



HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Actions on Education:

“Strengthen integrity and combat corruption in higher education in Serbia” “Fostering a democratic school culture”

The Council of Europe assists relevant authorities in Serbia to improve the quality of education through applying preventive mechanisms based on Council of Europe standards and practices. Two actions on education are being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development while involving a wider group of relevant stakeholders, including public universities, the Anti-Corruption Agency, education policy and research institutes, pilot schools and teacher training organisations.

The actions are co-funded by the European Union and Council of Europe as part of the European Union – Council of Europe programmatic framework “Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey” and are implemented by the Council of Europe Education Department in cooperation with the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade.

The duration of the actions is set at 24 months and it is expected to be completed by 30 March 2019, with an overall budget of 600,000 euros.

Objectives and expected results

➔ Strengthen integrity and combat corruption in higher education

The **overall objective** is to strengthen integrity and combat corruption in the higher education system in Serbia through applying preventive mechanisms based on Council of Europe standards and policies.

The **first specific objective** is to support relevant higher education institutions in developing ethical standards, combat corruption and promote best practices of quality and integrity in education. This specific objective shall be accomplished through the achievement of the following **results**:

- ✓ Relevant public authorities adopt mechanisms to prevent corruption and to strengthen ethics, transparency and integrity in higher education;
- ✓ Mechanisms in place take into account standards and good practices promoted by the Council of Europe’s Ethics in Education Platform (ETINED).

The **second specific objective** is to raise awareness and improve knowledge of the main education actors on ethical standards and how to address corruption. This specific objective shall be accomplished through the achievement of the following **result**:

- ✓ Educational professionals and students in public higher education institutions have increased competencies to recognise and address issues challenging the integrity in higher education.

Fostering a democratic school culture

The **overall objective** is to improve the quality of education by fostering a democratic culture in the formal education system through applying anti-discriminatory approaches based on the Council of Europe standards and practices.

The **first specific objective** is to enhance knowledge and awareness on the concept, policies, practices and benefits from inclusive education and a democratic school culture among teachers, staff, students and local communities. This specific objective shall be accomplished through the achievement of the following **results**:

- ✓ A number of examples of good practice for democratic school culture are identified and promoted throughout Serbia.
- ✓ A roadmap is developed on how to upscale the experiences from pilot schools to the policy level.

The **second specific objective** is to enhance the capacities of pilot schools to remove prejudices and discriminatory approaches towards vulnerable groups and to address incidences of violence.

This specific objective shall be accomplished through the achievement of the following **result**:

- ✓ A number of pilot schools introduce specific anti-discrimination measures and mechanisms to monitor these measures.

Background information

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

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