GOOD NEWS FROM

RULE OF LAW

QUARTERLY REPORT 12



16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES STRENGTHENS REGIONAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION

THIRD EDITION OF EQUALITY TALKS EXPLORES GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE

POSTER EXHIBITION PROMOTES EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION THROUGH THE EYES OF STUDENTS

RAISING AWARENESS ON LOBBYING: A MULTI-CHANNEL CAMPAIGN REACHED OVER 700,000 CITIZENS ACROSS NORTH MACEDONIA

EU SUPPORT FOR RULE OF LAW

AUGUST 2026

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FOREWORD



Dieter SCHINDLAUER

Team Leader, EU Support for Rule of Law

"We use this publication to keep up a good spirit and uphold an ethic of belief in the good reason for change, reform, and a continuous improvement process. To do so, we will show steps forward and celebrate them so that they are not lost in the much more dominant noise of disheartening news."

Dear reader,

A warm welcome to this 12th edition of Good News from the Rule of Law. This edition has a strong focus on communication, including strategic communication, direct communication, awareness-raising, and even communication through visual art. We feature high-ranking Chief Justices and Supreme Court leaders of Central and Eastern Europe deliberating on their responsibilities and challenges. You can follow expert discussions on gender-based discrimination in the workplace and the massive need to talk more about it, especially when sexual harassment is involved.
Furthermore, the new communication strategy adopted by the Public Prosecution Office will safeguard good, proactive information for the interested public when it comes to understanding the role and actions of the prosecution. Good communication is a prerequisite for trust in the institution, and trust is an important basis for the full functioning and impact of the institution. So, ideally, this strategy helps create a virtuous cycle of constant mutual improvement.
Regarding awareness raising, we can now update you on the campaign explaining the concept and handling of lobbying we introduced in the last edition of this publication: The online campaign reached over 700.000 persons in total, and even more, as detailed in the respective chapter. That is a lot!

FOREWORD

A very different approach to awareness raising is also featured prominently in this report: together with the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination and the European University Skopje, our project asked students from the Faculty of Art and Design at the European University Skopje to design posters to promote equality and non-discrimination. 25 of the artworks were successfully publicly displayed at OSTEN Gallery in Skopje. The posters are also presented in this report for your contemplation.
A training of 12 police trainers on ensuring fair treatment for all, particularly in preventing discrimination, bias, and abuse of power in everyday policing, is a further step taken to guarantee that these issues are addressed in the communication of the Macedonian police force. Along the lines of this thought, a new e-learning tool on human rights has been launched together with the Ministry of Public Administration. It aims at strengthening the knowledge and capacities of public administration employees to apply a human rights-based approach in their daily work.
As you can see in this report, we have been talking, doodling, posting and teaching laboriously together with our partners during this important period. But in all this noise, as a Project, we never stopped listening to our national partners and always trying to adapt to their actual needs.

Enjoy the good news!



Dieter Schindlauer
Team Leader

MAY WE PRESENT:

16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES STRENGTHENS REGIONAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION

The conference brought together Chief Justices and Vice Presidents of Supreme Courts from 13 jurisdictions across the region, as well as a judicial delegation from the United States of America, to exchange experiences and discuss the common challenges facing the judiciary.

POSTER EXHIBITION PROMOTES EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION THROUGH THE EYES OF STUDENTS

The exhibition showcased 25 posters created by students from the Faculty of Art and Design at the European University Skopje. The works were developed following a lecture and interactive discussion with representatives of the CPPD on equality, discrimination, human rights, and the role of the Equality Body.

THIRD EDITION OF EQUALITY TALKS EXPLORES GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE

The discussions highlighted the challenges victims continue to face when reporting sexual harassment, emphasising the importance of accessible, victim-centred support mechanisms and the need to further strengthen and harmonise the legal framework to ensure effective protection against discrimination.

Let's talk about...

- 16th Annual Conference of Chief Justices Strengthens Regional Judicial Cooperation
- Study Visit to the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior Supports International Police Cooperation
- Third Edition of Equality Talks Explores Gender-Based Discrimination in the Workplace
- Strengthening Public Prosecution through Strategic Communication and International Cooperation
- Raising Awareness on Lobbying: A Multi-Channel Campaign Reached Over 700,000 Citizens Across North Macedonia
- Poster Exhibition Promotes Equality and Non-Discrimination Through the Eyes of Students
- E-Learning Tool on Human Rights Supports Public Administration Reform

16th Annual Conference of Chief Justices Strengthens Regional Judicial Cooperation

The “EU Support for the Rule of Law“ project supported the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia to host the 16th Annual Conference of Chief Justices of Central and Eastern Europe, organised in cooperation with the CEELI Institute between 22 and 23 June 2026. The conference brought together Chief Justices and Vice Presidents of Supreme Courts from 13 jurisdictions across the region, as well as a judicial delegation from the United States of America, to exchange experiences and discuss the common challenges facing the judiciary.

As the President of the Supreme Court, Mr. Afrim Fidani pointed out in his opening remarks:

> "This conference represents a valuable opportunity for open dialogue, the exchange of experiences, best practices, and ideas, as well as for joint reflection on the future of the judiciary in Europe. The strength of supreme courts does not stem from political power or the resources at their disposal, but from the authority of their decisions and the respect accorded to their constitutional role. It is precisely for this reason that the independent and effective functioning of supreme courts is a shared responsibility of all state institutions. Respect for the judiciary is not merely a matter of institutional courtesy; it is a fundamental prerequisite for a stable constitutional order. Supreme courts are not the highest courts because they stand above the other branches of government, but because they are entrusted with the highest responsibility—to ensure that the rule of law prevails over every form of power, serving as the ultimate institutional guarantee for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

The conference also featured welcoming remarks by Mr. David Campbell, Senior Circuit Judge and Chair of the International Relations Committee (United States), Mr. Robert R. Strang, Executive Director of the CEELI Institute, and Judge Grzegorz Borkowski of the “EU Support for the Rule of Law” project. Honorary guests at the conference were the President of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ms. Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, and the President of the Judicial Council, Mr. Aleksandar Kambovski.

The discussions during the working part of the conference focused on judicial independence, building public trust, the application of European Court case law, judicial communications, and the use of artificial intelligence.
The project remains committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen an independent, transparent, and efficient judiciary as one of the cornerstones of the rule of law.





Capturing Success:

A Visual Celebration











Study Visit to the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior Supports International Police Cooperation

The study visit to the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior (16–18 June 2026) provided representatives of the Police of the Republic of North Macedonia with valuable insight into the organisation and work of the Slovenian Sector for International Police Cooperation. The programme focused on cooperation through Europol, Interpol, the SIRENE Bureau and cross-border criminal investigations, as well as on the use of case management systems, the Schengen Information System, extradition procedures and API/PNR structures.

During the visit, participants exchanged experiences with their Slovenian counterparts and identified several good practices that could be adapted to the Macedonian system. These include improving operational case management, strengthening integrated information systems, and enhancing procedures for handling international operational requests.

The study visit concluded with recommendations to further align national procedures with EU standards, strengthen organisational capacities, improve staffing and continue developing a modern case management system within the Ministry of the Interior.

Third Edition of Equality Talks Explores Gender-Based Discrimination in the Workplace

On 1 July 2026, the project, in cooperation with the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (CPPD), organised the third edition of the Equality Talks series, dedicated to addressing gender-based discrimination in the workplace.

The event brought together representatives of EQUINET, the Equality Bodies of North Macedonia and Austria, the judiciary, academia, relevant ministries, labour inspectorates, trade unions and civil society organisations to exchange knowledge and good practices and discuss effective responses to gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment in the workplace and equal pay for equal work.

The discussions highlighted the challenges victims continue to face when reporting sexual harassment, emphasising the importance of accessible, victim-centred support mechanisms and the need to strengthen further and harmonise the legal framework to ensure effective protection against discrimination.



Participants also stressed that fostering safe, inclusive and respectful workplaces is not only a matter of protecting fundamental rights but also brings tangible benefits for employers. Work environments based on equality and respect contribute to higher employee satisfaction and retention, reduce recruitment and training costs, preserve institutional knowledge, and minimise the risk of lengthy and costly legal proceedings.

The event further underscored the importance of coordinated action among institutions, employers, employees and social partners in advancing equality in the workplace. Participants agreed that achieving equal opportunities and ensuring that everyone's work is recognised and valued equally, regardless of gender, requires sustained cooperation, awareness-raising, and continued policy development.

Equality Talks continues to serve as a platform for dialogue, exchange of experience and promotion of effective anti-discrimination policies. The EU Support for Rule of Law project and the CPPD extend their appreciation to all speakers and participants for contributing to this important discussion and look forward to continuing the series in 2027.





Strengthening Public Prosecution through Strategic Communication and International Cooperation

As part of the conference "From Strategy to Implementation: Strengthening the Public Prosecution Office's Communication with the Public", organised jointly by the Public Prosecution Office of the Republic of North Macedonia and the project on the 3rd of June 2026, the institution's new Communication Strategy and visual identity were officially presented.

The Communication Strategy was developed in cooperation with experts from Component 1 of the EU Support for Rule of Law project. Following its adoption by the Public Prosecution Office, implementation of the Strategy began with the introduction of a new institutional logo. The redesigned logo incorporates European symbols and reflects the institution's commitment to European values and its aspiration to achieve European standards in the rule of law.



The conference brought together representatives of the Public Prosecution Office, the Association of Public Prosecutors, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, and media professionals. Special presentations were delivered by Mr. Paulo Jorge Vieira Morgado de Carvalho, Deputy Prosecutor General of Portugal, and Mr. David Alexandrino Paulo Albuquerque e Aguilar, Senior Adviser to the Prosecutor General of the Portuguese Republic, who shared international standards and practical experience on public prosecution communication, drawing on the practices of the Portuguese Public Prosecution Service.

One day before the conference, a significant step forward in strengthening prosecutorial cooperation was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Portugal. The Memorandum is a result of the cooperation established during the study visit to Portugal by representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office of North Macedonia, organised with the support of the EU Support for Rule of Law project.

The preparation and organisation of the signing of this particularly important document, which strengthens cooperation between the prosecution services in the fight against organised crime, corruption, cybercrime, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and money laundering, as well as in the exchange of experience in institutional capacity building, was supported by the experts of Component 1 of the EU Support for Rule of Law project.

The Memorandum envisions study and working visits between the prosecution services of the two countries, the direct exchange of experience and best practices in organisational management, human resources management, and digital technologies, as well as joint training programmes, seminars, conferences, and workshops for prosecutors in specialised areas. It also foresees the exchange of technical information, expertise, and operational experience between specialised prosecutorial units.



Capturing Success:

A Visual Celebration









Raising Awareness on Lobbying: A Multi-Channel Campaign Reached Over 700,000 Citizens Across North Macedonia

Between 7 April and 5 May 2026, the EU-funded project EU Support for Rule of Law, in close cooperation with the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC), implemented a comprehensive public awareness campaign on lobbying in North Macedonia. The campaign combined digital outreach with direct stakeholder engagement to demystify lobbying, explain the legal framework, and promote transparency and integrity in democratic decision-making.

Lobbying is often misunderstood in North Macedonia's governance. To address this gap, the campaign adopted a multi-layered approach: an animated video explained what lobbying is, how it works, and why it matters; informational leaflets simplified the relevant legal provisions and outlined the rights and obligations of all stakeholders; and digital advertising on Meta and the Google Display Network (GDN) extended the message's reach to a wide and diverse audience across the country.

The digital component of the campaign ran from 7 to 28 April 2026 across two platforms, delivering strong results. The Meta campaign alone reached over 717,000 unique users, generated more than 3.3 million impressions, and recorded over 71,000 post engagements and 5,500 clicks. Simultaneously, the GDN campaign produced over 1 million additional impressions and 1,282 clicks, bringing the combined total to more than 4.4 million impressions across both platforms. The campaign achieved nationwide visibility, with strong performance in Skopje, Ohrid, Tetovo, Kumanovo, Bitola, Prilep, and other regional urban centres, demonstrating that its reach extended well beyond the capital.

The two platforms complemented each other effectively in terms of audience coverage. Meta performed strongly among audiences aged between 25 and 34, which accounted for 25% of reach. The GDN campaign resonated most with older audiences, with the 65+ age group recording the highest click-through rate. Together, the two channels ensured that the campaign's messages were visible across all key age groups, genders, and geographic areas of the country.

Alongside the digital campaign, four dedicated roundtables were organised to engage key stakeholders directly and to facilitate structured dialogue on lobbying regulation and integrity standards. The first, held on 16 April, brought together SCPC representatives and the business community. The second, on 20 April, focused on central government institutions. The third, on 28 April, engaged local government representatives, and the fourth, on 5 May, convened civil society organisations and the media. In total, 73 representatives from institutions at the central and local levels, businesses, civil society, and the media participated in targeted discussions on their specific roles and responsibilities within the lobbying process.



> “This campaign marks an important step in our efforts to build a culture of transparency around lobbying in the Republic of North Macedonia. By reaching citizens across the country and bringing key stakeholders to the table, we are helping to create the conditions for lobbying to be understood, practised, and regulated in line with the highest democratic and integrity standards,” said Adem Cuculj, President of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption.

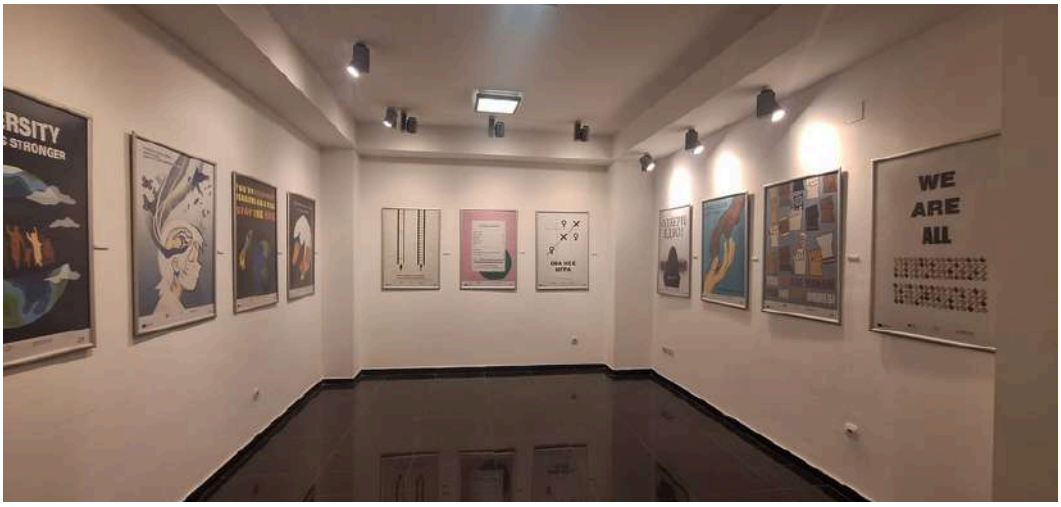
The campaign successfully achieved broad public visibility for lobbying-related communication in North Macedonia and created a meaningful platform for dialogue between the SCPC and the relevant stakeholder communities. By combining the broad reach of digital channels with the depth of direct engagement, the initiative strengthened awareness of lobbying regulation, transparency, and accountability, and laid a solid foundation for future awareness-raising and call-to-action activities in this area.



Poster Exhibition Promotes Equality and Non-Discrimination Through the Eyes of Students

On 19 May 2026, the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (CPPD), the European University Skopje and the EU Support for Rule of Law project opened a poster exhibition dedicated to promoting equality and non-discrimination at OSTEN Gallery in Skopje.

The exhibition showcased 25 posters created by students from the Faculty of Art and Design at the European University Skopje. The works were developed following a lecture and interactive discussion with representatives of the CPPD on equality, discrimination, human rights and the role of the Equality Body. Inspired by the topic, students submitted a total of 45 posters, of which 25 were selected for the exhibition.



Through their creative work, the students explored themes such as equality, respect for diversity, inclusion and the right to live free from discrimination. Their posters offered different perspectives on human rights and demonstrated how art can inspire dialogue and encourage social change.

More than 50 visitors attended the opening, turning the gallery into a space for discussion, creativity and awareness-raising on the importance of equality and non-discrimination.

Participants described the initiative as a valuable learning experience that helped them better understand discrimination and the role of the CPPD in protecting equal rights. They highlighted that combining lectures with creative expression encouraged them to reflect on everyday forms of discrimination and to communicate these messages through visual art. Many also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present their work to the public and contribute to promoting equality through art.

The exhibition demonstrated how art can serve as a powerful tool for promoting equality, encouraging dialogue and raising awareness about the importance of non-discrimination.



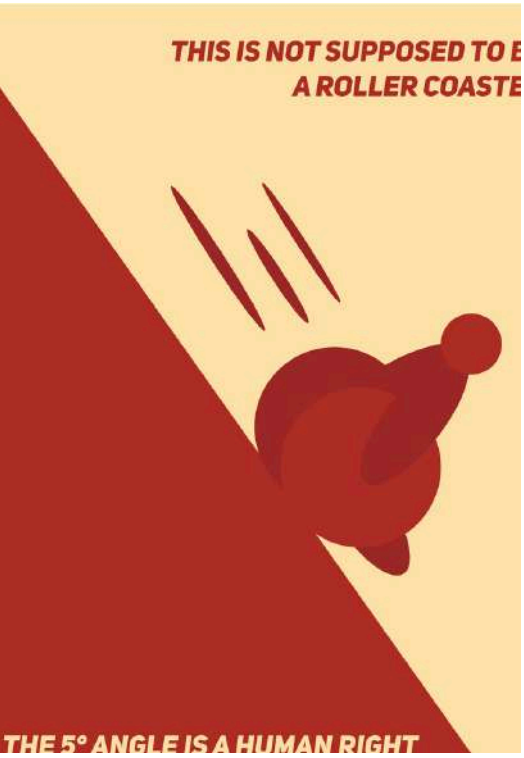


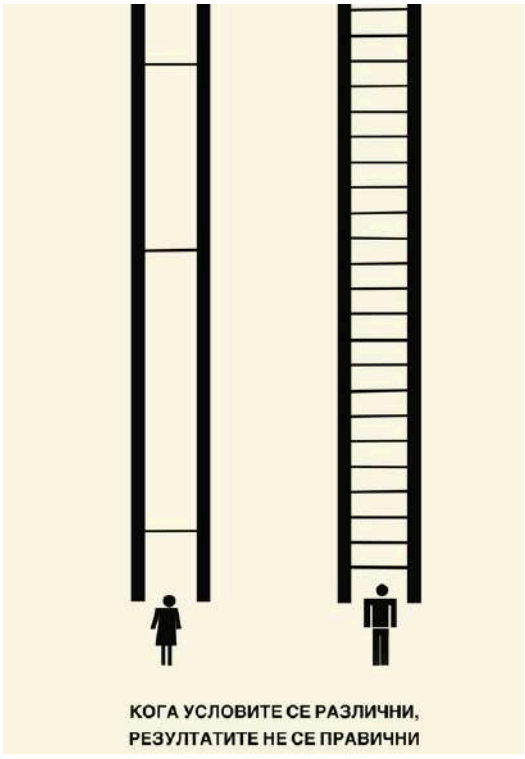



DIVERSITY
MAKES US STRONGER


Универзална декларација за човековите права
Член 23
„Секој, без каква и да е дискриминација,
има право на еднаква плата за иста работа“


@reallygreatsite
ГЛУВИ УШИ И ПРАЗНИ ЗБОРОВИ НЕ НОСАТ ПРАВДА


THIS IS NOT SUPPOSED TO E
A ROLLER COASTE
THE 5° ANGLE IS A HUMAN RIGHT


КОГА УСЛОВИТЕ СЕ РАЗЛИЧНИ,
РЕЗУЛТАТИТЕ НЕ СЕ ПРАВИЧНИ


TRAUMA
IS
NOT
COUTURE


РАЗЛИЧНОСТИТЕ НЕ ПРАВАТ ПОСИЛНИ
Различноста е бец на гордоста


ПРЕСМЕТКА НА МОЖНОСТИ
ТАЛЕНТИРАНА УЧЕНИЧКА
СПОРЕДНИ КРИТЕРИУМИ:
Талент за глума ✓
Изразување ✓
Вокабулар ✓
Талент за пеење ✓
Посветеност ✓
Желба ✓
ГЛАВЕН КРИТЕРИУМ:
Дали родителите се во истата политичка партија со учителката X
ЗАКЛУЧОК: МОЖЕ ДА СЕ ДОБИЕ САМО СПОРЕДНА УЛОГА
ВО НОРМАЛНИ УСЛОВИ ТАЛЕНТОТ БИ БИЛ ДОВОЛЕН.
#стопзанеправдаобразование #стопзадискриминација
mell.

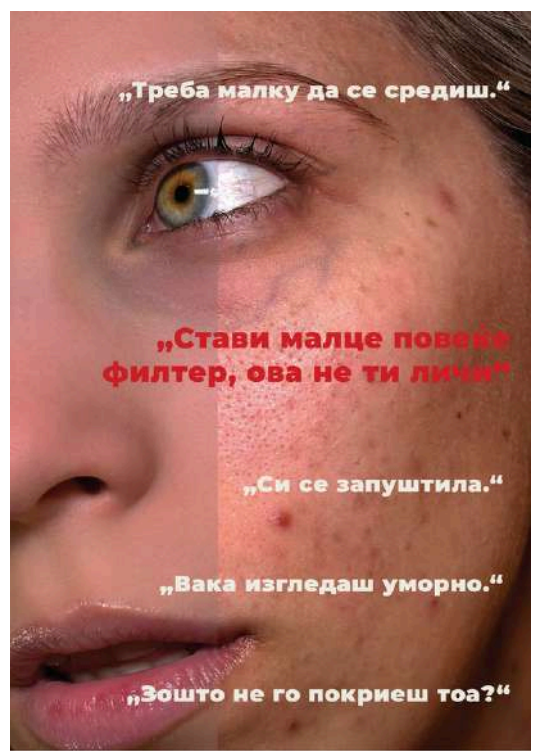

WE
ARE
ALL

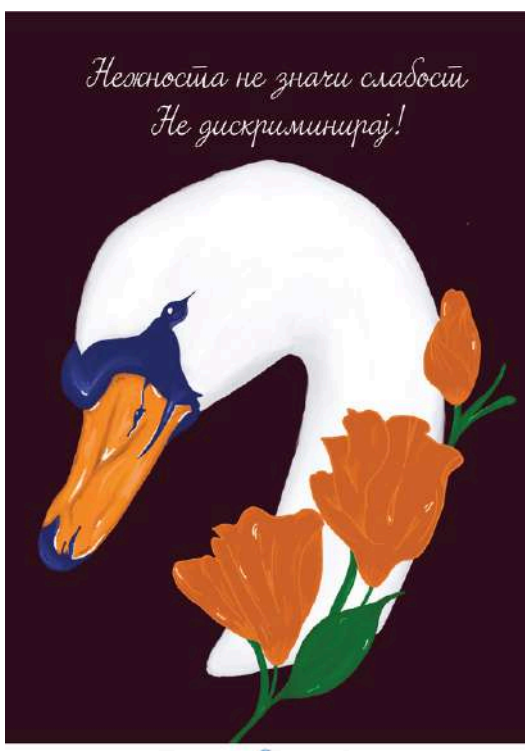

Надежта е
светлина против
дискриминацијата


ОДБЕРИ
ЕДНО!
А која сум јас?


WE ARE HIRING
NO OLDER THAN 28!
WEIGHT 60KG MAX!
SINGLE/ NO
MARRIED YE
MINIMUM HEIGHT 170CM
ETHNIC / CULTU
RELIGION
@reallygr
JUST NOT YOU!


ОВА НЕ Е
ИГРА
СТОП ЗА НАСИЛСТВОТО ВРЗ ЖЕНИТЕ


„Треба малку да се средиш.“
„Стави малце повеќе филтер, ова не ти личи“
„Си се запуштила.“
„Вака изгледаш уморно.“
„Зошто не го покриеш тоа?“


Нежноста не значи слабост
Не дискриминирај!


Freedom lives within,
and no one
can take that away from you.


FARKLI ELLER
AYNI UMUT
Ayrımcılığa karşı birlikte

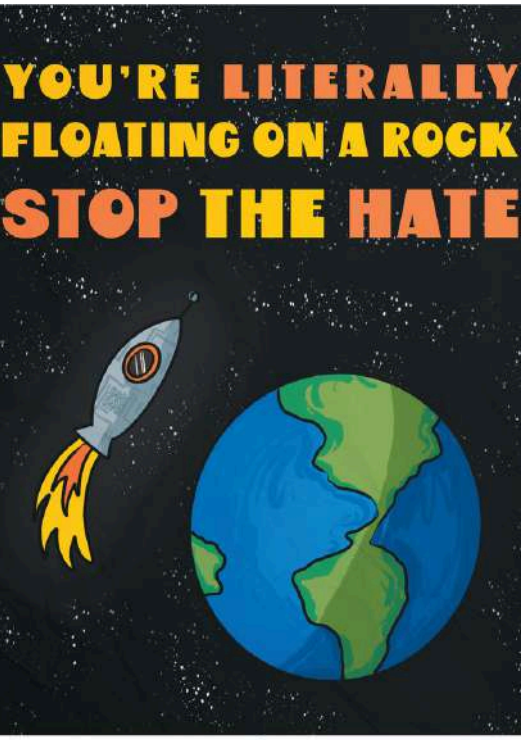

ЧОВЕК







Нашата вредност не е во туѓите зборови









E-Learning Tool on Human Rights Supports Public Administration Reform

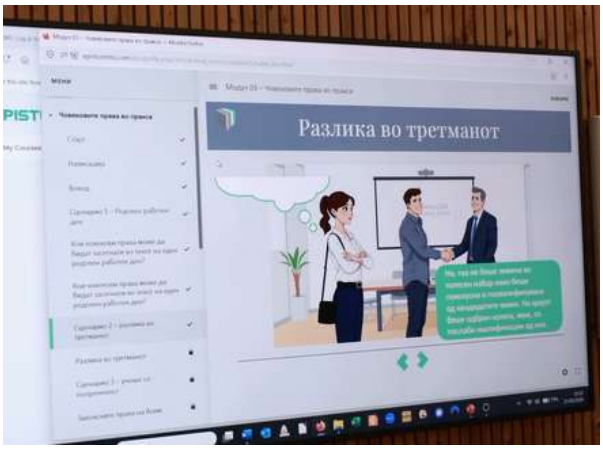
The EU Support for Rule of Law project, funded by the European Union, has developed a new e-learning tool on human rights aimed at strengthening the knowledge and capacities of public administration employees to apply a human rights-based approach in their daily work.

The online course was officially launched during an event where the Ministry of Public Administration and the EU Support for Rule of Law project signed a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing cooperation for promoting human rights education and strengthening professional development opportunities for civil servants.

The e-learning platform will be integrated into the Ministry's Learning Management System (LMS), providing administrative employees with accessible and continuous learning opportunities on key human rights principles, including equality, non-discrimination, accountability and respect for human dignity.

The event gathered representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration, the European Union and the EU Support for Rule of Law project, highlighting the shared commitment to building a professional, efficient and citizen-oriented public administration where respect for human rights is an integral part of institutional culture and everyday work.





In his address, Minister of Public Administration Goran Minchev emphasised that the quality of public administration is not measured only by the regulations it applies, but also by the trust it builds among citizens.

> “Trust in institutions is built when citizens feel that the system respects their rights, acts fairly and ensures equal treatment for everyone. This is why the knowledge, professionalism and responsibility of civil servants are essential for the functioning of a democratic society,” said Minister Minchev.

He further highlighted that public administration reform requires more than legislative changes, as it also involves creating a culture of continuous learning, professional development and strengthening institutional capacities.

EU Ambassador Michalis Rokas stressed the importance of integrating human rights principles into public administration reform and highlighted the role of the new learning tool in strengthening the capacities of civil servants.

> “Respect for human rights plays a vital role in public administration reform. This EU-supported e-learning tool aims to strengthen cooperation and enhance the capacities of public officials to apply a human rights-based approach in practice,” said EU Ambassador Michalis Rokas.

Developed with the support of the EU Support for Rule of Law project, the e-learning tool represents a practical resource for embedding human rights principles into the daily work of public institutions. Through interactive content and practical examples, the platform will support civil servants in better understanding and applying human rights standards while contributing to more accountable, inclusive and citizen-focused public services.

The initiative contributes to the objectives of the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2023–2030 and reflects the continued commitment to building institutions that operate professionally, transparently and in the service of citizens, with respect for human rights as a fundamental element of their functioning.



AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2026

CALENDAR
UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP

Workshop with the Council for Public Prosecutors on disciplinary proceedings

Component 1

SEP

Conference for the presentation of the Human Resource Strategy for the PPO

Component 1

25 - 27 AUG

Support the SCPC WG in the finalisation of the act of systematisation

Component 3

10 - 11 SEP

Study visit to the Slovenian Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (CPC)

Component 3

SEP

Strategy and Action Plan for Cybercrime for MoI (2026-2030)

Component 2

SEP

National Strategy and Action plan for Organised Crime (2026-2030)

Component 2

30 SEP

Human Rights Forum on Children's Rights

Component 4

30 SEP

Inter-institutional expert working group in Shtip on strengthening multisectoral teams

Component 4

EU SUPPORT FOR RULE OF LAW

IMPRINT

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