

# Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



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## NOTE FOR THE PRESS

### Strengthening democracy and local governance in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus: sharing the vision

#### Regional Project

##### Who will benefit?

- ▶ Citizens who will receive an improved local governance
- ▶ Local and regional authorities and their respective associations
- ▶ Ministries responsible for local self-government

##### The aims of the project

- ▶ to foster a more efficient, transparent and ethical governance at the local level;
- ▶ to improve the consistency of legal frameworks, and to develop recommendations for improvement;
- ▶ to develop and adapt the European standard local finance benchmarking tool to the specific countries

##### How will the project work?

- ▶ through bilateral work as well as multilateral exchange of experience and cross-fertilisation;
- ▶ special emphasis on common issues and comprehensive approach;
- ▶ flexible forum for stakeholders to discuss European standards of local governance;
- ▶ emphasis on expertise, adaptation of approaches, tools, methods to each country.

##### Project activities

- ▶ regional studies on the role and responsibilities of mayors and councillors, on inter-municipal cooperation and local finance benchmarking;
- ▶ peer-to-peer exchanges and study visits; training sessions; workshops; conferences; awareness raising actions;
- ▶ country-specific studies and publications;
- ▶ development of recommendations for reform and legal expertise

##### How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget for the project is 2,570,000 Euros

##### Length of project

- ▶ the project will run from 1 January 2015- 31 December 2017
- ▶ It was launched on 15 April 2015

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#### Who is responsible for the project?

The project is implemented by the Council of Europe's

- ▶ Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform
- ▶ Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

#### For more information

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*In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed that targeted cooperation activities with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus - the EU's Eastern Partnership countries - would be implemented under a 'Programmatic Cooperation Framework' (PCF).*

*These cooperation activities will strengthen the capacity of 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.*

*The overall PCF budget for 2015-2017 is €33.8 million.*

**<http://eap-pcf-eu.coe.int>**