



**SOUTH-EAST EUROPE (SEE)
NPM NETWORK** |

SEE NPM NETWORK- 10 YEARS

National preventive mechanisms (NPMs) of the so-called South-East Europe (SEE) established on 26th of March 2013 in Belgrade a network, for the purpose of achieving greater cooperation, exchange of experiences and other joint activities for achieving most effective fulfilment of the NPM mandate specified in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) in the region.

On this particular occasion, representatives of the NPMs of **Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia** (in presence and agreement also of one of the Ombudsmen from Bosnia and Herzegovina) adopted **Declaration on Cooperation**, elected the Chairperson (Mr. Ivan Šelih, Deputy Ombudsman of the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia – for a period of one year) and defined initial objectives.

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In October 2013, the Austrian Ombudsman Board filed an application to participate in the SEE NPM Network, which was then discussed at the 1st meeting of the Medical Group of the SEE NPM Network, held in Belgrade on 24 and 25 October 2013, and unanimous decision (also taking into account Article 5 of the Declaration of Cooperation) to admit the NPM Austria to the network membership had been reached. Later, the Network joined Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and Kosovo.

At the moment SEE NPM Network has 11 full members and 2 observers. The members of the SEE NPM Network consult each other with practical questions that arise during their monitoring work. Twice a year network meetings are organized by one of its members. The network also formed two working groups.

In the period 2013-2014, the Network was chaired by the Slovenian NPM, then 2015 by the Albanian NPM, Austrian NPM for 2016, Serbian NPM for 2017, Montenegrin NPM 2018, Macedonian NPM 2019, Croatian NPM 2020, Hungarian NPM for 2021, Austrian NPM for 2022 and Greek NPM for 2023.

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From Declaration:

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).

Cooperation within the SEE NPM Network is voluntary.

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.

The SEE NPM Network may create working groups for specific issues (e.g. jurisprudence, health care etc.)

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2013/2014 – Slovenia

26 March 2013, Belgrade – Establishment of the network

2013/2014 – Slovenia

26 – 27 May 2014, SEE NPM Network meeting in Ljubljana

20 – 21 October 2014, Skopje – Medical Workshop on “Monitoring of psychiatric establishments”

24 – 25 October 2013, Belgrade, Serbia, 1st meeting of the MEDICAL GROUP of SEE Network

27 – 28 November 2014, Belgrade – OPCAT Forum on “Preventive Approach to the Eradication of Torture”

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2015 – Albania

29 – 30 June in 2015, Tirana “Health services provided to persons deprived of liberty in the region of South Eastern Europe: Problems and achievements revealed during the practice of the mechanisms and challenges to prevent maltreatment through the use of physical restraint and isolation”

29 October 2015, Tirana, „Challenges, concerns, and the need for common monitoring standards of South-East European mechanisms in the context of Migration”

October 30, 2015 , The Conference “Towards common standards for monitoring the treatment of asylum seekers, refugees and illegal immigrants in South East Europe”

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2016 – Austria

21 – 22 April 2016, SEE NPM Meeting in Salzburg – Workshop „Homes for the elderly/care institutions and dementia – standards in health care and medication-based deprivation of liberty”

10 – 12 October 2016, SEE NPM Meeting in Vienna, Workshop „Homes for the elderly/care institutions and dementia – standards in health care and medication-based deprivation of liberty”

29 – 30 November 2016, Zagreb, Conference of National Preventive Mechanisms of the South-East Europe Network-Strengthening the follow-up of NPM Recommendations, Implementation of the UN Mandela Rules and Role of NPMs in protection of refugees and migrants, organized by Legal group chaired by Croatian NPM

13 – 14 December 2016, Belgrade – Protection of the Human Rights of Refugees and Migrants in the Countries of South-East Europe – Preventive Approach”

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2017 – Serbia

25 – 26 May 2017, Treatment of persons with mental disabilities in detention;
13 December 2017, Methodology of preventive visits to places of detention;

2018 – Montenegro

29 – 30 May 2018, Prevention of suicides and overdoses in detention centers and Status of NPM staff in the member states
12 December 2018, Immigration Detention and Effective Alternatives

2019 – North Macedonia

11 -12 June 2019, NPM strategies for protection of the reprisals
2 – 3 October 2019, Specific needs of children in detention

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2020 – Croatia

12 – 13 October 2020, online „Monitoring safeguards in the first hours of police custody“

7 December 2020, online workshop Monitoring safeguards in the first hours of police custody
– Follow-up and responding to Covid-19-related challenges;

22 December 2020, online workshop, Treatment of the persons addicted to psychoactive substances in the penitentiaries, organized by Medical group chaired by Serbian NPM;

2021 – Hungary

20 July 2021, online workshop on the impact of COVID-19 to NPM activities, with special regard to the challenges and visiting priorities

29 – 30 September 2021, workshop with the topic “Specific techniques of interviewing members of vulnerable groups“

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2022 – Austria

20 – 22 June 2022, workshop with the topic “Elderly persons and people with disabilities in detention;

15 – 16 November 2022, workshop with the topics “Coercive measures in adolescents and adults with mental illness” and “Children and adolescents with mental and physical disabilities”;

2023 Greece,

1-2 June 2023, Monitoring mental health units in correctional facilities;

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<https://www.see-npm.net/2021/09/13/video-monitoring-safeguards-in-police-custody-and-on-monitoring-during-covid-19/>

