

SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMENTS ON THE
PCF FINAL MID-TERM EVALUATION REPORT

The CoE considers most of the recommendations of the Evaluation Report to be relevant for increasing the impact of PCF actions. The CoE provided comments on the report findings as well as the mitigation measures which can be summarised as follows:

- The evaluation report is to a very large extent based on the first year of implementation of the PCF which was largely devoted to the initial stage of the projects' implementation. As a consequence, the capacity to achieve impact and, accordingly, to report on impact against outcome indicators during the first year was limited;
- A number of points identified as shortcomings in the report derive from agreements reached between the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE) during the preparation of the PCF. DG-NEAR and the CoE will jointly revise some of these agreements in order to address the shortcomings;
- CoE has already taken some mitigation measures to address the Evaluation Report recommendations regarding the PCF coordination, reporting and communication.
- The PCF cooperation activities derive from the CoE Action Plans for all EaP countries which are approved by the Committee of Ministers. This ensures the countries' long-term commitment and reinforces the national stakeholders' ownership and sustainability of the PCF actions;
- A reference to the 'EU deliverables 2020' will be added to the description of thematic areas and PCF projects to show not only the progress made in the achievement of the project objectives but also the activities' contribution to the EU priorities and deliverables;
- The cost-efficiency analysis of the PCF needs to take into account the specificity of CoE work and the nature of its outputs, which are knowledge-based, and consequently human-resources intensive;
- The CoE acknowledges the need to better incorporate gender mainstreaming and increase visibility of the gender-based dimension, as well as civil society involvement, in PCF activities;
- CoE agrees that the complexity of the PCF structure requires comprehensive coordination with **EUDs** in the EaP countries. Additional efforts will be deployed to improve interaction with EUDs, notably with regard to the programming of future activities;
- The CoE and DG NEAR will conclude how to highlight the partnership dimension and partially rebrand PCF for better communication impact.