

COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFICE IN SARAJEVO

RESULTS IN 2025

The Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo supports Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards European standards of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. The **new Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2026-2029** guides a results-driven partnership aiming to anchor democratic values, uphold equality and diversity, and build lasting trust in public institutions.

The Council of Europe's co-operation with Bosnia and Herzegovina is also strongly supported through the European Union and Council of Europe joint programme "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye," which assists authorities in meeting their reform agenda while ensuring compliance with European standards. Working hand in hand with national institutions, civil society, and local communities, the Office **translates European principles into tangible progress**. From fairer justice and media freedom to safer communities, stronger governance, and democratic education.

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



34 DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS
INCLUDING 28 PROJECT STAFF.



THE ACTION PLAN TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET IS 27 MILLION EUROS.

DONOR SUPPORT DRIVES REFORM AND DELIVERS ENDURING BENEFITS FOR CITIZENS THROUGHOUT BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.



11 REGIONAL AND 18 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PROJECTS
INCLUDING:

- 6 FLAGSHIP EU AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE "HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TÜRKIYE" ACTIONS.
- 9 PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

DOWNLOAD THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTION PLAN FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 2026-2029



WHY YOUR INVOLVEMENT MATTERS

Every reform achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a product of shared vision, between national institutions, citizens, the European Union, donors, and the Council of Europe. Together, we turn principles into progress and ensure that democracy, equality, and justice remain the cornerstones of a more resilient society.



A living library of understanding. In schools across the country, "books" speak with human voices. The "Living Library" reached over 430 students in 17 schools, creating meaningful encounters that break stereotypes and foster empathy. These human stories are turning abstract values into lived experience. Watch the introduction video to the "Living Library"

IMPACT OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORK IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



ADVANCING JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE

Justice that delivers to citizens. Courts nationwide have strengthened their capacity to apply European Convention on Human Rights standards and to effectively execute European Court of Human Rights judgments. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council now produces more reliable judicial statistics, harmonised with European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) methodology, while pilot courts are testing tools for the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in case processing.

ADVANCING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND MEDIA FREEDOM

Protecting journalists and media freedom. Together with the European Union and the OSCE, the Council of Europe established prosecutorial contact points dedicated to protecting journalists. Legal professionals and judges received training on the Recommendation of the Committee of Minister CM/Rec(2024)2 to member States on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) Council of Europe recommendation on, improving protection of journalists and whistle-blowers and reinforcing free expression as a core democratic safeguard.

STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL INTEGRITY AGAINST CORRUPTION

Tackling corruption and economic crime. Authorities now apply risk-based supervision to identify money laundering and terrorism financing risks in the real estate sector. An important advance was achieved in financial integrity. The Council of Europe supported reforms to asset declaration systems, revised rulebooks to advance implementation of the Law on Conflict of Interest, and helped digitalise campaign finance monitoring at the Central Election Commission to ensure transparent electoral processes.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Protecting women and combating trafficking. A network of 342 professionals from law enforcement, the judiciary, and social welfare now collaborate more effectively to prevent and respond to digital and sexual violence against women. The Anti-trafficking Strategy gained local traction through Council of Europe facilitation, while youth-led awareness-raising initiatives reached over 34 500 young people, promoting awareness and protection against emerging online exploitation.

PROMOTING EQUALITY

United against hate. The “Block the Hatred. Share the Love 2.0” awareness-raising initiative brought together sports, schools, and communities. Top football clubs reached over 11 000 fans and 300 000 television viewers with messages of equality, while schoolchildren and representatives from main religious communities launched joint interactive initiatives promoting dialogue, tolerance, and respect.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION

Schools that model democracy. Four School Resource Centres for Advancing Democratic Culture are leading inclusive education reforms and empowering teachers to promote participation and civic values. Council of Europe curriculum development work was acknowledged in Constitutional Court jurisprudence concerning history curricula in Republika Srpska, an important signal for standards-based education reform.