

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



Mid-term results of projects in Armenia under the Council of Europe /European Union Programmatic Cooperation Framework (2015-2017)

What is Programmatic Cooperation Framework?

In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed to implement targeted cooperation activities with EU's Eastern Partnership countries to bring them closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The projects under the 'Programmatic Cooperation Framework' (PCF) in 2015-2017, are funded primarily by the EU, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe.

In addition to 14 regional projects, there are **four country-specific projects for Armenia**, with a **total budget of € 2.2 million**.

Strengthening healthcare and human rights protection in prisons in Armenia

The project is running from March 2015 until February 2017 with a budget of 900,000 Euros ([more information](#))

- ▶ The assessment mission report on health care in prisons in Armenia has been published.
- ▶ A Concept paper on "Upgrading medical services in penitentiaries in the Republic of Armenia" was developed and circulated among state agencies, civil society organisations and international experts for comments.
- ▶ Following the recommendations of the Concept paper, amendments to the Penitentiary Code, Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, and the Government Decree N 825 "On approving the order for organisation of medical-sanitary and medical-preventive assistance to the detainees and convicts, on using medical institutions of healthcare bodies and engaging their medical staff thereof" have been drafted and forwarded to the Justice Ministry for their comments.
- ▶ List of medical equipment to be procured for all 11 prison healthcare units and technical specifications have been prepared, approved by the Ministry of Justice, and submitted to the Tender Board, with the view of launching the tender call in October 2016.
- ▶ Two training modules on Health promotion and prevention activities in prisons and Medical ethics and human rights for prison staff have been finalised and reviewed.
- ▶ A network of 33 national trainers has been established, who will hold cascade seminars for prison's medical and non-medical staff tentatively from November 2016.

Supporting the criminal justice reform and combating ill-treatment and impunity in Armenia

The project is running from July 2015 to July 2017 with a budget of 500,000 Euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Expert assistance was provided to harmonise the draft Criminal Procedure and Criminal Codes of Armenia, as well as the laws on the Human Rights Defender's Office, the Constitutional Court and the Prosecution Office with the European human rights standards.
- ▶ Four training modules for investigators have been developed for the Justice Academy:
 - Criminal investigative methodology
 - Investigation of alleged torture and ill-treatment
 - Investigations involving vulnerable victims/suspects
 - Pre-trial detention and related investigatory issues
- ▶ A pool of 22 specialists was formed who will start teaching these modules at the Justice Academy in October 2016.
- ▶ A Manual on admissibility of evidence for prosecutors has been published.

Strengthening integrity and combatting corruption in higher education in Armenia

The project is running from January 2015 to December 2016 with a budget of 400,000 Euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Model Codes of Ethics for students, academic staff and managers of higher education institutions of Armenia have been developed and discussed in focus groups consisting of staff and students of eight major universities.
- ▶ Three toolkits containing reporting and assessment templates for educators, students and university staff were developed with the participation of the civil society and the Ministry of Education and Science. They are meant to ensure transparency and accountability in higher education governance, human resource management, student assessment and curricula development, and enable students and educators to “set the alarm” when a suspicion of corruption or other offensive behaviour arises.
- ▶ Once endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Science, these normative standards and practical toolkits will be recommended to all higher education institutions in Armenia.

Long term electoral assistance to the election related stakeholders of Armenia

Component 1

The project is running from January 2015 to December 2017 with a budget of 95,000 Euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Two [joint opinions](#) on the new Electoral Code of Armenia were provided by the Council of Europe Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR. According to the [Second opinion](#) adopted in July 2016, the Electoral Code amended on 30 June 2016 takes on board a significant number of previous recommendations.

Component 2

The project is running from January 2016 to June 2017 with a budget of 302,139 Euros.

- ▶ An assessment of the training programmes of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) was carried out and a list of recommendations for improvements given to the CEC.
- ▶ We worked with the CEC to develop a communication strategy and a work plan of activities.
- ▶ On 9-10 June 2016 a seminar on the new electoral legislation was held for domestic observers' organisations.
- ▶ More than 70 female mayors, community councils' members and politically active women have participated in the nationwide forum on *Women's Agenda in 2016 Local Elections* encouraging them to run as candidates in the 2016 local elections; the event was supported by the Council of Europe.
- ▶ Five training seminars and five leadership schools for some 80 politically active women from five Armenian regions were held, to prepare them to run for local elections. Two training events on the rights and responsibilities of reporters during elections, detection of electoral fraud and ensuring independent coverage have been organised for 50 journalists.
- ▶ In of the run-up to the 2016 local elections, about 200 domestic observers were trained.
- ▶ About 220 teachers of high schools have been trained on how to conduct voting simulation games for the schoolchildren who will take part in the electoral processes for the first time.

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

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