

## IMPROVING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PENITENTIARY STAFF.

This project is funded by the European Union via the Technical support instrument and implemented by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the European Commission.

**Background:** The project is a joint project co-funded by the European Union and Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe, with two components on: Component 1 - juvenile justice, and Component 2 - prison reform. The project responds to the need to improve the quality and efficiency of the criminal justice system in Slovenia firstly by reforming the juvenile justice system with the development of a future special penal act for juvenile offenders and comprehensive policies and measures in accordance with European standards and good practices. Secondly, the project addresses long-standing issues concerning the lack of organised education and training of prison staff and the improvement of prisoners' treatment.

**Component 1:** In this regard, the project will facilitate the identification of gaps of the existing framework related to juvenile offenders, relevant good practices in other European countries and will support the formulation of recommendations to strengthen the criminal justice system which should be adapted to the personal needs and circumstances of the juvenile at issue and include alternative treatments. Secondly, the project addresses long-standing issues concerning the lack of organised education and training of prison staff and the improvement of prisoners treatment.

**Component 2:** Slovenian penal practice remains orientated towards a humane treatment of prisoners with emphasis placed on an individual approach. Nevertheless, due to the lack of effective tools and limited training capacities, the treatment of prisoners in practice faces significant challenges. To this end, the project will support the introduction of a modern risk and needs assessment tool, as well as the development of key training and research entities that will allow the increase of the professionalism of prison staff within the Slovenian Prison Administration.

#### Duration of the project:

##### **Component 1 on juvenile justice:**

12 months (September 2021-August 2022)

##### **Component 2 on prison reform:**

24 months (September 2021-August 2023)

The Council of Europe is the leading European intergovernmental organisation with an extensive and recognised standing in the area of protection of the human rights of persons deprived of liberty. It comprises 47 member states, 27 of which are members of the European Union.

CoE work in these areas is based on the established synergy between the CoE standards, the monitoring mechanisms put in place to supervise their implementation by the Member States and the technical assistance activities provided to assist countries in need to improve the application of these standards.

#### Main project outcomes:

##### **Component 1**

1. Improvement in the juvenile criminal justice system through new legislation and policies that are in line with European standards and good practices.

##### **Component 2**

1. Improved treatment and better reintegration of prisoners.

2. Increased professionalism of prison staff through enhanced training capacities of the prison administration.

3. Improved human resources policy applied by the Slovenian Prison Administration.

#### More information on:

*Component 1:* Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division, Directorate General of Democracy: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/-improving-the-juvenile-justice-system-in-slovenia>

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*Component 2:* Criminal Law Cooperation Unit, Action against Crime Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/criminal-law-coop>

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