



Regional Police Cooperation and Integrity Building in the Western Balkans (PCIB)

Project Background

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) supports the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) in enhancing regional cooperation, strengthening good governance and rule of law, and increasing key capacities in Western Balkan law enforcement agencies through its Regional Police Cooperation and Integrity Building (PCIB) project in the Western Balkans (WB). PCIB focuses on fostering holistic reform within the police agencies of its beneficiaries in order to support and maintain efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity while building public trust in law enforcement institutions. PCIB aims to contribute to the enhanced security of the WB, its people, and the wider European space.

DCAF and the NMFA signed an agreement in November 2018 that set the three-year project mandate. PCIB is headed by the Police Programme within DCAF's Europe and Central Asia division. The Programme assists national law enforcement agencies in enhancing democratic governance of the security sector.

Beneficiaries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

Donor: NMFA and DCAF

Implementing agencies: DCAF and PCC SEE (Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe) Secretariat

Implementation Period: Dec 2018 – Nov 2021

Engagement Group

PCIB supports law enforcement agencies, border police, customs and investigation departments, anti-corruption and internal control departments, and training institutions from its beneficiaries.

Project Aims

By implementing various activities that target political, strategic, and operational levels, PCIB aims to:

- Enhance key capacities within law enforcement organizations in the fight against cross-border organized crime and corruption
- Harmonize regional law enforcement standards with the EU acquis and best practices, aiding in the fulfilment of EU membership conditions
- Enhance the security of the Western Balkans and its people within a framework of democratic governance, rule of law and respect for human rights, with special emphasis on gender equality

Project Donor

Norway has been a member of DCAF since 2002. The NMFA provides support to various projects at DCAF, including the Regional Police Cooperation and Integrity Building Programme (PCIB) and the OSCE SSG Support Project.



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

*All references to Kosovo shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

Project Organization

PCIB is implemented in two strands, both of which feature regional cooperation as an integral element. The first focuses on enhancing cross-border cooperation to prevent, detect, and fight organized crime. The second aims to reduce corruption and build integrity mechanisms through beneficiary-led reforms at strategic and operational levels.

Enhancing Cross-Border Cooperation

Under the EU-initiated Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG), Ministries of Interior/Security in the WB region have identified areas in which cross-border cooperation should be enhanced. PCIB targets four of these:

1. Human trafficking and smuggling along the Balkan route
2. Illicit trafficking of cultural goods
3. The forgery of travel documents
4. Mobile organized crime groups

Regional police cooperation will also be strengthened by supporting the PCC SEE Contracting Parties in their effective implementation of the PCC SEE and by supporting the Western Balkan region in effective border management.

Building Strategic and Operational Measures that Support Integrity

PCIB supports its beneficiaries to increase the effectiveness of their strategic and operational measures related to anti-corruption. This support will target key areas:

1. The creation, development, or revision of Integrity Action Plans
2. The capacity of internal control and professional standards units
3. The capacity of external control mechanisms
4. The reform of training institutions, specifically integrity curricula and human facilitation capacities



Knowledge Products used in PCIB

PCIB deploys a variety of knowledge products, developed under DCAF's Police Integrity Building Programme (PIBP). By disseminating these tools to beneficiaries, PCIB ensures that the approach to capacity building under the project's mandate is both comprehensive and sustainable. DCAF Knowledge Products featured in the work of PCIB include the Toolkit on Police Integrity, the Training Manual on Police Integrity, the Integrity Pocketbook, and two E-learning Courses on Police Integrity.

The Toolkit on Police Integrity can be found in multiple languages at www.dcaf.ch/toolkit-police-integrity. The E-learning courses are used in specific project activities and are currently not available to the public. For more information, please contact the project lead.



Cross-Cutting Issues

While implementing its two main strands, PCIB consistently incorporates elements of gender equality and coordinates with the larger Western Balkan integration process into the EU to ensure that law enforcement reforms complement strategic priorities.

PCIB functions in line with the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, and is committed to increasing the participation and representation of women at decision-making levels in the law enforcement agencies of its beneficiaries. Gender mainstreaming is a parallel process of integrity building, which PCIB promotes and highlights in training activities, specifically within curricula development.

PCIB coordinates its work and activities with the requirements of EU integration. The PCC SEE as a legal instrument transposes EU norms, standards, and good practices into the Western Balkan law enforcement sphere and promotes regional cooperation for PCC SEE Contracting Parties inspired by EU standards. EU recommendations on anti-corruption practices are also referred to as a guidance for beneficiaries in their integrity building processes.

Project Activity Types

- Regional Workshops
- Expert Advice and Mentoring Sessions
- Joint Operations
- Field activities
- Specialized trainings
- Training of Trainers/Facilitators
- Provision of training equipment
- Dissemination of DCAF knowledge products

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