



THE EUROPEAN UNION'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR KOSOVO

STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE FORENSIC SERVICES IN KOSOVO

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The Project “Strengthening and Modernizing the Forensic Services in Kosovo” brings together national and international experts in forensic medicine and toxicology, anthropology, archaeology and related disciplines.

Through this Project the Ministry of Justice aims to strengthen the forensic services at the Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM) under its administration. The work concentrates on developing technical and human capacities, strengthening also the administrative structures of the DFM. The Project assists the Department to become fully operational and apply European and international standards and best practices in its work.

Enhancement of institutional cooperation at the national level in addition to participation of the DFM in the EU forensic networks and forensic science community are important parts of the activities. Access to international data bases, eBook libraries and eJournals guarantees updated information of the rapid developments in forensic methods. Purchasing new equipment and instruments, including IT equipment for the staff, will improve the working conditions and diminish the occupational health and safety hazards in the future.

The implementation of a comprehensive Training Programme within the Project was initiated in June 2014. Training is mainly targeted to the DFM staff but is also open to other actors in forensic service system in Kosovo. The training has been well received by local experts. The Training Programme has been designed bearing in mind the future challenges when the tasks of EULEX will be handed over to the DFM.

Raising awareness on issues related to forensic medicine among all actors as well as among media and public is one of the goals of the Project. The high level conference ‘Missing Persons – Way Forward’ held on 8th September, 2015, brought together internationally acknowledged experts, having long and extensive experience of jurisprudence, human rights, forensic science and investigations in several countries.

The Project is managed by the EU Office in Kosovo and funded through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), by which the EU supports reforms in the enlargement countries with financial and technical help. The IPA funds build up the capacities of the countries throughout the accession process, resulting in progressive, positive developments in the region. This Project supports the general law enforcement and transparent juridical systems and continues the EU assistance to Kosovo in strengthening the institutional capacity in the rule of law sector.



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the European Union Office in Kosovo**

**Implemented by National Institute
for Health and Welfare (THL) and
DFM, University of Helsinki, Finland**

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PROJECT FACT SHEET

NAME	Strengthening and Modernizing the Forensic Services in Kosovo
DURATION	24 months, starting from 10 February 2014
VALUE	899,970 Euros
IMPLEMENTED BY	National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Helsinki, Finland
BENEFICIARY	Ministry of Justice, Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM)
MAIN LOCATIONS OF ACTIVITY	Pristina, Kosovo wide
OBJECTIVES	<p>The overall objective of the project is to support Kosovo authorities to strengthen the rule of law enforcement and transparent judicial system, with a focus on forensic medicine services.</p> <p>The purpose of the project is to strengthen and modernize the forensic services at the Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM), including Missing Persons Operation, by enhancing its technical and administrative capacity.</p>
RESULTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. DFM has fully operational administrative and organizational structure that provides forensic services and investigative assistance throughout Kosovo in a professional and efficient manner;2. DFM staff is capable to deliver forensic services as defined in the legislation;3. Judges, prosecutors, defence counsels, police and civil society contribute towards enhancing the quality of forensic medicine in Kosovo;4. DFM is part of the EU forensic networks and community
MAIN ACTIVITIES	<p>Comprehensive training and capacity building of the DFM-staff; Introduction of internationally recognized standards, recommendations and best practices in forensic medicine; Enhancement of national and regional collaboration in forensic medicine.</p>
FINAL BENEFICIARIES	DFM staff, Kosovo Police, judges and prosecutors, health service institutions, the families of the victims/missing persons related to armed conflict in Kosovo and its immediate aftermath
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