

## Prevention of suicides and overdoses in detention centers and status of NPM staff in the member states



The Hungarian Commissioner for Fundamental Rights was represented by the deputy head of the Office's OPCAT NPM Department Ms. Katalin Haraszti at the conference entitled *"Prevention of suicides and overdoses in detention centers and status of NPM staff in the member states"*, which was organized by the South-East Europe NPM Network between May 28 and 30, 2018 in Podgorica, Montenegro.

The participants presented the process of the reception of detainees in the remand prisons and police detention facilities, as well as the prevention of the detainees' self-harming behaviors and suicide attempts in the member state of the South-East Europe NPM Network that they represented at the conference.

In her talk, Katalin Haraszti drew attention to that according to the data provided by WHO, Hungary is ranked third in Europe with regard to the number of suicides. From her presentation, the participants could learn about the figures disclosed by the Hungarian prison system and police, furthermore, about the key requirements set out in decree No. 11/2010. (III. 26.) IRM of Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement on the Methods of Prevention and Treatment of the Suicide Attempts of the Detainees. In her speech, the presenter suggested that the National Preventive Mechanisms pay increased attention to the monitoring of those measures which are taken in order to preserve the mental health of those who live in non-traditional places of detention, as well as to prevent their suicide attempts.

Ms. Katalin Haraszti mentioned the civil proceedings launched by the principal of the Cseppkő Children's Home for violating their reputation against the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. As the participants gave account of similar experiences, Ms. Haraszti proposed that the South-East Europe NPM Network discuss the current issues related to the execution of Article 21 of OPCAT and the conflicts of interests between the places of detention and the NPM on another occasion.