



Partnership for Good Governance 2019-2021 (PGGII)

Project: Implementation of Judicial Reforms

Component 1: Strengthening the right to a fair trial in Belarusian criminal justice

What is the goal?

- ▶ To strengthen the protection of individuals under the jurisdiction of Belarus through enhancing the country's criminal justice system, and in particular by giving Belarusian legal professionals knowledge and skills to apply the European and international standards in the field of criminal justice, including on issues related to the abolition of death penalty.

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ The general public.
- ▶ Legal professionals and the National Training Institution providing in-service training to them.
- ▶ University students and teaching staff.

How does the project work?

- ▶ Through tailor-made face-to-face trainings for students and legal professionals.
- ▶ Through the introduction of the Council of Europe HELP online courses into the training process at universities and the National Training Institution for legal professionals.
- ▶ Through training-of-trainers course on the methodology of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) for the teaching staff of universities and the National Training Institution.
- ▶ Through translation and dissemination of materials on the Council of Europe human rights standards among legal professionals, legal scholars and students.
- ▶ Through raising awareness of the European human rights standards, the European Convention of Human Rights and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, including as regards death penalty.
- ▶ Through involving legal professionals in debates on human rights issues with leading European experts.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ Knowledge of Belarusian legal community on the European standards in the field of criminal justice, including on issues of the abolition of death penalty, increased
- ▶ European standards in the field of criminal justice, including fair trial principles, are made part of the system of professional training of legal professionals.

How much does it cost?

- ▶ The total budget is EUR 500,000.
- ▶ 80% is funded by the European Union and 20% by the Council of Europe. The programme is implemented by the Council of Europe.

Where can I learn more?

- ▶ Human Rights National Implementation Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), Council of Europe.

What is the project duration?

- ▶ The project runs from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020.

- ▶ Ms. Maria Oreshkina, Project Co-ordinator (Strasbourg) maria.oreshkina@coe.int

Component 2: Supporting the civil justice reforms – strengthening the judicial system in Belarus

What is the goal?

- ▶ The project aims to support the Belarusian authorities in carrying out the current judicial reform and in providing better alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for citizens to settle disputes before lodging a complaint before courts and thus help take the pressure from the courts.

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ Belarussian people who will have better mechanisms for resolution of disputes at their disposal.

How does the project work?

- ▶ In close co-operation with the national partners (Ministry of Justice responsible for mediation reform) and the Supreme Court (responsible for the judiciary).
- ▶ Through a tailor-made approach to meet the concrete needs of the country

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ Functioning of regional courts improved; their capacities, procedures, and practices in civil cases strengthened;
- ▶ The implementation of effective mediation procedure in civil cases facilitated.

How much does it cost?

- ▶ The total budget is EUR 170,000.
- ▶ 80% is funded by the European Union and 20% by the Council of Europe. The project is implemented by the Council of Europe

What is the project duration?

- ▶ The project runs from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020.

Where can I learn more?

- ▶ Legal Co-operation Division, Justice and Legal Co-operation Department of the Council of Europe

- ▶ Oleksandra Sytnyk, Project Manager, Strasbourg
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This project is a bilateral project with Belarus implemented under the Partnership for Good Governance Programme (phase II also referred to as PGGII).

In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed that targeted co-operation activities with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus – the EU's Eastern Partnership countries – would be implemented under the Partnership for Good Governance programme. The phase I of the programme (PGGI) started in 2015 and was completed in 2018; the second phase of the programme (PGGII) was launched in 2019 and will run until 2021.

These co-operation activities aim to strengthen the capacity of the Eastern Partnership countries, which are member States of the Council of Europe, with the exception of Belarus, to implement domestic reforms to bring them closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.