



**HORIZONTAL FACILITY I (2016-2019)
FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY
Project of parliamentary cooperation of the Parliamentary Assembly
With the Parliaments of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina
2016-2018**

RATIONALE

The Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey is a co-operation regional initiative of the European Union and Council of Europe and one of the results of the Statement of Intent signed on 1 April 2014 by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the European Union Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy. The first phase of this joint programme, Horizontal Facility I, financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe, included various Beneficiary-specific and regional initiatives and ran from 2016 to 2019. A new phase II has started in 2019 (see Horizontal Facility II).

PACE PROJECT

In the framework of Horizontal Facility I, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) received funds to develop parliamentary cooperation with two countries: Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, started in December 2016 and ended in April 2018 (see the list of activities below). PACE activities included three major themes and were developed with the expertise of the following PACE Committees:

- Fight against corruption, economic crime and organised crime (Committee on the Honouring Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe – called Monitoring Committee);
- Anti-discrimination, protection of minorities, in particular Roma, and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups (Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Parliamentary Network 'No Hate')
- Freedom of expression and of the media (Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media).

The Assembly bilateral cooperation with Albania was based on PACE Resolution 2199 (2014) on honouring of obligations and commitments by Albania, in which PACE called on all political forces in Albania to adopt anti-corruption and anti-discrimination legislation, especially as regards the recognition of national and ethnic minorities but also on GRECO reports. The bilateral cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina was based on PACE Recommendation 2025 (2013) on the functioning of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which urged the authorities and political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to amend the constitution and electoral legislation in conformity with standards of the Council of Europe.

The cooperation on freedom of expression and of Media was based on PACE Recommendation 1878 (2009) on the funding of public service broadcasting and PACE Resolution 2065 (2015) on increasing transparency of media ownership.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Assembly has organised between December 2016 and April 2018 six activities, national or regional, with a total number of 361 participants registered: Members of the Parliaments and of governments of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, PACE Members of other national parliaments and a number of international experts and representatives of local NGOs of both countries.

CALENDAR OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES IN 2016-2018 and participation statistics

	Dates	Activity	Venue	N° participants
1.	15 December 2016	National Seminar on Combatting Intolerance and Discrimination by countering hate speech: the role of parliamentarians, for Members of the National Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina	SARAJEVO (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	34
2	24 February 2017	National Parliamentary Seminar on Freedom of expression in the Media for Member of the Parliament of Albania	TIRANA (Albania)	44
3	29 May 2017	National Parliamentary Seminar on the Independence and Impartiality of Media, for Members of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina	SARAJEVO (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	51
4	26-27 October 2017	Parliamentary Seminar on Parliamentary integrity: promoting transparency and accountability measures for Members of the Parliaments of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina	Rome (Italy)	65
5	24 November 2017	National Parliamentary Seminar on Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Hatred for Members of the Parliament of Albania	Tirana (Albania)	95
6	10-11 April 2018	Joint Parliamentary Seminar with Venice Commission on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: a major challenge for democratic elections, for Members of the Parliaments of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina	Tirana (Albania)	72
			TOTAL	361