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Publication of "Manual on Lustration, Public Access to Files of the Secret Services and Public Debates on the Past in the Western Balkans"



The Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe* announces the publication of the "Manual on Lustration, Public Access to Files of the Secret Services and Public Debates on the Past in the Western Balkans", which is available on the webpage, www.lustration.net, free of charge.

The manual gives a detailed overview on the attempts undertaken to face the authoritarian past in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Serbia and Montenegro. The publication sheds light on how these countries dealt with developing lustration legislation and how the laws were followed by corresponding procedures and practices. Special attention is given to the legislation allowing public access to the files of the secret services and the manual also reports on how the laws are actually implemented.

It targets legislators, legal experts, officials of public administrations, and civil and human rights activists and groups. It contains a unique collection of information on the efforts of the countries of the Western Balkans to use lustration as a mean to deal with an authoritarian past.

The publication has been produced under the umbrella of the EC funded project *Disclosing hidden history: Lustration in the Western Balkans* and follows the four major aims: enhancing the public debate on the past; improving lustration procedures; increasing legal and political awareness; strengthening citizens participation and the role of civil and human rights groups.

* in cooperation with the Albanian Human Rights Group in Tirana, the Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies of the University of Sarajevo, the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Zagreb, the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia in Skopje and the Centre for Antiwar Action in Belgrade.



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