

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP  
FACILITY**

**Results and Achievements  
2011-2013**

## **Introduction**

In 2009, the European Union launched the Eastern Partnership (EaP) policy aimed at supporting democratic and economic reforms in six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. These reforms help stabilise and bring prosperity to the region, directly benefitting citizens in the partner countries and across Europe.

In March 2011, the Council of Europe joined the EU in this effort and developed the Council of Europe Eastern Partnership Facility, to support measures set out by the EaP Platform "Democracy, Good Governance and Stability", to assist the EaP countries in implementing domestic reforms in the fields of elections, judiciary, the fight against corruption and cybercrime.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, signed the Council of Europe EaP Facility on 15 December 2010. Its period of operation is 1 March 2011 to December 2013 with a budget of €4 million.

## **Objectives**

The CoE Facility helps to provide support to enhance the reform processes in the six partner countries through a multilateral approach and brings EaP partner countries closer to the Council of Europe and EU standards and practice in the field of judicial reform, elections, the fight against corruption and cybercrime.

The Facility supports the EaP countries' reforms by providing:

- a framework for capacity development and training;
- technical assistance and advice for sustaining on going reforms.
- a platform for the exchange of ideas and expertise among participating countries;

During the operational period, 96 actions were conducted in the framework of the CoE Facility in the following areas: promoting judicial reform (15); supporting good governance and combating corruption (29); fighting cybercrime (25); enhancing electoral standards (19); and maintaining Facility co-ordination (8).

## **Beneficiaries and stakeholders**

Beneficiaries and stakeholders include ministries of justice and the interior, national agencies of public administration, prosecutors' offices, parliaments, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering bodies, central electoral commissions and ombudsmen offices, judiciary, media and civil society.

## **Structure**

The Council of Europe's Office of the Directorate General of Programmes ensures co-ordination and guidance, monitors results, and increases visibility of the CoE EaP Facility. Activities are implemented by the DGI (Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law), DGII (Directorate General of Democracy) with the support of our Field Offices in Yerevan, Baku, Kiev, Chişinău and Tbilisi. The Facility Steering Committee regularly updates partners on progress and impact, monitors results, advises on decisions and requirements, supervises adherence to visibility guidelines.

Activities include conferences, seminars, working groups, workshops, networking, analytical reports and training sessions led by Council of Europe experts and Secretariat. These activities usually involve participants from several partner countries, thus ensuring a strong regional impact.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **General**

The Facility enhanced domestic judicial reform and improved electoral standards and reinforced the fight against corruption and cybercrime by encouraging in particular the sharing of ideas and expertise at regional level. It also provided a framework for multilateral activities, such as capacity development and training.

The Facility:

- revised legal framework and supported to apply new legislation in line with European standards;
- strengthened judiciary and electoral reforms against corruption and cybercrime;
- established national and regional co-operation and a national unit on cybercrime;
- involved civil society in making decisions and reinforced a regional network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

## **Judicial reform**

The Facility supported judicial reform by promoting best practices amongst the judiciary in EaP countries. For example, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova moved closer to Council of Europe standards by amending their legislation on judicial self-governing bodies and judges' status and training.

The Project:

- analysed legislation and practices of independent, professional and efficient judiciaries;
- addressed deficiencies in each participating country;
- created a regional network of judicial and legal professionals;
- prepared four reports on the following topics;
- the independence of the judiciary and individual judges;
- the role of the bar, access to the legal profession, lawyer training and ethical standards, and disciplinary proceedings against lawyers;
- initial and on going training for judges;
- the efficiency and performance of the judicial system.

## **Supporting electoral standards**

The Facility supported partner countries in the areas of pre-electoral assistance, professionalism of election observers, women's participation in political and public life, raising young voter awareness, establishment of voters' lists and registers, settlement of electoral disputes, which ensured interaction between electoral management bodies.

The Project:

- improved electoral process organisation;
- reinforced the roles of the Central Election Commissions and electoral administrations;
- strengthened NGOs involved in observing elections by improving the professionalism of local observers;
- created a network promoting voter participation and critical attitudes toward campaigns and the electoral process.

## **Fight against corruption**

The Facility supported good governance and reinforced the public administration and criminal justice sectors in the fight against corruption.

The Project:

- developed anti-corruption policy and strategy;
- published an anti-corruption policy handbook;
- reviewed money-laundering cases in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine;
- provided expertise for the National Action Plan (Pilot Azerbaijan);
- provided expertise for the Anti-Corruption State Programme (Pilot Ukraine);
- developed e-governance methodology (Pilot Azerbaijan);
- assessed a political finance draft law and prepared it for submission to Parliament (Pilot Republic of Moldova);
- assessed corruption risks and drafted a risk assessment typology study;
- developed training manuals on economic crime and legal personnel liability;
- drafted a manual on verifying asset declarations;
- drafted training materials and trained ethics instructors;
- trained civil servants on prevention of corruption (including for Belarus).

## **Fight against cybercrime**

The Facility helped criminal justice authorities fight cybercrime and bring partner countries in line with European and international instruments and practices, including the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

The partner countries:

- defined priorities in the fight against cybercrime;
- assessed strategies for cybercrime prevention and criminal justice;
- prioritised activities to ensure a comprehensive response to cybercrime and other offences involving electronic evidence;
- participated more actively in anti-cybercrime efforts.

The project:

- provided tools to combat cybercrime and gave advice on strengthening the legal framework;
- assessed legal provisions for compliance with international standards, in particular the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime;

- identified legislative deficiencies and encouraged partner countries to undertake reforms;
- discussed legislation, public and private information sharing and analysis, obstacles to effective investigation (such as criminal money flows on the Internet), co-operation between law enforcement and Internet service providers, and the use of specialised high-tech crime units;
- improved international co-operation and efficiency of 24/7 points of contact in all partner countries, as they are parties to the Budapest Convention.

## **Facility Co-ordination**

The Facility transversal component ensured the co-ordination of all projects and gave visibility to Council of Europe and EU activities.

The Facility transversal component:

- developed a regional network of national co-ordinators, strengthening their role in carrying out Facility activities;
- co-ordinated projects and facilitated the sharing of ideas and expertise;
- advised on project methodology, financial management and reporting;
- enhanced communication between the EU and the Council of Europe during the Facility programming and monitoring;
- ensured the Facility's communication and visibility.

## **Contacts**

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