensuring human rights protection of the mentally disabled persons in places of deprivation of liberty. The Project assisted the Ombudsperson in the promotion of the training course on "Personal Data Protection" disseminating information at 1048 Centres of administrative services across Ukraine.

- ***EU/CoE Project "EU and Council of Europe working together to support the Prison Reform in Ukraine" (SPERU)***: a rehabilitation programme "Keeping Family Ties in Custody" was piloted in two Correctional Colonies, separately for 15 female and 15 male adult prisoners. Three rounds of online training "Application of the Risk and Needs Assessment tool and individual sentence planning for sentenced offenders" started for the staff of 24 selected prisons. Recommendations to the draft Strategy for Penitentiary Reform in Ukraine 2026 and Action Plan for its implementation (2021-2023) were provided at the MoJ request. A training course for prison staff in multidisciplinary skills was delivered to 73 staff of two Interregional Departments.
- ***PGG II Project "Strengthening measures to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism in Ukraine"***: in the reporting period the Project delivered the following results: a specialised online training course for local courts' judges on "Countering Terrorist Financing: Judicial Aspects"; an online workshop on anti-money-laundering risk and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) assessment for designated non-financial businesses and professions followed by the advisory session; a series of online trainings for non-banking financial institutions on various AML/CFT aspects; online trainings for public authorities and non-profit organisations (NPOs) on terrorist financing risks for NPO sector; an online expert discussion on the application of the updated criminal offence of money laundering and an online training for the National Bank of Ukraine on supervisory techniques.

Gender mainstreaming and gender equality

All the projects and other activities in the office are supported by the Gender Advisor. On 25 November, in support of **The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence** campaign, the Office issued together with the EU Delegation and EUAM a joint statement encouraging Ukraine to ratify the Istanbul Convention. The statement was joined by 22 embassies. A second session of Gender Mainstreaming Training in Co-operation in 2021 was held on 14-15 December. The Office maintains external presence by active participation in relevant working groups and meetings. The 1325 Task Force had a meeting on 22 October. The fifth gender letter of 2021 was sent in December with the latest updates.

Follow-up action (i.e. future actions)

Funding from voluntary contributions was secured to follow up in 2022 – 'the non-cost extension year' - on 6 projects that ended in 2021, namely: Supporting institutions to combat ill-treatment in Ukraine; Combating violence against children in Ukraine, Youth for Democracy in Ukraine; Supporting the transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice in Ukraine; Supporting constitutional and legal reforms, constitutional justice and assisting the

Verkhovna Rada in conducting reforms aimed at enhancing its efficiency; and Promoting social human rights as a key factor of sustainable democracy in Ukraine.

Visibility and outreach

Six statements by COE SG Marija Pejčinović Burić, one statement by PACE President Rik Daems were published during the reporting period. The Ukrainian media published more than 100 news items about the visit of the Secretary General on November 3-5, 2021. On 3 November, the MFA announcement on the SG's visit and the joint press conference was shared on Facebook. On 4 November, the Council of Europe news item on the visit was translated into Ukrainian and published on the CoE Ukraine website. In total, 138 news items were published on the CoE Ukraine website. This is 36 % more than in 2020 (174 news items) and 368 % more than in 2019 (64 news items) over the same period. Users have made 46883 visits to the website. This is +17,5 % compared to the same period in 2020 (39905 visits) and +142,2% comparing to 2019 (19355 visits). There were 80854 page views (+7,3 % / 2020 and +111,3% / 2019) and 65678 unique page views (+9,8 % / 2020 and +119,5% / 2019). 336 posts were published on the Facebook page of the CoE in Ukraine covering 189342 unique users. The number of followers of the Facebook page has increased from 5521 to 5918 (+ 7%). Regarding the Twitter account, there were 191 tweets, 53 new followers, 11193 profile visits, 28085 tweet impressions. The number of followers has increased from 857 to 890 (+5%).

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 03-06 November – SG's official visit.
- 15-16 November – Venice Commission mission;
- 17-19 November – visit of Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of HRRL;
- 22-24 November – the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities monitoring visit;
- 16-17 December – visit of the Secretary General of the Congress.

Sarajevo

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 7, project staff – 21 (the work of one ROMACTED colleague is primarily linked with Strasbourg Headquarters and not the activities of the Sarajevo Office as such), total staff – 28.

The Office implemented ten projects, of which five are funded through the EU/CoE Horizontal Facility (HF, Phase II) for the Western Balkans and Turkey, while five are funded by voluntary contributions to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021. In addition, the Office is participating in the implementation of one regional project, the EU/CoE Joint Programme on Roma empowerment at local level (ROMACTED).

State of implementation of projects / the Action Plan

EU/CoE HF 4 “Strengthening human rights treatment of detained persons based on European standards and best practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina”:

The Action completed the Integrated Prison Management Information System which enables data exchange between prisons. In this process, ten prison professionals continued to improve their skills for managing electronic prison data exchange. The *Resource manual on rehabilitation of forensic patients* was published and 150 copies were distributed to beneficiaries. The *Multidisciplinary approach to resocialisation of offenders* manual was published and will be used in the next training cycle for prison and police officers. Four prison officers enhanced their skills for delivering probation services in prisons. The CoE *Human rights in policing* manual was used in the training of police officers of Tuzla Canton Ministry of Interior (<http://mupk.ba/uprava-policije-edukacija-policijskih-sluzbenika-3/>).

EU/CoE HF 19 “Promotion of diversity and equality in BiH”:

The Action supported the Ombudsperson Institution to enhance the knowledge of 18 civil servants from Brčko about hate speech. The Minority coordination group discussed at its 4th meeting how to promote/protect the rights of national minorities. The Jewish humanitarian CSO *La Benevolencija* held discussions with students of 5 primary and secondary schools in Sarajevo to build awareness on antisemitism, xenophobia, islamophobia and hate speech, and encourage their active engagement. 25 students followed a 30-day legal clinic on international/European human rights law focused on LGBTI rights, organised in partnership with the European Law Students Association in Sarajevo, where the HELP course on combating racism, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia was presented.

EU/CoE HF 21 “Quality education for all”:

With the support of local/international experts, Policy Network members finalised the Implementation plan for the "Policy recommendations with a roadmap for improving inclusive education". 29 primary and secondary schools participating in the project's School network received media and IT equipment, enabling them to create "digital democracy classrooms". The equipment is intended for students and school staff for enhancing democratic culture and media literacy, filming and developing projects in line with the Reference Framework of the Competences for Democratic Culture, as well as for local/regional exchanges, cooperation and peer learning. The students used the equipment in a series of weekly chatrooms throughout December, and to prepare media and video materials for Human Rights Day.

EU/CoE HF 20 Project “Preventing and combating human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina”:

At the 5th Steering Committee meeting (2 December), the new work plan was adopted and the study “Assessing the age of children at risk of trafficking in human beings” presented. The capacity of over 90 professionals in identifying/protecting victims of trafficking for labour exploitation was enhanced through a round table and 3 trainings. European Anti-trafficking Day (18 October) was marked with the Ministry of Security, with joint media statements on the impact of local measures on combating trafficking for labour exploitation. A regional webinar on the new HELP online training module on Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation was held (4 November) for more than 130 participants. Guidelines for protecting the private life/personal data of victims were published /disseminated.

EU/ CoE HF33 Project “Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Bosnia and Herzegovina – JUFREX 2”:

4 cascade trainings were organised, where 24 judges and prosecutors, 60 lawyers and 8 law enforcement officers from each entity enhanced their capacity on handling defamation and hate speech-related cases. The beneficiaries gave feedback that the trainings have had a positive effect, bringing court practice on protection of freedom of expression, especially in defamation cases, in closer conformity with the case-law of the Strasbourg Court. 3 interprofessional seminars facilitated dialogue between media and judiciary professionals on online harassment against journalists, hate speech, and the issue of making secret recordings in the context of investigative journalism and the publishing of such materials. A total of 87 media and judiciary professionals, 40 of them women and 48 men, attended.

VC Project “Support to sustainable rehabilitation of violent extremist prisoners (VEPs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina”:

The 8-month bridge project was completed, reaching the following key objectives: the State Ministry of Justice formally endorsed the VEP-specific rehabilitation tools and programmes developed in line with Council of Europe recommendations. Piloting of the aforementioned tools and programmes in 3 penitentiary establishments (State Prison, Bijeljina and Tuzla Prisons) confirmed their reliability and usefulness, while ensuring a unified approach throughout the country’s prison system. A web-based collaboration platform “BiH Penitentiary Virtual Centre of Excellence” was established for exchanging information about preventing and countering violent extremism in prisons. The project implemented a total of 15 activities and built up the capacity of 110 professionals from 17 institutions.

VC Project “Initiative for Legal Certainty and Efficient Judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Phase II”:

Capacity built of 54 judges/10 legal advisers on civil/criminal cases reasoning. Methodology for exchanging judicial practice done. Capacity of 14 judges/11 students from the region built via 3 HELP courses. 22 students gained knowledge in Human Rights Clinic in Banjaluka. Competence on anti-discrimination/legal certainty/efficient judiciary built for 7 legal advisers from case law departments and 8 State MPs. New Human Rights Training Curriculum adopted by HJPC and 4 modules prepared, with 17 judges certified as trainers. 8 HJPC members/judges learned about ECtHR and CoE bodies on study visit, while 2 had a 1-month placement.

Roundtable led to commitment of 22 HJPC/judiciary members to revive harmonisation panels. Prep of Sarajevo Univ. team, victors of Strasbourg moot court competition.

VC Project "Building Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar":

The project supported the City of Mostar in the follow-up to the Citizens' Assembly recommendations on ensuring cleanliness and maintenance of public spaces in the city. Support included capacity-building activities for City Councillors, officials and public utility companies, and the provision of audiovisual equipment for the purpose of greater transparency of the work of the local Council. On 16 November, the City Council of Mostar unanimously adopted the Action plan for the implementation of the citizens' recommendations. The evaluation findings of the deliberative process were presented on 14 December. The process was assessed as highly relevant, effective and efficient, charting a solid path towards sustainability for the democratic engagement of citizens through deliberative assemblies.

VC Project "Support to more integral and inclusive electoral processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina":

Through training of trainers, the project strengthened the capacity of 49 Municipal Election Committee (MEC) members from the Sarajevo and Doboj areas to administer elections in line with international standards. In December, a two-day hybrid conference entitled "Local Elections 2020 - Challenges and Lessons Learned", was organised in Sarajevo in cooperation with the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, gathering more than 200 members of municipal and city election committees, representatives of the OSCE Mission, the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other international and domestic organisations. The conference took stock of the conduct of the local elections in 2020, formulating conclusions and recommendations for improving the election process in the country.

VC Project "Media and Information Literacy (MIL): for human rights and more democracy":

A research study on "Adults' Media Habits and Attitudes" with infographics was finalised/promoted during MIL Week and Fair. 2 CoE events and the research study presentation gathered 60 participants from various institutions/media outlets during that week, which was organised by the Communication Regulatory Agency (CRA) with a project-supported social media campaign and production/delivery of materials to more than 50 institutions, incl. schools. Studies on "MIL in various institutions", "Gender and Media", "Responsibility and Artificial Intelligence" and "Information Disorder" are being finalised and will be translated/published. 21 representatives of CRA and other institutions working on MIL expanded their knowledge on topics related to social media management and promotion during a 3-day training.

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

JP EU/CoE "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level" (ROMACTED):

ROMACTED programme Phase II launched (19 October), gathering national/municipal authorities, Roma representatives and international/local representatives. 12 Memoranda of Cooperation signed by HoO and Mayors of selected municipalities confirming commitment of local officials to Roma inclusion. National workshop held, with all relevant parties, incl. municipal officials, trained in ROMACTED methodology. Joint planning conducted with each

municipality for implementation of ROMACTED Phase II. Synergies established with all local/international stakeholders working on Roma inclusion. Facilitators steered meetings in Roma communities and in municipalities, to make joint action plans (APs) for 2022, with priority to be given to development/revision of Local APs and participatory budgeting.

Other relevant activities (examples)

- On 7 October, the HoO and DHoO discussed future cooperation activities aimed at implementing GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations with Edin Jahić from the Ministry of Security.
- On 22 October, the HoO presented the CoE work in the field of structured sentence management for violent and extremist prisoners at a ministerial conference on deradicalisation in prisons organised by the Ministry of Justice of BiH.
- On 7 December, the HoO attended part of the bi-annual meeting of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board Political Directors.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other official delegations

- 2 visits of Venice Commission Secretariat on constitutional/electoral reform (27 to 28 October and 1 to 2 December) and a visit of the CoE Human Rights Director (9 to 10 November) to discuss execution of the *Sejdić and Finci* group of cases.
- The President of the CoE Congress Chamber of Local Authorities, Bernd Vöhringer, and the Chair of the Current Affairs Committee, Thomas Andersson, visited Mostar on 9 November.

Tbilisi

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 8, Project staff – 28, Total staff – 36. New DHoO joined the office as of 1 November 2021.

The Office implemented 14 projects, 3 in the framework of EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance (PGG II), 1 funded through a voluntary contribution from Denmark, and 10 funded through voluntary contributions at Action Plan-level.

State of implementation of projects

- VC-Denmark – “Fighting Discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech in Georgia”: the Equality Week, initiated and supported by the project, has brought together the State and non-state actors for the third consecutive year to convey the importance of Equality, Diversity and Human Rights through the organisation of over 80 events reaching more than 1700 people. The Equality Hackathon products, such as an interactive game on equality, a wheel map and a map on gender equality are now accessible to the public. An electronic course on policing in a diverse society has been developed. 75 legal professionals (26 judges, 25 prosecutors, 24 investigators) improved knowledge on international standards of combating hate crimes by completing the updated HELP course on Hate Crime and Hate Speech.
- EU/CoE PGG Project “Enhancing the Accountability and the Efficiency of the Judicial System and the Professionalism of Lawyers in Georgia”: A situational analysis of remote electronic hearing practices has been finalised, suggesting that the practice of remote hearings shall be continued, but Georgian authorities need to take necessary measures to prevent any kind of undue influence over the participants. On the basis of data analysis for the period 2018-2020, a prototype of court management model was developed, showing the efficiency of Georgian courts of first instance. GBA’s professional adaptation program’s assessment identified the areas of improvement to better prepare future lawyers for the profession.
- EU/CoE PGG Project “Supporting the Criminal Justice Reforms. Tackling Criminal Aspects of the Judicial Reforms in Georgia”: 132 legal professionals (judges, prosecutors and lawyers) increased their knowledge on ECHR standards and case-law of the ECtHR on application of pre-trial measures. 14 prosecutors (3 female/11 male) learned about various modalities of International Cooperation in Criminal Matters.
- EU/CoE PGG Project “Enhancing the systems of prevention and combatting corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing” (PGG II-GE): The Council of Europe organised a training on “Investigation and prosecution of Terrorist Financing Cases” (20-21 January 2022). The event brought together 20 experienced representatives of the Georgian law enforcement agencies and the Financial Monitoring Service. With the contribution of international expertise from the Council of Europe, participants discussed terrorist financing threats and vulnerabilities, investigative and prosecutive strategies as well as the relevant practical cases for efficient investigation and prosecution of such crimes.
- AP “Promoting an Integrated Approach to End Violence against Women and Enhancing Gender Equality in Georgia”: Specialisation trainings on sexual violence crimes were continued and delivered to the professionals from various institutions, more than 100 investigators, 20 prosecutors and 15 lawyers were specialised on this topic. 33 forensic medical experts successfully attended online sessions on forensic medical examination of victims of sexual

violence crimes, covering legal and psychological parts of this topic. The first HELP course to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence launched in co-operation with High School of Justice involving 24 Georgian judges and their assistants.

- AP "Strengthening Freedom of media, Internet governance and Personal Data Protection in Georgia" SMIP-GE: Georgian Internet Governance Forum (GeoIGF) – annual conference gathering stakeholders in the field of internet was organised. The event was marked by the signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the GeoIGF and the Economic Policy Committee of the Parliament of Georgia enabling closer cooperation between the Parliament of Georgia and major stakeholders in the field of internet in Georgia. The project launched a new action in the field of AI and personal data protection, which envisages capacity building and policy development of national data protection authority in this field. The launching event was followed by a series of trainings and necessary research.
- VC "Support to the Profession of Lawyer in Georgia": Bench-bar meeting on the implementation of a Code on Rights of the Child was organised on 9-10 October involving judges, private and free legal aid lawyers. Electronic case management system for GBA's Ethics Commission was developed to help the Commission receive, manage and issue decisions on ethics related complaints electronically. Support to GBA general elections was provided by assessing the updated Charter and General Assembly Meeting Regulations of the Association, developing the electronic registration and participation portal for GBA elections and providing expert support for the implementation of the electronic ballot counting.
- AP "Enhancement of Human Rights and Health-Care Support to Penitentiary System": Activities carried out for the penitentiary system personnel: Map of Training Needs developed; Cascade training sessions delivered on professional burnout and its prevention; Training sessions carried out on long-term Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT); Training session delivered on investigative interview techniques and communication strategies in relation to inmates with emotional or mental health problems. Activities for the National Preventive Mechanism: monitoring tool reviewed, and recommendations proposed with respect to addressing drug addiction in penitentiary institutions; a workshop on mental healthcare provision held.
- AP "Supporting Transparency, Inclusiveness and Integrity of Electoral Practice and Process in Georgia": electoral stakeholders were introduced to the toolkit on countering misuse of administrative resources in elections and discussed practical steps addressing challenges in the context of conducted local elections. The staff of the SAO Political Finances Monitoring Department obtained a deeper knowledge of international standards and good practices on political finance oversight – investigative procedures and anti-fraud mechanisms. Youth active engagement in electoral processes was promoted through an essay competition, Your Voice in Democracy. 45 young people from all over Georgia exchanged views on the role of youth at the online discussion, Youth for Change.
- AP "Strengthening Protection of Social and Economic Rights in Georgia": On November 30th, the results and recommendations of a comprehensive needs assessment in respect to the current state of Social Rights in Georgia vis-à-vis the European Social Charter were discussed during the online event with respective authorities. The manuals on how NGOs as well as NHRIs can engage with ECSR were translated and incorporated in a workshop for the staff of Public Defender's Office to increase awareness and capacity of PDO staff on engaging with ECSR. In December, awareness-raising seminars on the ESC were organised for the respective Georgian governmental agencies and social dialogue representatives.

- VC Austria/AP "Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at local level in Georgia" (PMM 2638): On 9 December 2021, a high-level event focusing on "Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights at local level in Georgia" from a multi-level perspective was held to mark the International Human Rights Day. Co-organised with NALAG, it gathered 73% of Georgia's newly elected local representatives as well as representatives of central authorities, the Public Defender's Office, and CSOs. Memoranda of Understanding were signed between the Congress and 13 municipalities and with NALAG to work together as a forum of exchange, to strengthen institutional frameworks, improve social inclusion, and mainstream human rights in local policies and actions.
- VC Austria/AP "Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at local level in Georgia" (PMM 2802): Three academies on participatory democracy (one central and two regionals in Guria and Imereti) and the international winter school on participatory democracy tools were conducted (trained more than 80 local representatives) and the baseline study was prepared, analysing regulatory frameworks and practices in civil participation.
- 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 in July-September, the first round of quality check has been carried out by the CEPEJ Secretariat in line with CEPEJ methodology and in close cooperation with the EaP Dashboard national correspondents from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.
- AP "Human Rights Compliant Policing in Georgia": Detention Department enhanced their knowledge on the application of the Article 3 of the ECHR in the detention facilities. Case managers and the investigators of the MIA enhanced their knowledge on psychological aspects of communication with the victims and perpetrators of sexual violence. The managers of the SIS together with the relevant staff of the investigative department, raised their capacity in effective communication. The Academy of the MIA is equipped with a methodology for developing the training curriculum for police officers and investigators. The communication standards are developed to facilitate the communication of the SIS with persons with disabilities, including persons with mental disabilities.

Follow-up action (i.e. future actions)

- 2nd Round of Quality Check of data provided in CEPEJ COLLECT (January–March 2022).
- The project "Support to the Profession of Lawyer in Georgia" was completed in December 2021. A new project "Enhanced Access to Legal Aid Services for Marginalised Population" will provide follow-up with regard to promotion of ethical standards among lawyers and facilitating discussion between justice system actors.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- 7-9 December: Secretary General of the Congress, Andreas Kiefer paid a working visit to Georgia.
- 8-10 December: PACE Co-rapporteurs visited Georgia within a factfinding mission on honouring obligations and commitments by Georgia.
- 8-12 November: a GREVIO delegation carried out an evaluation visit to Georgia.

Tirana

Situation of the Office

The CoE Office in Tirana has 21 staff members (4 male/17 female) out of which 7 (4/3) are core staff and 14 (female) project staff. The Office implements eight projects, out of which seven are co-funded by the EU, one by the Swedish Sida. Except for one regional project, the projects implemented by the Office are administratively fully decentralised. Due to Covid-19 pandemic situation in the country the Office continued to alternate teleworking with office presence.

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

1. Within the **HF II Action on Strengthening the Efficiency of Justice (SEJ III) in Albania**, a road map for the development of a new Case Management Integrated System (CMIS) in judiciary institutions in Albania, prepared with the Action's support, is approved. 68 court clerks and IT personnel were capacitated on how to apply the new methodology on judicial statistics based on CEPEJ guidelines. High Inspector of Justice (HIJ) is unanimously accepted as an observer member in the European Network of Justice Inspectors (RESIJ), as 25 HIJ's representatives were capacitated on EU and international justice inspection practices.
2. Within the **HF II Action Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners in Albania**, the appraisal methodology for prison police was improved based on good practices applied and tested in different European countries. 34 psychologists and social workers were capacitated on how to manage the common mental health disorders and on suicide prevention and self-harm. A joint Action Plan established between the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Ministry of Justice on improving the conditions and care for forensic patients, was largely based on the roadmap prepared by the Action in view of the CPT's recommendations.
3. Within the **HF Action on Economic Crime in Albania**, a set of recommendations on further improvements of the party and electoral campaign finance, including on the misuse of public administration resources, were provided to relevant authorities in a high-level conference. 300 representatives from relevant public institutions enhanced their capacities to ensure the operationalisation of the electronic system for asset declarations. 18 inspectors and assistant inspectors of the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interests (HIDAACI) were trained on the verification and administrative investigation of declarations of interest of persons entrusted with top executive functions.
4. Within the **HF II Action on Supporting effective domestic remedies and facilitating the execution of judgments (D-REX)**, 59 people received tailored legal assistance in relation to the registration process of agricultural land, in cooperation with Tirana legal Aid Society and the Tirana University as 10.000 people were informed on the registration of agricultural titles in 4 districts and 16 administrative units (Tirana – rural, Elbasan, Fieri/ Lushnje and Durres). 20 judges from Fier and Shkoder district courts, Shkoder administrative and appeal courts were capacitated on the harmonisation of judicial practice in line with the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Albanian High Court.

5. Within the **HF II Action on Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Albania**, the LGBTI National Action Plan 2021-2027, prepared with the support of the Action, was adopted by the Albanian Government. A comprehensive study on the hate speech situation and perceptions in Albania was launched drawing major attention from media and relevant institutions. One of the pending by-laws on Protection of National Minorities was reviewed and expected to be adopted in early 2022. Police officers in 7 Albania districts were capacitated in preventing and combatting hate speech and hate crime.
6. Within the **HF II Action on Judiciary and Freedom of Expression (JUFREX)**, 15 magistrates and 16 lawyers were capacitated as Training of Trainers (ToTs) on the standards of Article 10 of the ECHR. A high-level forum involving senior officials and journalists discussed about the challenges and responsibilities in creating a safe environment for journalism and safeguarding freedom of expression and media in Albania. A resource booklet on protection mechanisms for journalists was developed and dispatched to relevant media circles.
7. Within the joint EU/CoE regional **ROMACTED Programme**, a tripartite agreement was signed between the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the CoE Office in Tirana and 10 partner municipalities on the implementation of the ROMACTED - Phase II activities. Representatives of partner municipalities were further capacitated on the monitoring aspects of local action plans. The new National Action Plan for the Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians in the Republic of Albania (2021-2025), prepared also with the CoE's expertise, was adopted by the Albanian Government. It includes new policy area on "Combatting Antigypsyism.
8. Within the Swedish Sida funded project on "**Strengthening Democratic Citizenship Education in Albania**" online courses of the CoE's Education Department LEMON [online learning platform](#) were translated into Albanian. The TeacherNet platform for peer learning and support for teachers was enlarged with 125 new teachers of citizenship and human sciences, who were capacitated on Social Media, Democracy and Human Rights. 375 members of School Development Teams (teachers, students and parents) were capacitated on Intercultural School Development. 7 Albanian CSO were granted to support 25 pilot schools during 2022 in developing student led projects on making schools a safe learning environment.

Yerevan**Situation of the Office**

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

The Office implements 13 projects, of which 2 national projects and 2 decentralised regional projects are funded by the EU under the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG), 1 project funded by the Government of Switzerland, 1 project funded by the Government of Austria and 7 projects funded by donors' Action Plan-level voluntary contributions. Also, the Office renders support to MAEs in the implementation of other regional projects.

State of implementation of projects/programmes/Action Plans/co-operation documents**PGG Project - Component 1 "Support to the judicial reform – enhancing the independence and professionalism of the judiciary in Armenia"**

For the first time in Armenia, Judicial Code and some derivative legal acts have been reviewed from the gender mainstreaming perspective. The **Gender Impact Assessment** showed that even though the provisions of the Judicial Code are not directly discriminative, the gender-neutral wording used resulted in gender blind approach. The Project also presented and discussed the main findings of the review on compatibility of the **Civil Procedural Code** with the European Standards, highlighting some issues requiring more attention from state authorities and legislators. The review produced 15 new recommendations related to the disputes on the jurisdiction, self-recusal of judges, interrogation of witnesses, summons and notification and other important aspects of civil jurisdiction.

PGG Project - Component 2 "Support to the judicial reform - supporting the criminal justice reform and harmonising the application of European standards in Armenia"

As a follow-up to the adoption of the new Criminal (CC) and Criminal Procedure Codes (CPC) in May and June 2021, the Project initiated several important methodological and capacity building activities for legal professionals, through which the facilitation towards the effective implementation of the new CC and CPC has been launched. During the reporting period, a pool of 20 local trainers (10 F/10 M) to deliver trainings on the new CC and CPC was established in cooperation with the Justice Academy. Following, 109 (56 F/ 53 M) legal professionals received knowledge on the basis of the new legislation via 6 seminars organised by the Project. The Project also launched the preparation of two guides to assist Armenian authorities with the implementation of the new CC and CPC. The guides shall be ready by mid-2022.

PGG Project "Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia"

During the reporting period the PGGII Project on "Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia" supported the Corruption Prevention Commission (CPC) with a complete revision of the current methodology on integrity checking of judicial nominees and production of a new version of the methodology, in a technical paper on "Methodology for Integrity Checking of Judicial Nominees", which followed an earlier review of the current methodology and provision of recommendations on its improvement with a technical paper on "Recommendations on methodology for integrity checking of judicial nominees". The Project also helped the CPC develop and finalise a Model Code of Conduct for Public Servants and Codes of Conducts for specific categories of public officials, which will be submitted to public discussion in view of their adoption in early 2022.

PGG Project “Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards” (regional, decentralised project)

The project published the 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 on the support of the youth in the legal profession is ongoing. A communication and content development specialist was involved for keeping the regional cooperation [website](#) developed within the project up-to-date, engagement of the regional community of lawyers and activation of the interactive tools of the website.

Project “Human Rights and Women in the Armed Forces of Armenia – Phase II”, Action Plan level funding is provided by Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Sweden

The 4th working group online meeting for the development of HELP model online course on the protection of human rights in the armed forces was held. Two animation 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 system of the MoD’ and ‘A methodological guide on internal monitoring on the rights of women servicepersons on the gender equality and prohibition of discrimination in the armed forces’ were developed and submitted to the MoD for approval. An awareness raising toolkit about civil and political rights of military servicepersons was developed. The ToR on 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 Council of Europe member states’. A Textbook (in Armenian) based on the Human Rights Course developed by the Project and submitted to the Military University for approval.

Project “Strengthening the Communities Association of Armenia and transparent, participatory local governance in Armenia”, funded by Switzerland

More than 30 representatives from the local authorities, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Corruption Prevention Commission, Open Government Partnership Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Community of practice Working group on “Anti-Corruption Policy and Open Government” on 23 November to discuss the readiness and capacity of local self-government bodies to pilot the **Corruption risks self-assessment tool**, developed and presented by the project experts. Participants discussed the possible measures to mitigate the identified risks, as well as the steps on further support to national and local authorities in this regard. Another meeting of the Community of practice Working group on “Public Integrity and Transparent procurement” was conducted on 24 November, aimed at adapting the provisions of the Code of Conduct developed by the Council of Europe to the special needs of the communities. Three communities have been selected to pilot the **Model Code of Conduct** in their municipalities. In the framework of the Call for proposals twelve communities were selected for **awarding grants** for implementation of local initiatives in the fields of anti-corruption and open government policies.

Project “Democratic development, decentralisation and good governance in Armenia”, funded by Austrian Development Cooperation

With a view to piloting the Resilience Building Strategies (ReBuS) toolkit, two in-person workshops for around 25 representatives from 12 consolidated communities were organised on 5-6 and 7-8 October. In light of these workshops, interested communities were identified, and visits to seven communities were conducted on 26-28 October to apply stakeholder mapping and stakeholder assessment. During the 5th Community Consultation Initiative meeting (8 October), about 40 key local government stakeholders discussed draft legislative

amendments in the context of the distribution of competences between regional and local levels of government and concept of fiscal decentralisation of local authorities. At the 5th Steering Committee meeting on 26 November, the participants took note of the activity report for 2021 and approved a plan of activities for the no-cost extension period of the project (till May 2022).

Project “Support the scaling-up of the probation service in Armenia”, funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022

A group of 30 probation officers enhanced their knowledge and skills on a wide range of topics that are of relevance for their everyday practice. The risk and need assessment tool for adult and juvenile probationers was piloted in all Probation units, feedback collected and analysed in the report. Technical specifications for software and hardware of IT system were developed and international call for purchase of IT system (e-probation) was published. The rehabilitation programme for general offenders was developed in line with an earlier developed baseline study, and it is tailored to the needs of the Probation service in Armenia. The training course on probation was incorporated into the annual training programme of the Academy of Justice in Armenia for 2022. Some 12 candidate judges increased their knowledge on legal aspects relating to the court procedure while dealing with probation beneficiaries.

Project “Enhancing health care and human rights protection in prisons in Armenia”, funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022

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 were piloted in three selected prisons with the aim to ensure their roll out at the national level. 69 participants from 12 prisons enhanced their knowledge on infection control, prevention of health care-associated infections in health care facilities of prisons, during training sessions on sanitary-epidemiological, hygienic control mechanisms. Skill-based four training sessions for nurses and caregivers were organised for the mid-level staff of the penitentiary institutions on hunger strike management, prevention of suicide, medical control, psychiatric assistance, and care for patients at risk of self-harm, as well as medical ethics in penitentiary facilities. Legal analysis and follow-up recommendations on legislative amendments related to examination of complaints from persons deprived of their liberty in the penitentiary institutions in Armenia was drafted, discussed and a follow up was agreed with the beneficiaries helping to define the priorities and ensuring availability of complaints procedures on various grounds, both within and outside the prison system.

Project “The Path towards Armenia’s Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”, funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022.

40 police officers trained on responding to violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV). The training manual on preventing and combating DV and VAW developed for the Police Educational Complex of Armenia and 10 trainers of the complex received a ToT. 45 media representatives trained on gender sensitive reporting on cases of DV and VAW. The training course on ensuring gender equality through the practice of judges, prosecutors and investigators developed for the Academy of Justice of Armenia. A number of communication activities were launched via social media during the 16 Days of Activism to end gender-based violence, including the final product of the large-scale campaign “Violence in silence”. The TEDx salon talks event with four prominent speakers raised awareness on gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence. Three regional NGOs successfully completed small projects grants. Analysis of 86 criminal and civil DV cases was carried out to supplement the baseline analysis on DV situation in Armenia.

Project “Protection of Human Rights in Biomedicine I”, funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022

The first draft of the “Diagnostic study and the guide on human rights issues in emergency situations” was presented by local expert for discussions with national authorities. A two-day capacity-building training for 13 journalists participating in the first pilot group of “HELP training session for journalists on the Key Principles on Bioethics” was jointly organized with the Office of Human Rights Defender in a hybrid format. 5 HELP roll-outs on “Key Principles on Bioethics” were launched for 80 legal and healthcare professionals of Armenia, including medical doctors, lawyers, representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Office of the Human Rights Defender. Several online training sessions on the topics of “Informed consent”, “Medical confidentiality”, “General Principles of Bioethics” were organised for 50 legal and healthcare professionals with the involvement of international leading experts.

Support for the Execution by Armenia of Judgments in Respect of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights

7 consultancy works by national and international consultants and 7 round tables were organised by the project regarding the issues of more effective and smooth **functioning of the Government Agent’s office**; the **improvement of access to justice**, including for mentally disabled persons and speedy enforcement of national courts’ decisions; **reducing the excessive length of judicial proceedings**; **enhancing the impartiality of judges**; **the person’s right to examine witnesses of the opposite side**, as well as **implementation of Protocol no. 16 to ECHR**. From 5 to 10 December a visit to Yerevan was organised for the members of the CoE Division of Co-operation Programmes and the Execution Department.

Strengthening access to justice for victims of discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes in the Eastern Partnership countries

Over the period of November- December, 12 judges and prosecutors from the Republic of Armenia completed the HELP course on combatting hate speech. At the end of December, in cooperation with the Human Rights Defender office, three awareness-raising videos on combatting hate speech were disseminated via social media. The draft report on “Mapping national responses to hate speech in Armenia” was circulated among the key stakeholders and based on the feedback was finalized ready to be presented to the wider public.

Follow-up actions

No follow up actions during the reporting period.

Other relevant activities

No other activities

Council of Europe high level visits

18-19 October, Committee of Ministers’ Group of Rapporteurs on Democracy delegation visit to Armenia in order to observe the progress made on the implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019-2022.

3-5 November, PACE co-rapporteurs visit to Armenia on behalf of the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee).

2-3 December, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – remote observation of local elections.

Pristina

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff –17, Total staff - 23.

The Office implemented 10 projects, 3 in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey"/South Programme", 1 EU/CoE Regional Joint Programme (ROMACTED), 2 EU/CoE Joint Projects, and 4 funded through non-earmarked voluntary contributions.

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

EU/CoE - HF "Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media (JUFREX)": Three capacity-building events for the judiciary, law enforcement, and media regulatory representatives were organised. The action contributed to reinforcing the ownership of the partner institutions (training centres) by expanding the pool of certified trainers on FoE. Legal protection of political pluralism was tackled during the roundtable with representatives of political parties, journalists and media regulatory bodies. A set of tools are produced to support Information and Privacy Agency (IPA) capacities and competencies. Substantive support during the process of reviewing the bylaws of IPA was provided through Technical Papers.

EU/CoE – HF "Ensuring Efficiency and Quality of Justice (KOSEJII)": The KJC approved the proposal on automatic case (re-)assignments prepared with substantial support of CEPEJ experts to ensure that cases are randomly distributed to judges through the CMIS, as required in the EU Enlargement Report. The CEPEJ training curriculum was incorporated in the Training Programme of the Justice Academy for 2022. The KJC Strategic Plan for 2022 includes e-summuses as a priority, as suggested by the Action. The KJC also announced that they will develop an ICT Strategic Plan, which is in line with the recommendations in the CEPEJ draft report on the Use of IT in Courts in 2020.

EU/CoE – HF "Promotion of diversity and equality in Kosovo"³

On 21 and 22 October 2021, two days training on new anti-discrimination reporting and monitoring framework was organized. In total 31 anti-discrimination officers attended the training, 15 officers from ministries and 16 from municipalities. The launching event of Block the Hatred local campaign took place at National Library in Pristina, on 28 October. The event was opened by Head of Office, and with participation of key speakers Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Head of European Union Office in Kosovo, Director of ODGP and Ombudsperson Naim Qelaj. The event had high visibility and extensive media coverage.

EU/CoE – JP "Building Capacity for Inclusive Education" – INCLUDE: During October – December 2021, 75 teachers from 7 pilot schools completed 6 training days on Inclusive Education. Between 4 – 19 December 2021, 218 school professionals from the pilot schools, participated to the first workshop of the accredited training programme "Creating a Democratic and Inclusive Learning Community". The needs assessment report on the learning centres was finalised and presented in a round table held on 13 December 2021. The framework document for students with special educational needs in upper secondary level was endorsed by the MESTI. Training modules on *Disability and Inclusive Education* and *Enabling Learning for all* for education professionals of the Resource centres were developed.

³ *All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

EU/CoE – JP "Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo" (PECK III):* The Project presented recommendations and good comparative practice on setting up internal channel and procedures enabling a functional whistleblowing mechanism for Kosovo Police. It held the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting. It organised a training for trainers of the Justice Academy and Academy for Public Safety on terrorism financing. It organised a Training of trainers on whistleblower protection for future local trainers. The Project supported a Working Group in reviewing the concept document on the establishment of a Confiscation Fund. It organised two training sessions on identification of ultimate beneficial owners with the banking sector and law enforcement officials.

EU/CoE regional JP "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level (ROMACTED)": First Roma Political School, organized through Prishtina Institute for Political Studies, on 19-21 November held 3 days seminar with 20 Roma participants from the Roma communities. 10 male and 10 female benefited from Roma Political School seminar. Working meeting was held with 10 ROMACTED Municipal Contact Persons with aim to present them with main programme objectives in 2022. External evaluation regarding ROMACTED phase one has been initiated. Two case studies have been selected for the evaluation. The evaluation will take place end of January 2022.

VC non-earmarked "Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings": On October 28, the project organized an online seminar on "Trends of trafficking related to COVID19 pandemics" to address findings and share information on the impact of Covid-19 on trafficking trends and antitrafficking responses. On October 18, marking the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the project supported local authorities on the organization of a month-long awareness raising campaign and disseminated the campaign promotional materials. On December 14, findings and recommendations of the 2nd GRETA's report were presented to local authorities through a hybrid event. Project concluded 31 December 2021.

VC non-earmarked "Strengthening the Kosovo Institutions in Fight against Torture, Ill-treatment and Other Degrading Treatment IKOS": The project completed 4 workshops on Article 3 ECHR with students, legal practitioners and civil society. Training of Trainers of Justice Academy on Article 3 ECHR has been delivered along with follow up 3 cascade trainings with judges and prosecutors. 42 legal practitioners completed HELP Course on Prohibition of Torture in Law Enforcement, Security and Other Coercive Contexts. The upgrade of the E-learning platform of Justice Academy finalized. The project completed assessment of legal and institutional framework for application of alternatives to detention as well as evaluation of other three laws relevant for Article 3 ECHR. Project concluded 31 December 2021.

VC non-earmarked "Promoting local democracy in Kosovo":* High-level conference organised on 15 December with participation of Prime Minister, Secretary General of Congress (online), Minister for Local Government Administration, President of Association of Kosovo Municipalities, to launch assessment of compliance of local government structures with European Charter of Local and Regional Self-Government. Project also produced Handbook on Open Local Government and Public Ethics for Kosovo*, Guide on Combatting Sexism at local level, and training module on political integrity, public ethics and open government.

VC non-earmarked Reinforcing the fight against violence against women and domestic violence in Kosovo - phase III:* 1st Project Steering Committee meeting was held in October. A hybrid workshop was organized for 16 representatives of local authorities to support the GREVIO expert assessment of the alignment with the Istanbul Convention (article 68 of the Istanbul Convention), which took place in November. Project presented to the Ministry of Justice an

expert review on draft "National Strategy on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022-2026" and project team actively contributed as member of the related Working Group for drafting the Strategy. Awareness raising materials and messages against VAW and DV were disseminated through social media to mark the 16 Days of Activism 2021.

Follow up action (i.e. future actions)

KOSEJ II: Launching event of the CEPEJ 'Report on the use of IT in the courts in 2020' to the beneficiaries in February 2021.

INCLUDE: Continue with capacity building programme for education professionals in the 25 pilot schools and in the six regional resource centres

PECK III: Training for NPOs in respect to AML/CFT internal controls and obligations.

Other relevant activities

On 13 December, Venice Commission adopted Opinion on Draft Law on Prosecutorial Council of Kosovo. Office supported in-person visit of rapporteurs to prepare the draft Opinion 18-19 November.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

Official HQ delegation led by Director ODGP visited Pristina for Working Group meeting with local beneficiaries 27 October, with additional meetings with Deputy SRSG UNMIK, EUSR/Head of EU Office in Kosovo, Minister of Justice, and representatives of Member States and Observers.

Rabat

Situation of the Office

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

The Office implemented or provided logistical support for 9 projects: 3 projects funded by the European Union and the others funded by voluntary contributions to the "Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021".

State of implementation of projects

Combating discrimination in Morocco

- 28 October: a press conference to present the study on hate speech prepared by the Mediterranean Forum for Youth in Morocco.
- 9 December: the HELP course on combating hate speech was launched in collaboration with the Presidency of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights, the National Human Rights Council, Rabat's Faculty of Educational Sciences and FOMEJE and attended by 36 participants who will follow the three-month training course.

Prevention of torture in Morocco and support for the NPM

- The guide to case-law on prisoners' rights under the European Convention on Human Rights was published in Arabic.
- 10 December: the HELP course on preventing radicalisation was launched and attended by around 45 participants who will follow the three-month training course.
- December: a video presenting the guide to case-law on prisoners' rights under the European Convention on Human Rights was produced.

Joint EU-CoE Programme, Support to the NPM in Morocco

- A reference tool was developed on good practices in NPM working methods in various places of deprivation of liberty, to be used solely within the Moroccan NPM.

Efficiency of justice (CEPEJ)

- 26 October and 23 November 2021: two awareness-raising workshops for registry directors on how to drive change towards cyberjustice were held in Tangier and Agadir, respectively.
- 27 October and 25 November 2021: a judicial time management toolkit adapted to Morocco's prosecution services being developed by CEPEJ experts.
- 21 October, 10 November and 16 December 2021: a series of videoconferences was held for the two new pilot Public Prosecutor's Offices at the Beni Mellal Court of Appeal and the Mohammedia Court of First Instance.

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

- 27 and 28 October: members and officials of the Moroccan Parliament attended a training course on evaluating public policy.

- 14 December: a round table on opening up the parliament to citizens.
- The work plan for the first six months of 2022 was drafted.
- A web application for the House of Councillors was developed. Awareness-raising videos and materials to raise the project's profile were produced.
- The project's half-yearly newsletter is currently being drafted.

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities: "Strengthening democratic governance at local and regional levels"

- Workshops held with local and regional government associations.
- Work on developing the AMPCC website continued.
- A Project Steering Committee and TALM Bureau group meeting was held on implementing the legislative study on participatory democracy, local financing mechanisms and improving the conditions of office of local elected representatives, and two webinars were organised.
- The first module of a seminar was held on the activity to support newly elected women local representatives and networking between women elected representatives in the MENA region and Europe.
- 3 November: a community of practice event was launched. Two webinars and two workshops on participatory democracy and on improving on the conditions of office of elected representatives.

Human rights capacity-building programme for prosecutors (DGI)

- October 2021: the seventh training session on regional human rights protection systems was prepared and held.
- 8 and 10 November: Training of Trainers session run by international experts for judges and prosecutors in Rabat.
- 10 December: an event was held to open the second phase of the human rights capacity-building programme for Moroccan prosecutors.
- 13 and 15 December: the first training cycle in the programme's second phase was held in Marrakech for 55 judicial officials working at judicial district level in the regions of Southern Morocco.

EU-CoE programme "Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean", combating violence against women

- 6 and 7 October in Fez: the last session of a training cycle aimed at strengthening the role of prosecutors in the fight against violence against women and domestic violence.
- 25 November: a seminar on "the legal framework for the protection of women victims of violence in Morocco" attended by around 100 students at the Faculty of Science and Technology of Beni Mellal.
- 25 November: an Arabic-French compendium providing a compilation of legal summaries of judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in the field of combating violence against women and domestic violence.
- 15 December: a practical legal guide on the rights of women victims of violence.

EU-CoE programme "Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean", combating violence against children

- 16 November: the first Moroccan "National campaign to prevent cyberviolence and cyberbullying" with the motto "Let's all help protect our children from cyberviolence and cyberbullying".
- 17 and 20 November: two focus group discussions with children and parents in Rabat and Marrakech with the aim of understanding how Moroccan children and young people use the Internet.
- 18 and 20 November: two capacity-building workshops for teachers and educators in Rabat and Marrakech to raise awareness about the dangers of cyberviolence and cyberbullying.

EU-CoE programme "Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean", HELP programme

- 27 October: an awareness-raising workshop on combating trafficking in human beings.
- 17 November: the first Moroccan HELP course on child-friendly justice was launched in Rabat with 40 participants.
- 9 December: the first HELP course on hate speech in the country: 36 participants followed this three-month course and participated in a certification ceremony.
- 10 December: the first Moroccan HELP course on preventing radicalisation in Rabat: 50 participants followed this three-month course and participated in a certification ceremony.
- 16 December: a Training of Trainers session in Tifelet for DGAPR officials to become certified HELP course tutors on preventing radicalisation.

Project on combating trafficking in human beings in Morocco

- 27 October: an awareness-raising workshop on combating trafficking in human beings. Justice officials from the Higher Judicial Institute were awarded their certificates for completing the course.
- 8 November: a round table was held in Casablanca to provide local stakeholder input on the list of indicators for detecting and identifying victims of trafficking.
- 15 November: a second round table was held in Tangier to provide local stakeholder input on the list of indicators for detecting and identifying victims of trafficking.
- 8 December: a seminar organised by the EU-funded SAVE project.
- The annual report of the National Anti-Trafficking Commission was finalised.

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"

In 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 have been concluded thus allowing for its adoption by the Committee of Ministers on 10 November. After a break of two years, the Steering Committee of PAII-T has been held, which resulted *inter alia* in the prolongation of the project until the end of 2022. Reflecting overall good cooperation with the EU and the results accomplished AP-JUST was also extended by the same date. Launching of the National Referral Mechanism for the victims of trafficking of human beings attracted high level participation and media attention. More favourable sanitary situation allowed for the catching up on many projects' in-person activities.

State of implementation of projects / programmes

Bilateral joint programmes:

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

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

- Up to 70 good governance cells of the Presidency of Government, that consists of a network of over 300 representatives of the government, ministries and public entities, were trained on basic concepts of illicit enrichment as well as on prevention and management of conflict of interest through a series of 3 consecutive workshops and a conference organised in October-December 2021. Steps towards introducing a methodology on corruption proofing of legislation adapted to the Tunisian context were taken in December with the introduction of a draft methodology for key stakeholders.

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

- The Venice Commission organised an exchange of views with the Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies (CEJJ) and the Ministry of Justice on logistics and organised a first workshop on "the quality of regulation and legal drafting" on 2 December 2021.

- With the aim of avoiding duplication and overlap of activities, coordination meetings with the ISIE's technical and financial partners were held during this period.

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

- The monitoring unit of the *Syndicat National des Journalistes Tunisiens* (SNJT) was supported in its work on the protection of journalists across Tunisia. Trainings (3) on monitoring attacks were held at the regional level and 4 local experts were deployed to report on attacks against journalists (60 estimated attacks). Thanks to CoE support, the 5th annual report of the monitoring unit was presented to representatives of national authorities and policy makers concerned with the protection of journalists on the occasion of international conference organized in Tunis, held on 02 November 2021.

- Further support to HAICA was provided for the creation of an online training and resource centre on regulation, self-regulation and media and information literacy aiming to provide the general and specialized public with an easy access to academic and professional documentation. An international and local Scientific Committee will accompany the launching of the resource centre planned for February 2022.

- A second group of 60 representatives of Tunisian public entities in 3 regions (Tunis, Sfax and Nabeul) have attended training sessions hold by INAI certified trainers. These training sessions, held in December 2021 included, among others, a discussion on the interactions and mutually beneficial compromise of the access to information and data protection rights.

➤ Data protection, support to the national body on personal data protection (INPDP)

- The translation into Arabic of the final version of the "Tool Kit" on data protection in the health sector, was finalized in October 2021. The materials will enable the INPDP to launch its planned awareness campaigns in Tunis and in the regions targeting different health structures and patients. Other practical tools on data protection targeting youth are also under preparation through new collaboration and partnerships with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Education. A first consultation seminar (organized on October 26) brought together professionals, civil society actors, INPDP and the Council of Europe experts around this issue. The resulting discussions and recommendations will be translated into a first draft of a contextualized tool which will enable the Council of Europe to develop the suitable "Tool Kit" for the INPDP and Tunisian youth actors use.

- The CoE organized 3 technical training sessions in regions (December 2021) with the participation of 70 representatives of the various public entities as well as of the presidents of the INPDP and the INAI and a group of local experts. These regional meetings may facilitate the reconciliation of practices relating to the use of the two rights of access to information and protection of personal data at the central and local level, as well as to better respond to the various existing problems of interpretation.

➤ Fight against trafficking in human beings / support to the national body combating human trafficking (INLTP) and HELP programme:

- The final practical tool of the National Referral Mechanism of Victims of Trafficking in Persons (NRM), the Kit on the reintegration of victims, was launched on 14 October and was followed by the cross-border launch of the NRM on 15-16 December with the participation of professionals from Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Jordan, Mali and Guinea.

- A HELP ToT was organized on 21 October to start the contextualization process of Radicalization Prevention course in Tunisia. After their Certification Ceremony which took place on 11 November, 38 new tutors, including Presidents and members of National independent authorities, joined the pool of national tutors.

➤ Support to the National body in charge of combating torture (INPT):

- A presentation of the Prisoner's Guide took place in December 2021 in the prison of Messaadine (near Sousse) and the guide's distribution will follow, as soon as the country's current health situation permits it.
- The Council of Europe has actively supported the sixth annual Colloquium of the INPT, which took place on 17/18 December 2021 on the subject of monitoring conditions of arrest, custody and pre-trial detention. Participants included a great number of NPMs from across the world, as well as representatives of the CPT and SPT.
- The Council of Europe is currently finalising the Tunisian contextualisation of the HELP courses relating to CPT standards and ill-treatment. A pool of tutors was created, including a number of INPT members, and the launching of the two courses is planned to take place in the coming months.
- The Council of Europe is assisting the INPT to strengthen the rights of a particularly vulnerable category of persons deprived of liberty, by supporting the preparation of two Guides on the rights of minors in detention (one during the first hours at the police custody station, and one on juvenile placement centres).
- With the aim of avoiding duplication and overlap of activities, coordination meetings with the INPT's technical and financial partners were held during this period.

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

- After an exchange of views with the CEJJ and the MoJ on logistics, the Venice Commission organised a first workshop on "the quality of regulation and legal drafting" on 2 December.
- Six seminars were organised for lawyers in Tunis, Hammamet and Sousse to introduce them to issues related to respectively Artificial Intelligence and telematic procedures.
- The first draft of the good practice manual on judicial expertise was finalized and presented in Hammamet, Sousse and Tozeur for final comments.
- 4 workshops on mediation were organised for lawyers and judges to initiate the implementation of mediation in Tunisia.
- The selection, indexing and anonymisation of the Cour de Cassation was finalised reaching respectively 7500 civil and 5000 criminal judgements.
- The share platform to allow lawyers to interact with courts in a secure manner was developed and 25 Courts were equipped with 5000 wires.
- *Terre d'Asile, Femmes et Citoyenneté* and *Avocats sans Frontières* projects ended at the end of the year.
- The translation of the report on commercial justice in Arabic was completed.

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

- As part of establishing a National Referral Mechanism of Women Victims of Violence in Tunisia, a consultation workshop on the preliminary results of the Evaluation of the Victims' Referral in the country was organised on December 9th.

Joint Programmes

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

- A strong emphasis was put on the revision of the Code of local taxation with the preparation, by a Tunisian and European expert, of a study presenting an assessment of the

current situation, a benchmark of international systems as well as proposed changes to reinforce fiscal autonomy at the local level. The result of their work was presented during a workshop in December 2021 to gather feedback from relevant national stakeholders at governmental and local levels.

- Tunisian local elected representatives actively contributed to the working groups and webinars of the "Community of practice" on territorial governance, a networking and peer-exchanges initiative launched in November 2021 as part of the South Programme IV. The Community focused on priority areas identified in the southern Mediterranean region (namely, participatory democracy and status of territorial elected representatives) and included participation of representatives of Morocco, Jordan and Palestine*.

- Tunisian locally elected women shared their experience and advice with their Moroccan newly elected peers during a 3-day online workshop aimed at supporting them in the implementation of their mandate.

Follow up action (i.e. future actions)

PAII-T/C2:

- Targeted training and finalisation of the draft methodology on corruption proofing of legislation with key stakeholders in the first half of 2022; lay-out, printing and dissemination of the practitioners' manual on illicit enrichment in the first quarter of 2022; update on the guide on management of conflict of interest of public officials in the first half of 2022; sector specific training strategy to be established and first training workshops on illicit enrichment to be implemented in the first half of 2022.