

134th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Luxembourg, 13-14 May 2025)

Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Union in 2024

I. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Co-operation within the framework of Joint Programmes (JPs) is one of the pillars of the strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union (EU), based on common values and shared priorities. At their Fourth Summit held in Reykjavik on 16-17 May 2023, Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe recognised that the EU “is the main institutional partner of the Council of Europe in political, legal, and financial terms”. The Reykjavik Declaration further acknowledged “the importance of joint programmes between the European Union and the Council of Europe as a key expression of this strategic partnership and mutual commitment to promoting common values”.
2. On 17 December 2024, the General Affairs Council of the European Union approved the conclusions on EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2025-2026. These conclusions highlighted the extent and depth of this co-operation, including through Joint Programmes, in the fields of human rights, democracy and rule of law. The document also acknowledged “the Council of Europe’s important role in supporting the alignment with European Standards and strengthening the capacity building of important institutions during the reform processes in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries” as well as the key nature of the Council of Europe’s Southern Neighbourhood Policy and the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity “in improving dialogue and co-operation between North and South, fostering solidarity and promoting stability and democratic security in both Europe and its neighbouring regions”.
3. In 2024, co-operation through Joint Programmes continued supporting member States and partners in the neighbourhood in strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Since the first joint co-operation undertakings in the early nineties, Joint Programme co-operation has grown significantly and brought tangible results. Three large-scale multiannual multi-Beneficiary programmes (known as “regional programmatic facilities”) have been implemented, in successive phases since 2015/2016, in South-East Europe, Türkiye and in the EU Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, namely the Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye – III, the Partnership for Good Governance – III, and the South Programme V. The Central Asia Rule of law Joint Programme was extended and ended in July 2024. Increasingly, the facilities are being complemented by Beneficiary-specific and regional thematic programmes. Moreover, a new strand of co-operation started in 2019 intending to support the EU member States’ capacity to sustain structural reforms in the field of rule of law, human rights protection, public finances and democratic governance, in collaboration with the European Commission’s SG REFORM.

4. The consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and other geopolitical developments continued to impact the CoE's co-operation activities, including Joint Programmes. These developments have required the flexibility that the EU/CoE programmatic facilities were able to offer.

5. In June 2024, intergovernmental conferences marked the formal opening of EU accession negotiations with the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. These decisions gave a strong impetus for strengthening the Joint Programme co-operation. The assistance that the Council of Europe provides to these countries can make a significant contribution to their respective reform agendas in the areas of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The countries' EU accession negotiations will shape the priorities for co-operation (including through the Partnership for Good Governance), based on the recommendations of the Council of Europe's monitoring and advisory bodies and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. Building on the experience of Joint Programmes in the enlargement area in South-East Europe is key for joint co-operation in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. The Partnership for Good Governance will at the same time remain instrumental in supporting Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in fulfilling their obligations as Council of Europe member States, addressing recommendations of the Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies and executing judgements of the European Court of Human Rights. As a consequence to the political developments in Georgia, the European Commission decided to halt technical assistance directly benefiting Georgian authorities until further notice. The decision affected all bilateral support benefiting the Georgian authorities until a reassessment of the situation by the European Commission. At the same time, the EC communicated that participation in regional activities (benefiting more than one country) can continue at technical level, preferably online, or outside of Georgia and with limited visibility. Support and co-operation continue with Belarusian democratic forces and civil society through the action plan for 2024-2025 agreed in the framework of the Contact Group.

6. In 2024, the overall financial volume of Joint Programme co-operation remained more or less stable (for further information, see Section II). Contractual negotiations on new programmes have been facilitated by the European Union-Council of Europe Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA) of October 2020.¹

7. To accompany the development of Joint Programme co-operation, the Council of Europe continued to strengthen its project management capacity: training for project teams in the Council of Europe project management methodology (PMM) and result-based reporting continued. In the context of the digitalisation of the Joint Programmes' reporting processes, a data transfer mechanism between the Council of Europe PMM IT tool and the EU electronic exchange system (OPSYS), agreed under the FFPA of October 2020, became operational at the end of 2024.

8. Transversal dimensions were further strengthened, in particular regarding the human rights approach,² gender mainstreaming³ and support of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The gender dimension was mainstreamed into cooperation activities in line with the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029 and using the Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for co-operation projects. Training activities for project teams on gender mainstreaming in co-operation continued. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been highly relevant for the Council of Europe with its global and overarching political approach. The Council of Europe Programme and Budget indicates, where relevant, the link between the Organisation's sector and programmes and the specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Most, if not all, Joint Programmes, contribute to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs, supporting primarily SDG-16 "Peace, justice and strong institutions". Joint Programmes also contribute to the achievement of SDG-1 "No poverty", SDG-3 "Good health and well-being", SDG-4 "Quality education", SDG-5 "Gender equality", SDG-8 "Decent work and economic growth", SDG-10 "Reduced inequalities", SDG-11 "Sustainable cities and communities" and SDG-17 "Partnerships for the goals".

¹ The FFPA is a generic agreement on contractual, administrative, and financial aspects of European Union-Council of Europe programme co-operation

² The Council of Europe Human Rights Approach Practical Guide for Co-operation Projects contributes to application of the human rights approach in project management and co-operation activities.

³ As a component of the human rights approach, the Council of Europe emphasises gender mainstreaming throughout its project activities in line with its Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029. For more information, see the Council of Europe web page on gender mainstreaming.

9. Another important cross-cutting dimension is the fight against climate change and for the protection of the environment. The Council of Europe's co-operation activities have an indirect positive contribution to environment protection through its support to member States with strengthening good governance structures and thus enabling a more effective tackling of environmental challenges. The Reykjavík Declaration acknowledged "the urgency of taking co-ordinated action to protect the environment by countering the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity." On the basis of the Council of Europe's expertise "not only in the area of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, but with a long-standing and widely acknowledged track record in protecting the environment, environmentally friendly landscape management and public health", the Council of Europe's co-operation sector has the potential to introduce climate and environmental perspectives in areas and among stakeholders that are not traditionally accustomed to considering these issues. In doing so it can rely on the Council of Europe's binding commitments and treaties directly or indirectly addressing environmental concerns. Within this context, the Council of Europe's co-operation sector aims to make the fight against climate change and environmental degradation an integral and more explicit part of its action. Further to the Reykjavík Declaration, the Secretary General has created the Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment and, within this Directorate, a Department on the Reykjavík process and the Environment. With a view to implementing the Reykjavík process, the Committee of Ministers at its 133rd Session (Strasbourg, 17 May 2024) invited its Deputies to set up an Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME) to prepare a Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and a related action plan. The GME had its first meeting in September 2024.

II. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

10. In 2024, 53 EU-Council of Europe Joint Programme agreements were under implementation, with a multi-annual Cumulative Budgetary Envelope (CBE)⁴ of €240.3 million. The European Union's contractual commitments to these programmes amounted to €194.7 million (81%) and the Council of Europe's co-financing – to €45.6 million (19%). The list of programmes under implementation in 2024 is presented in Appendix I.

11. The annualised envelope (Annual Budgetary Envelope prorated (ABE))⁵ amounted in 2024 to €58.5 million (European Union: €46.7 million; 79.8%, Council of Europe: €11.8 million; 20.2%).

12. The total of EU payments under Joint Programmes received between 1 January and 31 December 2024 (JP annual receipts) stood at €51.4 million. With an additional €3.3 million of payments from the co-operation undertakings other than Joint Programmes, the European Union's share in the Council of Europe's revenue from all extra-budgetary resources in 2024 represented 55.3%. The European Union remains the largest single donor to the Council of Europe's co-operation activities.

13. In terms of new Joint Programme co-operation, in 2024 the EU and the Council of Europe signed 18 new Joint Programmes, with an overall total volume of €60 million (European Union: € 47.2 million (78.7%), Council of Europe's co-financing: €12.8 million (21.3%⁶)). Some of these programmes were launched in 2024, others start in first trimester of 2025.⁷ The list of programmes signed in 2024 can be found in Appendix II.

14. Overall, the financial situation of Joint Programmes remained stable. The annualised envelope (ABE) increased by 6.9% compared to the level of the ABE in 2023. The EU actual payments under the multi-annual contracts (JP annual receipts) showed a positive fluctuation of 37.8% compared to the payments received in 2023. This fluctuation is mainly driven by the cyclical nature of Joint Programmes, increased budget absorption, and a larger number and value of contracts signed and launched in 2024.

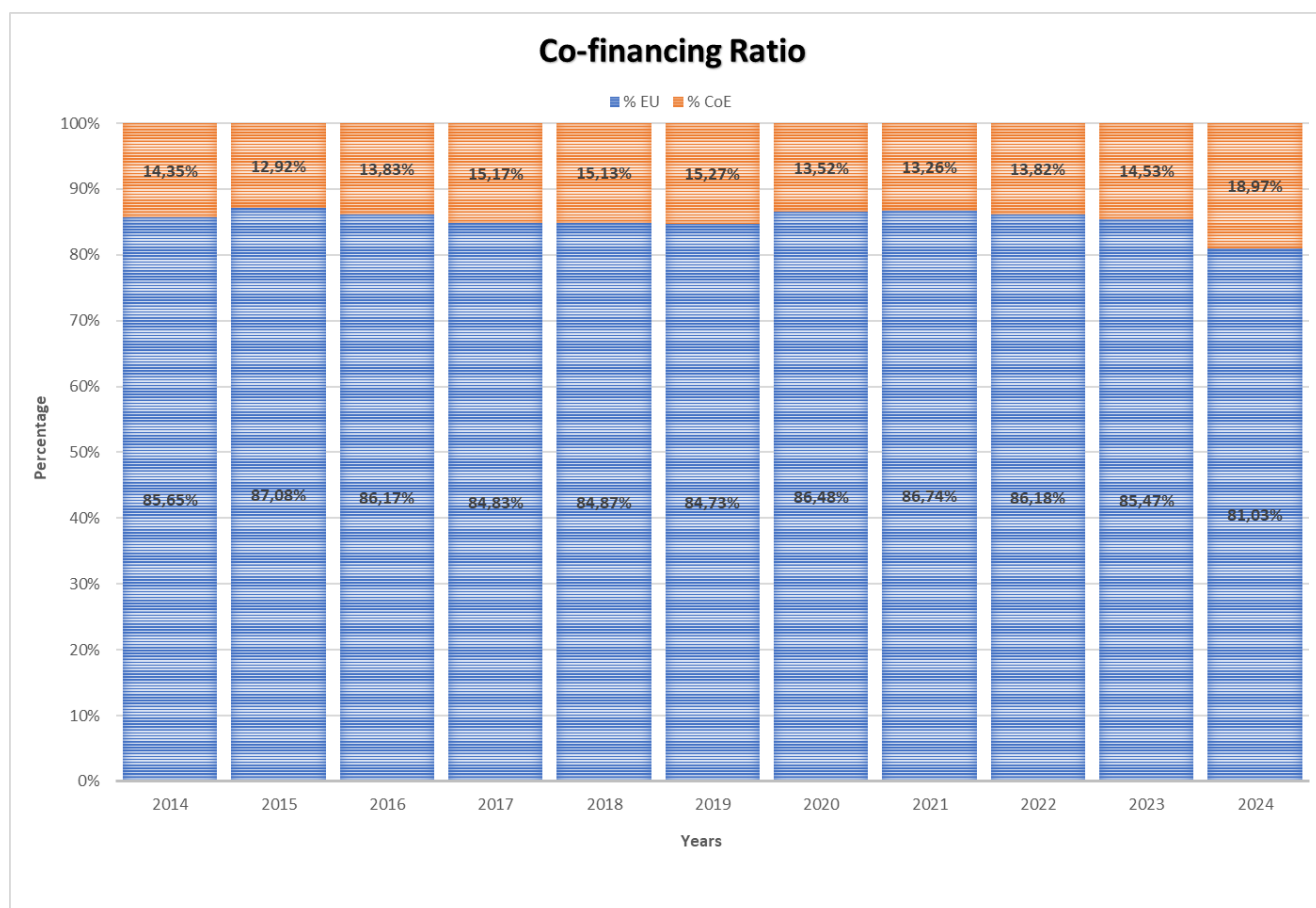
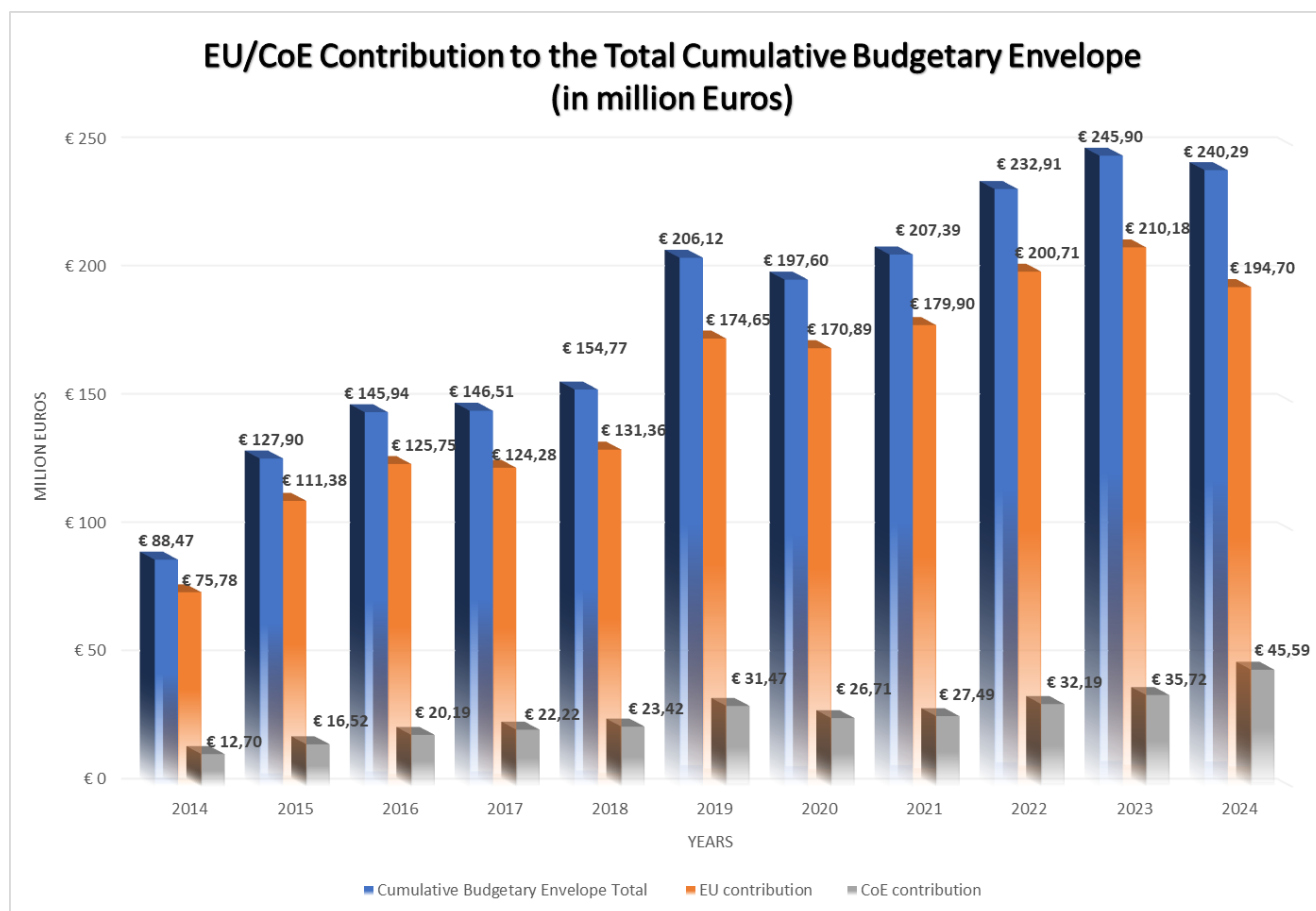
⁴ The Cumulative Budgetary Envelope (CBE) is a sum of the budgetary envelopes of all JP contracts that were registered as "active" between 1st January and 31st December of a given year.

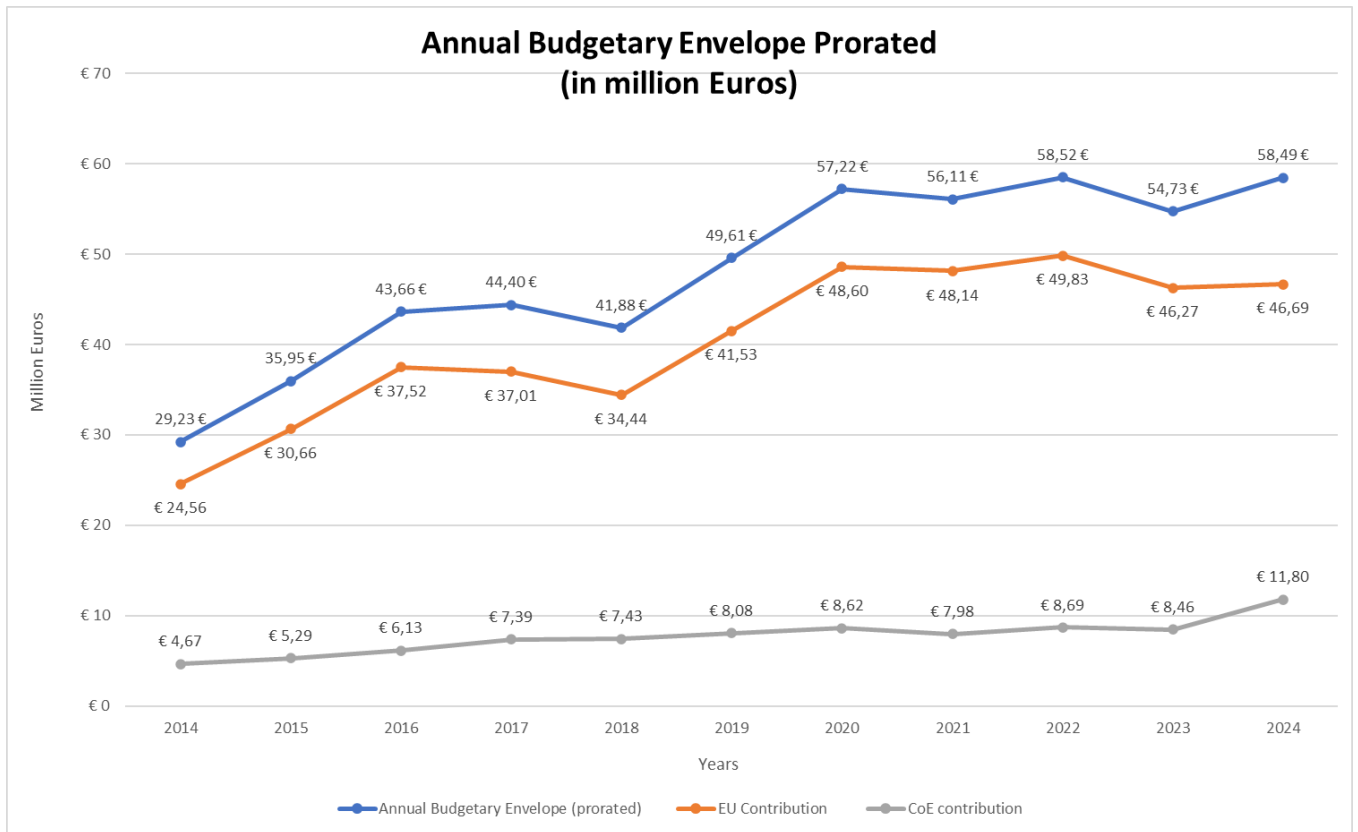
⁵ The Annual Budgetary Envelope (ABE) is a statistical parameter calculated *pro rata temporis* to CBE.

⁶ The above average CoE co-financing ratio in the newly signed programmes is due to the high rate of EDQM co-financing in its new programme "Strengthening European SoHO Systems" (EU 51.1%, EDQM 48.9%), as well as annual programmes in the field of youth (EU 57.1%, CoE 42.9%) and European Heritage Days – 2025 edition (EU 50%, CoE 50%). The Joint Programme Provision's share in the co-financing ratio remains within the standard at 12.89%.

⁷ Programmes signed in 2024 with the start in 2025, are not included in the calculation of CBE and ABE 2024.

15. The charts below show the evolution in the Joint Programme co-operation over the past ten years.





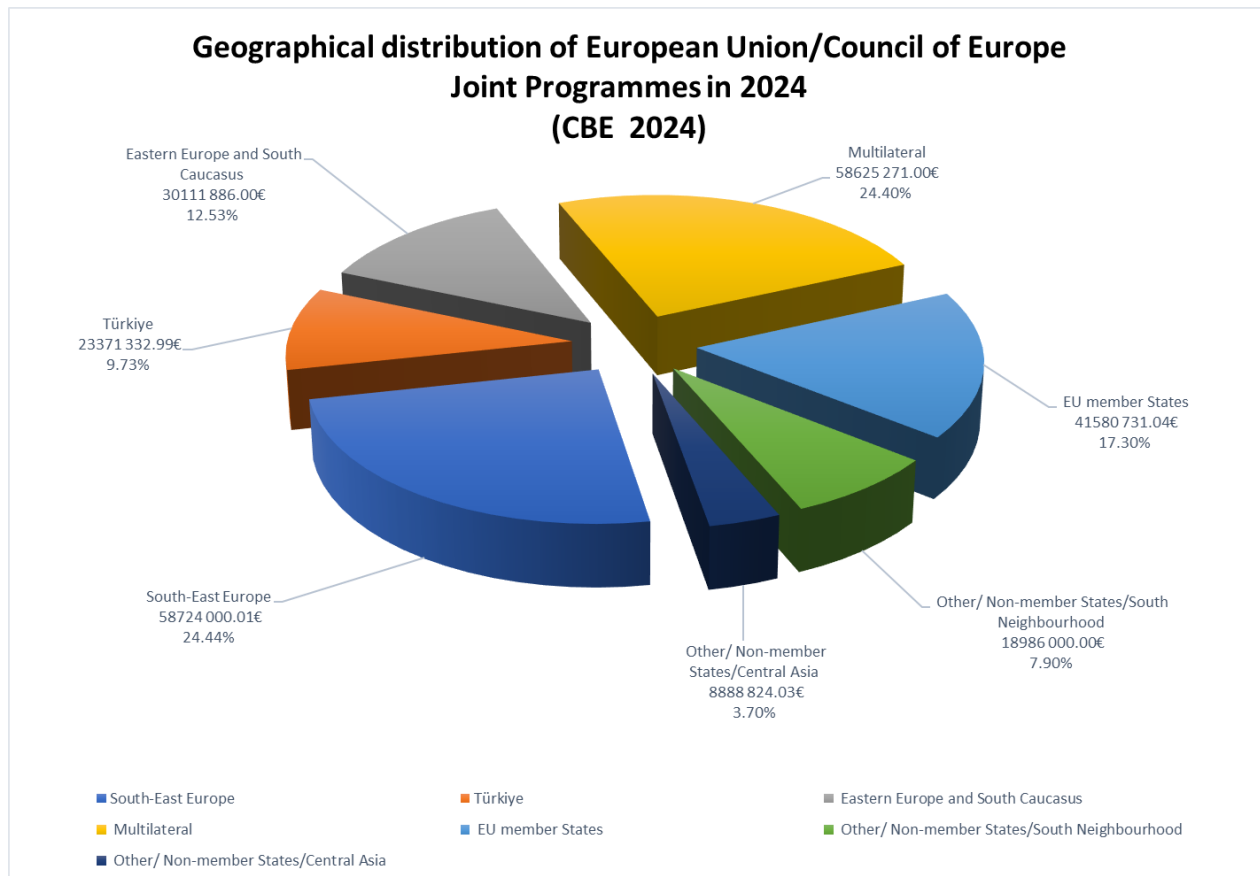
16. As regards Joint Programmes' **geographical distribution**:

- In line with the long-lasting trend, almost a half of the Joint Programmes' annualised financial volume continued to be channelled to the co-operation in **South-East Europe, Türkiye, Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus** (47% of ABE 2024; €27.5 million in annualised figures⁸), with South-East Europe and Türkiye benefitting of the considerably larger financial injections. In both regions, the dedicated programmatic facilities ("Partnership for Good Governance" and "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye") remained the cornerstone of the co-operation architecture. It is also worth mentioning the new regional cybercrime programmes "CyberSEE – Co-operation on Cybercrime: Enhanced action on cybercrime and electronic evidence in South-East Europe and Türkiye" and "CyberEast+ Enhanced action on cybercrime for cyber resilience in Eastern Partnership States". The exhaustive list of the programmes of relevance to both geographical regions is presented in Appendix I. Information on the results under the facilities and other geographical Joint Programmes can be found in Section III.
- Importantly, the share of technical assistance programmes targeted at those **Council of Europe member States which are also member States of the European Union** continued to grow significantly (20.7% of ABE 2024; €12.1 million in annualised figures), anchoring this strand of programmes at the forefront of the Council of Europe co-operation dimension. The main driver of this development was the structured co-operation with SG REFORM under the EU Technical Support Instrument. Four Council of Europe/SG REFORM tri-annual framework agreements, with an overall budget of €25.8 million, were still under implementation in 2024, encompassing 39 projects in numerous EU Member States. The framework agreement signed in 2024 encompassed 8 projects in areas related to health care, anti-discrimination and artificial intelligence, support to the National Preventive Mechanism, economic crime, protection of children, including anti-trafficking, and digitalisation of justice. This represented an increased budget of approximately €8,3 million of which €7,2 million were contribution from the EU. Moreover, the EU is actively engaged in co-operative undertakings with the Council of Europe across several key areas. Notably, there are projects aimed at strengthening child-friendly justice systems and advancing human rights education for legal professionals. Through initiatives like Support to Council of Europe's project on child-friendly justice and the EU-CoE HELP joint programme ("Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals"), the EU collaborates with the Council of Europe to enhance legal frameworks that prioritise the protection of children's rights and the promotion of human rights within EU Member States. Additionally, projects such as "Roma Holocaust Remembrance and Education" further underscore the joint efforts to combat discrimination and ensure social inclusion, particularly for marginalised communities like the Roma. These collaborations highlight the EU's commitment to advancing shared goals with the Council of Europe in areas of justice, human rights, and social cohesion. It is also worth noting that many multilateral programmes (see the section below) are also primarily targeted at EU member States. For more information, see Section III and Appendices I and II.
- In 2024, the volume of **thematic multilateral Joint Programmes** continued to increase (22.1% of ABE 2024, € 12.9 million in annualised figures). The EU and CoE's collaboration is highly diversified across sectors, with the EU contributing to several programmes ("Improving the quality, safety and availability of Substances of Human Origin, disseminating best practices, implementing Union standards and tackling new challenges") while the CoE's involvement is more prominent in specific areas such as pharmaceuticals and some long standing programmes ("Support for Pharmaceuticals to the Council of Europe/EDQM" and "Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth 2024-2025" or "European Heritage Days"). These programmes are both sector-specific and geographically broad, contributing to a wide array of multilateral projects that aim to address global issues such as cybercrime, heritage conservation, youth empowerment, and more. For more details on thematic multilateral programmes, see Appendices I and II.

⁸ Calculated *pro rata temporis* to CBE 2024.

- The share and volume of co-operation with non-member States in the **Southern Neighbourhood** and **Central Asia**, under the Council of Europe Policy towards Neighbouring Regions, decreased in the past year (10.11% of ABE 2024; €5.9 million in annualised figures). In the **Southern Neighbourhood**, the co-operation continued within the framework of the core South Programme, phase V of which started in September 2022 with an increased financial envelope of € 5,56 million for three years (2022-2025). In addition, country-specific and thematic projects complemented the action in the region. In January 2024, a regional CyberSouth+ project was launched to strengthen criminal justice capacities to combat cybercrime in the Southern Mediterranean region and two new joint projects started in June 2024 to contribute towards more protective, accessible and effective justice in Morocco (MA-JUST, 2024-2029) and in July 2024 to improve economic governance by combating corruption in Tunisia (AGELA, 2024-2027). For more information, see Section III and Appendices I and II.

17. The chart below shows the geographical distribution of Joint Programme co-operation in 2024.



18. As regards Joint Programmes' thematic distribution in 2024, the long-standing trends remained static. The chart below shows the thematic distribution of Joint Programmes in 2024.

Distribution by theme of EU/CoE Joint Programmes in 2024			
Operational pillar	Total	EU	CoE
The European Court of Human Rights			
The European Court of Human Rights			
European Court of Human Rights			
Securing human rights and fundamental freedoms			
Execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights			
Execution of judgments of the ECHR			
Effective implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights at European and national level			
Enhancing the effectiveness of the ECHR system at national and European level	18 604 832,11	16 535 960,83	2 068 871,28
CDDH			
Commissioner for Human Rights			
Commissioner for Human Rights			
Commissioner for Human Rights			
Parliamentary Assembly			
Parliamentary Assembly			
Parliamentary Assembly	1 575 000,00	1 500 000,00	75 000,00
Operation of the various bodies of the Assembly			
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities			
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities			
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities			
Ensure the functioning and visibility of the Congress			
United for Ukraine and accountability			
Register of damage			
Register of damage			
Advancing social justice, good health and a sustainable environment			
Effective implementation of the European Social Charter			
European Social Charter and European Code of Social Security			
Health and human rights			
POMPIDOU	100 000,00	89 992,80	10 007,20
Health and human rights	2 068 967,00	1 800 000,00	268 967,00
Quality of Medicines and Healthcare			
EDQM	24 400 000,00	7 600 000,00	16 800 000,00
Protection of the environment and human rights			
EUROPA			
Protection of the environment and human rights			
Secretariat of the Council of Europe Development Bank			
Secretariat of the Council of Europe Development Bank			
Acting for equality, diversity and respect			
Gender equality - Violence against Women and Domestic Violence - Human Trafficking			
Gender equality - Violence against women and domestic violence - Human Trafficking	5 279 713,00	4 425 703,22	854 009,78
Antidiscrimination, diversity and inclusion - Roma and Travellers - National Minorities, Regional or Minority Languages - LGBTI - Migrants			
Anti-discrimination, diversity and inclusion – Roma and Travellers – National minorities, regional or minority languages – Migrants	29 779 173,00	25 683 841,62	4 095 331,39
Steering Committee - CDADI			
Children's rights			
Children's Rights	7 289 794,00	6 538 222,12	751 571,88
Building trust in public institutions			
Democracy through Law - Venice Commission			
Venice Commission	3 171 593,88	2 892 557,60	279 036,28
Independence and efficiency of Justice			
Independence and efficiency of justice	31 563 334,00	27 314 406,29	4 248 927,71
Development of Common Standards and Policies			
Prisons - Police - Deprivation of liberty			
Prisons - Police - Deprivation of liberty	7 326 000,00	6 258 603,40	1 067 396,60

Upholding safety, security and integrity of society and persons			
Corruption - Money-laundering - Economic crime			
GRECO			
Corruption - Money-laundering - Economic crime	46 102 103,07	40 996 973,10	5 105 129,97
Digital challenges: Artificial intelligence - Cybercrime - Data protection			
Data protection - Artificial intelligence - Cybercrime	21 458 889,01	19 007 680,64	2 451 208,37
Criminal law - Terrorism			
Criminal law - Terrorism			
Integrity and governance of sport			
EPAS			
Sport Conventions	1 505 000,00	1 200 000,00	305 000,00
Anchoring democratic values in European societies			
Freedom of expression and information - Safety of journalists			
Freedom of expression and information - Safety of journalists	4 695 000,01	4 025 571,40	669 428,61
Democratic governance and dialogue - Civil society			
Democratic governance	2 111 113,00	1 900 000,00	211 113,00
Steering Committee - CDDG			
North-South Centre	2 300 000,00	1 769 978,40	530 021,60
Education			
European Centre for Modern Languages	875 000,00	700 000,00	175 000,00
Education for democratic citizenship	10 660 999,99	9 419 999,70	1 241 000,30
History teaching			
Youth			
Youth Card			
Youth for democracy	2 800 000,00	1 600 000,00	1 200 000,00
Culture and cultural heritage			
Cultural roots			
Culture and cultural heritage	1 600 000,00	800 000,00	800 000,00
CDCPP			
EURIMAGES			
Support pillar			
Committee of Ministers			
Committee of Ministers			
Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General			
Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General			
Supporting action in the field			
Field presence			
Field presence	15 021 532,99	12 642 344,93	2 379 188,07
Total	240 288 045,07	194 701 836,03	45 586 209,04

19. In terms of **funding instruments**, the EU instruments of External Action remained the main source of funding for the Joint Programme co-operation, with a preponderance of **the Instrument of Pre-accession** (34.2%) and the **European Neighbourhood Instrument /Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)** (21.2%). Several other instruments and funding programmes were involved (notably the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) and EU4Health Programme, with their shares remaining around 10%.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS OF JOINT PROGRAMME CO-OPERATION

20. This section presents, in brief, the achievements of Joint Programme co-operation by geographical area, with a particular focus on the results of the corresponding regional programmatic facilities. It also describes other major co-operation undertakings such as the Central Asia Rule of Law Programme, and the co-operation framework with SG REFORM in EU member States.

Joint Programme co-operation in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus

21. Partnership for Good Governance

The Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) for the Eastern Partnership (EaP) was the first European Union-Council of Europe programmatic facility operationalised in 2015. The third phase of PGG (PGG III), started in March 2023, and runs until February 2027, with a total budgetary envelope of €19.3 million. 17 country-specific and four regional projects are implemented across PGG beneficiary countries. Most PGG III projects are in the continuity of the programme's previous phase, with additional interventions in the field of efficiency of justice in Azerbaijan, the fight against economic crime in the Republic of Moldova, support for development of the constitutional justice in Ukraine and for promoting equality in Azerbaijan. Progress in the implementation of the EU accession priorities is in focus for the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. In addition to the legal and policy advice provided under the PGG country-specific and regional projects, the Quick Response Mechanism (QRM) continues to offer important assistance to the beneficiary countries, channelling legal expertise and policy advice from Council of Europe bodies, and in particular that of the Venice Commission. Since the start of PGG III, the Venice Commission adopted 17 Opinions concerning Armenia, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova and one *amicus curiae* brief for the Republic of Moldova. Specific support is also provided to the representatives of Belarusian democratic forces and civil society in the field of gender equality and non-discrimination.

A non-exhaustive list of the results achieved under PGG III includes:

- i) **In the field of strengthening justice**, a pool of some 80 certified mediators is available to handle cases subject to mandatory mediation, contributing further to the national efforts to use mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism to reduce the caseload of the Armenian courts. In the Republic of Moldova, monitoring has started on the use of JUSTAT AIS, the online application for consultation of statistical data from the judicial system launched in May 2023. In Georgia, two of the pilot courts supported by the Programme started the implementation of user satisfaction surveys engaging court users and legal professionals in providing valuable feedback aiming to drive targeted improvements in court operations.
- ii) **In the area of combating economic crime**, Ukraine strengthened the legal and regulatory framework for financial investigations and the operationalisation of the National Asset Recovery Action Plan. In Georgia, the Anti-corruption Bureau developed its institutional strategy aimed to serve as an effective tool for communicating with the public concerning the Bureau's mandate, and its activities for corruption prevention.
- iii) **In the area of promoting equality and non-discrimination**, the capacities of the staff of the Ombudsperson's Office to respond to different forms of discrimination affecting vulnerable groups were improved in Azerbaijan. The Ministry of Justice of Armenia received legal expertise to improve the Draft Law on Ensuring Equality and on the Draft Law on National Minorities in Spring 2024. Expert support was provided to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova in reviewing the Draft law on ensuring equality and the creation and translation of educational materials on combating hate speech and bullying. In Ukraine, a mapping of the anti-racism legislation and measures in the country were carried out to help the public authorities improve co-ordination and institutional responses to hate speech based on existing European standards.

- iv) **In the field of combating violence against women and domestic violence**, important amendments to the Law on Preventing Domestic Violence of Azerbaijan were adopted, pertaining notably to protection orders, legal aid for victims, family and children's relations, and gender equality in education, taking into consideration PGG recommendations. The HELP course on Violence Against Women for Law enforcement and the course on Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming were adapted to the Azerbaijani context and delivered to groups of legal professionals. At the regional level, some 300 informal gender focal points across the EaP countries have joined the mentoring programme on women's access to justice for legal professionals established under PGG, offering a unique methodology regarding the transfer of knowledge for legal professionals. In parallel, law schools of the region have started putting into place gender mainstreaming measures with a key focus on gender awareness capacity development for managerial and teaching staff across universities.

22. Other Joint Programmes implemented in the region

Two important country-specific programmes for Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova were launched in 2023.

In Ukraine, the three-year Joint Programme “Support for implementing European standards relating to anti-discrimination and rights of national minorities” (total: €2 million) started in July 2023. It aims to support Ukraine in implementing European standards and recommendations related to the protection from discrimination and regarding the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, notably in the context of the follow-up to the 2022 Opinion on Ukraine’s application for membership of the European Union. At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Council of Europe provided an expert opinion on the draft Law 9103 on civil partnerships and shared the recommendations with the respective authorities. The institutional capacity assessment of the State Service for Interethnic Policy and Freedom of Conscience (DESS) and a capacity assessment of the Equal Rights Department of the Ombudsperson's Office have been completed. The JP facilitated a dialogue between representatives of 15 minority CSOs and the national police. Representatives of 60 regional authorities were trained on Council of Europe standards for the protection of national minority rights and 130 teachers on minority languages.

In close co-operation with the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, the JP organised a national forum on national minorities in Ukraine, which brought together more than 150 participants to discuss the current state of play in ensuring the rights and freedoms of national minorities in Ukraine from the perspective of Council of Europe standards. In addition, the Forum participants exchanged views on current challenges and identified possible solutions to ensure the full implementation of the legislative reforms of the framework for national minorities in the context of Council of Europe and EU standards.

In the Republic of Moldova, the three-year Joint Programme “Support to the Justice Reform” (JP) has been under implementation since May 2023 with a budget of €2.7 million. It aims at increasing the independence, professionalism, and transparency of the judiciary in the country and supports the implementation of justice reform in line with European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) opinions, Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) compliance report, and other European standards.

[GRECO’s Third Interim Compliance Report of the Fourth Round of Evaluation concerning the Republic of Moldova](#), which was adopted on 22 November 2024, noted that all recommendations with respect to the Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) and almost all recommendations with respect to the Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP) have been resolved positively, particularly those relating to the composition of the SCM, reasoning and publishing the SCM and SCP decisions, including those on disciplinary matters, as well as the overall improvements of the disciplinary procedure concerning judges and prosecutors. Creation of the Prosecutorial Inspection as an autonomous body under the SCP was particularly noted as a positive change with respect to disciplinary procedure related to prosecutors.⁹

⁹ Third Interim Compliance Report Republic of Moldova, Fourth Evaluation Round Corruption prevention in respect of members of Parliament, judges and prosecutors, adopted by GRECO at its 98th Plenary Meeting (Strasbourg, 18-22 November 2024), paras. 86-87.

At the same time, GRECO views the new mixed composition of the SCP, in which the prosecutor members do not constitute the majority, as not in line with the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors' (CCPE) Opinion no. 18 (2023) on council of prosecutors as key bodies of prosecutorial self-governance.¹⁰

In 2024, in order to contribute to the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy, the Council of Europe has launched an analysis of the legal framework and the case law of national courts with a view to identifying the limited procedural deadlines set for the treatment of certain categories of cases, which do not allow them to be examined effectively and lead to the violation of these deadlines. The JP has also initiated the processes of developing institutional strategy of the SCP for the period 2025-2028. The scope and structure of the strategy has been agreed and the drafting process is underway with the support of a consultant engaged by the Council of Europe. Finalisation of the strategy is foreseen in early 2025.

In parallel, the JP delivered two separate reports for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) which provided more detailed recommendations on how to address the shortcomings identified by the TAIEX in 2022 concerning the initial training for candidate judges and prosecutors and continuous training for judges and prosecutors offered at the NIJ. While the reports are undergoing final editorial reviews, besides the review of the training concept, curriculum, and methodology, both reports covered issues of training needs identification, evaluation, and impact. In addition, the Council of Europe's experts developed detailed business and technical requirements for the new database of the Constitutional Court's rulings and prepared tender documents for the forthcoming international public tender, which will be announced in early 2025.

Two **thematic regional** Joint Programmes continued implementation in complementarity with PGG.

The Joint Programme CyberEast+ - Enhanced Action on Cybercrime for Cyber Resilience in the Eastern Partnership States (EaP) (total €3.9 million) was launched on 1 March 2024. The objective of the Action is to enhance the criminal justice response to cybercrime and electronic evidence for increased cyber-resilience, by strengthening the criminal justice capacities of project countries in terms of legislation, policies, capacities for investigation/prosecution and international/public-private co-operation, in line with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, its Second Protocol and the European Union priorities for the Eastern Partnership region.

In legislation and policies, the project focused particularly on the Second Additional Protocol and its implementation, now that four out of five EaP partners have signed the treaty – the most recent being Georgia in June 2024. Through the support of the CyberEast+, capacities for investigation, prosecution and adjudication were enhanced with more advanced and technically complex trainings. Dedicated trainings for Ukraine on ransomware, network investigations and use of Budapest Convention in armed conflict, as well as track of virtual currencies training sessions for Armenian investigators, are illustrative of this approach.

Engagement with European agencies and institutions on improving practices of international co-operation (spontaneous information exchange, functioning of 24/7 network, practical tools of the Budapest Convention and its Second Protocol) benefits all EaP partners individually and as a region. Interagency and cross-border co-operation was improved through Annual Regional Cyber Co-operation Exercise in Tirana, Albania, organised in partnership with national and regional partners.

The Cybereast+ engaged nearly 420 representatives from criminal justice, civil society, Internet industry and academia through 26 activities throughout 2024. These initiatives focused on policies, legislation, criminal justice capacities to handle cybercrime and electronic evidence, interagency co-operation involving financial and cybersecurity experts, as well as international co-operation in line with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Second Protocol.

¹⁰ *Ibid* para. 74.

Joint Programme co-operation in South-East Europe and Türkiye

23. The Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye

The Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye (HF) has been operating since 2016. The Programme third phase (HFIII), which began implementation in January 2023, (total: €41 million), encompasses four thematic fields, namely i) strengthening justice; ii) fighting against corruption, economic crime and money laundering; iii) anti-discrimination and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups; and iv) freedom of expression and freedom of the media. The Beneficiaries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

The HFIII covers 43 actions (projects), out of which six are regional. The regional dimension of HFIII includes support in achieving an effective, systematic and data-based evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts, countering terrorism and violent extremism by addressing radicalisation in prisons and disengaging radicalised prisoners from violence, action against economic crime, promoting equality and combating racism and intolerance, improving access to justice for women and enhancing freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

The Facility follows a complementary two-fold approach, combining technical cooperation tailored to help the beneficiaries achieve increased compliance with European standards, with the provision of Council of Europe expertise to respond to requests from beneficiaries for legislative analysis and policy advice. The expertise is mainly provided upon the requests of the beneficiaries under the technical co-operation part of the programme, when such request fall within the scope of the HFIII actions. It can also be provided through the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism (ECM) which allows delivering *ad hoc* legal expertise and policy advice on the HFIII themes as well as on constitutional issues falling within the area of competence of the Venice Commission.

Actions under HF are designed based on findings of the Council of Europe monitoring bodies, providing also tight links to the relevant EU accession priorities. The implementation methodology of HF is based on the coherent integration of the Council of Europe “strategic triangle” (standard-setting, monitoring, co-operation), a stringent results-based approach, strengthened human rights and gender dimensions and increased involvement at the local level, engagement of civil society and improved communication (including in local languages) to better reach out to citizens.

The existence of synergies between HFIII and other joint programmes played a pivotal role in sharing best practices in various related fields and in ensuring regional and cross-regional fertilisation, in particular with the Partnership for Good Governance.

Considering challenges as the inflationary pressure, a moving political context and some important evolutions in 2024 as the opening of EU accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the well-defined, flexible, and continuous technical co-operation under the Horizontal Facility has significantly contributed to advancing sustainable outcomes across multiple sectors.

A non-exhaustive list of results achieved in 2024 includes:

- i) Continuous assistance to improving the treatment of forensic patients in **Albania** resulted in the introduction of a risk assessment methodology in Lezha provisional facility for forensic patients, with professionals capacitated on its use. This positive development aligns with the recommendations provided by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, related to the supervision of the case Strazimiri v. Albania.
- ii) The **Albanian** Ministry of Justice and the Agency for Treatment of Properties received assistance in addressing the backlog on property compensation cases leading to the development of a new Action Plan for 2025 – 2028 and a new amended draft Law, in alignment with the ECtHR case law with the assistance of the Programme.

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

- iii) The **Albanian** Audio-Visual Media Authority was supported with a comprehensive document outlining the terms and business requirements for IT solutions on monitoring the implementation of the Broadcasting code.
- iv) In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, in cooperation with civil society, HFIII successfully operationalised the first LGBTI shelter for victims of domestic violence from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Besides, to contribute to the implementation of the mapping responses to hate speech the Bosnia and Herzegovina Civil Service Agency was supported to develop the first online course on recognising and responding to hate speech. The course is planned to become mandatory for all newly appointed staff.
- v) In the framework of HFIII, to strengthen the efficiency and quality of justice in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, communication strategies were developed in five pilot courts to improve internal and external communication, ensuring clearer and more efficient interaction between the courts and the public. Satisfaction surveys were conducted in the two largest pilot courts, Brčko and Trebinje, providing valuable insights into the perceptions of court users and judicial training centers integrated training topics upon CEPEJ recommendations into their annual programs.
- vi) In **Kosovo***, thanks to the expertise of HFIII the Ministry of Justice incorporated new provisions on the performance evaluation of judges and prosecutors as well as the right to trial in reasonable time into the Justice Reform Legal Package, increasing its compliance with European standards.
- vii) Besides, based on the technical assistance provided by the Programme, the **Kosovo*** Legal Office of the Prime Minister's Office drafted the amendments to the Law on Protection from Discrimination, incorporating the comments made during various working group discussions. With increased monitoring capacities, the Ombudsperson Institution finalised its first annual report on the implementation of the Law on Protection from Discrimination.
- viii) In **Montenegro** thanks to HFIII via the ECM, expertise was provided on the amendments to the Law on State Prosecution Office, the Law on Judicial Council and Judges, on the amendments to the Law on Prevention of Corruption of Montenegro, on the Law on Seizure and Confiscation of Assets Derived from Criminal Activity, the Law on Media, the Law on Audio Visual Media Services, and the Law on the National Public Broadcaster. All these laws were adopted in June as part of "IBAR legislative package".
- ix) The Programme comprehensive support to develop a new generation of anti-corruption strategic documents resulted in **Montenegro** adopting the Strategy for the fight against corruption 2024-2028 and its two-year Action Plan in June 2024.
- x) In the same thematic field of fighting corruption, economic crime and money laundering, with support of HFIII, **North Macedonia** passed the Law on Confiscation of Property in Civil Procedure (non-conviction-based confiscation).
- xi) With the support of HFIII, the Parliament of **North Macedonia** adopted the Law on Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents, also known as the Tromsø Convention, which establishes the minimum standards for prompt and fair procedure for requesting access to official documents. Additionally, and with the support of a legal review developed by HFIII, the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services adopted a Rulebook on Media Services Accessibility.
- xii) In **Serbia**, HFIII supported interinstitutional co-operation and dialogue with the Council of Europe, contributing to the execution of ECtHR judgments, including the updated action plan for [Stanimirović v. Serbia](#).

- xiii) **Serbia** introduced a new [Rulebook on performing socially useful work](#), referencing the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) in Article 5. RFCDC is now integrated into higher education, with four universities adopting RFCDC-based postgraduate syllabi. The initiative ensured sustainability by training mentors, establishing a Ministry-led advisor network for democratic culture in schools, and creating a unique practice among Council of Europe member states.
- xiv) HFIII also continues advancing systematic reforms to protect the rights of persons deprived of liberty. Key achievements include a finalized Memorandum of Understanding between the **Serbian** Ministries of Interior and Health on medical screening in police custody, now in effect, and the development of an Interviewing Manual integrated into police training.
- xv) In **Türkiye**, regarding women's access to justice, through four grants given to CSOs, more than 200 women received information on their legal rights. In addition, the HELP course on "Access to Justice for Women" was integrated in the Law Faculty curriculum of Ankara University ensuring sustainability through legal education.
- xvi) A child friendly DCE Handbook and three leaflets were developed to help students in **Türkiye** to acquire the competencies needed to become active digital citizens who respect human rights.
- xvii) An innovative and unique Mentoring Programme for legal professionals on Women's Access to Justice was organised by HFIII, allowing more than 50 judges and prosecutors from **South-East Europe** to enhance their competences on guaranteeing equal access to justice for women and men.
- xviii) HFIII fostered a common understanding of emerging money laundering and terrorist financing risks associated with new technologies and the use of advanced analytics tools for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) among practitioners from **South-East Europe**, through a regional workshop on 'Threats, Vulnerabilities and Emerging Financial Crime Risks linked to Innovative and Emerging Technology in Financial Services'.

24. Other Joint Programmes implemented in the region

In **Serbia**, the Joint Programme on "Support for the Implementation of Judicial Reform" (total: €3.3 million) has been under implementation since 1 January 2022. Launched in 2020, the "Project Against Economic Crime (PECK) Phase III (total: €2.5 million) continued operating in **Kosovo***. At the **regional** level, thematic Joint Programmes included ROMACTED II (total: €6.5 million) promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at the local level – which was completed in December 2024 - as well as the Programme on Roma Integration Phase III (total: €3 million), contributing to socio-economic integration, effective inclusion and meaningful participation of the Roma population in South-East Europe and Türkiye, which started implementation in May 2023 for a period of three years. Moreover, the new regional cybercrime programme CyberSEE (€5.5 million) began implementation early 2024.

Some results of these programmes are as follows:

- i) In **Serbia**, in furtherance of the judicial reform, a draft Law on the Judicial Academy was prepared along with corresponding draft amendments to the Law on Judges and the Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office. Acknowledging positive developments, the Venice Commission adopted a related opinion in December 2024.
- ii) Efforts to harmonise case-law and judicial practice continued, supported by appropriate IT tools, awareness raising and quarterly meetings between the Supreme Court of Serbia and all four appellate courts.
- iii) In **Kosovo***, following guidance received, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) finalised its Corruption Risk Mapping of 115 institutions and 44 publicly owned enterprises, based on the Council of Europe methodology.

- iv) Empowered under the PECK III programme, authorities furthermore established the Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Network of Kosovo (JMLINK), which is to facilitate coordination and data sharing across sectors with the purpose of enhancing the fight against economic crime.
- v) Elaborated with programme support, Local Action Plans for Roma Inclusion were adopted in respectively six partner municipalities in Montenegro and Serbia and three partner municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.
- vi) Guidelines on Roma Responsive Budgeting were published in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.
- vii) Criminal justice representatives throughout the region built their capacities on conducting cybercrime investigations and handling of electronic evidence, notably enhancing their skills on advanced financial forensics of online frauds and crypto money laundering.

25. Beneficiary-specific co-operation in Türkiye

Türkiye has traditionally been the biggest single recipient of Joint Programmes co-operation and maintained this position in 2024, with five individual programmes under implementation during the year. More specifically, these include:

- three Joint Programmes launched in 2020-2021 - in the field of international judicial co-operation in criminal matters (total €3 million), on alternative dispute resolution methods (total €4 million), and on family courts (total €2.2 million). All three programmes were completed in 2024.
- two Joint Programmes continued operating, respectively on the effective implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court judgments in the field of fundamental rights (total €5.5 million), which started implementation in 2021, and on Foreign Language Education Quality (total €5.4 million), launched in July 2024.

Noteworthy results of these programmes include the following:

- i) In total, over 900 judges, prosecutors and legal professionals enhanced their knowledge on matters related to international judicial co-operation, also exchanging experiences with their peers from EU Member States on addressing cross-border crime.
- ii) Bureaux for International Judicial Co-operation in Criminal Matters (CADIBs) were established in seven provinces. In addition, a Central Monitoring System was created within Türkiye's National Judiciary Network (UYAP) to streamline Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition requests.
- iii) Under the impulse of support provided, the practice of conciliation was strengthened within Türkiye's criminal justice system, aligning with the principles and standards of restorative justice. The quality and effectiveness of mediation and arbitration was further improved as legal professionals enhanced their skills through dedicated training in this area.
- iv) Over 500 judges and prosecutors built their capacities on key issues related to human rights and family law. A draft Roadmap on Legislative and Policy-level Amendments regarding Family Court Proceedings was finalised to ensure effectiveness in Family Courts. Moreover, a Family Court Law Clinic was established in Izmir to provide legal information to citizens. As demonstrated by an endline survey, satisfaction levels of citizens applying to family courts across six pilot provinces increased by 8,6%.
- v) After being tested in pilot Court houses, Guidelines and Practical tools on divorce, violence against women and domestic violence, alimony and custody were updated in view of a nationwide implementation.

- vi) Over 350 judges and public prosecutors deepened their understanding of the binding case-law of the Turkish Constitution Court (TCC) and the European Court of Human Rights, with a particular focus on the right to a fair trial in civil and criminal justice. In addition, around 250 local lawyers and civil society representatives bolstered their knowledge and skills on the procedures of individual application before the TCC.
- vii) The recently drafted Roadmap for the better application of TCC judgments by ordinary courts was widely shared and its recommendations started being implemented. In this context, the development of an IT platform and database for tracking the execution of TCC judgments is ongoing. Three rapporteurs benefited from a placement in the Council of Europe's Execution of Judgments Department.
- viii) With the support of a small-scale grant, Şişli Municipality in Istanbul opened the "Kuştepe Community Centre" to increase Roma people's access to public services at local level. The Centre also provides artistic and sports activities for young people from the Roma community as well as psycho-social guidance for families on health issues and addictions.

26. Technical assistance in EU member States – co-operation with SG REFORM

Four framework agreements with SG REFORM, with an overall budget of €25.8 million, were under implementation in 2024. In 2024, a total of 27 country-specific projects continued to be implemented across various EU Member States (in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain) and four multi-country projects. The thematic scope of this co-operation covered a wide range of areas of the Council of Europe's expertise, including the various aspects of judicial reform (modernisation of the judicial system, efficiency of justice, access to justice and others), fight against economic crime, money-laundering and terrorist financing, anti-trafficking and migrants' integration policies, protection of childhood and child-friendly justice, and local self-governance. The framework agreement signed in 2024 included 8 projects in areas related to health care, anti-discrimination and artificial intelligence, support to the National Preventive Mechanism, economic crime, protection of children, including anti-trafficking, and digitalisation of justice, with a total funding of approximately €8.3 million of which €7.2 million were contribution from the EU.

A non-exhaustive list of results achieved so far includes:

- i) Following the unanimous approval of the Barnahus Law by the National Assembly of Slovenia in April 2021, the Barnahus in Ljubljana has officially opened its doors in May 2022 and foresees to be able to take in 200 cases of child sexual abuse per year. The Barnahus model brings under the same roof all the relevant stakeholders involved in addressing child sexual abuse cases, and thus eliminates the re-victimisation, reduces remarkably the duration of pre-trial processes and puts child-friendly justice at the centre of all procedures.
- ii) The Bulgarian financial intelligence unit (FIU) is benefitting from a project provided by the Council of Europe that is implementing several activities to enhance Bulgaria's anti-money laundering (AML) capabilities. These include: 1) Reviewing and improving the FIU's risk-based supervisory approach, 2) Strengthening the FIU's strategic and operational analysis functions, 3) Providing training and guidance on open-source intelligence (OSINT), and 4) Raising awareness among Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions as well as Virtual Asset Service Providers about money laundering and terrorist financing risks their businesses are exposed to. The ultimate objective of the project is to strengthen Bulgaria's AML regime by enhancing the FIU's supervisory and analytical capabilities.
- iii) In order to address Slovakia's needs of providing the same range and standard of services to citizens despite enormous differences in local authorities' capacities (Slovakia has a highly fragmented local government with just under 3000 municipalities), the Council of Europe provided policy advice which empowered the authorities in preparing a comprehensive set of reform policies.

- iv) In Cyprus, the Project on the Implementation of the National Horizontal Action Plan Against Corruption enabled effective implementation and monitoring of anti-corruption actions by developing a Guidance paper on a methodology for evaluating and monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption actions.
- v) The project regarding the enhancement of the capacity of the justice system in Cyprus provided technical support to the Cypriot judicial authorities preparing the ground for the establishment of a new Court Service responsible for the management and administration of the Cypriot courts, achieving consensus amongst the different authorities and actors on the necessity and usefulness of the new authority to be established.
- vi) A multi-country project on EU restrictive measures (sanctions) led to further coordinating Member States' approaches as regards identification of effective ownership or control of a company and monitoring of crypto transactions to prevent sanctions' circumvention through virtual assets. A second multi-country project on sanctions implementation started in late 2023 to map Member States' competencies and powers as regards asset freezes.

27. Joint Programmes in the South Mediterranean region

The Council of Europe and the EU continued to partner in the Southern Mediterranean region to advance priority reforms in the region aligned with CoE human rights and rule of standards in the framework of the EU's renewed Agenda for the Mediterranean and the Council of Europe's Policy towards its Neighbouring Regions.

Launched in 2012, **the South Programme** is the key main regional tool to operationalise the strategic tripartite partnership between the two organisations and the partner authorities in the Southern Mediterranean region based on common values. Currently in its fifth phase (South Programme V), the Programme continues to support on-going reforms in the Southern Mediterranean region to combat crime and enhance security while ensuring the protection of people in the region in accordance with CoE and international human rights and rule of law standards. With a budget of 5,56M€ over the period of three years (2022-2025), this will be achieved through 10 thematic programme components ranging from justice sector initiatives to combating organised crime (trafficking in human beings, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering) to the protection of data, combating violence against women and children and empowering of youth and civil society in close cooperation with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe based in Lisbon. Whilst focusing predominantly on regional level action, its demand driven approach enable the implementation of country specific interventions in **Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine**** and **Tunisia**.

Coordinated by the Council of Europe's office in Tunis, the South programme is implemented in synergy with other joint EU/CoE regional and bilateral projects. These include the regional project **CyberSouth+** (3,89M€) aimed at strengthening criminal justice capacities for enhanced cooperation on cybercrime and disclosure of electronic evidence through a combination of regional and country-specific actions that will be tailored to the needs and capacities of each project country (**Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine**** and **Tunisia**) and country-specific programmes on "Improving Economic Governance by Fighting Corruption in **Tunisia**" (1,1M€) and "Towards more protective, accessible ,and effective justice in **Morocco**" (6,1M€) which were all launched in 2024. In addition, the joint project in **Morocco** on "Support to the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture and to the Development of the Key Role of Parliament" (2,3M€) ended in April 2024.

** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States on this issue.

In an extremely challenging implementing environment marked by worsening security situation in the region, regional programme activities in the Southern Mediterranean as well as country-specific programmes in Morocco and Tunisia continued to deliver tangible results, a non-exhaustive list of which includes:

- i) Progressive enlargement of the common legal space between the Southern Mediterranean region and Europe has been the main objective of the South Programme since its launch in 2012. To date the programme has facilitated 23 accessions to 15 different Council of Europe conventions by 5 partner countries in the region. In 2024, **Tunisia** acceded to the Budapest Convention to combat cybercrime, signed the MEDICRIME Convention¹¹ on counterfeiting of medical products and was invited by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to sign the Macolin Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions¹². **Lebanon** joined the North-South Centre as an associate member in April 2024. In addition, **Jordan, Lebanon** and **Algeria** expressed their interest towards becoming an observer to the consultative Committee of the Convention for the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal (Convention 108¹³), and **Morocco** towards the Committee on Artificial Intelligence.
- ii) Harmonised national legislative frameworks with Council of Europe standards
The use of the Quick Response Mechanism (QRM) of the South Programme increased in 2024 with the Venice Commission adopting an opinion on the Administrative Judiciary in **Lebanon** and support provided for the drafting of 8 secondary legislative acts in **Jordan**, the reviewing and drafting of national data protection law in **Lebanon** and **Libya** in line with the Conventions 108 and 108+. In addition, **Lebanon** adopted a ministerial decree to formally operationalise the use of the kit on combating human trafficking developed in line with the Council of Europe Anti-trafficking Convention¹⁴.
- iii) Enhanced specialised skills of criminal justice professionals to investigate and prosecute cybercrime cases involving electronic evidence. In 2014, **Tunisia** became a Party to the Budapest Convention on cybercrime, while two new partners of the project – **Libya** and **Palestine**** - evaluated their legislation vis-à-vis international standards. Investigators and prosecutors from **Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine**** and **Tunisia** acquired new knowledge and skills in digital forensics, ransomware attacks and cryptocurrency which resulted in better internal coordination with financial units and requests to national legislators to introduce and/or modify domestic rules on virtual assets.
- iv) Increased justice performance through the use of CEPEJ tools contributing towards an enhanced performance of the judicial system in Morocco, including as regards the collection and use of reliable statistics, the weighting of cases, and the digital transformation and the development of AI in the field of justice. The regional work of the CEPEJ's Arab Network of Justice Inspection Services (**ARNJIS**) was further consolidated with its scope was widened as a response to a high interest of Arab counties towards this cooperation (Qatar, Oman, Yemen and Mauritania joined the network without financial support of the South Programme).
- v) Strengthened technical skills and institutional capacities to combat corruption and anti-money laundering
The House of Representatives approved a Code of Conduct for parliamentarians in **Morocco** and the country made significant progress in protecting whistle-blowers by enacting a new law in this area. Following the operationalisation of anti-corruption agencies in **Lebanon** and **Algeria**, these two countries proceeded to adopt regulations on combatting corruption in the public sector, on assets and interests' disclosure, as well as on the protection of whistle-blowers. While **Libya** established its agency combating money-laundering and financial crimes in 2024, **Tunisia** proceeded with introducing provisions to improve the transparency of beneficial ownership information, supervision of financial institutions and of designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) to curb opportunities for money laundering.

¹¹ Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (CTS 211)

¹² Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (CETS 215)

¹³ Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS 108); Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CETS 223).

¹⁴ Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS 197)

- vi) Improved skills and increased know-how of authorities and professionals in the region to promote personal data and align emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), with human rights and rule of standards.
Following needs assessments conducted in the field of personal data protection in **Jordan, Lebanon** and **Libya**, technical expertise was provided in the framework of the QRM to strengthen their legal frameworks in line with CoE standards. The process was completed in **Jordan** leading to the adoption of secondary by-laws that support the effective implementation of their national data protection law in line with the Convention 108+, while the technical support is on-going in **Lebanon** to review the existing data protection law and in **Libya** where steps are taken towards adoption of a first data protection law in the country. A regional HELP course on data protection and privacy rights was completed for the first time in the Southern Mediterranean to promote regional cooperation and a common understanding of standards in this area, and a specialised DataShield Training of Trainers (ToT) training was developed and conducted in **Tunisia** to promote a culture of data protection among the youth. In addition, **Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco** and **Tunisia** participated and contributed towards the work of the CAI.
- vii) Enhanced capacities of national authorities, legal and other professionals to effectively implement CoE standards in the Southern Mediterranean
The HELP platform has over 3700 users in the Southern Mediterranean, an increase of over 50% since the start of the South Programme V in 2022, and it offers 22 HELP courses translated in Arabic for self-learning. More than 2800 frontline workers, judiciary, legal and other professionals as well as representatives of national authorities in the region enhanced their technical skills and capacities notably in the fields of combating trafficking in human beings and combating violence against women and children, including through tutored HELP courses implemented in **Algeria, Lebanon, Tunisia** and **Morocco**.
- viii) Increased awareness of civil society organisations and youth on Council of Europe standards
In a context of weakening democratic institutions, it is crucially important to continue to involve a broader range of stakeholders in parallel to the more traditional cooperation with national authorities and institutions. The Human Rights Education for Youth (**HEY**) was launched in 2024 to better reach the youth and promote CoE standards and their effective implementation in a sustainable manner. The Rule of Law and Youth Network (**RoLYN**) empowered young people and enabled inter-regional collaboration to address the intersections of combating economic crimes and protecting the environment. A cohort of representatives of youth organisations, of which 65% are from the Southern Mediterranean (**Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco** and **Tunisia**), benefited from targeted training and micro-grants in the framework of the RoLYN.

28. Joint Programmes in Central Asia

The European Union-Council of Europe Joint “Central Asia Rule of Law Programme” (total budget: €8.9 million) has been implemented since January 2020, with an initial duration of four years. In 2023, the programme benefitted from a 6-month extension to mid-2024. The Programme was open to all five countries of the region – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – and was in line with the Council of Europe Policy for Neighbouring Regions. The Programme was implemented by the Council of Europe in close collaboration with national partners and was based on a demand-driven approach.

More specifically, the Programme aimed at facilitating the creation of a common legal space between Europe and Central Asia, supporting the fight against economic crime and enhancing human rights protection by training legal professionals based on the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) methodology. It also included the assistance of the Venice Commission on the functioning of state institutions and public administration. Some of the results are outlined below:

- i) Representatives of national institutions of all Central Asian countries improved significantly their knowledge of the benefits and commitments of getting closer to key Council of Europe Conventions. In this context, **Kazakhstan** was invited by the Committee of Ministers to accede to three Conventions¹⁵. Kyrgyzstan ratified the Convention on the transfer of sentenced persons in January 2024.
- ii) **Kazakhstan** received support to advance the implementation of the recommendations of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)¹⁶ and enhance the transparency of beneficial ownership. **Kyrgyzstan** started to implement a sectoral risk assessment of virtual assets and virtual assets service providers, using the specific Council of Europe methodology.
- iii) Legal expertise on draft legislation was provided to **Kyrgyzstan**, in the form of three legal opinions adopted by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, namely on the amendments to the Law on the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament (January 2023), the draft Law on Media (May 2023),¹⁷ the draft constitutional Law on the "Akyikatchy" (Ombudsman) (June 2023), as well as the opinion on the draft amendments to the Law "On Normative Legal Acts" and to the Law on the Code of Offenses" in 2024.
- iv) In **Tajikistan** the capacities of national stakeholders to fight and prevent economic crime were strengthened. Recommendations on how to improve the legal framework protecting the rights of entrepreneurs, enabling businesses operating in Tajikistan to access to justice and resolve unfair treatment and abuses from public authorities in a pre-trial context, were presented to the relevant institutions;
- v) Co-operation with **Turkmenistan** was enhanced by raising awareness on issues related to the access to justice and to recovery of criminal proceeds and beneficial ownership;
- vi) **Uzbekistan** was the first country in the region to have launched a tutored HELP course, namely the course "Rights of Persons with Disabilities" for judges. In co-operation with the Law enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, two HELP courses "Violence against women and domestic violence" and "Combating trafficking in human beings", have been translated and adapted to the national legal context of Uzbekistan and launched for Uzbek prosecutors. The tutored HELP course on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was launched in Tajikistan. Overall, 620 registered HELP users and 575 legal practitioners were involved in capacity-building activities in Central Asia. Nine HELP courses have been translated into national languages and ten HELP courses have been successfully launched and adapted to the national context.

IV. LESSONS LEARNED

29. The following lessons learned can be drawn from the implementation of Joint Programmes during the reference period:

- i) Maintaining dialogue with and seeking regular feedback from project stakeholders, including EU, and beneficiaries at different levels is essential to build flexibility and resilience into project design. It allows for identifying newly emerging needs and adapting project activities to realities on the ground in order to ensure that the project delivers on intended outcomes. Accommodating to the extent possible new and emerging needs boosts project performance and spurs common motivation along with that of the Council of Europe staff.
- ii) Facility-type regional programmes are a flexible and effective tool to address new challenges and risks. The right balance between flexibility and adaptability of these programmes is a strong added value, which allows them to achieve clearly defined objectives.

¹⁵ Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 173), Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CETS No. 210), Convention on Cybercrime (CETS No. 185).

¹⁶ Joint First and Second Rounds Evaluation Report on Kazakhstan, March 2022.

¹⁷ The preparation of the Opinion on the Draft Law on Media¹³³ was not funded by the programme.

- iii) Council of Europe experience from the EU enlargement process in South-East Europe is very valuable for the enlargement process of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. Cross fertilisation and synergies are increasingly sought among Joint Programmes in this respect.
- iv) Risk management is an integral element of the Joint Programmes' monitoring with a view to timely develop and effectively implement mitigation measures to address the different risks and challenges. A constant risk assessment is particularly important given the developments linked to the consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine notably, which can affect the implementation of Joint Programmes.
- v) Regional actions, in complementarity to national ones, demonstrated a strong added value by providing a platform for the exchange of expertise and best practice, promoting peer-to-peer exchange, and reinforcing regional cooperation and dialogue. The flexibility of the structure of regional projects is key in view of the developments, in order to ensure the most appropriate composition and modalities of regional interventions.
- vi) The high quality of assistance provided through Joint Programmes both by technical support and the targeted expertise (Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism within the Horizontal Facility and the Quick Response Mechanisms within the Partnership for Good Governance and the South Programme) is much appreciated by beneficiary institutions and brings tangible results.
- vii) Maintaining open communication channels with and between the authorities and partners on issues that are intersectional and involving multi-agency co-operation, allows to create synergies in the form of cross-fertilisation and mutualisation of certain tools or promotion efforts.
- viii) Along with tailor-made assistance encompassing legal expertise, capacity building and awareness raising, promoting a multi-stakeholder approach is key to achieving tangible results and ensuring a positive impact of actions for citizens. Strengthening an inclusive approach and involving all relevant stakeholders, including the civil society as right-holders, is relevant for reinforcing the ownership of the national partners, enhancing inter-agency cooperation, and increasing the role of civil society organisations in the Joint Programmes implementation as a promoter of change and as a direct vector of communication to citizens, reflecting concrete changes brought by Joint Programmes to their daily lives.
- ix) Broader stakeholder engagement and partnerships with neutral intermediaries are needed to mitigate risks and ensure sustainability in a longer-run.
In a context of weakening democratic institutions and an increasing mistrust, particularly among the youth, towards regulation-based international cooperation, Western and European values, it is crucial to involve a broader range of stakeholders in promoting Council of Europe standards and their effective implementation in a sustainable manner. Launched in 2024, the Human Rights Education for Youth (HEY) programme addresses the need to better reach the youth and civil society organisations by providing them with quality training and accessible tools based on the HELP methodology, while continuing to target professionals and representatives of national authorities in parallel. In the Southern Mediterranean region, close collaboration with other regional organisations, such as the League of Arab States, has proven an efficient method to mitigate risks and build credibility and neutrality of the action.

APPENDIX I. JOINT PROGRAMMES UNDER IMPLEMENTATION IN 2024

Financing instrument	Contract title	Start date of covenant	End date of covenant	Total programme envelope in €	Contribution of the European Union in €	Contribution of the Council of Europe in €
South-East Europe and Türkiye						
Serbia						
IPA	Support for the implementation of judicial reform in Serbia	01/01/2022	31/12/2025	3 334 000.00	3 000 000.00	334 000.00
Türkiye						
IPA	Improving International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters	11/12/2020	10/12/2024	3 000 000.00	2 700 000.00	300 000.00
IPA	Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	17/12/2020	16/09/2024	4 000 000.00	3 600 000.00	400 000.00
IPA	Improving the effectiveness of family courts: better protection of the rights of family members	20/03/2021	19/09/2024	2 223 000.00	2 000 000.00	223 000.00

IPA	Supporting the Effective Implementation of Turkish Constitutional Court Judgments in the field of Fundamental Rights	17/09/2021	16/09/2025	5 500 000.00	4 950 000.00	550 000.00
IPA	Enhancing Foreign Language Education Quality in Türkiye	12/07/2024	11/07/2029	5 403 333.00	4 863 000.00	540 333.00
Kosovo*						
IPA	Project against Economic Crime (PECK) Phase III	01/07/2020	30/06/2025	2 460 000.00	2 214 000.00	246 000.00
Regional						
IPA	ROMACTED phase II: Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level	01/01/2021	31/12/2024	6 500 000.00	5 700 000.00	800 000.00
IPA	European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye – Phase III	01/01/2023	31/12/2026	41 175 000.00	35 000 000.00	6 175 000.00
IPA	Roma Integration Project - Phase III	01/05/2023	30/04/2026	3 000 000.00	2 700 000.00	300 000.00

IPA	CyberSEE – Co-operation on Cybercrime: Enhanced action on cybercrime and electronic evidence in South-East Europe and Türkiye	01/01/2024	30/06/2027	5 500 000.00	4 950 000.00	550 000.00
Eastern Europe and South Caucasus						
Republic of Moldova						
NDICI	Support to the Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova	27/05/2023	26/11/2026	2 700 000.00	2 430 000.00	270 000.00
Ukraine						
ENI	Support for implementing European standards relating to anti-discrimination and rights of national minorities in Ukraine	01/07/2023	30/06/2026	1 999 997.00	1 800 000.00	199 997.00
Regional						
ENI	Support for a better evaluation of the result of judicial reform efforts in the Eastern Partnership 'Justice Dashboard EaP'	15/01/2021	14/07/2025	2 223 000.00	2 000 000.00	223 000.00

NDICI	European Union/Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance for Eastern Partnership countries - Phase III	01/03/2023	28/02/2027	19 300 000.00	15 000 000.00	4 300 000.00
NDICI	CyberEast+ Enhanced action on cybercrime for cyber resilience in Eastern Partnership States	01/03/2024	28/02/2027	3 888 889.00	3 500 000.00	388 889.00
Multilateral						
NDICI	Global Action on Cybercrime extended (GLACY+)	01/03/2016	29/02/2024	18 890 000.00	17 000 000.00	1 890 000.00
Erasmus +	Combating Hate Speech in Sport	01/01/2022	30/06/2024	560 000.00	400 000.00	160 000.00
EU4Health Programme	Improving the quality, safety and availability of Substances of Human Origin, disseminating best practices, implementing Union standards and tackling new challenges	01/01/2022	30/04/2025	6 000 000.00	3 000 000.00	3 000 000.00
Erasmus +	Transnational History Education and Cooperation Laboratory (HISTOLAB)	28/04/2022	31/10/2024	1 111 111.00	1 000 000.00	111 111.00
NDICI	iLEGEND III - Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue	20/12/2022	19/12/2026	2 000 000.00	1 500 000.00	500 000.00
Creative Europe	European Heritage Days 2023	01/01/2023	30/06/2024	800 000.00	400 000.00	400 000.00

Erasmus +	All In Plus - promoting gender equality in sport	01/03/2023	28/02/2025	500 000.00	400 000.00	100 000.00
JUST	Support to Council of Europe for EU network of prison monitoring bodies	21/07/2023	20/07/2025	345 000.00	310 000.00	35 000.00
NDICI	Global Action on Cybercrime Enhanced (GLACY-e)	01/08/2023	31/01/2026	5 556 000.00	5 000 000.00	556 000.00
Erasmus +	Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth 2024-2025	01/01/2024	31/12/2025	2 800 000.00	1 600 000.00	1 200 000.00
EU4Health Programme	Support for Pharmaceuticals to the Council of Europe/EDQM	01/01/2024	31/12/2027	18 400 000.00	4 600 000.00	13 800 000.00
Creative Europe	European Heritage Days – 2024 edition	01/01/2024	30/06/2025	800 000.00	400 000.00	400 000.00
NDICI	Support to democratic reforms, human right mechanisms and rule of law principles in Latin America, Central Asia and Mongolia	01/01/2024	31/12/2026	763 160.00	725 000.00	38 160.00
Erasmus +	Balance S4 - Strengthening the Safety and Service pillars of the Saint-Denis Convention	01/01/2024	30/09/2025	445 000.00	400 000.00	45 000.00

EU member States

Multi-beneficiary						
TSI	Support to EU Member States in the implementation of reforms under the Technical Support Instrument – 2021: Governance, Public Administration, Financial Sector and Access to Finance	13/05/2021	12/05/2024	4 300 000.00	3 870 000.00	430 000.00
TSI	Support to EU Member States in the implementation of reforms under the Technical Support Instrument 2022: Border and migration policies and capacity building to absorb Union funds in relation to RRF, Revenue Administration and Public Financial Management, Governance and Public Administration and Financial Sector and Access to Finance	22/04/2022	21/04/2025	8 227 806.00	7 410 014.00	817 792.00
TSI	Support to EU Member States in the implementation of reforms under the Technical Support Instrument 2023: Border and migration policies; Governance and public administration; Financial sector and access to finance	01/07/2023	30/06/2026	5 000 000.00	4 500 000.00	500 000.00
TSI	Support to EU Member States in the implementation of reforms under the Technical Support Instrument: Border & Migration policies; Governance & Public Administration; Labour Market, Education, Health & Social Services; Financial Sector & Access to Finance	22/06/2024	21/06/2027	8 310 345.00	7 230 000.00	1 080 345.00
Erasmus +	Inclusive Schools: Making a Difference for Roma Children (INSCHOOL 3)	11/12/2021	31/05/2024	1 000 000.00	700 000.00	300 000.00
JUST	Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals in the European Union III (EU CoE HELP EU III)	01/03/2022	30/11/2024	1 389 448.50	1 250 503.65	138 944.85
JUST	EU-CoE Judicial Training on Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights	01/11/2022	31/12/2024	649 888.04	584 899.23	64 988.81

CERV	Equality and freedom from discrimination for Roma (EQUIROM)	20/12/2022	19/12/2024	850 000.00	680 000.00	170 000.00
ESF	ROMACT 9: Building Capacity for Roma Inclusion at Local Level	01/01/2023	31/08/2024	1 670 000.00	1 500 000.00	170 000.00
CERV	Increasing civil society organisations' knowledge and capacity to tackle hate speech online	01/09/2023	31/12/2024	223 000.00	200 000.00	23 000.00
CERV	Combating anti-LGBTIQ violence and hate speech and strengthening awareness-raising and fact-based narratives about LGBTIQ persons	04/11/2023	03/11/2026	1 334 000.00	1 200 000.00	134 000.00
JUST	Support to Council of Europe's project on child-friendly justice	01/01/2024	31/03/2026	950 000.00	855 000.00	95 000.00
ESF+	ROMACT 10 - Building Capacity for Roma Inclusion at Local Level	01/09/2024	31/03/2026	2 360 000.00	2 000 000.00	360 000.00
CERV	Equality and freedom from discrimination for Roma: Roma Holocaust Remembrance and Education (RomaMemory)	23/05/2024	22/05/2026	778 000.00	700 000.00	78 000.00
Internal Security Fund	CyberSPEX – Enhanced co-operation on e-evidence by EU Member States through the Second Protocol to the Budapest Convention	01/03/2024	28/02/2026	2 230 000.00	2 000 000.00	230 000.00

JUST	EU-CoE HELP EU IV (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals in the European Union IV)	01/11/2024	30/04/2027	1 088 243.50	979 419.15	108 824.35
Erasmus +	Innovative Methodologies and Assessment in Language Learning XI	01/01/2024	31/12/2024	875 000.00	700 000.00	175 000.00
Non-member States/Southern Neighbourhood						
Morocco						
ENI	Support to the national mechanism against torture and to the development of the key role of Parliament in Morocco	14/11/2020	30/11/2024	2 316 000.00	2 200 000.00	116 000.00
NDICI	Towards a more protective, accessible and effective justice in Morocco – (MA-JUST)	01/06/2024	30/09/2027	6 112 000.00	5 500 000.00	612 000.00
Tunisia						
NDICI	AGELA: Improving Economic Governance by Fighting Corruption in Tunisia	01/07/2024	30/06/2027	1 112 000.00	1 000 000.00	112 000.00

Regional						
NDICI	Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean (South Programme V)	01/09/2022	31/08/2025	5 556 000.00	5 000 000.00	556 000.00
NDICI	Cyber South+: Enhanced Co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the Southern Neighbourhood region	01/01/2024	31/12/2026	3 890 000.00	3 500 000.00	390 000.00
Non-member States/Central Asia						
DCI	Central Asia Rule of Law Programme	02/01/2020	01/07/2024	8 888 824.03	8 000 000.00	888 824.03

APPENDIX II. JOINT PROGRAMMES SIGNED IN 2024

Financing instrument	Contract title	Date of signature	Start date of covenant	End date of covenant	Total programme envelope in €	Contribution of the European Union in €	Contribution of the Council of Europe in €
NDICI	Cyber South+: Enhanced Co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the Southern Neighbourhood region	07/02/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2026	3 890 000.00	3 500 000.00	390 000.00
Internal Security Fund	CyberSPEX – Enhanced co-operation on e-evidence by EU Member States through the Second Protocol to the Budapest Convention	14/03/2024	01/03/2024	28/02/2026	2 230 000.00	2 000 000.00	230 000.00
IPA	CyberSEE – Co-operation on Cybercrime: Enhanced action on cybercrime and electronic evidence in South-East Europe and Türkiye	27/03/2024	01/01/2024	30/06/2027	5 500 000.00	4 950 000.00	550 000.00
NDICI	CyberEast+ Enhanced action on cybercrime for cyber resilience in Eastern Partnership States	26/04/2024	01/03/2024	28/02/2027	3 888 889.00	3 500 000.00	388 889.00
CERV	Equality and freedom from discrimination for Roma: Roma Holocaust Remembrance and Education (RomaMemory)	22/05/2024	23/05/2024	22/05/2026	778 000.00	700 000.00	78 000.00
Erasmus+	Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth 2024-2025	23/05/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2025	2 800 000.00	1 600 000.00	1 200 000.00
TSI	Support to EU Member States in the implementation of reforms under the Technical Support Instrument: Border & Migration policies; Governance & Public Administration; Labour Market, Education, Health & Social Services; Financial Sector & Access to Finance	21/06/2024	22/06/2024	21/06/2027	8 310 345.00	7 230 000.00	1 080 345.00

NDICI	Towards a more protective, accessible and effective justice in Morocco – (MA-JUST)	25/06/2024	01/06/2024	30/09/2027	6 112 000.00	5 500 000.00	612 000.00
NDICI	AGELA: Improving Economic Governance by Fighting Corruption in Tunisia	28/06/2024	01/07/2024	30/06/2027	1 112 000.00	1 000 000.00	112 000.00
IPA	Enhancing Foreign Language Education Quality in Türkiye	12/07/2024	12/07/2024	11/07/2029	5 403 333.00	4 863 000.00	540 333.00
ESF+	ROMACT 10 - Building Capacity for Roma Inclusion at Local Level	14/08/2024	01/09/2024	31/03/2026	2 360 000.00	2 000 000.00	360 000.00
JUST	EU-CoE HELP EU IV Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals in the European Union IV	28/10/2024	01/11/2024	30/04/2027	1 088 243.50	979 419.15	108 824.35
Erasmus+	Innovative Methodologies and Assessment in Language Learning XI	05/12/2024	01/01/2025	31/12/2025	875 000.00	700 000.00	175 000.00
Erasmus+	Sport For All: Promoting Inclusion and Combating Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities	09/12/2024	01/03/2025	31/08/2026	500 000.00	400 000.00	100 000.00
IPA	Human Resources Management in Local Self-Government - phase 3	10/12/2024	03/02/2025	02/11/2027	1 300 000.00	1 170 000.00	130 000.00
EU4Health Programme	Strengthening European SoHO Systems	11/12/2024	01/01/2025	31/12/2027	12 831 000.00	6 556 000.00	6 275 000.00

Creative Europe	European Heritage Days – 2025 edition	13/12/2024	01/01/2025	30/06/2026	800 000.00	400 000.00	400 000.00
NDICI	Promoting Freedom of Expression In Albania Through Open Dialogue	19/12/2024	01/01/2025	31/12/2026	167 000.00	150 000.00	17 000.00