For a Professional and Transparent Police

Project Update

As the Swedish Police Support to Police Reform in North Macedonia Project enters a new chapter, we are pleased to share key developments and activities driving progress toward modern, community-focused policing.

March - April 2025 Highlights

Strengthening Community Policing and Juvenile Justice in the Republic of North Macedonia

Project Leadership Transition

In April, the Project welcomed new leadership as Nicholas H. Kajane assumed the role of Project Manager, succeeding Mikael Koskenniemi. A series of handover and introductory meetings ensured a seamless transition, safeguarding the continuity and momentum of project activities. The incoming manager was formally introduced to counterparts and stakeholders, reaffirming the Project's commitment to strong partnerships and collaborative implementation.

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Community Policing

Preparing for Training of Managers in Community Policing

A coordination meeting was held at the Idrizovo Police Training Center in anticipation of the upcoming Training of Trainers (ToT) course for Training of Managers in Community Policing, scheduled for May. This preparatory session finalized key administrative and logistical arrangements and clarified the division of responsibilities between the Swedish and North Macedonian police authorities. The meeting also served as an opportunity for the outgoing Project Manager to introduce the new leadership to the core training team.

Strengthening Stakeholder Coordination in Community Policing

A dedicated workshop on stakeholder coordination was held to deepen the integration of the Community Policing Concept within operational frameworks. Facilitated by Swedish experts *Cajsa Velden* and *Chris Helmer*, the session convened police station commanders, deputy commanders, and heads of criminal units from the pilot stations in Kisela Voda, Bit Pazar, and Gjorce Petrov. The dialogue emphasized inter-agency collaboration and strategic implementation to promote more responsive and community-oriented policing practices.

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Juvenile Justice Component

Strengthening Capacities for Forensic Interviewing with Children

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve investigative practices, a three-day workshop was held focusing on the development of a curriculum for forensic interviewing techniques (FIT). The workshop brought together criminal investigators from North Macedonia and Swedish experts *Ulrika Tacken* and *Cecilia Markfjärd*.

The main focus was on creating a standardized program designed to equip police officers working with children with modern, ethical, and effective interviewing skills. This knowledge will be transferred through cascade training, further contributing to the enhancement of investigative standards and the strengthening of institutional capacities at the national level.

Swedish Support to Police Reform in North Macedonia
Swedish Police Authority