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EU SUPPORT TO CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The Project aims to increase accountability for war crimes in the Western Balkans region, strengthen the public's overall support for these processes and foster dialogue within societies and ethnic groups about crimes committed during the 1990s, leaving more resilient communities. This will strengthen the rule of law, helping the EU accession process and establishing a favorable environment for solidarity, reconciliation, and sustainable peace in the region.



DURATION

01 January 2023 -
31 December 2026



BUDGET

EUR 7,000,000



BENEFICIARIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Kosovo*, Montenegro,
North Macedonia and
Serbia



DONOR

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

IMPACT



- 1 Improved capacity and regional cooperation amongst key judicial services in the Western Balkans, resulting in improved efficiency and effectiveness in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes.
- 2 Increased shared understanding of crimes committed during the 1990s in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.
- 3 Increased accountability for war crimes in the region with enhanced public support for the accountability and fact-based dialogues within societies and between ethnic groups about crimes committed during the 1990s.

OBJECTIVES



- Better equip judicial and law enforcement authorities in handling war crimes cases at the domestic level including through a multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approach.
- Improve conditions for regional cooperation in handling war crimes cases through bilateral and multilateral high and technical level peer-to-peer meetings and policy dialogue.
- Provide expertise and support to enhance a stronger victim-centered and gender-sensitive approach in the handling of domestic war crime cases with a focus on increasing the delivery of support services to victims and witnesses and strengthening the capacities of CSOs through the rolling out of a sub-granting scheme.
- Support grassroots actors through provision of grants to better raise public awareness of past crimes, including dialogue and exchanges amongst and between a wide range of stakeholders (judicial sector, journalists, historians, professors and students, local community actors), especially youth and future opinion leaders.

* For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to position on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

For UNDP, all references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the UN Resolution 1244/1999.

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