

## Strengthening the Human Rights Ombudsman to fight discrimination

### *Project summary*

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Project title</b>                | Strengthening the Human Rights Ombudsman to fight discrimination  |
| <b>Country</b>                      | Bosnia and Herzegovina  |
| <b>Budget</b>                       | 800 000 €   |
| <b>Funding</b>                      | European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey   |
| <b>Duration</b>                     | 28 months (1 September 2016 – 31 December 2018)   |
| <b>Partners and beneficiaries</b>   | staff members of the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina, staff members of Gender Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Gender Centres of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, judiciary from Bosnia and Herzegovina   |
| <b>Main objectives</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to strengthen the role of the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina to prevent and combat discrimination in line with European standards</li> <li>- to strengthen the capacity of Gender Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Gender Centres of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska</li> <li>- The protection against discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina is strengthened through a better application of anti-discrimination standards and Ombudsman's recommendations by courts</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Expected outputs and results</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the capacity of the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina to prevent and combat discrimination is strengthened;</li> <li>- the cooperation between the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other public institutions and NGOs in the fight against discrimination is fostered;</li> <li>- strengthened capacity of the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Gender Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Gender Centres of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska to prevent and combat discrimination, including on grounds of sex</li> </ul> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>and gender;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- strengthened dialogue between the judiciary and the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Implemented or planned activities</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- workshops for staff members of the Ombudsperson Institution on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights relating to discrimination on different grounds;</li> <li>- comparative study and a report on advocacy activities among relevant government bodies to strengthen the role of the Ombudsperson;</li> <li>- round tables on co-ordination of actions between the Ombudsperson and other relevant institutions and on implementation of the Ombudsperson's recommendations;</li> <li>- training of trainers seminars for staff members of the Ombudsperson Institution on handling the anti-discrimination complaints;</li> <li>- in-depth trainings for Gender Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Gender Centres of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska on European anti-discrimination standards;</li> <li>- training of trainers for judiciary on handling the anti-discrimination complaints with participation of the Ombudsman</li> <li>- training sessions for relevant public institutions and NGOs to be conducted by the Ombudsman Institution's staff members on European anti-discrimination standards;</li> <li>- development and publication of an antidiscrimination manual for judges and prosecutors, civil servants, NGOs and media;</li> <li>- report with recommendations on the efficiency of the Ombudsperson Institution and elements to be improved;</li> <li>- development of a manual for the Ombudsperson on the structure and methodology of preparation of, and follow-up to special reports;</li> <li>- promotion of anti-discrimination manual and presentation of the anti-discrimination database managed by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees for relevant public institutions, NGOs and the judiciary;</li> <li>- seminars for the judiciary with presentation of the Ombudsman Institution and Gender Institutions mandates and on various aspects of protection against discrimination</li> <li>- development of guidelines for the harmonisation of the national legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with European anti-discrimination standards and Law on Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>- one-week placements of the total of 10 staff members of the Ombudsperson Institution with a peer institution in the</li> </ul> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Western-Balkan countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- placements of the total of 4 staff members of the Ombudsperson Institution with a peer institution in the EU member states;</li><li>- regional conferences for exchange of best practices of addressing human rights violations with a special focus on combating discrimination;</li><li>- study visits for a group of staff members of the Ombudsperson institution to the Council of Europe and to one of the Council of Europe member states with well-established mechanisms of protection against discrimination.</li></ul> |
|--|--|