

DECLARATION ON COOPERATION  
SOUTH-EAST EUROPE NPM NETWORK

1. Having in mind the need for establishing stronger cooperation and building on the fruitful experience of the European NPM Network set up by the Council of Europe and the European Union, National Preventive Mechanisms of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (NPM) of Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia, at the meeting held on 25th and 26th March 2013th in Belgrade, agreed to establish a regional NPM Network for South-East Europe (SEE).
2. The name of the Network is "South-East Europe NPM Network" (SEE NPM Network).
3. The main purpose of the SEE NPM Network is to establish greater cooperation and to exchange experiences, to create synergy between members, to provide support and to create conditions for effective fulfillment of the NPM mandate specified in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).
4. Cooperation within the SEE NPM Network is voluntary.
5. Membership in the SEE NPM Network is open for accession to all NPMs of SEE States parties of the OPCAT.
6. The SEE NPM Network is open for cooperation with organizations and associations that aim to protect human rights and to fight against torture.
7. The SEE NPM Network will specifically establish cooperation with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other relevant international bodies.
8. Cooperation within the SEE NPM Network will be developed through regular annual meetings, thematic meetings, joint visits to places of detention, and sharing of knowledge, relevant documents and other information.
9. The SEE NPM Network may create working groups for specific issues (e.g. jurisprudence, health care etc.)
10. The SEE NPM Network may establish a list of experts in the field of torture prevention.
11. The SEE NPM Network will support newly established NPMs, by sharing methodologies, knowledge and experience.
12. All decisions are made by common agreement.
13. Members of the SEE NPM Network shall agree which NPM will chair the SEE NPM Network for a period of one year.
14. The Chair person of the SEE NPM Network or another member designated by him, shall represent the SEE NPM

Agreeing parties:

NPM Albania, Andi Bala  
NPM Croatia, Ira Bedrač  
NPM Macedonia, Anica Tomšić-Stojkowska  
NPM Montenegro, Petar Ivezić  
NPM Slovenia, Ivan Šelih  
NPM Serbia, Miloš Janković

Also agreeing:  
Ombudsmen BiH, Ljubomir Sandić