



LPAC Minutes: EU Support to Confidence Building in the Western Balkans

Date: 2 December 2022

Place: online, via e-mail (due to the work schedules of LPAC members)

Chair:

Armen Grigoryan, Resident Representative

Members

Sanja Bojanic	Deputy Resident Representative
Biljana Cvetanovska Gugoska	Head of Good Governance Unit
Ilmiasan Dauti	Programme Analyst/Programme Manager
Anita Kodzoman	Head of Environment Unit
Suzana Ahmeti	Head of Inclusive Prosperity Unit
Urim Kasapi	Programme Analyst
Sami Bushi	Programme and Monitoring & Evaluation Associate
Darko Chekerovski	Communication Officer
Kristina Plecic	Gender Specialist
Lazar Pop Ivanov	Head of Experimentation
Zoran Samardziev	Operations Manager

Background (Presentation of the project):

The Western Balkan region significantly advanced socially and economically as well as in regional cooperation particularly over the last decade, with EU accession as a primary goal. However, it still continues to deal with unresolved issues and legacies of the conflicts in the 1990s. Transitional justice and reconciliation remain uncompleted, with politics and inter-ethnic tensions continuing to impact domestic and regional relations. A significant number of war crimes cases have remained unprocessed or blocked, processing of an increasing number requires regional cooperation.

In that regard, the project „EU support to the Confidence Building in the Western Balkans” is designed to support confidence-building activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Kosovo. The Project will provide expertise and support to the judicial and law enforcement authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Kosovo in handling war crimes cases at the domestic level, improve the conditions for regional (cross-jurisdictional/cross-boundary) cooperation in processing these cases, enhance the delivery of support services to victims and witnesses and strengthen the capacity of relevant actors in victim support, which

would enhance efficient and effective victim-centered and human rights-based domestic handling of war crimes.

The project will better equip grassroots actors to raise public awareness of past crimes, including dialogue and exchanges amongst a wide range of stakeholders, especially youth and future opinion leaders to contribute to a better understanding of the crimes committed during the 1990s conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. The project will effectively mainstream gender, by systematically including gender perspective and gender responsive justice and rights-based services in design and implementation of activities and policies. In North Macedonia, because of the specifics of the context and non-existence of war crime cases, the focus will be on capacity building and exchange of experiences between the judicial authorities throughout the region, as well as working with youth, particularly on topics related to reconciliation, inter-ethnic dialogue, conflict and conflict resolution, legal aspects of conflict and the aftermath of (armed) conflicts and implementing projects, writing analysis/papers, or organizing dialogues for the 2001-armed conflict in North Macedonia.

The project is expected to start on 1st of January 2023 and to last for four years with a total budget of 7,238,882.00 EUR provided by the EU with total budget of 447,823.59 EUR for North Macedonia.

The project has been discussed with the donor and the partners, and approval was received by all relevant stakeholders.

LPAC conclusions and next steps: In line with UNDP's rules and regulations an internal online LPAC consultation process was organized for the project EU Support to Confidence Building in the Western Balkans. The project documents, were shared, with the LPAC members for their comments in respect of both Project's relevance, feasibility, cost-effectiveness, sustainability, possible synergies and partnerships with other projects in the CO

Until the set deadline, no comments were received, and it is concluded that the project EU Support to Confidence Building in the Western Balkans been approved by the LPAC.

Signed, on behalf of all PAC members, by the PAC Chair:



Armen Grigoryan
UNDP Resident Representative