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Combating ill-treatment and impunity

Project summary

Project title	Combating ill-treatment and impunity
Country	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
Budget	1 900 000 €
Funding	EU/CoE Joint Programme (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights)
Duration	30 months (01 January 2009 – 30 June 2011)
Partners and beneficiaries	Offices of the Prosecutors General, Ministries of Interior, Academies of Justice, Prosecutors' Training Centres, Police Academies, supervisory, investigative and complaints handling structures, executive, judicial and legislative institutions, Ombudsman institutions, Bar Associations, OPCAT bodies, NGOs.
Main objective	to develop national capacities for combating ill-treatment by law enforcement agencies and investigative institutions, including strengthening the effectiveness of investigations of allegations of ill-treatment, through the improvement of the regulatory framework and institutional/operational systems for the prevention of ill-treatment and effective investigation of complaints, leading to imposition of sanctions, based on European and international human rights norms and standards, and the strengthening of the capacity of key groups of legal professionals to apply these standards in their daily work.
Outputs and results	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Negotiations and reinforced dialogue in all five beneficiary countries with the national partners who confirmed their commitment, and the state partners, who were willing in general to deal with this issue and to contribute to achieving the Project's objectives (although some hesitations from the Ministries of Interior).2. Concerning the improvement of the regulatory framework, procedures and mechanisms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Country Reports served as a basis for action by the authorities



	<p>to undertake concrete legislative and structural amendments, and ensure the concrete implementation of the recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- No improvement of the internal regulatory framework in the key institutions. However, structural and legislative changes have proven to be a difficult task in the long-term, and the Project has not so far resulted in the establishment of fully independent investigative mechanisms. <p>3. Concerning the application of European standards by legal professionals in their daily work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Training of key groups of legal professionals, including judges, prosecutors and investigators, lawyers, law enforcement officers, Ombudsman institutions and human rights NGOs, with the support of the partner institutions.- Training materials were prepared, published in national languages and distributed to the trainees.- Awareness on the application of the ECHR and CPT standards, and the ECtHR case law.- Training on the regulatory framework, procedures and mechanisms for the effective investigation of allegations of ill-treatment in their respective countries.- Successful training sessions have produced the necessary potential for future behavioural change in the beneficiary countries from ill-treatment.- Clear trend of increasing convictions of law enforcement officials in the beneficiary countries.- A number of court rulings have referred directly to the ECHR. <p>In total, 7 220 legal professionals from the five beneficiary countries were trained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judges: 1900 participants• Prosecutors: 4160 participants• Lawyers: 340 participants• Law enforcement officials: 245 participants• Mixed groups: 575 participants
Follow-up	<p>The CoE ensured the follow up on these initiatives to implement the recommendations, in particular through a new Joint Programme between the EU and the CoE entitled “Reinforcing the fight against ill-treatment and impunity” (1 July 2011 – 31 March 2014).</p>