

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 Prevention 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 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 that have ratified 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 Chairperson of the SEE NPM Network or another member designated by him, shall represent the SEE NPM Network.
15. Each member shall bear its own costs for participation in activities of the SEE NPM Network.
16. The SEE NPM Network can obtain funds for financing activities by external entities.
17. This Declaration is made in the English language and all the other languages of members of the SEE NPM Network.

Agreeing parties:

NPM Albania, *Andi Bala*

NPM Croatia, *Ira Bedrač*

NPM Macedonia, *Anica Tomšić-Stojkovska*

NPM Montenegro, *Petar Ivezić*

NPM Slovenia, *Ivan Šelih*

NPM Serbia, *Miloš Janković*

Also agreeing:

Ombudsmen BiH, *Ljubomir Sandić*