



HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Fighting corruption,
economic crime and organised crime

Ensuring justice

Combating discrimination and
protecting the rights of vulnerable groups

Expertise co-ordination mechanism

<http://horizontal-facility-eu.coe.int>

Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe



On 11 April 2016, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, and the European Union's Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, announced a new co-operation initiative of the two organisations aimed at supporting South-East Europe and Turkey in their efforts to comply with European standards. The initiative is called the European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey (Horizontal Facility).

FOCUS AND SCOPE OF THE HORIZONTAL FACILITY

The Horizontal Facility is a three-year programme (May 2016-April 2019) focusing on three themes:

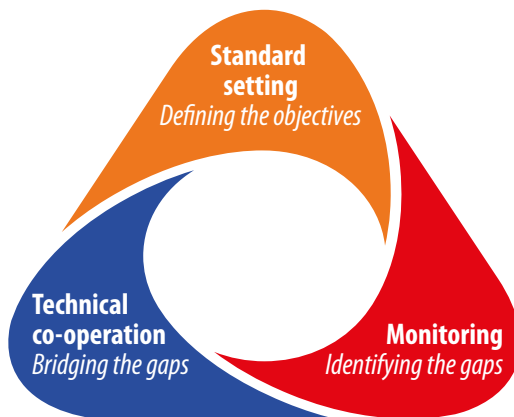
- ▶ ensuring justice;
- ▶ fighting corruption, economic crime and organised crime;
- ▶ combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups.

The programme has a budget of €25 million.¹

Through the Horizontal Facility, the European Union and the Council of Europe will assist beneficiaries in South-East Europe and Turkey to comply with Council of Europe standards and the European Union *acquis* in the framework of the enlargement process. The Horizontal Facility relies on the Council of Europe's unique working methods, whereby tailor-made technical co-operation activities are based on conclusions and recommendations of the Council of Europe's monitoring bodies highlight areas where improvements are needed in legislation and policies of the beneficiaries to comply with the Organisation's treaties and other standards.

1. The European Commission will provide €20 million and the Council of Europe €5 million.

Council of Europe's strategic triangle



HORIZONTAL FACILITY BENEFICIARIES

■ The beneficiaries of technical co-operation through the Horizontal Facility are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo,* Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Turkey's involvement will be limited to receiving legal analyses/advice through the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism and to potential regional activities.

SET-UP OF THE HORIZONTAL FACILITY

■ The Horizontal Facility will follow a complementary twofold approach: 1) technical co-operation in the form of advice, development of capacities and other forms of technical support tailored to the needs of each Horizontal Facility beneficiary to achieve increased compliance with European standards and 2) the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism, which foresees the provision of Council of Europe legislative expertise and policy advice in response to requests from Horizontal Facility beneficiaries on topics covered by the Horizontal Facility and on issues related to freedom of expression and the media, as well as on certain constitutional issues falling within the mandate of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (known as the Venice Commission).

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Depending on the needs and priorities of the beneficiaries concerned, different components will be worked on.

Ensuring justice

Work in this thematic area will focus on prisons and police (including human rights in policing, health care in prisons and safeguards against torture and ill-treatment), human rights standards in the judiciary (focusing on enhancing the application of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights), the efficiency of justice systems (with a focus on analysing judicial statistics to optimise court administrations) and/or legal co-operation (which will concentrate on increasing the individual independence of judges and prosecutors and the accountability of the judicial system).

Fighting corruption, economic crime and organised crime

The Horizontal Facility will further target the fight against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, which will include measures to address the transparency of funding of political parties, asset-declaration systems, national risk assessments and capacity development of financial intelligence units. In addition, activities for certain beneficiaries will specifically address corruption in education.

Promoting anti-discrimination and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups

Depending on the needs and priorities of the beneficiaries concerned, work in this area will concentrate on support to ombudspersons' institutions, inclusive education (addressing racism, bullying, segregation and extremism in the education system), trafficking in human beings (with a focus on assistance to victims of trafficking), countering discrimination against national minorities and/or when based on sexual orientation or gender identity.



CROSS-CUTTING ELEMENTS

■ All activities under the Horizontal Facility will be conducted with a human rights approach, incorporating principles of gender equality – in accordance with the Council of Europe's Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines – as well as non-discrimination, equality and inclusive participation, focusing on vulnerable groups and minorities. Co-operation with civil society organisations will furthermore be ensured in accordance with the Council of Europe's Guidelines on Civil Society Organisations' participation in Council of Europe co-operation activities and in line with the European Commission Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries.

MORE INFORMATION

► **Website**

<http://horizontal-facility-eu.coe.int>

► **Facebook**

[jp.horizontal.facility](https://www.facebook.com/jp.horizontal.facility)

► **Twitter**

[@CoE_EU_HF](https://twitter.com/CoE_EU_HF)

► **Contact**

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

www.coe.int

The member states of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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