

Enhancing penitentiary capacities in addressing radicalisation in prisons in Western Balkans

What is the goal?

To contribute to regional security by addressing radicalisation in prisons and disengaging violent extremist prisoners from violence by:

- ▶ raising awareness of the process of radicalisation and violent extremism in prisons and encouraging culture of sharing information and good practices between the penitentiary and probation services
- ▶ assisting practitioners recognise signs of radicalisation and empower first-line officers with the necessary knowledge and tools
- ▶ facilitate and encourage multi-agency partnerships to counter radicalisation in prisons and provide adequate post-penal support to released violent extremist offenders

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ Ministries of Justice in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia
- ▶ Penitentiary and probation services
- ▶ National Coordinating mechanisms on preventing and countering violent extremism and counter terrorism
- ▶ Other relevant institutions and agencies
- ▶ Prisoners at risk, radicalised inmates and violent extremist offenders
- ▶ Society in general

How will the project work?

The Action provides a forum for sharing know-how, experience and lessons learnt among the Beneficiaries on addressing violent extremism and radicalisation in prisons. It aims to contribute towards standardisation of the approaches in the Western Balkans and setting minimum standards and unified methodologies on combatting violent extremism and radicalisation in the prisons in the region. The Action co-ordinates its actions with the Beneficiary authorities (prisons and probation services) and the local Coordinating mechanisms on preventing and countering violent extremism and counter terrorism.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ Strengthened application of the tools and mechanisms by the practitioners with regards to addressing radicalisation in prisons, in light of the identified good practices in the region and Europe;
- ▶ Improved capacities of the practitioners involved in identifying and countering radicalisation in prisons;
- ▶ Prison managers and prison staff in Serbia and in Kosovo are able to identify, assess and address radicalisation in their every day work through systematic application of the newly developed methodologies and tools.

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How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the Action is 2.000.000 EUR
- ▶ The budget allocated to the overall Horizontal Facility programme amounts to ca. 41 Million EUR (85% funded by the European Union, 15% by the Council of Europe)

How to get more information?

- ▶ Criminal Law Co-operation Unit website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/criminal-law-coop>
- ▶ Horizontal Facility website: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility/home>
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About Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey

The “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022” is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe that enables the Beneficiaries to meet their reform agendas in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy and to comply with the European standards, including where relevant within the framework of the EU enlargement process. This three-year programme covers actions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, as well as Kosovo and it is implemented by the Council of Europe from May 2019.

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.

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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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**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*

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