



HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Quality education in multi-ethnic societies

The Council of Europe is assisting relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve quality of education by helping overcome ethnic segregation in formal education through applying anti-discriminatory approaches based on Council of Europe standards and practices. This project is being implemented in close cooperation and partnership with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and all relevant entity and cantonal ministries of education. The project implements an integrated approach of policy and grass-root initiatives and will also include a broader group of partners and stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, civil servants and politicians, selected pilot schools, local communities, media and NGOs.

The Project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe as a part of the European Union – Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey and is implemented by the Council of Europe Education Department in cooperation with the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo. The duration of the project is set at 17 months and it is expected to be completed by 30 May 2019, with an overall budget of 270,000 Euros.

Expected project results

The **overall objective** of the project is to improve quality of education in Bosnia and Herzegovina by fighting ethnic segregation in the formal education system through applying anti-discriminatory approaches in line with Council of Europe standards and practices.

The **first specific objective** is to support the implementation of the education reform process in Bosnia and Herzegovina through policy recommendations from an assessment study and results from focus group consultations. This specific objective shall be accomplished through the achievement of the following results:

- An assessment study on the ethnic segregation issues affecting the quality of education is developed and recommendations are proposed.
- A policy road map is developed based on the assessment study, focus group conclusions and existing recommendations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The **second specific objective** is to heighten awareness of school directors, teachers, students, parents, civil servants, politicians and the general public on the benefits of a multi-ethnic and democratic school for ensuring quality education. This specific objective shall be accomplished through the achievement of the following result:

- Practices promoting multi-ethnic and democratic schools are identified and disseminated.

Background information

On 11 April 2016, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, and the European Union's Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, announced a new co-operation initiative of the two organizations aimed at supporting South-East Europe and Turkey in their efforts to comply with European standards. The initiative is called the European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey (Horizontal Facility). It is a three-year program (May 2016 – May 2019), focusing on three themes: ensuring justice, fighting economic crime as well as combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups. It has a budget of €25 million, of which €20 million has been provided by the European Union and €5 million by the Council of Europe. Through the Horizontal Facility, the European Union and the Council of Europe will assist beneficiaries in South-East Europe and Turkey to comply with Council of Europe standards and the European Union *acquis*, through a complementary two-fold approach of technical co-operation and the provision of expertise. The Horizontal Facility relies on the Council of Europe's unique working methods, whereby tailor-made technical co-operation activities are based on conclusions and recommendations of the Council of Europe's monitoring bodies, which highlight areas where improvements are needed in legislation and policies of the beneficiaries to comply with the Organization's standards.

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The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 500 million citizens – in a fairer, safer world. To make things happen, EU countries set up bodies to run the EU and adopt its legislation. The main ones are the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe), the Council of the European Union (representing national governments) and the European Commission (representing the common EU interest).

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