

COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN PODGORICA | RESULTS IN 2025



Montenegro and the Council of Europe share a long-standing co-operation focused on a shared commitment to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Today, this co-operation is driving forward key reforms, from justice and education to media freedom, equality, and the fight against corruption.

Most initiatives are implemented **through joint European Union and Council of Europe actions part of the “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye” programme**. The Council Programme Office in Podgorica leads this work in close collaboration with national authorities, the EU, civil society, media, and reaching out to citizens. Additional support is provided to prevent bullying in schools, promote Roma integration, strengthening deliberative democracy at local level, and reinforcing cybercrime prevention

BY THE NUMBERS: A PLATFORM FOR ACTION | AS OF JANUARY 2026



18 DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDING 16 PROJECT STAFF.



11 REGIONAL AND 7 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PROJECTS INCLUDING:

- 6 FLAGSHIP EU AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE “HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TÜRKIYE” ACTIONS.
- 1 PROJECT FUNDED THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

WHY YOUR INVOLVEMENT MATTERS

Every reform is a shared achievement. Through your engagement, the Council of Europe’s co-operation in Montenegro continues to turn commitments into progress: building institutions that are accountable, education that empowers, and a society where rights are real for everyone.

IMPACT OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORK IN MONTENEGRO



ADVANCING RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE

Justice that serves citizens. Quicker, fairer, and more accessible justice is becoming a reality. Citizens now benefit from strengthened alternative dispute resolution, improved free legal aid, and higher judicial accountability through new appraisal and performance mechanisms for judges and prosecutors.

A stronger legal framework for victims' rights. New Codes of Ethics, and Montenegro's first Victims' Rights Strategy provide clearer standards for ethical conduct and victim protection. These instruments ensure that Montenegro's legal framework is increasingly harmonised with European standards.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Safeguarding human dignity in detention. Enhanced co-operation between prison staff, police, and oversight bodies is improving conditions in prisons. New monitoring mechanisms help prevent ill-treatment and strengthen accountability wherever violation occurs.

MEDIA FREEDOM AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Upholding media freedom and safety. With improved operational procedures, law enforcement officials now respond more effectively to threats and violence against journalists. Transparent communication between prosecutors, judges, and media further reinforces public confidence in the justice system and the press as a democratic pillar.

EDUCATION AND DEMOCRATIC COMPETENCES

Education that nurtures inclusion and integrity. Schools and universities across the country are embedding democratic values into daily learning. Several initiatives improved resilience, tolerance, and equality in schools, notably through innovation challenges, national preparedness, and awareness-raising. Universities reinforced academic integrity and inclusion by adopting new ethics rules, training programmes, and awareness-raising initiatives.

Combating bullying and cyberbullying. Nationwide research with over 5 000 students and teachers provided the first evidence-based understanding of bullying in the country. Educators, journalists, and youth turned research into action, promoting safe, inclusive learning environments through awareness-raising initiatives, debates, and creative digital tools.

INTEGRITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME

Tackling money laundering and economic crime. Institutions now use automated, risk-based systems to better detect and prevent money laundering and terrorism financing. The 2024–2028 National Anti-Corruption Strategy is supported by new analytical assessments, while the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption has reinforced internal integrity checks for all new staff.

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Strengthening local democracy. Following targeted capacity building, municipalities thought innovative practices, invite citizens to shape local policies directly. These new participatory mechanisms empower communities, bridge trust gaps, and give local governance a stronger democratic backbone.