

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

29 November 2022

Information Documents
DPC/DPAER/Inf(2022)5

Quarterly report of Council of Europe Offices

July-September 2022

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

A. LIAISON OFFICES

Introduction

The Council of Europe Offices in charge of liaison with one or more international organisations or institutions:

- represent the Secretary General vis-à-vis international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- follow the activities carried out by the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s) and report on developments relevant to the Council of Europe activities and policies;
- provide support for the organisation of and follow-up to high-level co-ordination and other meetings or events between the Council of Europe and the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- promote effective co-operation between the Council of Europe and the relevant international organisation(s) or institution(s);
- identify opportunities for joint activities and provide advice and support in planning, negotiation, implementation and reporting on these activities;
- conduct a proactive media policy in order to raise the visibility of the Organisation.

The present document covers the reporting period July-September 2022. Following decision [CM/Del/Dec\(2013\)1175/1.6E](#) of 3 July 2013, activity reports have been published every three months, starting with July-September 2013.

Brussels - Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with the European Union

Highlights

- The Head of Office, Ambassador Andriy Zayats, took office on 1 July 2022 and started introductory calls.
- SRSG on Migration Kayacik was in Brussels, 18-19 July.
- PACE member Papandreou conducted a working visit, 6 September.
- EUSR for Human Rights Gilmore attended the Committee of Ministers and had a meeting with the SG, 7 September.
- EP President Metsola met PACE President Kox in Strasbourg, 13 September.
- EUSR for the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue Lajčák attended the Committee of Ministers and had a meeting with the SG, 14 September.
- The SG spoke at the EU Forum of the Rights of the Child (online), 27 September.

The new Head of Office was officially received by the EEAS to present his credentials on 1 September. He then undertook introductory calls, meeting the (Chiefs of) Cabinets of the relevant Commissioners, of the President of the European Council and of the President of the European Parliament, high Officials from the EEAS, the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council, Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives of the current Presidency of the EU Council and of the incoming presidencies and the Heads of other International Organisations based in Brussels.

The Office maintained its contacts with the EU and Czech Presidency on a variety of issues, such as:

- Political developments: consequences of the war in Ukraine, preparation of a possible CoE 4th Summit, developments as regards Kosovo¹, the "European Political Community", the EU's initiative on a "European Diplomatic Academy", the State of the Union speech, Eastern Partnership policy.
- Joint programmes: several exchanges with the Commission - DG NEAR - and with colleagues on the next phases of the multi-country - multiannual joint programmes (primarily the PGG facility), as well as on civil society in Belarus. Current and forthcoming co-operation was also discussed with DG JUST and DG EAC.
- Respective normative work on issues such as: AI, SLAPPs, the European Media Freedom Act, assistance to Ukraine (prosecutions of massive violations of human rights, the fight against impunity), human rights defenders.
- Joint programmes: exchanges with the Commission - DG NEAR on the next phases of the multi-country - multiannual joint programmes (HF, PGG facilities), as well as with SGUA (Support Group for Ukraine) and DG REFORM.

The Office liaised with various interlocutors to facilitate the SG's participation in the Conference on the reconstruction of Ukraine, organised in Lugano in July, as well as the participation of the CoE in the Conference against impunity organised in July in The Hague. The Office further facilitated the participation of the CoE in various events organised by the EU:

- The SG participated in the EU Forum of the Rights of the Child (online) on 27 September. DGII colleagues also participated.

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- Director Gruden, DGII, participated in a Conference organised by UNESCO in Brussels and had bilateral contacts with the Commission (DG EAC), 30 September.
- DGII intervened in a debate organised in the EP on national minorities, 7 September.
- DGI - anti-terrorism co-ordinator - participated in a meeting of the Council Working Group on terrorism (COTER) on 14 September.

The Office also facilitated the organisation of the visit of the EU Council Working Group on the relations with the Western Balkans ("COWEB") to the CoE in Strasbourg on 29-30 September.

It also reported on the major developments in the EU over the summer and on events organised in Think Tanks in Brussels on matters of CoE interest.

Main features - statistics

Some 237 information messages, 14 weekly reports and 18 notes for the file were sent from the Office.

Visibility and relations with media

The Spokesperson/Media Officer co-ordinated communications work around Ireland's presidency of the Committee of Ministers, notably including the Dublin conference of Ministers of Justice and the Galway conference on applying the ECHR in areas of conflict in Europe. He also organised and moderated the second regular online media briefing on the work of the Committee of Ministers, involving journalists from Ireland, Brussels and Strasbourg.

The Spokesperson/Media Officer carried out media, online and social media work on topics including Russia's departure from the ECHR, the urgent Venice Commission opinion on Georgia, Commissioner Mijatovic's submissions to the CM, Spain's new consent-based rape law, the recent ROMACT 9 agreement with the EU, the SG's statement on the so-called "referendums" in Ukraine, the Committee of Ministers recommendations on the environment, on human trafficking and on the implementation of the ECHR, the Committee's decision on Belarus, the CPT report on Greece, the GRETA report on Ireland, the death of Queen Elizabeth II, EUSR Gilmore's visit to Strasbourg, the European Day of Languages, the new execution of judgments factsheet on data protection and various judgments and decisions from the European Court of Human Rights.

He also continued working on the on-going communications project highlighting the impact of the ECHR and participating in the latest regular meeting of the "C-9" group of senior communications staff representing various international organisations and networks working on human rights.

He liaised with communications staff at the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions on possibilities for future co-operation.

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

The *Chargée d'affaires* followed (online) the events below:

- The High-Level Discussion on Fostering Freedom of Expression through the UPR Process: Enhancing Synergies Between UNESCO and the Human Rights Council, 5 September.
- The opening of the 51st session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), 12 September.
- The third virtual quarterly informal briefing of UNHCR, 13 September.

Furthermore, she facilitated the mission to Geneva of PACE Rapporteur Böke, organising several meetings in the OHCHR and her participation in the WTO Public Forum (28-29 September).

Vienna - Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with the OSCE, United Nations Office and other international organisations in Vienna

Note: Between July and September the OSCE convened three Special meetings and one Reinforced Permanent Council meeting in addition to the regular weekly PC meetings. Those PC meetings were also held during the OSCE summer recess, which lasted from 31 July to 26 August. Between July and September, the Office submitted a total of 13 spot reports about activities and events related to the OSCE.

Participation in OSCE Permanent Council Meetings

- OSCE Special Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine, 5 July.
- OSCE Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine and the events in the Uzbek province of Karakalpakstan, 7-8 July.
- OSCE Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the 2nd report under the Moscow Mechanism, 14 July.
- OSCE Permanent Council meeting - invocation of the Moscow Mechanism by 38 participating States, 28 July.
- OSCE Special Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine and clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan, 9 August.
- OSCE Special Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine, 24 August.
- OSCE Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the presentation of North Macedonia as the incoming OSCE CiO for 2023 and the conflict in Ukraine, 1-2 September.
- OSCE Special Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the conflict in Ukraine, 13 September.
- OSCE Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine, 15 September.
- OSCE Permanent Council meeting dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine, armed confrontations on Tajikistan/Kyrgyzstan border, the Moscow Mechanism report invoked by 38 participating States, the presentation of the three Personal Representatives of the CiO on tolerance and non-discrimination and the 2022 Samarkand Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (CSO), 22-23 September.
- OSCE Reinforced Permanent Council meeting (ministerial level, attended by several foreign ministers and high-ranking officials of the OSCE participating States), 29-30 September.

Participation in other meetings, including expert committees and conferences

- UNODC special event on leveraging international action to address the impact of COVID-19 on drugs and crime, 6 July.
- UNODC Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules, 18 July.
- The OSCE Third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on protecting the rights of trafficked persons, 18-19 July.
- Participation in the UNODC briefing on the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), 8 September.
- OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague (online participation), 8-9 September.

- Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND): thematic discussions of the UNODC, 21-22 September.

Note: The Polish CiO convened this year's Human Dimension Conference, the most important meeting of the OSCE's third dimension, in Warsaw from 26 September to 7 October. The CoE was represented by colleagues from Headquarters as well as by the Head of the CoE's Warsaw Office.

Warsaw - Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with international organisations or institutions in Warsaw, in particular with OSCE/ODIHR and the Community of Democracies

High level visits/meetings

13 September - visit to Strasbourg of Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Mecacci. Meetings, among others, with the SG and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly. Participation in the International Round Table "Civil Society: Empowerment and accountability" co-organised by the Venice Commission, ODIHR and the Irish MFA.

Activities of the Office

a) Enhancing the co-operation with OSCE/ODIHR - The main event of the third quarter of 2022 was the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference (26 September to 7 October) organised by the Polish OSCE Chairmanship and ODIHR in place of the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. More than 1500 participants registered to attend the event, representing civil society, international organisations, NHRI and academia. 54 of the 57 OSCE participating States were also present. The HoO led the CoE Delegation which actively participated in the event, taking the floor in all plenary debates and in many accompanying events. The CoE organised a side event on the Recommendation on the comprehensive approach to prevent and combat hate speech, which attracted great interest. Additionally, CoE representatives spoke in several others side events devoted to, among others, children's rights, the right to a fair trial and access to justice in a post pandemic reality and human rights consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Apart from the WHDC and the high-level meetings mentioned above, the HoO and CoE experts attended numerous meetings and consultations convened by ODIHR. These included i.a. the CoE-UNHCR-ODIHR-OECD inter-agency meeting aimed at developing a joint pilot project on the integration of migrants at local level. Discussions on the project are on-going, and the Intercultural Cities Programme will be the main CoE contribution to this initiative.

The HoO continued to maintain close working relations with ODIHR experts on a regular basis. In addition to the preparation of visit of the Director of ODIHR, the Office also began preparations for the visit of ODIHR's First Deputy Director to Strasbourg, scheduled during the 10th World Forum for Democracy (7-9 November).

b) Continuation of the co-operation with the Community of Democracies (CoD) - The Office closely followed CoD activities during the ministerial week of the 77th UNGA, the transfer of the CoD's Presidency from Romania to Canada and the presentation of the priorities of the Canadian presidency. To this end, the HoO maintained regular working contacts with staff of the Permanent Secretariat.

c) Establishment of closer cooperation with Frontex - The Office monitored internal developments at the Agency as a consequence of the resignation of former Frontex Executive Director Leggeri, following an OLAF investigation. Together with the SRSG Office on migration and refugees, the Office held regular discussions with Frontex's Fundamental Rights Officer on the organisation of the next edition of a study visit to Strasbourg for newly recruited Frontex fundamental rights monitors, following the first such visit last November. A study visit has been tentatively scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2022.

B. FIELD AND PROGRAMME OFFICES

Baku

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 5, Project staff –8, Total staff - 13. The new Head of Office, Mr Petr Sich, took up his duties on 1 September 2022.

The Office implemented 5 projects, 3 in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Partnership for Good Governance”, 1 funded through voluntary contributions at the Action Plan-level, and 1 funded through the Human Rights Trust Fund and a voluntary contribution from Belgium.

State of implementation of projects

- **EU/CoE-PGGII “Strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in Azerbaijan”:** (i) In July 30 court staff members (20 women, 10 men), including legal advisors and assistants to judge, from seven regions of Azerbaijan and Baku enhanced their capacities in the area of judicial time management through an online peer-to-peer training conducted in cooperation with the Justice Academy. (ii) To further enhance awareness and improve the efficiency and quality of justice based on the CEPEJ instruments, Guidelines on electronic court filing and digitalisation of courts, Guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings, Revised SATURN Guidelines for judicial time management, and Selected national good practices on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings were translated into the Azerbaijani language.

- **EU/CoE-PGGII “Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery in Azerbaijan”:** (i) National authorities were further supported in their legislative reforms to introduce non-conviction-based confiscation and parallel financial investigations. The reforms, undertaken in response to the recommendations emanating from the comprehensive assessment of the national asset recovery framework provided earlier by the project, once implemented, will ensure a more effective recovery of proceeds of crime. (ii) With a comprehensive review of the draft National Risk Assessment report and related recommendations provided by the project, authorities are now in a better position to understand national money laundering and terrorist financing risks and prioritise their strategies for effective mitigation of relevant risks.

- **EU/CoE-PGGII “Raising Awareness on the IC and other Gender Equality Standards in Azerbaijan”:** (i) The project finalised the gap analysis on the legislative and policy frameworks on violence against women and held a roundtable discussion on 4 July 2022 to present its conclusions and recommendations. (ii) Awareness raising work also continued: 4 videos on specific articles of the Istanbul Convention (with Azerbaijani subtitles), as well as the translation into Azerbaijani of a paper on data collection and research, and a handbook for parliamentarians were published.

- **VC/Action Plan-level “Promoting media professionalism and freedom of information in Azerbaijan (PRO-M-FEX) - Phase I”:** The project was launched on 1 July 2022. Preparatory work (e.g. tendering for event management, national and international consultancies) was conducted to enable the project to start its activities in October 2022.

- **VC HRTF and Belgium “Support for the improvement of the execution of the European Court judgments by Azerbaijan”:** The project was launched on 1 September 2022. The launching event is to take place on 21 October.

Other relevant activities

- On 4 July, HoO attended a round table on gap analysis within the project of "Raising awareness of the Istanbul Convention and other gender equality standards in Azerbaijan".
- On 12 July, HoO attended the opening of the training for Youth Peace Builders on "Youth participation in peace building initiatives".
- On 26 September, HoO attended the opening of the 2022 European Day of Languages.
- On 28 September, HoO attended the opening of the seminar for trainers and youth workers involved in non-formal education in Azerbaijan was organised in Baku from 28 to 30 September 2022 under the title "Common grounds for networking for non-formal education".

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- On 26-30 September the GRECO delegation headed by the Executive Secretary of GRECO, Ms Hanne Juncker, was visiting Azerbaijan in the framework of the Fifth Evaluation Round covering corruption prevention among persons exercising top executive functions and law enforcement.

Belgrade

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 7, Project staff – 31, Horizontal Facility Coordination Hub (HFCH) – 1, Regional Finance Officer -1, Total – 40.

The Office is currently implementing 13 (country specific and regional) projects: 12 jointly funded with the EU (9 under the Horizontal Facility Phase II (HF)), Human Resource Management in Local Self-Government (HRM/LSG), ROMACTED, Support for the implementation of judicial reform in Serbia and 1 project through Voluntary Contributions (VC) of the Swedish Foreign Ministry/SIDA on Anti-Money-Laundering and Countering Terrorist Financing (AML/CTF).

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

- **EU/CoE HF “Quality Education for All-Serbia”:** In August, Minister of Education sent a letter to all schools in Serbia directly recommending the resources created by the action as well as the Framework. Guidelines for Integration of RFCDC in Selected Subjects of National Curricula presented to the public, education community and the diplomats on 8 September. Mentor school developed methodology on 14-15 September and started final evaluation visits to new project schools. On 21 September, Serbian delegation headed by the State Secretary participated in the international conference in Ankara, Türkiye. Democratic School Day with hundreds of participants was organised on 23 September in a project school in Nis and involved Block the Hatred, Share the Love campaign.
- **EU/CoE HF “Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Serbia”:** The Action supported the Ombudsperson institution with education of members of the Ombudsman's Youth Advocacy Group on the rights of LGBTI persons to prevent, stereotype, prejudice and hate speech. As part of the campaign “Block the hatred. Share the love!”, public discussion for young people took place on 4 July in Novi Pazar. Together with the ROMACTED II Programme, the Action organized a joint Workshop on Combating Antigypsyism and Hate Speech Narratives towards the Roma Community, which was held on 6 July in Belgrade. From 13 to 15 July, a two-day training was organized for media representatives on the concept and forms of discrimination and hate speech, with an emphasis on the vulnerability to hatred of LGBTI people.
- **EU/CoE HF “Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia”:** The action enhanced the knowledge of 25 labour inspectors, police officers and trade union representatives through HELP online [course](#). The action awarded grant to the Child Rights Centre-[digital prevention platform](#): 300 children were reached through workshops in 14 schools; 300 [posters](#) distributed, more than 13,000 people reached through social media initiatives. Six micro grants were awarded to journalists and media supporting investigative journalism for telling stories on human trafficking. The [Regional Conference “Combating labour trafficking in Europe: standards, realities and new strategies for action”](#) held on 20-21 September in Belgrade gathered more than 100 participants.
- **EU/CoE HF “Enhancing human rights protection for detained and sentenced persons”:** Within the Action’s framework drafting of Interviewing Manual for police officers was continued with assistance of CoE international consultants. To improve cooperation between MoI and CSOs on torture prevention issues, a meeting between their representatives

was facilitated. Training sessions for treatment officers in prisons on delivering specialised offender programmes were continued, and 40 treatment officers from various prisons were trained. Staff from psychiatric clinic in Vrsac were acquainted with CoE standards on prevention of ill-treatment, latest CPT recommendations, and the work of NPM.

- **EU/CoE HF “Strengthening Independence & Accountability of the Judiciary”:**

Three-day TOT training for public prosecutors on preventing undue influence was organized in Arandjelovac. A group of 8 public prosecutors from all four Appellate Jurisdictions acquired necessary skills and knowledge on different trainers' techniques and were successfully trained to conduct one-day training on recognizing/reporting undue influence. One day training for newly elected judges on resisting and reporting undue influence on judges has been organized in Belgrade and Nis appellate jurisdiction. A group of 40 judges acquired necessary skills and knowledge on different types of undue influence, how to recognize it, as well as type of mechanisms to report it.

- **EU/CoE HF “Strengthening the effective legal remedies to human rights violations in Serbia”:**

10 students from Serbian law faculties participated in the human rights school on prevention of violence against women, in Trebinje. The informative session on ECHR judgment *Kostic v. Serbia*, brought together representatives of competent institutions and Department for the execution of the ECHR judgements. Websites of the Constitutional Court and of the Government Agent were finalised. The second of the publication “European Human Rights Law”, was published. The international conference on the implementation of the ECHR fostered dialogue between ECHR judges and representatives of the highest courts of Central and South-East Europe.

- **EU/CoE HF “Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX 2)”:**

The 4th e-bulletin on the latest developments in the case-law of the ECHR on freedom of expression has been published in September on the HF website. The e-bulletin was prepared in English and translated into all regional languages. It will contribute to keeping JUFREX trainers and trainees up-to-date on the relevant standards deriving from Article 10 ECHR.

- **EU/CoE HF regional “HELP in the Western Balkans”:**

7 HELP online courses on 4 topics were adapted to domestic legislation and launched in the framework of the regional action in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The HELP Annual Conference and the 5th Steering Committee meeting were held with presence of all partners from six Beneficiaries both in person and online. The regional HF40 reached 7,500 users from the region in the HELP e-learning platform, increased by 4% in the reporting period. In the consultations with the partners' institutions, the launching events are organised in person again as it was the case in the period before covid 19 pandemic.

- **EU/CoE JP “Human Resources Management in Local Self-Government - phase 2”:**

14 selected LSGs have been awarded Organisational Municipal Support Programme grants (up to €30,000). Most grant projects are targeting improvement of LSG capacities through digitalisation of services and working processes. The Handbook on Professional Development of LSG Employees and the Brochure on MSP Implementation, prepared by the Programme, have been distributed to 170 LSGs. The International Conference on Human Resources Management was held on 20 September 2022. High-level representatives from the MPALSG, the Council of Europe, EUD and SCTM addressed 70 participants from 31 LSGs. The new CoE toolkit on HRM was presented

- **EU-CoE regional JP “Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level (ROMACTED)-phase 2”:**

Workshop on Combating Antigypsyism and Hate

Speech Narratives towards the Roma Community was held in Belgrade with 40 participants from Roma communities from partner cities and municipalities. The workshop was jointly organised between ROMACTED Programme and the Joint EU-CoE Programme "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022" within the "Block the Hatred. Share the Love!" campaign. The drafting of publications on Roma Responsive Budgeting at local level, and on available services for returnees at local level is done and these will be presented during the Advisory Group meeting.

- **EU/CoE JP "Support for the implementation of judicial reform in Serbia"**: The project supported the Working Groups to finalize drafting of the new set of judicial and prosecutorial laws. International experts provided analyses on the compliance of the draft laws with relevant European standards. Public consultations on the draft laws were organized in four cities in Serbia with multiple stakeholders and CSOs. Conference of the Judges of Commercial Courts was organized on 6-9 September to improve case law harmonization practices. Multiannual Expenditure Framework for the Judiciary (MTEF) was developed to support preparations for Sector Budget Support.

- **VC (Swedish MFA) "Preventing money laundering and terrorist financing in Serbia"**: Project provided advice and recommendations for development of the sectoral risk assessment of the real estate sector. In addition, the support was provided to improve the draft Guidance on Suspicious Activity Reports. In order to improve the legislative and institutional framework on transparency of beneficial ownership, a peer exchange on best practice has been organised with institutions from Malta and Austria. The project conducted assessment missions on NPO sector registration and on IT needs of the Ministry of Interior for financial investigation. Results of the latest National Risk Assessment were presented in Nis and Novi Sad.

Follow-up action

- During the next quarter the CoE office and the EUD to Serbia will explore cooperation opportunities focussing on equality and diversity. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice - Administration for the Enforcement of Penal Sanctions proposed to the Ministry of European Integration and the EUD a new cooperation programme with the CoE on alternative sanctions and strengthening forensic mental health care, under IPA 2023.

Other relevant activities

- On 5 and 6 July, Venice Commission held the post-election round tables following the presidential and early parliamentary elections held in Serbia on 3 April.
- "EuroPride" took place in Belgrade from 12 to 18 September. The office briefed visiting members of the PACE and contributed to the International Human Rights conference held from 13-16 September.
- European Day of Languages was marked on 26 September. Belgrade Office, in co-operation with the EU Delegation, EUNIC and Children's Cultural Center organised an outreach activity for school children and teachers in Belgrade.

Council of Europe high level visits and other official delegations

- CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, attended on 16 September the EuroPride International Human Rights conference.

Bucharest

Situation of the Office

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

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

In the assessed period the Head of Operations has taken unpaid leave.

State of implementation of projects

- **Octopus Project:** Dialogue fostered within the Cybercrime Convention community, including through outreach to [Asian](#), Latin American (Uruguay) and the Caribbean (Belize) countries, as well as [Working Group on undercover investigations and extension of searches](#), contributes to further strengthening of the [membership, reach, relevance and impact of this Treaty](#) with the support of the project. Capacities of countries to address the challenge of cybercrime and electronic evidence were further enhanced through a number of activities, such as the [Underground Economy Conference](#) focusing on public private cooperation, [side event at the fringes of UN AHC](#) etc. [Translated training materials](#) available through the [Octopus Platform](#), as well as [Cyberviolence online platform](#) served as important tools enabling criminal justice authorities and legal practitioners worldwide to increase their knowledge on the topic.

- **iPROCEEDS-2:** Capacities of law enforcement agencies were enhanced through specialized training on investigation of [cyber-attacks](#), [ransomware](#), [virtual currencies](#), [darknet](#), paralleled with financial investigations exercises. Closer link between magistrates, investigators, cybersecurity community and private sector was achieved by supporting [public/private meetings](#) at domestic level, with a focus on cooperation between criminal justice authorities and service providers. Capabilities of judges and prosecutors to handle complex cybercrime cases, were strengthened through sustainable judicial training on cybercrime, [electronic evidence](#), [international cooperation](#) and [training skills](#) certifications. The 3rd edition of the [Underground Economy Conference](#), in cooperation with Team CYMRU, capped around 500 representatives from law enforcement agencies, cyber security community, private industry and academia across the globe to share case studies and new tools to handle the latest cybercrime threats.

- **GLACY+:** The harmonisation of cyber-related legislation and strengthening of the dialogue between policymakers and practitioners was supported in Belize, Ecuador, [Panama](#) and [Uruguay](#), through a webinar for the Pacific region, and by supporting priority countries' participation in the third session of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime. Peru became the 19th priority country under the GLACY+ project following an [initial assessment of its capacity building needs](#). Continuing the focus on building the technical capacities of law enforcement, [Advisory workshops on search, seizure and confiscation of online crime proceeds](#) were implemented by project partner INTERPOL in Peru and the Philippines, while regional meetings of Heads of Cybercrime Units and workshops on channels and avenues for international cooperation in [Latin America](#) and [Africa](#) identified how to enhance modalities for police-to-police cooperation. A [train-the-trainers course for first responders](#), organised in cooperation with OCWAR-C strengthened digital forensics skills among law enforcement in the

ECOWAS region. GLACY+ further deepened its focus on judicial training through national training workshops in [Benin](#), Ecuador, Senegal and [Sri Lanka](#), and the [kick-off meeting of the Ad Hoc working group on judicial training strategies](#) on cybercrime and electronic evidence of the International Network of National Judicial Trainers. The project continued its strong cooperation with other projects and organisations active in the field through participation in the Annual meeting of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, the Commonwealth Secretariat Conference on Addressing Cybercrime in Asia and the EU CyberNet club event on the Budapest Convention, and by supporting participation in the Underground Economy conference.

- **CyberSouth:** Enhancing the capacities of judiciary to obtain, handle and share electronic evidence, as well as improving the co-operation on cybercrime with other countries at regional and international level remained a priority in Lebanon (two judicial training courses, on [international cooperation](#) and on [electronic evidence](#) were organised). Jordan started the revision of its cybercrime law and a [workshop with all relevant institutions to present and discuss the standards stemming from the Budapest Convention and its protocol](#) was organised. Co-ordination with other EU projects and international organisations active in the MENA regions was ensured by organising four meeting, respectively with the Euromed Justice and Euromed Police Programmes, the EU project *Advance Counter Terrorism for Lebanon security* and UNODC.

- **CyberEast:** The project targeted Moldova with research and national coordination on implementing the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention. Cybercrime reporting and incident handling matters were addressed through start of national assessments and discussions in Azerbaijan. Cooperation between cybersecurity community and law enforcement was in focus through the Fourth Regional Cyber Cooperation Exercise organized by joint efforts of CyberEast and CyberSecurity EAST projects in Istanbul, Türkiye. A number of *ad hoc* activities for Ukraine targeted urgent needs in terms of further improvement of legislation, training investigators and prosecutors on OSINT for war crimes investigations, and advanced cybercrime/e-evidence training of judges. International cooperation was enhanced through input to the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Follow up action

- Support T-CY activities and working group on undercover investigations and extension of searches.
- Americas Regional Forum, 7-9 November 2022, Costa Rica, Glacy & Octopus
- International Conference on the role of women in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating cybercrime, 10-11 November 2022, Costa Rica – all projects
- First Responders Train the Trainers, November, Dominican Republic
- Support for participation in Europol Conference and 24/7 Annual meeting, 19-21 October – all projects
- Support for participation in CoE/Eurojust joint workshop on ransomware, 3-4 November – all projects
- Support for participation in the TCY plenary, 29 – 30 November, all projects
- Support for PILON Annual Conference on Cybercrime, 28 November – 2 December, GLACY & Octopus

Other relevant activities

- T-CY Secretariat facilitated the participation and common positions of the Parties to the Convention in the UN Ad hoc committee to elaborate an international convention on countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes;
- The original Instrument confirming Nigeria's accession to the Convention on Cybercrime was received;
- Côte d'Ivoire invited to join the Convention on Cybercrime.

Chisinau

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 7, Project staff –24, Total staff – 31.

The Office implemented twelve projects, two in the framework of the EU/CoE regional Joint Programme “Partnership for Good Governance”, three funded through voluntary contributions from Switzerland, the Netherlands and United States of America respectively and seven funded through voluntary contributions at Action Plan level, as detailed below. One project was launched during the reporting period.

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

- **VC Switzerland “Education for Democracy in the Republic of Moldova”**: about 80 pupils and teachers were trained on the use of a number of practical tools relating to developing, planning, implementing and evaluating the activity of the “Pupil Councils” in Moldovan schools. The participants reflected on the benefits, limitations and challenges associated with the existing mechanisms in implementing democratic school governance.
- **VC The Netherlands “Enhancing diversity and equality in the Republic of Moldova”**: the project trained 17 professionals from the judiciary, including prosecutors’ office workers and court clerks on topics related to hate crime. The concept note for piloting the local networks of local services and civil society organisations on combating hate crimes was developed and meetings with local stakeholders were held in the districts of Soroca and Călărași. 20 police officers trained by the project to act as facilitators for cascade trainings on equality, non-discrimination and hate crimes carried out 40 info-sessions in police inspectorates all over the country.
- **VC United States of America (Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs) “Action Against Corruption in the Republic of Moldova II”**: the project started during the reporting period and administrative arrangements to operationalize it have been undertaken.
- **EU/CoE – PGG “Strengthening the capacities of the justice sector actors to deliver justice in line with European standards, in particular to fight discrimination, in the Republic of Moldova”**: the national survey on public perception regarding the preparedness of justice sector actors and the Council for prevention and elimination of discrimination and ensuring equality (Equality Council) to deal with cases of discrimination was finalized. Consequently, its results will be used by the Equality Council to plan its monitoring and visibility activities.
- **EU/CoE - PGG “ Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova”**: the Project finalised the technical specifications for JUSTAT Automated Information System (AIS), comprising a variety of performance indicators and other statistical information useful for courts, legal professionals and analysts for court performance assessment and also for the public at large. Similarly, the Project finalised the development of the technical specifications for the server of the National

Union of Enforcement Agents, which will improve its workflow and efficiency. As a follow-up, two tendering procedures have been launched.

- **AP “Strengthening the human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova”:** 35 judges, prosecutors and lawyers enhanced their knowledge and professional skills on applying alternatives to imprisonment during a seminar in August 2022. The members of the Council for the Prevention of Torture improved their capacities to organize preventive visits in penitentiaries following a four-day training and on-site coaching. A guide on the risk of public disorder and protection of detainees as ground for applying pre-trial detention and house arrest was developed and 500 copies were disseminated among criminal justice actors.

- **AP “Strengthening the prison and probation reforms, provision of health care and treatment of patients in closed institutions in the Republic of Moldova”:** a draft Concept and Action Plan for the psycho-social rehabilitation of patients (including forensic patients) in psychiatric institutions were developed. The team of the Training Centre of the National Administration of Penitentiaries strengthened their knowledge and professional skills during a Training of Trainers for the delivery of a new course on Prison Management, designed for senior prison managers. The procurement of Electronic Monitoring bracelets for the Probation Service, and medical equipment and devices for the prison system was initiated.

- **AP “Support for Media Pluralism and Freedom of Expression in the Republic of Moldova”:** young filmmakers and journalists took part in a Human Rights Documentary School throughout 19-23 September. A fact-finding mission aimed towards the development of a series of recommendations and reviews to the Audiovisual Media Services Code was carried out on 14-15 of September by two Council of Europe experts. Additionally, the Project assisted the national regulatory audiovisual authority in the development of a series of by-laws on Commercial Audiovisual Content and Regulations for Media Providers.

- **AP “Improving Electoral Practice in the Republic of Moldova, Phase II”:** a study visit for the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to learn about digital solutions in electoral processes, control of political parties financing, gender-related issues and e-voting pilot projects was organised in Georgia on 19-20 July. 16 representatives from the CEC, the Training Centre and the CEC of Gagauzia improved their knowledge on political finances oversight during a 2-day training. An awareness raising campaign was organised for young voters ahead of local elections whereas 14 journalists became familiar with the upcoming electoral reform over the 2-day Electoral School.

- **AP “Preventing and protecting children from violence including in the digital environment”:** a Pilot Training on the Guidelines for the Independent Monitoring of Children’s Right to Protection from Violence and Abuse was delivered in September for 16 staff members of the People’s Advocate for Children’s Rights. The training was preceded by a validation workshop in July when the draft Guidelines were presented to relevant national authorities, stakeholders and partners. The final version of the Guidelines will be printed and disseminated. Bilateral meetings with the authorities and CoE experts in support of the development of the Methodology for the Specialized Commission for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of Lanzarote Convention were held in September.

- **AP “Supporting the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republic of Moldova”:** 40 judges, prosecutors, judicial clerks and lawyers enhanced their capacity to deal with cases of violence against women and domestic violence through a HELP course focused on the human-rights based and victim centred approach. A factsheet on reporting mechanisms in situations of sexist speech, harassment and violence against women in elections was developed to raise awareness on such cases while three CoE publications related to the Istanbul Convention were translated into Romanian and prepared for dissemination to national stakeholders.
- **AP “Reinforcing the culture of dialogue and consultation of local authorities in the Republic of Moldova – Phase II”:** a study was developed on existing consultation mechanisms and structures in the country. The study involved a review of domestic legislation, relevant Council of Europe Congress reports, findings from the Congress post-monitoring visit in June 2022, and discussions with key stakeholders. The Congress Public Ethics series and the “Handbook on Open Government and Public Ethics for the Republic of Moldova” were translated into Romanian and published. In addition, the association of local authorities (CALM) completed their workplan on monitoring and evaluation with Congress support.

Other relevant activities

- Between July and September 2022, the Office’s website recorded 97,462 pageviews, out of which 69,123 single-time pageviews and 39,985 new visits. Important CoE documents were among the 40 downloads registered. The Facebook page recorded reaching 109,114 people thanks to page boosting, including 118 new page likes. The LinkedIn page also registered 204 pageviews, with 73 additional new visitors.
- On the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the country’s accession to the Council of Europe, the Office launched the “Council of Europe Week in the Republic of Moldova”. In this context the Human Rights Documentary Films Caravan was organised in five different regions, covering the North, South, and Centre of the country, including the Rusca penitentiary. On average, about 150 people participated in each event enjoying remarkable media outreach.
- Between 15 and 16 September, the Office facilitated the organisation of the mission of the Venice Commission on the draft Electoral Code, following the request of Parliament Speaker Grosu.
- Between 22 and 23 September, the Office facilitated the visit of the Venice Commission to analyse the amendments to some normative acts and to the Audiovisual Media Services Code in relation to the ban on the dissemination of symbols associated with and used in military aggression actions and the impact of this ban on the right to freedom of expression as granted by Article 10 of the ECHR. The visit followed upon the request of the Bloc of Communists and Socialists.
- Between 19 and 23 September, the Office assisted with the organisation of the monitoring mission of the members of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities within the framework of the fifth monitoring round in the Republic of Moldova. The aim of the mission was to complete the assessment of the situation of national minorities in the country after having received data and information in the fifth state report submitted by the authorities in May 2019 and December 2021.

Kyiv**Situation of the Office**

- Core staff – 11, project staff – 51, total staff – 62.

State of implementation of projects/programmes

- **AP CoE Project "Supporting Institutions to Combat Ill-Treatment in Ukraine Phase II"**: a SBI's seminar took place in July on scene inspection during investigation of criminal offenses committed because of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine for 125 investigators and forensic experts. In August-September in the course of four online capacity building events, 450 investigators of the SBI and prosecutors of War Crimes and Anti-Torture Departments of the Office of Prosecutor General strengthened their knowledge and skills in investigating gross human rights violations, including: the interrelation of ECHR and Geneva Convention standards; proving war crimes; identifying, documenting and investigating torture and other gross human rights violations at the war time; and armed conflict-related ECtHR case-law relevant to the Ukrainian context. In August–September, 20 investigators and operatives of the SBI improved knowledge on unmanned aerial vehicles operation for evidence collection when investigating gross human rights violations.
- **AP CoE Project "Combatting violence against women in Ukraine"**: a four-day training was conducted for professionals to ensure access to gender-sensitive and victim-centred social, psychological, medical, and legal support to victims of sexual violence and one day webinar for more than 500 participants to further develop their competences through provision of information necessary to take measures and ensure access to assistance for women and girls including IDPs. The Project translated and presented the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls addressing issues faced by women and girls: from adequate transit and reception facilities to establishing gender-sensitive asylum policies.
- **AP CoE Project "Combating violence against children in Ukraine Phase III"**: non-governmental organizations "La Strada-Ukraine" and "Child Well-being Fund", thanks to the grant support from the Project, implemented activities aimed at developing and conducting trainings for a multidisciplinary group of specialists on combating child sexual exploitation and abuse, and preventing illegal trafficking in minors. Civil Association "Ukrainian Child Rights Network" launched creation of a database of children left without care and host families. Council of Europe experts prepare an online training on social support of children, including children without parental care, unaccompanied children, children who have had to leave care institutions, children with disabilities for social workers. The aim of the training is to improve understanding of key principles and procedures for social assistance to children during and after military conflict, and early (timely) identification of children affected by war. Lanzarote Committee Statement on protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse resulting from the Russian aggression against Ukraine, Recommendation on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration, CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) were translated into Ukrainian.
- **AP CoE Project "Enhancing decentralisation and public administration reform in Ukraine"**: an opinion was prepared on the draft Law on service in local self-government

bodies, which is one of the key legal initiatives envisaged by Ukraine's National Recovery Plan. In partnership with the Association of Ukrainian Cities, the Project facilitated set up of an expert team to develop proposals to the draft law on "agglomerations" and supported two online consultations with 90 participants on the draft law. The Project provided expert to the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development (MinRegion) in holding consultations dedicated to establishment of military administrations on de-occupied territories of Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhya regions. Moreover, the Project prepared and presented the Methodological Recommendations on the labour relations in local authorities under martial law, which were developed in consultation with the MinRegion and the National Agency on Civil Service (NAUCS).

- **AP CoE Project "Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase II"**: operational expert, technical and support was provided to youth centres, local communities, youth councils and youth NGOs. The Project conducted a survey to identify the needs and challenges of youth centres in Ukraine at local, regional and national levels; a second phase of the research was conducted within the framework of the development of the professional standard "Youth Specialist (Youth Worker)". A 4-month programme "Trauma-Informed Youth Work" supports twelve youth centres across Ukraine is being unrolled, in synergy with the CoE project "Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions - Phase II" and in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports.
- **AP CoE Project "Supporting the transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice in Ukraine – Phase III"**: maintenance and web support to the online platform "CEC: prosvita" was provided. Needs assessment on war related challenges in electoral field was carried out and shared with national authorities. A grant was awarded to Ukrainian think tank to follow up on identified challenges, particularly, via consultancy support to CEC and profile Parliamentary Committee. Analytical research on political parties' functioning and gender balanced political participation in war and post-war period was initiated. Printed copies of Compendium of selected ECtHR decisions on election related cases, translated into Ukrainian and shared with CEC and Supreme Court.
- **AP CoE Project Strengthening local democratic governance in Ukraine**: on 6 July 350 representatives of Ukrainian local and regional authorities gathered to identify new paths for co-operation with their peers from other European countries during an online roundtable organised jointly with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) and the City of Sindelfingen, Germany. In August a survey was launched with the support of all national associations of local and regional authorities to identify the needs and priorities of local authorities related for adequate provision of services in times of war and post-war recovery. As a response to the AUC request for legal support and with a view to strengthen its advocacy capacities and the protection of the interests of local authorities, an analysis was made on amendments to the draft Law on service in local self-government bodies outlining its compliance with the European Charter of Local Self-Government and other relevant European standards.
- **AP CoE Project "Strengthening civil participation in democratic decision making in Ukraine"** supported eight municipalities in enabling environment for volunteers and voluntary activities, promoting citizens' and CSOs' participation in solidary activities for strengthening the resilience of democratic processes, cohesive communities, recovery and reconstruction of Ukrainian municipalities. As a result, the 3-year municipal programme on promotion of volunteer activities, developed in the Project's framework, was adopted by Ivano-Frankivsk city council and Brusyliv village council. The Project advocacy efforts facilitated local authorities and civil society engagement, dialogue, prioritisation and

adoption of the programme in the municipalities of Kyiv, Lviv, Mukachevo, Novohrad-Volynskyi, Zhovkva, Novoyavorivsk. 21 volunteers and CSO representatives gained skills and competencies in organisational development, communications, fundraising and donor engagement through a 3-week online course on organisational support of volunteer and civic initiatives during the war. To help municipalities ensure the citizens' right and opportunity to express their opinions in the decision-making and policy implementation, including seldom heard and vulnerable groups the Project has been supporting Zhovkva and Novoyavorivsk city councils in planning and rolling out the participatory processes around the development of the community multi-year strategies. Novohrad-Volynskyi and Zhovkva city councils were supported in implementation of pilot initiatives aimed at civic engagement, enabling and empowering IDPs to participate in the local decision-making.

- **AP CoE Project "Protecting national minorities, including Roma, and minority languages in Ukraine" – Phase II:** 40 representatives of the Roma NGOs and Roma mediators at the second online consultation meeting discussed the needs of Roma IDPs/refugees. Specific reports and recommendations have been prepared. Presentation of the online course "Communication on national minorities for the press-officers of law enforcement agencies and the prosecutor's office" was launched for 50 press officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Office of the Prosecutor General, representatives of NGOs. In close cooperation with the Local Initiative group of Melitopol an online round table discussion dedicated to the International Day of Indigenous People was held for about 30 participants who discussed the needs of indigenous people during the conflict and in temporary occupied territories; as well as implementation of the law on the indigenous people. The Project supported an online event for 400 participants, which was dedicated to resilience of the national minorities during the conflict. The event was organised by the State Service of Ethnic Policy and Freedom of Conscience (DESS) in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. The Project provided nine grants to support activities related to the protection of national minorities, as well as the implementation of CoE in the context of Russian aggression against Ukraine. The Project observed two meetings on national minority issues and draft law on National Minorities that were initiated by the Ombudsperson's Secretariat and DESS.
- **AP CoE Project "Human Rights Compliant Criminal Justice System in Ukraine":** an online conference on issues of criminal proceedings during martial law for the judges of appellate and first instance courts was co-organised in July jointly with the Supreme Court. The CoE Expert Advisory Group to the Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG) completed Information Notes on the ECHR standards applicable to trials in absentia and on the application of Article 5 of the ECHR in time of war, which were shared with the OPG. An overview of the applicable standards related to enforced disappearances in the context of an armed conflict in line with the case-law of the ECtHR under Articles 2, 3 and 5 of the ECHR was provided to the OPG. The Project facilitated a five-day online training of trainers on OSINT tools for twelve trainers which was co-organised by the Prosecutors' Training Centre and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training. In cooperation with the CoE project on judiciary a webinar on the ECtHR case in the context of armed conflicts was organized for judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals.
- **AP CoE Project "Supporting constitutional and legal reforms, constitutional justice and assisting the Verkhovna Rada in conducting reforms aimed at enhancing its efficiency. Phase III:** a round table was organised in August on elections and suffrage in Ukraine before and after the war. Presentation of the publication "Electoral Code of Ukraine. Book I" was held by the Project in cooperation with the Ukrainian Center

for Economic and Political Research named after O. Razumkov. The publication reveals in detail the main provisions of the electoral legislation of Ukraine and explains the content of the basic principles of suffrage, subjective, procedural and temporal aspects of the electoral process. It is aimed at participants of the election process, members of election commissions, judges of administrative courts, scholars, teachers and students of law and political science faculties of higher education institutions.

- **AP CoE Project "Support for judicial institutions and processes to strengthen access to justice in Ukraine"**: jointly with the National School of Judges hold a webinar on the right of data protection and access to public information in the context of armed conflicts.

On 22 July the project held the consultations of the CEPEJ experts` with the representatives of the stakeholders in the framework of the expert support on improvement of the legislation on the remote (online) justice. On 16 September an experts analysis on these issues was presented before and discussed with the stakeholders. On 5 August the project conducted a webinar for judges and judicial assistants as to the guidelines on usage of the medical kit on the work place. For this purpose the project delivered 200 medical kits for the judges of the Supreme Court. On 31 August the project jointly with the National School of Judges of Ukraine held the webinar on the European Court of Human Rights case-law in the context of armed conflicts: Articles 2, 3 and 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights. On 5 September the project jointly with the CEPEJ experts held the discussion as to the development of a Practical guide on the remote court hearings in the context of the ongoing war based on the CEPEJ Guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings. In September the Project launched series of webinars on the CoE standards in relation to right of a fair trial for assistants of the members of parliament of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs. The webinars are to be provided each week till the December of 2022.

- **AP CoE Project "Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions – Phase II"**: in cooperation with the National School of Judges a training course on judicial protection of the rights of IDPs and persons suffering from the Russian's aggression against Ukraine was developed. Over 50 consultations on the rights of IDPs and conflict-affected people were updated at the on-line platform WikiLegalAid of the Coordination Center for Free Legal Aid. The Project provided expert support to the relevant ministries to revise the National Strategy on Internal Displacement and relevant Action Plan by 2024, to strengthen a national hotline for IDPs and conflict-affected people set up by the Commissioner on IDPs, to improve a unified database of IDPs and to adjust data management and big data operations in the field of internal displacement. The Project provided a grant for developing a digital platform on destroyed and damaged houses and housing solutions at the community level. The Project carried out a campaign to promote the use of a toolkit on post-trauma support, which was published at the CoE page on solidarity with Ukrainian people <https://intranet.coe.int/en/group/theme-files/solidarity-ukraine>.

- **Support to Safety of Journalists, Media, and of Access to Information, including communication strategy for Prosecutor General's Office in Ukraine"**: expert opinion on the media draft Law was prepared and shared with Ukrainian authorities in response to their request. Four grants were provided to Ukrainian local media organisations to strengthen their reporting capacities during times of war and ensure professional and objective media coverage of news. The Project supported visit of representatives of the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine to Warsaw (Poland) where a Memorandum of Co-operation in TV and radio broadcasting regulation between the

regulators of the two countries. The Project provided expertise on safety of journalists, policy advising and methodological assistance on barrier-free media issues to the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy. About 80 journalists were trained on digital security issues at two webinars. The Ukrainian Public Broadcasting Company (UA:PBC) received technical support for enabling the sustainability for UA:PBC operation in a cloud environment outside Ukraine, delivering signal to key platforms and consumers, ensuring reliable transmission of news from mobile journalism groups using LiveU technology. In addition, the Project supported the training on Red Hat System Administration for building an effective IT infrastructure of UA:PBC in times of war as well as production of the UA:PBC's investigative programmes covering war crimes committed on the territory of Kyiv region.

- **AP CoE Project "Continued support to promoting social human rights in Ukraine":** an online needs assessment mission was held in respect of social rights in Ukraine in times of war which will result in a comprehensive report with recommendations as a baseline for further activities. A document has been prepared to provide information on social payments to those who lost relatives and suffered due to Russian aggression against Ukraine. The check-lists of social rights of displaced persons and social protection measures provided by member States were developed and disseminated.
- **PGG II Project "Strengthening measures to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism in Ukraine:** since the country-specific Project was put on hold all the support was streamlined through the Regional Project. This included expert discussions on writing court decisions on the example of money laundering cases, delivering a training of trainers for Ukrainian judges on seizure and confiscation of assets and developing the technical paper on the role of the forensic accountant / expert in each phase of money laundering.
- **Gender mainstreaming and gender equality**
Ukraine officially ratified the Istanbul Convention on 18 July, 2022 following adoption of the ratification law in the Verkhovna Rada in June. All the projects and other activities in the office are supported by the Gender Advisor. During the summer, updating of the Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for Co-operation projects was started and the methodological section has already been updated. The office maintains external presence by active participation in relevant working groups and meetings, including the bi-weekly GBV Subcluster meetings. The Gender Advisor attended the first multistakeholder consultation on the legislative changes needed for the Istanbul Convention held on 12 August. Gender Letter with current updates was sent to the staff on 2 September.

Other relevant activities

- 39 statements and news items with key messages by Council of Europe leaders were translated into Ukrainian, published and disseminated during the reporting period, including 21 statements made on the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, gross human rights violations and the continuing abduction of Ukrainian local elected representatives, rejection so-called 'referenda' in occupied Ukrainian territories and illegal annexation them, the adjusted Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2022, the human rights situation in Crimea and support to Crimea Platform.
- Ukrainian media published more than 100 news items with key messages from the Council of Europe's leaders on condemnation of the Russian Federation's aggression and reaffirming commitments to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

- 138 news items were published on the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine's website.
- Users have made 34575 visits to the website, 60158 pageviews and 48514 unique pageviews.
- During 1 July – 30 September 2022, 264 posts on the Facebook page of the CoE Office in Ukraine covering 206848 unique users were published. The number of followers of the Office Facebook page has increased up to 6,322 (270 new followers).
- During the reporting period, special information campaigns on Facebook were conducted:
 - questions and answers on Istanbul convention in cooperation with the Office of Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine;
 - tips on how to live through traumatic events based on the toolkit developed by the CoE project;
 - tips for IDPs on how to receive legal and social support in cooperation with the Ombudsperson's Office, NGO "Civil holding "Group of Influence", and medium "Rubryka".
- As for the Twitter account in the same period: 216 tweets, 73 new followers, 21013 profile visits, 58,200 tweet impressions. The number of followers has increased to 1155.
- On July 29, 2022, the first Newsletter of the CoE Office in Ukraine was launched. The recipients – partners, NGOs, media, embassies, etc. The English-language version of the Newsletter was launched on September 23. During the period from July 29 to September 30, ten Newsletters were sent. There are 372 persons in the contact list.
- Three monthly Updates which highlight the CoE activities in Ukraine were created during July–September. These Updates are published on the Intranet in the "Ukraine: special file" section.

Sarajevo

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 7, project staff – 18, total staff – 25. In September Vahagn Muradyan arrived to take up duties as DHoO.

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

State of implementation of projects / the Action Plan

- **EU/CoE HF 4 “Strengthening human rights treatment of detained persons based on European standards and best practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina”:** Computer hardware for the four pilot prisons (Foča, Mostar, Zenica and Banja Luka) was delivered from 12 to 15 September, to put in place the prison software developed earlier, which enables electronic processing of all prison data and is a reliable means of exchange between prison professionals and policy makers. The [Peer training held on 1-2 September in Mostar](#) improved human rights performance of police officers tasked with apprehending, detaining and escorting persons deprived of liberty.
- **EU/CoE HF 19 “Promotion of diversity and equality in BiH”:** The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the first LGBTI Action Plan developed with the support of HF19 and in co-operation with the Agency for Gender Equality. The action provided comments on the draft of the Law on the Protection of National Minorities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Capacities were raised of representatives from ten prisons, the respective Ministries of Justice, and the Agency for Gender Equality, as to the treatment of LGBTI prisoners, with a specific focus on transgender persons.
- **EU/CoE HF 21 “Quality education for all”:** By providing expertise to develop evaluation tools and leading the first focus group with 16 primary and secondary pilot school directors on 25 August, the action supported the Ministry of Civil Affairs in evaluating Roadmap implementation. At the [Summer School](#) held from 23 to 25 August in Konjic, 39 teachers and 87 students from 22 primary and secondary schools enhanced their capacities to promote democratic school culture, sharing best practices and exploring - through practical exercises - new models of student participation around different topics, including social media and mental health during the pandemic, and how to contribute to the quality of education and inclusiveness in schools.
- **EU/CoE HF 20 Project “Preventing and combating human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina”:** The consultation on age assessment procedures to be applied at the state level were included in [specialised training](#) for 31 law enforcement officials and social workers (Konjic, 26-27 July). Together with sister projects from Serbia and North Macedonia, HF20 gathered more than 100 participants at the [two-day conference](#) on human trafficking for labour exploitation (Belgrade, 20-21 September). The new [study on labour trafficking](#), intended to guide future policy and practice in this area, was presented. Survivors of trafficking for labour exploitation and applicants before the European Court of Human Rights (*Zoletić and others v. Azerbaijan*), spoke of their traumatic experience and the steps they took to seek justice.

- **EU/ CoE HF33 Project “Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Bosnia and Herzegovina – JUFREX 2”:** Five cascade trainings for 138 members of the judiciary and legal professionals were held in September, organised in cooperation with the judicial and prosecutorial training centres and bar associations of each entity. The training sessions covered defamation, hate speech and protection of whistle-blowers. A conference on Gender equality in freedom of expression in Bosnia and Herzegovina, gathering over 20 media professionals, was held on 7-9 September in collaboration with the BH Press Council that. As one of the tangible results of the conference, the Complaints Commission of Press Council of BiH adopted a set of measures to enhance gender mainstreaming including by amending the Ethics Code.
- **Project VC 2870: “Ensuring Sustainable Penitentiary Actions in managing rehabilitation of violent extremist prisoners in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ESPA-VEP)”:** An on-site needs assessment visit on the training needs of the prison staff managing violent extremist prisoners was conducted to support the authorities in building sustainable prison staff capacities. Based on input received from the three Ministries of Justice, prison directors and prisons’ multi-disciplinary teams, a set of recommendations will be drawn up for establishing training co-ordination mechanisms and harmonised curricula for staff working with violent extremist prisoners in all three administrative jurisdictions.
- **VC Project “Initiative for Legal Certainty and Efficient Judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Phase III”:** 32 law students from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo², and Serbia attended the summer school on human rights dedicated to the topic of combating violence against women and girls. Two initial human rights training events were completed by 39 newly appointed judges and prosecutors in line with the [Human rights training curriculum](#) developed within the previous phase.
- **VC Project “Innovating democratic participation at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina”:** On 19-20 July, at the [2nd Platform of Exchange meeting](#), 23 local authorities increased knowledge and exchanged with peers on concepts and mechanisms for open, transparent and inclusive local policies. The Congress and the two entity-level associations of local authorities signed a tripartite [MoU](#) for further joint work. On 20 and 21 September in Mostar, the Congress promoted deliberative democracy and models of co-creation at the [“European Conference on Democratic renewal: innovating with deliberative democracy”](#), which brought together local and international stakeholders. On 21 September, an eco-campaign in Mostar was launched, as a follow up to the recommendations of the Mostar Citizens’ Assembly.
- **VC Project “Media and Information Literacy (MIL): for human rights and more democracy”:** Research studies on “Media and Gender” and the “Responsible AI” were published. A focus group, attended by various members of the Media Literacy Network, including representatives of the OSCE, *MediaCentar Sarajevo*, *Raskrinkavanje* and academia, was organised to develop a strategic paper aimed at improving the organisational structure and functioning of the Media Literacy Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, the first draft of the Guidelines for Development of Media Literacy Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina was completed, with the final version to be made available in the upcoming reporting period.
- **VC Project “Enhancing institutional capacities on freedom of expression and information in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EFEx)”:** The first meeting of the project’s

² All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations’ Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Steering Committee was held, gathering 22 participants, including the main project partner, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR), other representatives of state and entity ministries, the Press Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina and civil society organisations. The workplan of the project was endorsed by the participants. With a view to providing support and capacity-building to the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR), the offers submitted under the international call for tender for a long-term consultant were assessed.

- **JP EU/CoE “Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level” (ROMACTED):** In synergy with OSCE and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the project established a Roma platform, that brings together all relevant stakeholders working on Roma inclusion in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Cooperation was established with the NGO Otaharin, which will conduct training on antigypsyism for municipal officials. The new Action Plan for Roma Social Inclusion 2021-2025 was officially adopted by the Council of Ministers. ROMACTED supported the process in close co-operation with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and will print and distribute the Action Plan.

Follow-up action

- The Minister of Justice made a written request for an opinion by the Venice Commission on the Draft Law on Courts. The request is being followed up via the Expertise Coordination Mechanism (ECM).

Other relevant activities

- From 27 to 28 September HoO and DHoO attended the Regional Closing Conference of the European Union/Council of Europe Joint Programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey – Phase II” in Budva, where HoO moderated the session on Combating Discrimination and Protecting Rights of Vulnerable Groups.
- On 20 July, HoO met with the President and members of the Central Electoral Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEC). Further to requests made by the CEC, the CoE supported the publication of manuals for the polling station committees and production of video materials about the election process ahead of the 2 October general elections.
- On 11 July, HoO attended the commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.
- On 14 September, HoO took part in the launch of the EU, UN, OSCE, and CoE-supported project “Empowering Trust and Cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Communities”.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other official delegations

- The Secretary General attended the Srebrenica genocide commemoration, where she also met members of the country’s Presidency. The commemoration was also attended by the Commissioner for Human Rights.
- A pre-electoral delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly took place, ahead of the main observation mission. A delegation of the Congress observed the cantonal elections.

Skopje

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 3, Project staff –13, Total staff - 16.

The Office implemented 7 projects, 6 in the framework of Horizontal Facility and 1 in the framework of the EU/CoE Joint Programmes

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

- **Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in North Macedonia:** The third Cascade training of judges, public prosecutors and police officers on protection of journalists was held in cooperation with the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors.

An Assessment on the compliance of the Macedonian case law on Freedom of expression and safety of journalists with the standards of the ECHR, was prepared and will be presented in the following period. This assessment will give an evaluation of the JUFREX (both phases) impact on the case law in North Macedonia and will provide conclusions and recommendations to be used in the following phase of the action – Protecting Freedom of Expression and of the Media in North Macedonia- PRO-FREX. The results of the JUFREX II, as well as of the other actions of the HF II, were presented at the Closing conference of HF2 held in Budva, September 2022.

- **Action on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in North Macedonia:** The short guide on human trafficking for health professionals, the Comparative research on the rules of procedure of state compensation bodies and the draft MoU between the Ministry of the Interior and the State Labour Inspectorate on fight against forced labour were finalised. In September, the Regional conference on THB for labour exploitation was co-organized with sister actions in Belgrade. Two trainings on Discrimination at workplace and forced labour were delivered together with ROMACTED and the HF II anti-discrimination action. The final grant-based media story on human trafficking was published, which concludes the serial of 13 media fact-based, victim and gender-sensitive THB stories.

As a follow-up in the following period, the Short Guide on THB for health professionals will be distributed, the Comparative research on the rules of procedure of state compensation bodies is being disseminated among the NGOs, experts and the Ministry of Justice officials. All grant-based media stories are available on the webpage of the action Publications about Combatting Human Trafficking (coe.int) The action is following up on the request to provide expert report for drafting the Law on State compensation for victims by providing expertise also for secondary legislation.

- **Campaign for Free Legal Aid (FLA) In North Macedonia:** Micro promotions in a form of promo visits were organized in 12 local communities in North Macedonia as part of the Awareness Raising Campaign for Free Legal Aid (FLA), in order to inform the citizens in a direct way about the Law on Free Legal Aid and to directly distribute printed materials containing all information to the potential beneficiaries, thus changing the social perception of FLA as an important, available and functional mechanism for legal protection of vulnerable groups of citizens and as a state obligation to ensure equal access to legal aid for those citizens who cannot afford it, thus fully integrating the Human Rights Based Approach. The number of people reached by the awareness-raising campaign for FLA is continuously growing and reached more than 500 000 people (this number is even higher when adding people reached

by traditional media and TVs). The Action increased the capacities of the lawyers when dealing with children and domestic violence cases. In particular, during the reporting period, 59 lawyers successfully finished the HELP course on child-friendly justice and were certified to represent children in front of the courts, and a HELP course on Violence against women and domestic violence has been launched for about 80 lawyers.

- **Enhancing the capacities of the penitentiary system and the external oversight mechanism in North Macedonia:** All activities in the reporting period focused on the provision of healthcare in prisons, marking an overall visible progress. All but one prison in North Macedonia have established Multidisciplinary Suicide Prevention Teams, which should facilitate the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Strategy in prisons; there is greater awareness among the staff on this, demonstrated through a training attended by 11 medical personnel and 14 Prison Police officers. The Seventh Steering Committee Meeting was held on 8 July – all stakeholders reiterated their commitment for the activities implemented under this Action.

- **Action on Promotion of Diversity and Equality:** During the reporting period, a Public Promotion of Data Analysis on Hate Speech and Hate Speech was organized, two trainings on preventing discrimination and labour exploitation in the workplace in cooperation with Action on Combating Human Trafficking and ROMACTED Action phase II and launched the HELP course on combating racism, homophobia and transphobia. The Action also continued promoting the campaign Block the Hatred. Share the Love, sharing posts and messages against hate speech.

As a follow-up in the following period, the Action will organise two more workshops on Anti-Discrimination with Action ROMACTED phase II, with focal points from municipalities and facilitators and one workshop on combating hate speech with teachers and students in Kichevo. The Action will also publish the Data Analysis on Hate Speech and Hate Crime and the Anti-Discrimination manual, and will organise two more promotional activities of the campaign Block the Hatred. Share the Love.

- **Action against economic crime:** On 4-5 July 2022 took place the Training on "Identifying, Analyzing and Managing the Risks of Corruption and Money Laundering in the Awarding of Loans and Credits". All members of the staff of the Asset Declaration Unit of the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption of North Macedonia were part of the training. Beneficial Ownership transparency was also discussed as a useful tool in managing those risks, and the specific risks relevant to political exposed persons (PePs) were featured in the exchanges with the training experts of the Republic of North Macedonia.

On 29-31 August 2022 took place the Training for National Authorities on Combating Cash Couriers. Training for public officials to enhance the capacities and skills of national authorities to counteract cash smuggling, as well as to develop their skills for monitoring and identifying cross-border transportation of cash and bearer negotiable instruments.

- **ROMACTED Programme phase II – implemented in North Macedonia in 15 Municipalities:** In the reporting period the Municipality of Berovo, Municipality of Vinica and Municipality of Gostivar adopted their Local Action Plans for Roma 2023-2026 and the COVID 19 action plans for Roma were adopted by the Municipality of Berovo and the Municipality of Vinica 2023-2024. The local plans were developed in June 2022 within the ROMACTED Programme phase II and finalizing in the reporting period and next period. The local plans are targeting actions in housing(infrastructure), employment, education. The local plans are finalized in cooperation with USAID Roma inclusion project in North Macedonia. Labour Inspectorate Trainings were held, in cooperation with HF 2 Programme on nondiscrimination, antigypsyism and human trafficking and exploitation for 46 labor inspectors. Also, in the

reporting period Health Education Center in Bitola for Roma people was opened in cooperation with Erasmus Plus Programme.

Tbilisi

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 8, Project staff – 37, Total staff – 45.

The Office implemented 18 projects, 3 in the framework of EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance (PGG II), 1 funded through EU/CoE joint cooperation and 14 funded through voluntary contributions at Action Plan-level.

State of implementation of projects

- **EU/CoE PGG Project “Enhancing the Accountability and the Efficiency of the Judicial System and the Professionalism of Lawyers in Georgia”:** CEPEJ experts finalised the development of a training module for court managers on analysis and management of court statistics. Based on this module a workshop involving two international CEPEJ experts was organised on 9-10 July, bringing together representatives (14 women and 14 men) from all court levels. It enabled participants to get information on methods of collection of statistics and to re-evaluate the key performance indicators, methods for their calculation and analysis. With the aim to encourage employment of legal talent in the court system, the project co-organised the 14th Constitutional Court’s summer school; 13 women and 9 men participated.

- **EU/CoE PGG Project “Enhancing the systems of prevention and combatting corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing” (PGG II-GE):** Following a training of trainers organised by the Council of Europe, staff of the Anticorruption Agency of Georgia instructed municipal officials of Imereti Region on anticorruption concepts and tools.

- **EU/CoE PGG Project “Supporting the Criminal Justice Reforms. Tackling Criminal Aspects of the Judicial Reforms in Georgia”:** The HELP online course International Cooperation in Criminal Matters was adapted to Georgian legal context and launched for 25 prosecutors.

- **AP “Promoting an Integrated Approach to End Violence against Women and Enhancing Gender Equality in Georgia”:** Within the joint support of the project and UN Women and in cooperation with the High School of Justice, 40 Georgian judges from city courts and courts of appeal successfully completed 2-day trainings on violence against women and domestic violence based on a revised module. The pilot trainings were a follow up to the ToT completed by 4 High School of Justice judges. Within the cooperation with UN Women a 3-day ToT for lawyers was organised on administration of justice on sexual violence crimes; 14 participants from the Legal Aid Service, the Georgian Bar Association and local NGOs successfully completed the training.

- **AP “Strengthening Freedom of media, Internet governance and Personal Data Protection in Georgia” SMIP-GE:** A series of activities took place facilitating the adoption of draft Law on Broadcasting in line with EU and European standards. The activities included a workshop, a roundtable, a number of bilateral meetings and two expert research papers. The Project ensured inclusiveness of the process by involving all interested stakeholders in relevant discussions. The draft Law was adopted with the first reading in September 2022. A group of experts have started the development of the institutional strategy and action plan for the Press Council of Georgia (Charter of Journalistic Ethics).

- **AP “Enhanced Access to Legal Aid Services for Marginalised Population”:** The project organised a visit to Strasbourg for the Deputy Head of the Legal Aid Service of Georgia Ms Nino Meladze to attend the 2022 HELP Network Conference. During the visit the Deputy Director met with the Head of Justice and Human Rights Training Division and discussed the need for free legal aid lawyers in Georgia. The project started cooperation with the Legal Aid Service on developing video and printed communication materials to better reach ethnic minority residents in regions of Georgia.
- **AP “Supporting Transparency, Inclusiveness and Integrity of Electoral Practice and Process in Georgia”:** The Project continued supporting closer alignment of domestic electoral practices with European standards to improve electoral environment. To enhance women’s political participation, training was delivered to women candidates from major political groups - empowering them with knowledge and tools to overcome existing barriers in political life. Within micro-grants, domestic CSOs conducted broad voter education campaigns targeting political party activists and IDPs, including youth.
- **AP “Strengthening Protection of Social and Economic Rights in Georgia”:** an institutional assessment of the Labour Inspection Office (LIO) in Georgia was prepared and presented to the stakeholders. The document proposes key recommendations to enhance the institutional capacity of LIO vis-à-vis international standards rapidly, effectively, and continuously. The Project organised and accompanied study visits for staff of the Public Defender’s Office of Georgia (PDO) and LIO to Ireland and Poland, respectively, enabling them to obtain first-hand information about the best practices in light of European standards.
- **VC Austria/AP “Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at local level in Georgia” (PMM 2638):** A participatory baseline assessment identifying capacities and needs for human rights implementation in thirteen local authorities, members of the Platform of Exchange, was finalised and complemented by in-depth interviews and a focus group meeting with NALAG’s Executive Board. The Gender Mainstreaming E-Course on gender equality, gender responsive budgeting, combatting sexism, participatory budgeting and the role of local associations was completed.
- **VC Austria/AP “Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at local level in Georgia” (PMM 2802):** The project selected through an open competition 15 pilot municipalities, with whom MoUs have been signed in order to establish the modalities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in the field of civil participation. Consultations were conducted with the mayors of Rustavi and Ozurgeti, who are piloting Citizens’ Assemblies. Information brochures about civil participation methodologies have been developed and distributed to stakeholders and partners and are available online. The international conference “The Future of Deliberative Democracy in Georgia and Beyond” attracted more than 80 representatives of municipalities, central authorities and CSOs.
- **EU/CoE JP “Support for a better evaluation of the result of judicial reform efforts in the Eastern Partnership” (Justice Dashboard EaP):** The third and final part (or deliverable) of the report based on data from 2020, which included Key findings and Analysis presenting comparative data selected by EC for all beneficiaries, has been submitted to DG NEAR on 15 July 2022, according to plan. The assessment of the capacity of each beneficiary to collect, process and transfer judicial data has been initiated, aiming at providing recommendations for improvements at countries and regional level.
- **AP “Human Rights Compliant Policing in Georgia”:** The monitoring tool, enabling the National Prevention Mechanism to conduct effective monitoring of the psychological aspects

of treatment of victim/offender juveniles in police offices, was prepared. The Special Investigation Service (SIS) conducted 8 regional meetings in 4 regions of Georgia with local law-enforcement authorities and representatives of CSOs to raise awareness over the mandate of the Service. One group of SIS investigators increased capacity through training on documenting the injuries. A meeting was organised between the SIS, representatives of NGOs and the Public Defender's Office to discuss the results of 6-month activity report by the SIS.

- **AP "Promoting the Effective Protection of Equality and Non-Discrimination in Georgia":** Representatives of private sector, namely insurance companies were familiarised with equality and non-discrimination based on CoE standards and PDO practice. The CSO representatives from western Georgia discussed the redress mechanisms of hate crime and discrimination with the Prosecutor's Office, MIA, SIS and the PDO, and strengthened their knowledge on ECHR case law during a two-day workshop. Representatives of partner government organisations, as well as CSOs and Equality Ambassadors have become skilled as human rights educators after five days of intensive training. Mid-level managers of police offices throughout Georgia exchanged their experience and strengthened knowledge of ECHR standards on hate crime and discrimination at a two-day workshop.

- **AP "Enhancing Healthcare Provision in Georgia's Penitentiary System":** A one-day Working Group meeting was held with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Special Penitentiary Service (SPS). The discussion contributed towards further editing and finalisation of the Penitentiary Mental Healthcare Standards; and two-day training sessions were delivered for two groups of penitentiary system staff on "Professional Burnout and its Prevention". Some 40 members of the penitentiary staff became more aware of the harmful effects of occupational stress on the effectiveness of the provision of services to convicted individuals; burnout prevention strategies; and staff care.

- **VC Switzerland/AP "Democracy Starts in Schools-Engaging School Children in Decision Making Processes in Schools and Communities in Georgia" (PMM 2767):** The project experts worked on the situational analysis to identify needs, challenges, and opportunities in the field of citizenship education and democratic school governance in Georgia. Within the assessment process, three focus groups/interviews with stakeholders (14 school principals, 15 teachers, 11 students) were conducted. The results of the qualitative research were incorporated in the assessment report (finalised in September 2022). The concept of the Methodological Guidelines for schools has been designed and a team of local experts has been contracted to develop the Practical Guide for School in Democratic School Governance.

- **AP "Developing a Drug Prevention Support Network for Parents and Professionals in Georgia":** An expert mission took place on 11-13 July which resulted in an assessment report recommendations and roadmap to develop the project workplan. The project team presented the workplan to the partners and delivered the first drug prevention workshop aiming to improve intersectoral cooperation among Georgian authorities working in the field.

- **AP "Ensuring child-friendly justice in Georgia: preventing and protecting children from violence, including in the digital environment":** Preparatory work for the project was successfully finalised. Initial contacts were established with 11 key stakeholders and invitations for the SC meeting were sent.

Follow up action

- Justice Dashboard EaP: Proceed with the preparation and launch of the 2021 data collection cycle; finalise the above-mentioned assessment of the capacity and proceed with capacity building activities, where and as necessary.
- Project AP “Developing a Drug Prevention Support Network for Parents and Professionals in Georgia”: will develop and design two self-help tools in Georgia: self-help tool will be for people using drugs; and a tool for parents who have children with risk behaviour related the use of drugs and psychoactive substances.
- VC Switzerland/AP “Democracy Starts in Schools-Engaging School Children in Decision Making Processes in Schools and Communities in Georgia” (PMM 2767): The outcomes and recommendations of the assessment report will be shared with beneficiaries, experts, public officials and other stakeholders during a large-scale conference in October.

Tirana

Situation of the Office

The CoE Office in Tirana has 21 staff members (4 male/17 female) out of which 7 (4/3) are core staff and 14 (female) project staff.

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

The Office implements eight projects, out of which seven are co-funded by the EU, one by the Swedish Sida. Except for one regional project, the projects implemented by the Office are administratively fully decentralised.

- **HF II Action on Strengthening the Efficiency of Justice (SEJ III) in Albania:** a draft Regulation on Initial and Continuous Training of Judicial Civil Servants was prepared in line and reflecting recommendations of the Action. In cooperation with the Action on Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Albania (JUFREX), press magistrates were capacitated on drafting and implementing communication strategies with media and the public in line with the CEPEJ Guidelines on Communication with the Media and the Public for Courts and Prosecuting Authorities and Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights.
- **HF II Action Enhancing the protection of human rights of prisoners in Albania:** the Training Centre of the General Directorate of Prisons (GDP) was equipped with adequate technology to deliver online trainings to 4500 prison staff. Medical and psycho-social staff in Fier and Durrës prisons were coached in piloting the new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for prisoners with mental health disorders. A study visit to Finland was organized for the GDP senior management to observe good practices concerning prisoners' employment and education in support to their rehabilitation and reintegration back into the society.
- **HF Action on Economic Crime in Albania:** 45 legal advisers of the Albanian Parliament, together with representatives of the legal services of selected ministries advanced their knowledge and skills on corruption proofing of legislation (CPL), which is a powerful tool to prevent corruption through the approval of tailored-made laws. 42 officials of the Albanian General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and the Network of Anti-Corruption Coordinators of the Ministry of Justice were trained on internal audit and administrative investigation of corruption.
- **HF II Action on Supporting effective domestic remedies and facilitating the execution of judgments (D-REX):** the Albanian government adopted the draft amendments including RIA, prepared with the Action's assistance, on the law 133/2015 on treatment of property (in view of the ECHR judgment Beshiri v. Albania, including subsequent CC decision 4/2021).
- **HF II Action on Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Albania:** the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD), prepared with the assistance of the Action, was presented in an event gathering high-level representatives of public authorities, equality bodies, civil society organisations and international partners.
- **Joint EU/CoE regional ROMACTED Programme:** the Municipal Taskforce Groups in Lushnjë, Gjirokastra, Pogradec and Korça took stock of the implementation of the Local Action Plans and contributed to budget preparations for the new ones for the period 2022-2025. Municipality of Gjirokastra launched the project "Construction of a Local Market for Traditional

Roma Crafts in Gjirokastra” conceptualised with the support of the ROMACTED II Programme and funded under the EU for Municipalities Programme.

- **Swedish Sida funded project on “Strengthening Democratic Citizenship Education in Albania”:** the network of democratic and inclusive schools got extended to 75 participating schools. Gender analysis of the education sector was concluded as the Ministry of Education and Sport was assisted in drafting the regulatory framework on Students’ Parliament.

Yerevan

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 24, Total staff – 30.

Currently, the Office implements 12 projects: two national projects and two decentralised regional projects are funded by the EU under the Partnership for Good Governance II (PGGII); and seven projects funded by donors' Action Plan-level voluntary contributions. The Office also assist the implementation of activities of one regional PGGII project with staff based in Yerevan and activities of the HELP Secretariat in the Eastern Partnership countries.

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

- **PGGII Project - Component 1 "Support to the judicial reform – enhancing the independence and professionalism of the judiciary in Armenia"** : The Draft Judicial and Legal Reforms Strategy for 2022-2026 of the Republic of Armenia was assessed by the Project's international consultants with concrete recommendations related to the strategic goals. A separate assessment was conducted from the gender mainstreaming point of view, noting that the draft Strategy largely lacked gender considerations. The Ministry of Justice took into consideration some very critical recommendations, and the final draft of the Strategy was adopted in July 2022, with those recommendations being incorporated. Upon request of the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council, the Project also provided expert analysis on the powers of the Minister of Justice to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the judges before the Supreme Judicial Council and the creation of the institute for appeals against the decisions of the Supreme Judicial Council in disciplinary matters. Twenty students from various universities of Armenia participated in the four-day Summer School on Arbitration co-organised by the Council of Europe and Arbitrators' Association of Armenia. The summer school addressed some fundamental issues in arbitration, both theoretically and practically.
- **PGGII Project - Component 2 "Support to the judicial reform - supporting the criminal justice reform and harmonising the application of European standards in Armenia"**: Two Guides on conceptual solutions and innovative principles of the new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes of Armenia that provide for an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of all the essential aspects of the Codes and clarify the conformity of their approaches with European human rights standards were prepared and disseminated to the legal professionals. To ensure smooth implementation of the new Codes, several capacity-building activities for judges, prosecutors, investigators, and staff of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia were organised to enhance knowledge of the key legal professionals on the new provisions and concepts introduced by the Codes. 160 (37W/123M) legal professionals were covered with training activities on the New Codes.
- **PGGII Project "Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia"**: The Model Codes of Conduct for public servants were developed and officially adopted. The "High-level Conference on the Model Code of Conduct for Public Servants in Armenia" was organized jointly with the CPC, and was attended by 62 participants from parliament, public authorities, the judiciary, and civil society. An expert review of the new draft law and legal amendments related to digital assets and digital asset service providers was prepared to ensure compliance with the national legal framework with recommendations

of MONEYVAL and relevant international standards. The HELP e-course on "Introduction to corruption prevention" developed by the ECCD was translated into Armenian.

- **PGGII Project "Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards" (regional, decentralised project):** During the reporting period, the Project has carried out an international call for tender to involve a communication and content development specialist to further update the website of the Regional Cooperation Network of Lawyers and engage the legal community for the application of the online interactions platforms. Furthermore, the international consultancy for the development of the last, eighth, cross-country review of the impact of gender-related issues on the legal profession and access to justice was finalized. Two international consultants were selected to work on the preparation of the methodology and the review. The cross-country review on the Code of Ethics was presented remotely on 23 September and discussed with the respective national authorities of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

- **PGG II "Strengthening access to justice for victims of discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes in the Eastern Partnership countries":** In August, via social media channels, the regional anti-discrimination project shared the results of two grants implemented in Armenia over the period of December 2021- June 2022. The review of the Manual on online hate speech for educators in Armenian was finalised and the Manual will be disseminated in autumn 2022. Importantly, the translation and proofreading of the documents "Recommendation CM/Rec (2022)16[1] of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate speech" and "Explanatory memorandum" was finalised and is to be presented to the wider public after the finalization of the lay-out.

- **Project "Human Rights and Women in the Armed Forces of Armenia – Phase II" funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022:** The HELP model course on Human Rights in the Armed Forces was finalised and posted on the HELP website. The Post Adoption Review, assessing the extent to which the findings of the ECtHR on the cases related to human rights violations in the armed forces in Armenia were taken into consideration in the newly adopted Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, was discussed with the national counterparts. The managing personnel of the Department on the Social Protection of the Military of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) was trained on effective management. The poster "What do you know about military service?" was published and will be distributed amongst the high schools of Armenia. The Poster on "State Mortgage Program for Military Servicepersons" was published and distributed amongst the military units. The Methodology on Assessing the Extent of Sub-culture in the Armed Forces in Armenia was finalized and discussed with the MoD.

- **Project "Support the scaling-up of the probation service in Armenia", funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022:** As a part of the on-going legislative reform, the legal analysis on the draft Law on Probation Service with recommendations was developed by the international consultant and submitted to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). In addition, the legal recommendations to the several Governmental Decrees were developed by the local consultant and submitted to the MoJ. The HELP online course on Alternative Measures to Detention was adapted to national context. The kick-off of the course is planned for October. The consultants presented the report on the conclusions and recommendations on the outcomes of the pilot of General offending rehabilitation programme. The second round of the revision of the Risk and Needs Assessment tool has been launched. The training course on probation developed for the Academy of Justice

was further revised in light of the new Criminal, Criminal Procedure Code and Penitentiary Codes.

- **Project “Enhancing health care and human rights protection in prisons in Armenia”, funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022:** Two toolkits on suicide and deliberate self-harm prevention and risk assessment, as well as on mental health and in-depth assessment developed with the support of the Council of Europe were adopted by the Decree of the Minister of Justice following the positive results of piloting them in the selected penitentiary institutions. The representatives of the Ministry of Justice, directors and deputy directors, the security and medical staff, psychologists and psychiatrists of the penitentiary institutions were trained on the toolkits and are prepared to use them effectively. Further, the Guidelines and SOPs on toolkits were developed and shared with the prison medical staff. Within competitive bidding procedure, the following equipment was procured and donated to the Prison Medicine Centre: (i) haematology analyser with relevant reagents, including the white blood cell analyser; (ii) equipment for safe transportations of samples; (iii) ECG Electrocardiogram machine; (iv) movable ultrasound machine; (v) movable refrigerator.

- **Project “The Path towards Armenia’s Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”, funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022:** The project final result evaluation is initiated, the outcomes of the evaluation will be shared with partners in December. To promote awareness on preventing domestic violence and violence against women, several awareness raising activities were developed by the CoE project and were promoted through Social Media, including: three articles on police response to domestic violence and two podcasts by legal and human rights professionals. Follow up meetings with the state authorities and partners were carried to agree on the project work plan till the end of the implementation period, as well as assess the needs for the future potential project.

- **Project “Protection of Human Rights in Biomedicine I”, funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022:** An animated video on “Ethical rules for healthcare professionals” was developed in co-operation with the Ministry of Health. The video aims at raising awareness of medical professionals on the newly adopted ethical rules. The HELP training sessions on “Key Ethical principles on Bioethics” were launched for another six groups of healthcare and legal professionals (about 100 participants). A digital Continuing Medical Education-credited e-course on “Ethical rules for healthcare professionals” has been developed with the assistance of the Project and under the National Institute of Health. The course was made available free of charge for all healthcare professionals.

- **Project “Support for the Execution by Armenia of Judgments in Respect of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights” :** During the reporting period, the Project received and accepted the reports of the grant provided to the Justice Academy for the development of the training course on the execution of judgements. The presentation of the course will take place during the next reporting period. A roundtable dedicated to the issue of late or non-execution of decisions of national courts based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights was organised with the participation of an international consultant to familiarise project stakeholders with the findings and recommendations of the assessment carried out earlier under the project and discuss possible solutions for resolving

the late or non-execution issue at the national level. The project launched a call for tender for purchasing technical equipment for the Office of the Representative of the Republic of Armenia on International Legal Matters. It also worked on the finalisation of the Integrated Office Management (IOM) system to be developed for the same institution. It also engaged in dissemination among project stakeholders of a number of publications produced earlier: cross examination of witnesses in Armenian criminal procedure and in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights; Guide on re-opening of judicial proceedings in Armenia following the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights; Guide on Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights: right to fair trial (civil limb).

• **Project “Decentralisation and Cross-Border Cooperation in Armenia”, funded by donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022:**

The Project launched two calls in the frames of the Second Stage of the Leadership Academy for Cross-border Cooperation to be held on 17-19 October 2022 in Georgia. The calls were aimed at provisioning of legal and operational analysis of the framework for cross-border co-operation between Armenia and Georgia, as well as delivery of capacity-building training on cross-border co-operation for representatives of local communities. Additionally, within the legal and policy component, the project initiated two legal analyses: development of a concept document for drafting the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Local Self-Government" in a new edition and an outline concept for local economic development policy.

Other relevant activities

- On 27 September 2022 took place the presentation of the Armenia’s Media Sector Needs Assessment Report - 2022: Overview of the National Legislative Framework Covering Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression, Public Service Media and its compliance with Council of Europe standards. The report was prepared by the CoE Information Society Department.
- Activities of the HELP Secretariat:
 - Assessment questionnaire on the country/project needs on the HELP courses’ adaptation was prepared and will be launched in October.
 - In September, the HELP co-ordinator facilitated kick-off of the Asylum and Human Rights HELP courses adapted for Armenia. The course was adapted by UNHCR in Armenia and the HELP Secretariat. The HELP co-ordinator based in Yerevan assisted the project teams in the preparation of the launch of the two HELP courses adapted for Armenia: Key Human Right Principles in Biomedicine and Alternative measures to detention. The courses will be launched in October.

Pristina

Situation of the Office

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

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

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

- **EU/CoE - HF "Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media (JUFREX)":** 24 communication officers and assistants of the Presidents of Courts and Prosecutions (17 women/7 men) were trained on the right to access public documents, by expanding their knowledge on duties, and responsibilities and were taught on the best practices in place for the good administration of justice. 21 lawyers (7 women/14 men) were introduced to the case law of ECHR and the Convention on Access to Official Documents ("the Tromsø Convention") as well as to balancing the exercise of freedom of speech and other protected rights. Events were organised under grant agreements with the Bar Association and the Academy of Justice respectively.
- **EU/CoE – HF "Ensuring Efficiency and Quality of Justice (KOSEJII)":** Kosovo Judicial Council members participated in a study visit to Riga, Latvia, in order to learn more about the digitalisation of courts and discuss case weighting. Through 2 training sessions, which took place on 14 and 15 September 2022, respectively, 45 Heads of Branch Courts (20 women/25 men) were trained on key CEPEJ tools based on CMIS Statistical Reports and Dashboards. Courts communicated to court users the results of the satisfaction surveys and KJC expressed the commitment to implement satisfaction surveys in the future, taking ownership of this CEPEJ tool to measure the quality of court services.
- **EU/CoE – HF "Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Kosovo*":** 15 staff-members of the Ombudsperson Institution (14 women/6 men) enhanced their understanding of ECRI General Policy Recommendation 15: understanding and responding to hate speech, through a training activity which took place on 12 and 13 September 2022. During the reporting period grant agreements were concluded with two local NGOs, which started to organise activities at local level, under the supervision of the project team. The project team also supported the organisation of peer-to-peer exchange between NGOs and Police administration from Albania and Kosovo* on 21-22 September 2022 under the regional component.
- **EU/CoE – JP "Building Capacity for Inclusive Education" – INCLUDE:** 25 municipal officers for inclusive education and for communities and return from 22 municipalities (11 women/14 men) completed the training programme on Inclusive education focusing on Human Rights and Minority Rights, Inclusive Education and policy and legal framework for inclusive education. 25 pilot schools were selected for the second round of capacity building activities for inclusive and democratic schools. 33 education professionals (17 women/16 men) from the six resource centres completed the three-day TOT of the Module I "Disability and Inclusive education". The revision of the curriculum for teaching in the fields of activities was finalised and will be sent to Ministry of Education for approval.

- **EU/CoE – JP “Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo*” (PECK III):** As a follow-up to the support provided to Kosovo* authorities, the Kosovo Police approved in September 2022 Standard Operating Procedures on Whistleblowing taking into account project’s recommendations. Previously the Project had supported the strengthening of the capacities whereby 98 police officers and employees of the Kosovo Police (35 females and 63 males) attended several information sessions held in seven different cities from 18 to 22 July 2022. Following the Government’s meeting on 15 September 2022, the draft law on Special Prosecution was approved taking into account project’s recommendations.
- **EU/CoE regional JP “Promoting Good Governance and Roma Empowerment at Local Level (ROMACTED2)”:** Training needs in the Community Action Groups in 10 beneficiary municipalities have been identified and prioritized. Synergy with Ministry of Local Government Administration has been agreed in preparation of the guideline on municipal plans on Covid 19 socio-economic recovery measures. Expertise has been identified for development of the municipal guideline and matrix of the work plan. Police Brief on Roma Responsive Budgeting and Baseline with indicators has been finalized and translated into local languages.
- **VC non-earmarked “Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human-beings”:** During 28-30 September, following GRETA recommendations, 45 labour inspectors and social service officials covering 11 regional offices (15 women/30 men), were trained on early indicators of human trafficking, the referral mechanism and the rights and provision of services for victims of trafficking, pursuant local legislation and international human rights instruments.
- **VC non-earmarked “Support to the Constitutional Court in applying and disseminating the European Human Rights Standards”:** Project supported Law Faculty Pristina by assigning 13 international experts who developed 21 syllabuses for respective courses of the International Master Program in Human Rights, to be submitted for accreditation of the program with line ministry. Project developed methodology with questionnaires and sampling, and ToR for research company for conducting satisfaction surveys with three categories of users of the Constitutional Court. Two additional legal advisors of the Constitutional Court were placed with the European Court of Human Rights for two months each. Project is processing development of Methodology for Monitoring Execution of Constitutional Court’s Decisions, Manual on Judicial Reasoning and Human Rights, and needs assessment for upgrade of the Constitutional Court’s IT infrastructure.
- **VC non-earmarked “Reinforcing the Fight against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Kosovo* - phase III”:** The expert assessment of alignment with the Istanbul Convention (based on GREVIO methodology) is in its final stage, the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence submitted the official comments of local authorities which will be included as an annex to the report. The project is providing support to the National Coordinator in drafting the perpetrator’s programme curriculum and two workshops of the official Working Group, one in July and one in September, has been successfully organized with project facilitation. In cooperation with the Academy of Justice the project delivered the HELP course on VAW and DV for legal professionals, in total 39 legal professionals (31 women/8 men). successfully implemented the course
- **VC earmarked: Promoting Human Rights and Non-Discrimination Principles at the Local Level:** During the reporting period in close cooperation with Office for Good Governance have established contacts and presented the project to 15 municipalities. On 16 September took place a conference on “Challenges on implementation of the Law for

Protecting from Discrimination and importance of strengthening the anti-discrimination mechanisms at local level". 28 people (13 women/15 men), including a wide range of different stakeholders such as municipal representatives and NGOs, attended the event. Ms Emilija Redzeqi, Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Naim Qelaj Ombudsperson joined for opening remarks.

Follow up action (i.e. future actions)

- JUFREX: At least five (5) capacity-building events on freedom of expression for the judiciary and media actors are planned for October 2022.
- PECK III: Targeted in-the-job capacity building is planned through mentoring and training for priority needs of the Financial intelligence Unit of Kosovo, Central Bank of Kosovo, Special Prosecution Office (including financial investigations, AML/CFT supervision, ML/TF investigations and prosecutions).
- INCLUDE: Capacity building activities will start with the second round of pilot schools.
- Constitutional Court Project: Thematic workshop on Gender Based Violence and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) scheduled for 21-22 November 2022.
- Violence against Women: "Assessment of the alignment of Kosovo*'s laws, policies and other measures with the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)" will be published in the upcoming quarter.
- Anti-Trafficking: During the last quarter of 2022, the project will support and facilitate drafting of the Administrative Instruction for the database for victims of trafficking and revision of the Manual of Ministry of Education on Prevention of Human Trafficking.
- ROMACTED2: Feedback from the beneficiary municipalities and line ministries will be gathered on Roma Responsive Budgeting at a roundtable scheduled for the first month of the next trimester.

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

Rabat

Situation of the Office

Core staff – 3, Project staff 7, Total staff – 10.

The Office implemented or provided logistical support for six projects funded by the European Union.

State of implementation of projects

- **EU/CoE joint project “Support to the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture and to the development of the key role of Parliament in Morocco” (ENI/2020/418-263)**

Support for the development of the role of the Parliament in Morocco

- On 3 and 4 July, the third meeting of the project’s technical steering committee was held (with the participation of Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou, see below);
- July/August: publication of 10 interviews with parliamentarians, staff of the Moroccan Parliament and experts concerning the round tables on reform of public administration and youth policy;
- On 14 September, a follow-up round table to the Council of Europe’s youth week was held with the participation of a member of the Moroccan Parliament and four national NGOs;
- September: finalisation of the report on the Conference on ‘Women in politics: how to progress towards equality?’.

Support for the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM)

- On 8 and 9 September, a technical support workshop on improving and increasing the efficiency of preventive visits to child protection facilities was held for members and officials of the Moroccan National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.

- **Combating violence against women**

- On 28 and 29 September, a seminar was held on strengthening the role of the public prosecution service in combating violence against women and domestic violence (senior judicial officials).

- **Combating trafficking in human beings**

- On 7 July, a co-ordination meeting was held between international organisations and the Anti-Trafficking Commission (organised by the Council of Europe);
- On 19 September, the Office took part in the exchange workshop between international organisations and the Anti-Trafficking Commission.

Other relevant activities

- On 6 July, the Head of the Office presented the priorities of the CoE-Morocco Neighbourhood Partnership to the ambassadors of Council of Europe member States accredited in Morocco during an official lunch hosted by the Swiss Ambassador.

Council of Europe high-level visits and other events

- On 4 July, during Ms Chatzivassiliou's official visit, meetings were held with the EU Ambassador, the President of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH), the Secretary General of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Morocco and the Director with responsibility for the EU and for Mediterranean processes in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, among others.

Tunis

Core staff – 6, Project staff – 15, Total staff - 21.

The Office continued providing support to the coordination and implementation of the following country-specific projects, within the framework of the new Neighbourhood Partnership 2022-2025, as well as regional projects, as follows:

- EU/CoE JP "Support to Tunisian independent bodies" (PAII-T)
- EU/CoE JP "Support to justice reform" (AP-JUST)
- EU/CoE JP "Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme IV)
- EU/CoE JP "Cybersouth".

State of implementation of projects / programmes

Bilateral joint programmes:

- **EU/CoE Joint Programme "Support to Tunisian independent bodies" (PAII-T) :**
 ➤ Freedom of expression, support to media regulatory authority (HAICA) and to national body on access to information (INAI):

- A series of training workshops on "fact-checking" targeting local radio stations and journalists as well as awareness raising events for the local public in the regions were launched in close collaboration with the HAICA and the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists. First three training sessions were carried out in September in Mahdia, Ras Jebel, and Menzel Bourguiba.
- Preparations continued for the setting up of a mini data centre for the INAI, which aims at reinforcing and completing the existent technical IT infrastructures, as well as to create a functioning internal server for the body.

- Data protection, support to the national body on personal data protection (INPDP) and HELP programme:

- The HELP course on the protection of personal data and privacy was launched in collaboration with the INPDP on 12 July 2022 in Tunis. This HELP course targets legal professionals but is equally opened for other disciplines. A total of 50 professionals from the public and private sectors will be trained on the standards applicable in Tunisia in this field over the course of 4 months.

- Fight against trafficking in human beings / support to the national body combating human trafficking (INLTP)

- Preparations were underway for a regional simulation exercise on the referral of victims of trafficking in human beings entitled "Trafficking in human beings on migration routes" to be held in Malta on 22-29 October 2022. The regional simulation replicates similar exercises the Council of Europe has carried out with the INLTP in Tunisia in previous years. The simulation is organised in collaboration with the Foreign Ministry of Malta and is co-financed by the South Programme V.

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

- Preparatory work was undertaken to implement training (October 2022) of new members of the INPT to reinforce their capacities and strengthen the role of the INPT as the National Preventive Mechanism of Tunisia.

➤ Fight against corruption and money laundering:

- Two Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions on "Prevention and fight against money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CTF)" were organised on 27-30 September 2022 in cooperation with the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission/Tunisian FIU (Commission Tunisienne des Analyses Financières – CTAF), the Tunisian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (Association Tunisienne des Investissement en Capital - ATIC) and the Committee on Financial Market (Commission des Marchés - CMF). Stock market intermediaries, investment and seeds funds, venture capital mutual funds and investment companies in risk capital as well as their supervisors were introduced to essential concepts and international standards on AML/CTF.

• **EU/CoE Joint Programme « Support to justice reform » (AP-JUST):**

- The *Etude Droit Commercial* is at the final stage of modifications in line with the Council's rules for communication and personal data, and its publication is expected to take place beginning of October.
- Digitalisation of all publications and material produced by the CEJJ, as well as the installation of the GED solution have been completed successfully. In light of this, the CEJJ, with the support of the Council, will hold an event for the presentation of its new website on 25 October.
- The *Etude de Capitalisation*, evaluating the three projects implemented by three Tunisian NGOs has been completed.

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

- Two regional seminars were organised by the Schools of Political Studies of Tunisia and Morocco during the reporting period. "Inclusion of young people in public life" held on 27 June-1 July 2022, in Hammamet, Tunisia, brought together experts and young people from seven countries in the region (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia). It produced proposals on mechanisms and tools to promote the active participation of young people in economic life, national public policy-making processes and in the management of local affairs, including through the use of new technologies. 30 women from Morocco and Tunisia participated in the seminar "Women's leadership: for the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic and social processes" held on 25-27 August 2022 in Agadir, Morocco. The seminar addressed challenges and opportunities of women's entrepreneurial, political and social leadership.
- The Venice Commission participated and provided expertise to the Fifth General Assembly (GA) Meeting of the Arab Organization of Electoral Administrations held in Amman, Jordan, on 22 August 2022, as well to the conference on "Youth participation in the electoral process" which followed the GA meeting. The programme also facilitated the participation of an alumni student from the School of Political studies of Morocco to the conference.

• **EU/CoE JP "Protecting human rights, the rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme V):**

- The fifth phase of the South Programme V was launched on 1 September 2022. It aims at continuing the support to democratic reforms of nine beneficiaries in the Southern

Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine* and Tunisia) through the establishment of a common legal space between Europe and this region. The South Programme V will be coordinated by the CoE regional office in Tunis and is a direct follow-up of the action implemented under the fourth phase, which came to an end on 31 August 2022.

- A study visit of a delegation of the **League of Arab States** (LAS), comprised of the Deputy Secretary General, the President, the Minister Plenipotentiary to the LAS in Cairo and the Director of the Human Rights Department, was carried out to Strasbourg on 27-29 September 2022. The visit was aimed at presenting the Council of Europe's key instruments and areas of expertise, with a focus on the European Court of Human Rights.