



# Europe and Central Asia

# Overview

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Since 2001, we have worked in the Western Balkan region, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia to help enhance security, stability, rule of law, and respect for human rights within a framework of democratic governance. Our long-term goal is to improve security for the state and its people and thus to contribute to sustainable peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Europe and Central Asia.

We work directly with governments, parliaments, judicial institutions, security providers, independent oversight bodies, civil society organizations, and key national and international stakeholders. Our programmes aim to:

- » Enhance institutional management and governance of security sector institutions;
- » Support parliaments to play a more effective role in the democratic governance of national security sectors;
- » Foster the ability of independent oversight bodies and civil society to pursue security sector accountability;
- » Enhance framework conditions for police cooperation to prevent and fight organized crime and terrorism, while reinforcing border security management and addressing irregular migration;
- » Contribute to integrity-building in the security sector;
- » Make the intelligence sector more accountable, while enhancing oversight and judicial control measures in line with international human rights standards;
- » Enhance gender-sensitive oversight and governance;
- » Foster the integration of human rights protection into security policy and practice;
- » Facilitate the exchange of good practices for cybersecurity governance at the national and regional level.

DCAF's programs in Europe and Central Asia are managed through our headquarters in Geneva, and offices in Ljubljana, Kyiv, and Skopje.



# Highlights

## › LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BORDER SECURITY MANAGEMENT

DCAF plays a key role in streamlining and enhancing regional police cooperation in response to serious and organized crime. The Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (PCC SEE) serves as a dedicated coordination platform. In 2019 the PCC SEE ratified an agreement on automated exchange of DNA, fingerprint, and vehicle registration. We also help to reinforce coordinated border security management which has led to criminal investigations and the dismantling of human smuggling networks.

## › CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECURITY SECTOR LEGISLATION

DCAF supports parliaments to legislate their national security sectors in line with international standards and best practices. In Ukraine, for example, DCAF provided support to the Verkhovna Rada and the International Advisory Group by appraising draft legislation on intelligence and classified information.

## › STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY SECURITY SECTOR OVERSIGHT

We support parliaments in their efforts to improve oversight mechanisms and provide them with access to independent policy expertise. In Armenia, for example, DCAF works closely with the National Assembly and key stakeholders on policy and practice for effective accountability of the security sector. Jointly with OSCE we support the parliament's efforts to strengthen inquiry commissions and facilitate expert exchanges. We also support multi-stakeholder platforms to enhance public dialogue on security sector reform efforts.

## › SUPPORTING INTELLIGENCE SECTOR REFORM

DCAF supports intelligence sector reform by strengthening legislation and advising on the establishment of executive and oversight structures. In North Macedonia, for example, the Parliament now regularly engages in intelligence oversight activities. Judges and prosecutors developed the *Benchbook on Implementation of Measures for Communications Interception*, enabling the application of higher standards of judicial vigilance when dealing with such requests. The reforms' achievements are more visible to the public and are bringing the country closer to achieving its aspirations of EU integration.

## › JUDICIAL CONTROL OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE MEASURES

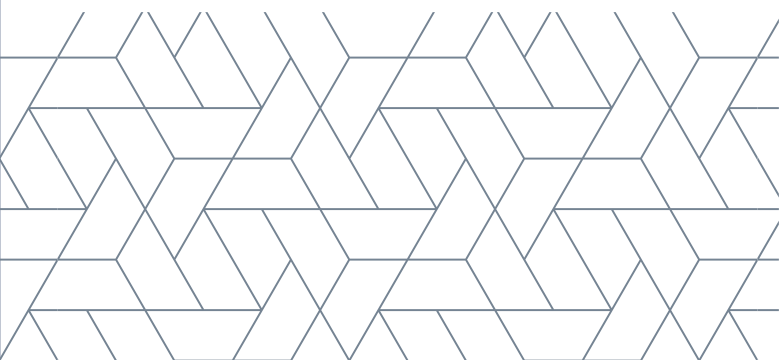
We work with national partners to strengthen the capacity of judicial systems to uphold the rule of law and individual liberties by independently monitoring the use of Special Investigative Measures (SIM) by intelligence services and law enforcement agencies.

## › STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY GOVERNANCE

We are facilitating the exchange of good practices for cybersecurity governance at the national and regional levels. In the Western Balkans, for example, we bring together Members of Parliaments and parliamentary staff from across the region to consider cybersecurity challenges and oversight requirements. We are also strengthening national Computer Emergency Response Teams at both the institutional and staff level.

## › POLICE INTEGRITY BUILDING

DCAF supports governments with strategic guidance and training to curb corruption and build institutional integrity in line with modern policing principles. In Moldova, for example, DCAF has been working closely with the Integrity Team of the Moldovan Ministry of Interior.



# Context



For almost twenty years, DCAF has supported security sector reform efforts in Southeast Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia. Countries in these regions remain diverse in terms of historic legacies, economic resources, and political and social development. Many states, however, share common challenges across their security and justice domains: weak political institutions, a lack of service delivery, and a limited capacity for oversight and accountability. Those factors negatively impact key stakeholders involved in security sector reform and governance: parliaments, governments, security sector providers, independent oversight bodies, civil society, and media.

Countries in Southeast Europe find themselves at a crossroads as the perspective of European Union integration as the main driving force for democratic transitions is fading. Reform processes are vulnerable to waning donor resources and changes in government priorities, and the false perception that Southeast European countries no longer need to engage in security sector reform. As a result, some countries lack political will and at times show open hostility towards improved governance, while others embrace reform.

DCAF acknowledges the strategic importance of continued support to target countries in the region in order to help prevent a backslide. In our programming we work with national partners to identify the specific needs and contexts of each target country and address the most pressing challenges in security sector governance.

DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is committed to making people more secure through accountable and effective security and justice. We help national and international entities to deliver security that respects human rights, upholds the rule of law, and is democratically controlled by:



**Helping to improve the way national security sectors are governed**



**Guiding the development of sound, sustainable security governance policy**



**Promoting locally owned reforms that are inclusive, participatory, and gender responsive**

DCAF pursues five main activities:



**Providing technical expertise to nationally led SSG/R processes**



**Capacity building for state and non-state actors**



**Publishing research and knowledge products**



**Promoting internationally recommended good governance practices**



**Advising on security sector-related legal and policy questions**

**DCAF** Geneva Centre  
for Security Sector  
Governance  
**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

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