

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



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

What is the 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 **eight country-specific projects for Georgia**, with a total budget of **3.6 million Euros**

Application of the European Convention of Human Rights and harmonisation of national legislation and judicial practice in line with European standards in Georgia

The project is running from 1 July, 2015 until 30 June, 2017; its budget is 900 000 euros ([more information](#)).

In the field of judiciary

- ▶ Decision on the creation of the European Court of Human Rights Database (HUDOC) Georgian interface has been made; it will become operational by the end of 2016;
- ▶ Overall, more than 290 judges and assistants improved their knowledge on the issues related to the European Court of Human Rights standards, fair and jury trial issues, prohibition of torture, anti-discrimination, freedom of expression and plea bargaining;
- ▶ 80% of judges responsible for reopening proceedings have received exhaustive information about the procedure of 're-opening of cases' following a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights;
- ▶ Bench & Bar meetings were brought to life to create a homogenous practice on certain legal issues among all legal professionals;
- ▶ Tbilisi City Court judges benefited from the assistance of a Council of Europe consultant on lingering human rights issues; as a result, the Court has started to refer to of the European Court of Human Rights case law in the reasoning of national judgments more often;
- ▶ Staff of the Analytical Department of the Supreme Court and officials from the appellate, city and regional courts improved their knowledge of European Convention on Human Rights standards and research methodology;
- ▶ Thirty seven judges, prosecutors and lawyers have been trained and improved their knowledge of Article 6 (right to a fair trial) standards;
- ▶ Internal guidelines of Courts on disclosing court judgments without violating the right to privacy have been developed together with the CoE experts;
- ▶ Curriculum of the course on human rights was developed, and the pool of experts (judges) trained for the High School of Justice in cooperation with the USAID-;
- ▶ More than 125 judges and assistants to judges got better acquainted with the European standards of fair and jury trial, they received handbooks to guide them in their daily work.

- ▶ In all, more than 290 judges and assistants to judges improved their knowledge on the issues related to the European Convention on Human Rights standards, fair and jury trial issues, prohibition of torture, anti-discrimination, freedom of expression and plea bargaining;

In the field of criminal justice

- ▶ Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office have received the Comparative study on Pre-trial Detention and the Pre-trial Assessment Tool developed under the project;
- ▶ Two prosecutorial guidelines – on investigating hate crimes and on investigating cases involving people with disabilities – were improved based on the recommendations by CoE experts;
- ▶ Two pools of trainers on anti-discrimination and on fair trial standards were formed for the Prosecutor's Office; in parallel, 50 middle-level prosecutors enhanced their knowledge of anti-discrimination issues and existing standards;
- ▶ Twenty newly appointed prosecutors gained their qualification in European anti-discrimination standards in a three-month intensive distance learning course within the HELP platform;
- ▶ Pool of 21 trainers were prepared for the Prosecutor's Office on fair trial standards;
- ▶ More than 200 prosecutors and investigators improved their knowledge on jury trial standards, right to private life, prohibition of torture;
- ▶ More than 255 lawyers are now better equipped to defend their clients when it comes to issues related to fair trial, right to liberty and security and the right to private life.

Support to the Georgian Bar Association

The project was running from February 2015 until July 2016; its budget was 400 000 euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Updated the regulatory framework for the Association;
- ▶ Developed an initial training programme for candidate-lawyers;
- ▶ Helped ensure uniform interpretation and practice of the Code of Ethics;
- ▶ Updated software for conducting entrance exam electronically including an automatic assessment of the results.

Promoting freedom, professionalism and pluralism of media in Georgia

The project is running from January 2015 until December 2017; its budget is 250 000 euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Created a cross-border advisory body as part of the network of the self-regulatory institutes of the Eastern Partnership countries and the Russian Federation;
- ▶ Trained more than 30 members of the National Communications Commission and 100 journalists on media coverage standards and legal requirements during pre-election period;
- ▶ Trained more than 30 journalists on the Council of Europe standards on intermediary liability, freedom of information issues; legislation and legal terms;
- ▶ Prepared a comprehensive report on the ethical rights and responsibilities of journalists in Georgia.

Protecting internet freedom through legislation and multi-stakeholder dialogue in Georgia

The project is running from January 2015 until December 2017 its budget is 400 000 euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Established the National Internet Governance Forum;
- ▶ Supported the participation of 20 national media representatives in regional and international internet governance forums;

- ▶ Translated and disseminated the CoE Guide for Internet users;
- ▶ Prepared a report on internet legislation and telecommunications market in Georgia.

Human rights and healthcare in prisons and other closed institutions in Georgia II

The project is running from March 2016 until August 2017; its budget is 745 000 euros ([more information](#)).

The project builds on the results of the EU/CoE Joint Programme “*Human rights and healthcare in prisons and other closed institutions*” that ended in February 2016.

- ▶ Assistance in re-drafting the Code of ethics for the police;
- ▶ Training for non-medical staff of prisons on modern first aid standards was launched to support the Ministry of Corrections’ efforts;
- ▶ High-level multisectoral debate on suicide prevention in Georgia has been initiated;
- ▶ Eight substance-dependent female prisoners are benefiting from the rehabilitation programme “Atlantis” launched in May 2016;
- ▶ Assessment of the Penitentiary Healthcare Reform was conducted by the Council of Europe experts.

Electoral assistance to the election stakeholders in Georgia

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

- ▶ A joint opinion of the Council of Europe’s constitutional law experts – the Venice Commission - and the OSCE/ODIHR on the amendments to the Election Code was provided; recommendations contained in the opinion were followed, but improvement are still needed;
- ▶ The Venice Commission advised the Central Election Commission of Georgia on its strategy of gender equality in elections;
- ▶ The Venice Commission provided legal support to the Central Election Commission in the run up to the October 2016 parliamentary elections, including via training chairpersons of district election commissions in election dispute resolution.

Combating money-laundering and terrorism financing in Georgia

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017; its budget is 500 000 euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Advising the authorities before the launch of the National Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/Countering Financing of Terrorism Risk (CTF) Assessment;
- ▶ Completing the review process of AML/CFT legislation;
- ▶ Training Georgian AML/CFT supervisory authorities staff;
- ▶ Improving skills of national criminal justice authorities in investigating and prosecuting corporate money-laundering;
- ▶ Developing the manual/guidelines on prosecution of legal entities for Georgian prosecutors.

Civic integration of national minorities in Georgia and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)

The project is running from 9 March 2015 until 29 February 2017; its budget is 350 000 euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Nine regional meetings were organised to raise awareness of national minorities about European standards in the field of minority language promotion;
- ▶ The Cultural Route of National Minorities showcasing the cultural contributions made by these groups is being established;
- ▶ Signposting more than 150 objects with multilingual signs and info-boards related to the heritage of minority language groups in Georgia is in progress;
- ▶ Publishing brochures, including in 13 minority languages, to strengthen the role of minority languages, and to inform parents about the advantages of bilingualism.

For more information see <http://eap-pcf-eu.coe.int>

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