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Action Plan for Ukraine 2011 – 2014

FINAL REPORT

Document prepared by the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes

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OVERVIEW

1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides an overview of the implementation of **the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2011 – 2014**¹.

The Action Plan was drafted in close co-operation with the Ukrainian authorities. Its aim was to support Ukraine in meeting its statutory and specific obligations as a member state of the Council of Europe by providing a comprehensive package of priority actions to help bring Ukrainian legislation, institutions and practice into line with European standards in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Action Plan was developed taking into account the results and achievements of the previous Action Plan 2008 – 2011², as well as national authorities' domestic priorities in the areas of expertise of the Council of Europe.

The first "Review of the state of implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2011 – 2014"³ for the period, July 2011 – July 2012, was presented to the Committee of Ministers on 24 October 2012. A second review⁴ for the period, July 2012 – July 2013, was examined during the Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM) meeting of 10 October 2013. The reviews provided a comprehensive assessment of the Action Plan's implementation during the evaluation period in the areas of judiciary, protection of human rights, local democracy, children's rights, free and fair elections, social security, media, the fight against corruption and cybercrime, culture, education and youth.

In November 2013, a Revised Action Plan for Ukraine for the period 2011 – 2014⁵ was adopted by the Committee of Ministers with a comprehensive inventory of completed, ongoing and planned co-operation projects. Prior to the CM's adoption, the revised Action Plan was discussed and endorsed at the Council of Europe/Ukraine Steering Committee meeting held on 12 June 2013 in Kyiv.

The present Final Report was prepared by the CoE Secretariat and discussed with the Ukrainian authorities at the Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) on the "The Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2011 – 2014" held on 14 October 2014 in Kyiv.

As a response to the crisis in Ukraine, the Council of Europe also developed the "**Co-operation with Ukraine – Immediate Measures Package**" (IMP)⁶, covering the period of implementation from April to December 2014, to assist the country in "addressing legislative and institutional challenges in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democratic governance which the country" currently faces and which are not directly covered by the current CoE Action Plan for Ukraine 2011 – 2014. The Interim Narrative Report⁷ on the IMP's implementation results for the period between April to August 2014 was presented at the GR-DEM meeting on 7 October.

¹ [DPA/INF\(2011\)17-rev](#)

² [DSP\(2008\)15](#)

³ [ODGPROG/Inf\(2012\)16E](#)

⁴ [ODGPROG/Inf\(2013\)8](#)

⁵ [ODGPROG/Inf\(2013\)5-final](#)

⁶ [ODGPROG/Inf\(2014\)7](#)

⁷ [ODGPROG/Inf\(2014\)11](#)

As was agreed at this GR-DEM meeting, the IMP and the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2011-2014 should be considered as a basis for the next Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine on 2015 – 2017.

2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- The new *Criminal Procedure Code (CPC)* was adopted in line with CoE recommendations. This was followed by the adoption of a number of legislative acts, including the *Law on the Bar*, *Law of Ukraine on Free Legal Aid*, and amendments to the *Law on Judicial System and Status of Judges*, in accordance with the new Criminal Procedure Code. The criminal justice reform received a significant impetus with the adoption and start of the implementation of the new Criminal Procedure Code.
- The capacity of the **High Qualification Commission of Judges** and the **High Specialised Court of Civil and Criminal cases** was developed.
- A new *Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office* of Ukraine was drawn up to bring this institution further into line with European standards. The law was adopted and entered into force in October 2014.
- The **regulatory framework of combating ill-treatment and impunity** was improved.
- The **National Preventive Mechanism** was established with the support of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human rights (Ombudsman) and began to fulfil its mandate. The capacity of the **Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human rights of Ukraine** was reinforced to improve supervision of cases related to ill-treatment.
- The **domestic application of the ECHR** and the **execution of ECtHR judgments** were reinforced through capacity-building and training of a large number of legal professionals. Standards of the ECHR, as interpreted by the case law of the ECtHR, were fully developed and integrated into National School of Judges' curricula for initial and in-service training of judges.
- The **Concept of local self-governance and the reform of territorial power** was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in April 2014.
- The *Law on Public Television and Radio Broadcasting* was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada in April 2014.

3. FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Projects were implemented by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, the Directorate General of Democracy as well as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), mostly through the Council of Europe Office in Kyiv. The Office of the Directorate General of Programmes conducted a project aimed at reinforcing the management capacity of the CoE staff. Local and international experts carried out activities based on a comprehensive project management approach which included needs-assessment, legislative expertise, capacity-building, awareness-raising, peer-to-peer exchanges and evaluation, and paying attention to project impact and sustainability.

A Steering Committee was jointly established and regularly organised by the Council of Europe and Ukrainian authorities to assess implementation of the Action Plan. The Secretariat provided the Committee of Ministers with regular updates on the progress of the programmes and projects through the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes.

The Action Plan took into account activities of other international organisations and partners active in Ukraine, ensuring synergy and complementarity, and avoiding overlap. Activities included in the Action Plan were funded from multiple sources which included the Council of Europe's ordinary budget, Joint Programmes with the European Union, as well as voluntary contributions from donor countries.

4. COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFICE IN KYIV

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the Council of Europe concerning the establishment of an Office of the Council of Europe in Kyiv and its legal status of 6 November 2006, the Parties to the Memorandum resolved to facilitate further democratic development in Ukraine, in particular through full and efficient implementation of an Action Plan.

The Council of Europe Office in Kyiv ensured co-ordination between the CoE Directorates General in Strasbourg, project teams present in the country and national stakeholders. The Office facilitated contacts with international partners present in the field.

The Office contributed to the increased visibility of Council of Europe actions in Ukraine and ensured the efficient and effective use of resources through de-centralised project management. As of 1 October 2014, the Office employs 37 staff members in total.

5. OVERVIEW OF RESOURCE MOBILISATION

The revised overall budget of the Action Plan with projects active between 2011 and the end of this year is approximately €30 million. Funding of approximately €25.8 million has been secured for projects within all sectors.

There has been significant interest from the international community in co-ordinating technical assistance for Ukraine.

The co-operation priorities of the Council of Europe in Ukraine have been implemented with support from 12 donors (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the European Union).

The European Union contributed over €13.2 million through country-specific and regional Joint Programmes towards the implementation of this Action Plan. Ensuring justice, countering the threats to the rule of law, as well as democratic governance and stability are priority sectors implemented with funding secured via the partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

Voluntary contributions coming from member and observer states across all three pillars of the Action Plan total approximately €12 million.

Sweden remains the largest bilateral donor with an overall contribution of approximately €6.6 million. Other bilateral contributors include: Denmark, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Romania and Hungary. The multi-lateral HELP project, as well as the project on implementing pilot

judgments in the field of detention on remand and conditions of detention have been funded by the Human Rights Trust Fund.

SECTOR REVIEW

1. HUMAN RIGHTS

2011 – 2014 ACTION PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES⁸

Protecting and promoting human rights

- To improve the effectiveness of criminal justice, in line with European standards;
- To enhance the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to effectively address a wide range of human rights violations by non-judicial means; to promote the implementation of the OPCAT and help identify an adequate set-up for a future National Preventive Mechanism against torture (NPM);
- To reinforce national capacities for combating ill-treatment by law enforcement agencies and penitentiary institutions, including strengthening the effectiveness of investigations of allegations of ill-treatment;
- To support Ukraine in the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) by enhancing judges', prosecutors' and lawyers' capacities to apply the ECHR in their daily work;
- To develop national capacities for effective human rights protection by increasing knowledge and skills on the ECHR and the Revised European Social Charter (RESC);
- To support Ukraine in executing pilot judgments, 'quasi-pilot' judgments and judgments, revealing systemic and structural problems in the field of detention on remand.

Equality, diversity and the rights of the vulnerable

- To enhance the capacity of national institutions to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, and to increase awareness of violence against women and domestic violence.
- To provide assistance in the implementation of the CoE Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 in priority areas such as education, vocational training, rehabilitation and employment of people with disabilities;
- To improve the quality and effectiveness of the work of school/health/employment mediators, with a view to supporting better communication and co-operation between Roma and public institutions;
- To enhance the capacity of national institutions to promote and protect children's rights, to develop child-friendly services and systems as well as to increase awareness of violence, and in particular sexual violence, against children among the judiciary, law enforcement personnel, health and social work professionals, educators, and other relevant professionals and the public.

⁸ Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2011 – 2014, [ODGPROG/Inf\(2013\)5-final](#)

Ensuring social rights

- To help bring Ukrainian drug policies and practices closer to European standards;
- To provide support to the Ukrainian State Service for Drug Control for the implementation of a national drug strategy and an action plan that corresponds with the general principles included in the EU Drugs Action Plan 2009 – 2012; and 2013 – 2016.

SECTOR IMPACT

The capacity and competences of the **Ombudsman's Office** to effectively address a wide range of human rights violations were reinforced. Human rights violations of all types were addressed both by the Ombudsman's Office screening the compatibility of national laws, regulations and administrative practices with human rights, as well as by providing non-judicial means of redress to individuals, especially from vulnerable groups.

The National Preventive Mechanism was established. The policy of zero tolerance of **ill-treatment** has officially been declared a priority of the government and systematically introduced in the strategic human rights documents of Ukraine in line with CoE recommendations.

The new **Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine** was drawn up with CoE assistance and entered into force in November 2012. As a result, the adopted Code can be regarded as a modern legal act, compliant with the standards of the ECHR and its case law. Implementation of the CPC continues to be supported by the CoE through legal framework assessments, capacity-development and awareness-raising for national policy-makers and legal professionals. The CoE further contributed to the development of sub-ordinated normative acts on effective investigation of ill-treatment complaints. The results achieved, as well as the challenges encountered, suggest that a sustainable approach to co-operation is needed to eradicate ill-treatment and police impunity.

The *Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine* was adopted in October 2014. The law almost completely abolishes the general supervisory functions of the Public Prosecutor.

The process of ratifying the CoE Convention on Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence – the Istanbul Convention – (signed by Ukraine on 7 November 2011) has received substantial support. The CoE provides the Ukrainian authorities with legislative expertise to bring Ukrainian legislation into line with the Istanbul Convention and to enable the Parliament to ratify the Istanbul Convention, as well as with a number of recommendations on implementing its provisions in Ukrainian policy and practice.

Pompidou Group experts provided expertise to the Ukrainian Drug Control Service which contributed to the development and adoption of a new **Ukrainian Drug Strategy** based on human rights principles. The **Strategy** was adopted in September 2013 by the Ukrainian Parliament.

Following ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Promotion of Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in 2009, the Ukrainian **National Action Plan for the Implementation of the CRPD** in Ukraine has been implemented since 2012. Certain legislative improvements and developments resulted from that ratification, and were supported by CoE legal instruments, exchange of experience and good practice as well as assistance activities.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

i) **Network of independent non-judicial human rights structures**

Human rights violations of all types were addressed by the Ombudsman's Office, screening the compatibility of national laws, regulations and administrative practices with human rights standards, as well as providing a non-judicial means of redress to individuals, especially from vulnerable groups; Staff of the Ombudsman's Office were trained in their respective areas of competence regarding practical measures to be taken in order to address concrete cases.

ii) **Fight against ill-treatment and impunity**

The interventions increased the awareness of national policy-makers and legal professionals, as well as suitably adapting internal regulatory mechanisms, and thus achieved an increase in domestic court judgements with regard to ill-treatment, based on the ECHR (training of legal professionals). The Office of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights was supported with the necessary training and in November 2012 started to implement the National Preventive Mechanism to reduce the incidence of torture and ill-treatment in prisons in co-operation with civil society groups.

iii) **The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP programme)**

The **National School of Judges** of Ukraine, the **National Prosecution Academy** of Ukraine and the **Ukrainian National Association of Lawyers** are members of the HELP Network, fully institutionalised in 2013 and composed of representatives of bar associations and national training institutions for judges and prosecutors of all 47 CoE member states. In 2013 – 2014 they participated in annual network conferences, to share best practices and to improve co-ordination among international and national institutions on human rights training initiatives.

Standards of the ECHR, as interpreted by the case law of the ECtHR, were fully developed and integrated into the National School of Judges' curricula for initial and in-service training of judges. HELP training resources were made available in the national language for Ukrainian legal professionals. Ukraine was the first pilot country in which a HELP e-learning course on "Family law and Human Rights" was tested with the participation of a pilot group of 30 Ukrainian judges. The model curriculum in English was translated into Ukrainian and adapted for the national legal framework, with some country-specific case studies.

iv) **Domestic application of the ECHR and of the Revised European Social Charter (RESC)**

The capacity of lawyers to effectively protect human rights, especially with regard to discrimination, their knowledge and skills of the ECHR and RESC, and ability to use them correctly, has improved. 470 lawyers and human rights defenders were trained on the ECHR using a cascade methodology. The Handbook on European Non-Discrimination Law and the update of the Case Law developed by the ECtHR Case Law and the Fundamental Rights Agency were made available in Ukrainian.

v) **Criminal justice reform**

More than 100 legal professionals were trained to be trainers on matters related to the CPC implementation in line with ECHR standards and subsequently 900 judges, prosecutors, lawyers, criminal investigators and other criminal justice actors participated in capacity-building activities on this topic.

vi) Detention on remand and effective remedies to challenge conditions of detention

Awareness and knowledge of national stakeholders on the ECHR requirements concerning effective domestic remedies to challenge poor conditions of detention were raised and the experiences of other member states in establishing such remedies were shared at a Multilateral Round Table held in July 2014 with the participation of all partner countries.

vii) Prevention of and combating violence against women and domestic violence

The Explanatory Report to the Istanbul Convention was made available to Ukrainian lawmakers and other national actors involved in preparing the ratification and implementation of the Convention in Ukrainian.

viii) A National Drug prevention campaign for parents and children was launched with the aim to strengthen parenting skills.

Tackling drug problems in prisons

More than 100 prison managers were trained on rehabilitation of drug-dependent prisoners, leading to new innovative approaches to prepare prisoners for release in order to prevent recidivism and relapse.

ix) Effective social inclusion of Roma

The International Charitable Organisation, Roma Women Fund, "Chiricli", which is the National Focal Point for the Roma Mediator Programme, carried out the training programme for a new group of mediators and social workers with support from the Ministry of Social Policy. A National Strategy for the protection and integration of Roma into Ukrainian society by 2020 was drafted covering the legal protection of Roma, improving their social protection and employment, as well as further developing their ethnic and cultural identity.

x) Strengthening and protecting children's rights

A forum and a conference were held in Ukraine to enhance public awareness on violence against children in Ukraine and promote a culture of zero tolerance towards violence against children. The forum of representatives of schoolchildren's self-government on combating violence against children in school and home, "Future without violence", was held on 26-27 March in Irpin. One hundred participants from almost all regions of Ukraine took part in a series of training sessions on prevention of and combating violence against children at home and in school. The international conference, "Childhood without Violence: Society, School and Family on Protection of Children's Rights", was held in Ternopil on 29 – 30 April 2014 to analyse the ability of the state protection mechanisms to protect children's rights. Recommendations on combating and preventing all forms of violence against children were adopted and addressed to the Ukrainian authorities.

PROGRAMMING OUTLOOK

The *Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine* was adopted in October 2014. The capacity of judges, prosecutors and other key groups of legal professionals to apply European standards in their daily work on the basis of the new CPC, and monitoring such application will require permanent efforts in the area of **criminal justice reform**.

Coordination Center for providing legal aid continued to ensure the quality of legal aid and stands ready to continue providing support to further implementation of **the Project "Support to the Criminal Justice Reform"** in Ukraine, in particular due to the adoption of the new Law of Ukraine on Public Prosecutor's Office that introduces a number of important system changes to the Law of Ukraine on Free Legal Aid regards ensuring the rights of detainees, suspects, accuses, convicts for free secondary legal aid; partial revocation of prosecution powers regards representation of individuals' interests.

The provision of **support to police reform and fighting against ill-treatment and impunity** should continue with the focus on police reform, the policy of zero tolerance towards ill-treatment and the system of prevention.

The operational capacities of the Ombudsman's Office in Ukraine (ill-treatment in places of deprivation of liberty, non-discrimination, data protection) will require further strengthening.

The project, **Strengthening the lawyers' capacity for domestic application of the ECHR and of the Revised European Social Charter (RESC)**, will continue the cascade training seminars in 2015 and thematic workshops on specific ECHR- and RESC-related topics. The project will provide Ukrainian lawyers and human rights defenders with an analysis of national legislation that can be used in courts to defend against discrimination.

HELP has become the general framework for all capacity-building activities concerning training of legal professionals on the ECHR. A fully fledged course on the right to freedom of assembly for Ukrainian judges will be developed as well as the course on themes related to prisons detention and ill-treatment, in co-operation with the CPT.

In the framework of the project on **Prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence**, the activities on the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention will continue.

In the context of the project **Achieving effective social inclusion for Roma**, a national workshop for the municipalities was held in Kyiv in November 2014. The Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma issues also prepared an international seminar on mainstreaming gender in the National Roma Strategies and Action Plans, which was held in Kyiv at the end of November 2014.

2. RULE OF LAW

2011 – 2014 ACTION PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES⁹

Ensuring justice

- To enhance reforms in the area of execution of criminal sanctions in Ukraine, in line with CPT and other Council of Europe standards and recommendations.
- To support and enhance the ongoing process of reform of the judiciary, with a view to increase the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the judicial systems of the participating beneficiary countries, through intensive information exchange and best practice sharing;
- To strengthen the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the Ukrainian judiciary and to facilitate institutional and legislative reforms related to the Ukrainian judiciary in line with European standards.

Countering threats to the rule of law

- To strengthen national capacities of Ukraine (along with other members of the Eastern Partnership Initiative) to apply prevention and law enforcement measures in order to enhance their good governance and fight against corruption;
- To enhance the reform processes in the six partner countries through a multilateral approach and to bring them closer to Council of Europe and EU standards in core areas covered by the Eastern Partnership Platform 1;

SECTOR IMPACT

The CoE provided an expert opinion on the draft *Law on Probation*. Probation methods were piloted in three regions (Kharkiv, Poltava, Bila Tserkva) to test the relevance and feasibility of these methods in the Ukrainian context.

The functioning of the **probation service** was improved; greater use of alternative sanctions was promoted; the professional skills and management capacities of high- and middle-ranking prison staff were developed.

The CoE provided expertise in the design, assessment and implementation of the *Law on Restoring Trust in the Judiciary in Ukraine*. The *Law*, which was adopted in April 2014, can be considered as the most important piece of legislation for the Ukrainian judiciary since the adoption in 2010 of the *Law on Judiciary and the Status of Judges*. Some 80% of all Council of Europe recommendations were taken into account in the final text of the *Law*. The *Law* had an immediate impact on the Ukrainian judiciary, by establishing in particular:

- **A special temporary commission for the screening of judges;**
- **New provisions regulating judicial self-governance** in terms of the composition and election of judicial self-governing bodies and with regard to the election of presidents and vice-presidents of courts by the judges of a relevant court.

⁹ Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2011 – 2014, [ODGPROG/Inf\(2013\)5-final](#)

The *Law* defined new conditions for the organisation and activities of the Congress of Judges of Ukraine and the new organisational set-up of the Council of Judges of Ukraine, increasing the number of the judges in these bodies four times. Participative and inclusive judicial self-governing bodies were established by the *Law on Restoring Trust in the Judiciary* in Ukraine.

In the framework of the project, **"Strengthening the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the judiciary in Ukraine"**, the Council of Judges of Ukraine defined key aspects and plans for the development of strategies for the Ukrainian judiciary, highlighting in particular financing of the judiciary and communication of the judiciary with the public. An agreement on the establishment of a "strategic unit" within the judiciary was reached with national partners.

A comprehensive analysis of Ukraine's legislation and practice was made available to the Ukrainian authorities with regard to issues of institutional independence of the judiciary and the independence of the individual judge; the role of the Bar, access to the profession of lawyer, the training and ethical standards for this profession and the initial and in-service training of judges. The activities have also contributed to assessing the efficiency of the judicial system and the national courts, based on the tools and methodology of the Council of Europe European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

i) Prison reform

Prison staff competences and professional skills on prison management were consolidated into a "Prison Management Manual", developed and used for training senior officials on modern prison management methods and European standards.

The awareness of 250 judges and prosecutors was raised on the social advantages of alternative sanctions and probation, as well as on co-operation between the judiciary and the probation services, and on best Ukrainian and international practices. A Manual on Effective Leadership and Prison Management for senior prison officials including a training programme was developed and formed a basis for training for trainers and in-service training sessions.

ii) Strengthening the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the judiciary in Ukraine

The CoE provided expertise on the *Law on Restoring Trust in the Judiciary in Ukraine*. The structural problems related to the accountability and disciplinary system as raised by the judgement in the case of *Volkov vs. Ukraine* were addressed.

A report on development of national standards for judicial education for the National School of Judges' was prepared. A three-volume ECtHR case-law on Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to a fair trial) was published, contributing to the uniform interpretation by Ukrainian judges of the right to a fair trial. The "Centre of Judicial Studies" completed the monitoring of the status of judicial independence in Ukraine. An assessment of gender issues in the judiciary is underway.

iii) Good governance and the fight against corruption

The Ukrainian income and asset declaration system was assessed and the Ministry of Justice has incorporated some of its recommendations into draft amendments to the legislation on income and asset declarations.

Further to a regional meeting on analysing and researching patterns on laundering the proceeds of corruption in the Eastern Partnership region, the information and case studies from Ukraine were aggregated and fed into a regional typology study which was adopted at a regional conference held in Minsk.

The new **Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2011-2015** was translated into English and an assessment was drafted and finalised. Advice and recommendations on further improvement of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan was provided.

Awareness was raised among Ukrainian legislators and other relevant stakeholders of the normative and financial benefits of liability of legal persons with the aim of facilitating adoption of the new draft law submitted to the Verkhovna Rada on 17 January 2013. Comments and suggestions for further improvement of the draft law were taken into account during the second reading in the Verkhovna Rada.

Furthermore, regional training enhanced the understanding of the concepts and of real-life cases of liability of legal persons for corruption offences. A comprehensive Training Manual was also developed.

A regional workshop, "Reviewing and sharing good practices on processing and verifying assets declarations" (Istanbul 28-29 May 2014), was held. Professionals and civil society representatives were trained on how to analyse declarations financially, thus improving their watchdog functions.

iv) Co-operation against cybercrime

A draft cyber security strategy for Ukraine has been prepared by the Government and is expected to be adopted soon. Furthermore, a new law was drafted to address a number of gaps following the entry into force of the new Criminal Procedure Code. Advice was provided on the establishment of specialised units: Ukraine considerably strengthened its institutional capacities, with a separate Cyber-crime Department, established in 2012 within the Ministry of Interior and cyber-crime units within the State Security Service.

Ukraine developed judicial and law enforcement training concepts. Ukraine now has an active role in linking cyber-crime investigations with investigations on money laundering and proceeds of crime, and serves as an example for other EAP countries.

PROGRAMMING OUTLOOK

The provision of legal expertise should continue to be provided to parliamentarians elected to the Verkhovna Rada, especially in relation **to strengthening the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the judiciary in Ukraine.**

Further work on the screening procedures for the judiciary provided in the *Law on Restoring of Trust in the Judiciary in Ukraine* should be done in co-operation with the Ukrainian authorities.

Additional action will be required to optimise court management and alternative dispute resolution, as well as to implement the Ukrainian *Law on the Bar and Practice of Law*.

Provision of support to **penitentiary reforms** should continue, with the focus on reviewing the national mechanisms for monitoring and inspection of places of detention, as well as the independent external/internal mechanisms for the review of prisoners' complaints. The activities aim to bring the treatment and rehabilitation of prisoners into line with European standards and best practices and strengthening procedures for prison inspection and handling of prisoners' complaints.

Co-operation in **good governance and the fight against corruption** should continue taking into account the adoption of the package of laws concerning the fight against corruption.

Some remaining challenges relating to **co-operation against cyber-crime** can be addressed under follow-up projects on cyber-crime, such as: the completion of the cyber-crime legislative reforms (procedural law and related safeguards), completion of judicial training strategies on cyber-crime, enhancing capacities for international co-operation in terms of police-to-police co-operation and the provision of support to the implementation of the (draft) cyber-security strategy (once adopted).

3. DEMOCRACY

2011 – 2014 ACTION PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES¹⁰

Parliamentary democracy; support to improve electoral legislation and practice

- To ensure the effective implementation of the principles of European electoral heritage, relying notably on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities involving both the competent authorities and civil society;

Local democracy: support public discussions on international standards for democratic elections

- To contribute to the development of local and regional democracy in Ukraine, to promote further the knowledge of European best practice and standards and to build confidence and trust in local and regional elected representatives;
- To improve the quality of local self-governance in Ukraine;

Promoting democratic governance and stability

- To establish a Ukrainian and wider (Eastern European) network of poly-cultural cities as a partner network of the CoE ICC programme, allowing a wider exchange of experience and using the multiplier effect;
- To contribute to the development of youth policy in Ukraine, primarily on matters pertaining to the development of youth mobility;
- To carry out higher education reform in Ukraine based on European standards and good practices, in particular concerning the legal and qualifications frameworks, in line with the principles of the European Higher Education Area.
- To promote freedom of expression in Ukraine via further aligning the legal framework for the media with international standards; to support policy work on the internet and human rights issues; to raise professional and ethical standards in journalism, capacity-building for media and the relevant civil society groups, thus improving quality and

¹⁰ Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2011 – 2014, [ODGPROG/Inf\(2013\)5-final](#)

availability of information for society.

- To strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms through: greater freedom, diversity and pluralism in the media; an open, inclusive, sustainable, people-centred and human rights-based approach to the internet; an effective system of protection of individuals with regard to their right to privacy and right to control their personal data.

Building a democratic culture

- To develop sustainable mechanisms for the promotion of citizenship and human rights education in Ukraine, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.

SECTOR IMPACT

The Council of Europe provided assistance in developing the **Concept of Local Self-governance** and reviewing the relevant legal framework. The adoption of the Concept on 1 April 2014 signals the beginning of the process of de-centralisation.

An Action Plan on **Inter-Municipal Co-operation (IMC)**, prepared with the support of the CoE, has been adopted and is being implemented in co-ordination with the Ministry of Regional Development of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian authorities at central level (Presidential Administration, Government) were assisted and supported in the process of improving the quality of local governance through legal advice and the use of the mechanisms offered by the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level: national Action Plans in the field of the local self-government, local governments' individual accession, the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELOGE).

The institutional capacity of local government associations (LGAs) to deal with their tasks was strengthened and improved through introducing modern management tools, performance indicators and benchmarking systems.

Expert opinions were provided on local self-government reform and territorial organisation, revision of the Constitution of Ukraine on local self-government (LSG) -related issues; draft *Laws on the Right of Territorial Communities for Amalgamation* and on *Co-operation of Territorial Communities*.

Assistance was also provided via the platform for discussion of Recommendation 348 (2013) on local and regional democracy in Ukraine adopted by the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

In the field of **media**, the **law on Public broadcasting** was adopted in April 2014, marking the long-awaited transition from state to public TV and Radio broadcasting. Moreover, the legal framework for accessing official documents was improved. The journalists' self-regulatory model was strengthened: the structure of the Journalist Ethics Commission of Ukraine was enhanced and a new unified Journalist Ethics Code was adopted by lead Ukrainian journalist NGOs.

Legal expertise was provided to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on the development of the *Law on Higher Education*, which entered into force in 2014.

The Ukrainian intercultural cities network was established in 2011 with the aim to promote intercultural dialogue in Ukraine by enhancing cross-sector exchanges between education, culture, economy and media. In 2012, Melitopol became one of four cities members of the network to develop a Community Based Result Responsibility (CBRA) strategy. The regular and committed work of city officials to engage people of different backgrounds and organise participatory processes has reinforced local democracy and deepened trust between members of minorities.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

i) Local Democracy

In the framework of **strengthening the institutional capacity of the local self-government authorities in the implementation of European standards of good governance**, the Leadership Academy Programme (LAP) was adopted by the National Academy of Public Administration; 20 pilot local authorities improved 3 local services through the definition and use of performance indicators; the evaluations of performance management were conducted by trained experts in 10 pilots led to useful conclusions and recommendations for reform at local level; Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level and the ELOGE awards have been tested in the oblast of Odessa with very good results; LGAs are learning how to improve their response to their members' needs, to make their functioning more efficient, to improve their financial situation and their communication strategy.

Within the framework of implementation of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance and upon request from the State Foundation for Local Self-Government, the benchmarking of 12 principles of good democratic governance was ensured in 13 pilot LGAs.

The CoE was entrusted with the hosting, organisation and co-ordination of four out of the six reform task forces concerning de-centralisation and local government reform, namely on: amalgamation of local authorities; inter-municipal co-ordination; territorial state presence reform; the Land Code.

The manual on "Good governance in Ukrainian municipalities: Council of Europe Best Practice Programme" (BPP) was prepared.

The database of the BPP-2013 was developed in line with the CoE methodology and provided to the Ministry of Regional Development.

Based on the CoE Performance Management Programme and Norwegian model, 5 PMP networks were created.

The CoE toolkit, "Modern leadership for modern local government", was tested during a series of regional LAP trainings.

In accordance with the adapted CoE toolkit, "Towards a modern Local Government Association", and with assistance from European LGAs, the needs and capacities assessment of Ukrainian LGAs was ensured and proposals were provided to strengthen strengthening their institutional capacity.

Ethical standards were reinforced in the participating LGAs. In particular, they exchanged experience on implementation of ethics codes and development of rules of procedure for ethics committees. The network of partner LGAs continues its activities; 16 LGAs developed and approved codes of ethics.

ii) Supporting free and fair elections

Activities contributed to bridging the gap between the electoral administration and civil society on a variety of election-related topics. Joint training sessions with the participation of representatives from CEC training facilities and domestic observers were organised. A network of trainers with experience in election reporting and substantial knowledge of international election standards was established. A country report on the topic of the participation of women in politics was prepared with recommendations for governments and civil society on how to work together to achieve greater gender balance in politics and elections.

iii) Integration of European standards in the media environment

Assistance and support was ensured to facilitate the implementation of the recently adopted *Law on Public Broadcasting*. Expert guidance was provided to relevant stakeholders throughout the legislative process and will be pursued during the development of secondary legislation until the end of the year 2014. The main outputs included the development of the strategy of transition from state to public broadcasting, training of the Supervisory Board, transfer of best practices for operation and management of the public broadcasting organisations, training for core staff of the future public broadcaster on editorial standards for news programmes, public awareness activities on the mission and values of the public service media. Further to the improvement of the legal framework for accessing official documents, public officials, journalists and civil society representatives across the country were trained on the application of relevant laws, including newly adopted ones.

iv) Inter-cultural cities

The setting up of a network of inter-cultural agents in different local communities followed a training course on the implementation of the CoE White Paper on Inter-cultural Dialogue (funded by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine) with the participation of international experts and representatives of the 11 member and other cities, NGOs, universities and media. Key events and achievements of the network were two international fora (Forum of intercultural cities and Forum of mayors) in the city of Lutsk, activation of inter-cultural exchanges between cities. The transfer of expertise and knowledge between Melitopol and the other cities of the national network, on cultural mapping, inter-cultural policy development and the ICC INDEX benchmarking was of great importance since it involved wide range of local players in assessing and discussing processes. Regular seminars and workshops organised in different cities (Lutsk, Vinnytsia, Pavlograd, Melitopol, Pryluky, Kyiv) contributed to improving the competence of local officials on inter-cultural policy. In March 2014, representatives of national and cultural societies in the city and members of the civic organisation, "Solidarity and responsibility", discussed the situation in the country and signed an appeal to local inhabitants and to all citizens of Ukraine to respect the sovereign choice of Ukrainian people and to do everything possible to preserve the unity of Ukraine.

v) "No Hate Speech Movement"

The launch of the all-Ukrainian Conference on "No Hate Speech Movement" campaign (January 2014) was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine and the Association "KVN Ukraine". Tours of several European countries and of the European Youth Centre of the CoE and of European institutions in Strasbourg were organised to advertise the campaign and to share experience with colleagues from other countries.

vi) Youth Forum for Democracy and Human Rights and Framework programme of co-operation in the field of youth policy

The Youth Forum for Democracy and Human Rights was held in Ukraine on 23 – 27 September 2013. It focussed on the CoE Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights Education (HRE), youth participation and a project learning approach. Participants were multipliers who were trained to use the CoE Charter on EDC/HRE, Compass and the EDC/HRE Pack for teaching and learning purposes, as well as for dissemination activities. At the follow-up stage, 6 EDC/HRE school projects were carried out reaching out to at least 2,000 secondary beneficiaries (students, teachers, school administration etc.), thus raising awareness of the importance of democratic participation.

An international review on national youth policy in Ukraine was carried out in 2012, containing objectives and recommendations for youth policy implementation in Ukraine.

PROGRAMMING OUTLOOK

The **Concept of Local Self-governance (LSG)** reform adopted in April 2014 should continue to be relevant in the light the decentralisation process and guide the drawing up of LSG legislation concerning the competences of local authorities, local budgets and finance and inter-municipal co-operation.

In the framework of **strengthening local democracy in Ukraine**, the Congress will continue to promote a culture of democracy and political self-governance at local level by implementing activities such as regional seminars for young local leaders which aim to raise their awareness on local and regional democracy principles and to inspire them to engage in local elections in an active and qualified manner. The Congress is also planning the post-monitoring programme for 2015.

Further activities in the field of **free and fair elections** should continue to aim for election reform that meets international standards; ensuring effective mechanisms to address and remedy electoral disputes; improving skills of CSOs in charge of monitoring elections, etc. In the framework of the project, **Inter-cultural cities**, it is important to build upon the experience gained by Ukrainian cities through their involvement in the ICC network and start more systematic work towards them developing comprehensive intercultural strategy and competence. The systematic use (and translation) of ICC instruments, papers, examples and other resources, and expert support for their use locally would take the process of intercultural integration in Ukrainian cities further.

In July 2014 a new bi-annual Framework Programme on Co-operation in the **field of youth policy** for 2014 – 2015 has been signed between the Ministry on Youth and Sport of Ukraine and the Council of Europe. It would include among others, the provision of support to a pool of trainers and multipliers for human rights education and youth participation for network development, further learning opportunities, follow-up of participants' projects, and implementation of youth activities at regional and local levels.

In the area of the **Youth Forum for Democracy** and upon the request of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, a teacher-training seminar will take place on 30 – 31 October 2014 in Kyiv as a follow-up activity. Taking into consideration its popularity, it is suggested that the Youth Forum for Democracy and Human Rights at School in Ukraine takes place on annual basis.

APPENDIX I SUMMARY TABLE – COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMPLETED PROJECTS IN UKRAINE 2011 – 2014

Project	Objective	Outcome
1. HUMAN RIGHTS		
1.1. Ensuring protection of human rights		
Project 1.1.1: Improving the protection of human rights in the context of the European Convention on Human Rights, by enhancing the capacity of the Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights	To enhance co-operation between the Council of Europe and Ukraine in the area of human rights protection.	<p>The project contributed to the further improvement of Convention mechanisms and observance of human rights.</p> <p>Training of the staff of the Secretariat of the Government Agent on the implementation of the ECHR and of the ECtHR judgements.</p> <p>The monitoring of the implementation of European human rights standards was reinforced and the monitoring mechanism is used by the Government Agent in its daily work.</p>
1.2. Promoting human rights		
Project 1.2.1: Reinforcing the fight against ill-treatment and impunity	To reinforce national capacities for combating ill-treatment by law enforcement agencies and penitentiary institutions, including strengthening the effectiveness of investigations of allegations of ill-treatment.	<p>The policy of zero tolerance towards ill-treatment has officially been declared a priority of the government and systematically introduced in the strategic human rights documents of Ukraine in line with CoE recommendations.</p> <p>The new Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine was drawn up with the CoE assistance and entered into force as of November 2012. A legal opinion on the draft CPC has been provided and implementation of the new Criminal Procedure Code was supported through capacity development and awareness raising activities.</p> <p>The development of normative acts subordinated to the CPC was supported.</p>

		<p>The Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights received the necessary competences and officially fulfils the functions of the National Preventive Mechanism.</p> <p>One of the major causes of torture as documented in the CoE monitoring and evaluation reports has been addressed</p> <p>33 training events have been carried out in Ukraine, involving approximately 430 judges, 490 prosecutors, 220 members of the penitentiary service Ombudsman's Office, 60 police officers and 25 lawyers on European standards for the effective investigation and adjudication of allegations of ill-treatment, and on the safeguards for the protection of the rights of detainees.</p>
Project 1.2.2 Strengthening professional training on the ECHR – European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (the HELP Programme)	To support member states in the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) at the national level, by enhancing judges', prosecutors' and lawyers' capacities to apply the ECHR in their daily work.	<p>The National School of Judges of Ukraine, the National Prosecution Academy of Ukraine and the Ukrainian National Association of Lawyers are members of the HELP Network, fully institutionalised in 2013.</p> <p>Standards of the ECHR, as interpreted by the case law of the ECtHR, are fully developed and integrated into National School of Judges' curricula.</p> <p>Ukraine was the first pilot country in which a HELP e-learning course on "Family Law and Human Rights" was tested with participation of a pilot group of 30 Ukrainian judges.</p> <p>In 2014 more than 200 Ukrainian legal professionals registered in the HELP online training platform and have had access to self-learning training materials.</p>
Project 1.2.3: Implementing pilot judgments, quasi-pilot judgments and judgments, revealing structural problems in the field of detention on remand and effective remedies to challenge conditions of detention	To support the partner countries in executing pilot judgments, 'quasi-pilot' judgments and judgments, revealing systemic and structural problems in the field of detention on remand; and in setting up effective remedies to challenge conditions of detention by providing expertise and advice to the relevant authorities.	<p>Awareness and knowledge of a number of national stakeholders on the Convention requirements concerning effective domestic remedies to challenge poor conditions of detention were raised and the experiences of other member states in establishing such remedies were shared with the representatives of all partner countries.</p> <p>This contributed to the reflection on possible measures to be taken by the Ukrainian authorities in this context and the authorities are expected to draw up a consolidated and updated action plan to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers.</p>

<p>Project 1.2.4: Setting up an active network of independent non-judicial human rights structures</p>	<p>To enhance the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to effectively address a wide range of human rights violations by non-judicial means; to promote the independence of that institution; to bind it in the active network of national human rights structures in the member states; to promote the implementation of the OPCAT and help identify an adequate set-up for a future National Preventive Mechanism against torture (NPM).</p>	<p>The capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to effectively address a wide range of human rights violations was reinforced;</p> <p>Human rights violations of all types were addressed by the Ombudsman's Office, screening the human rights compatibility of the national laws and regulation of administrative practices, as well as providing a non-judicial means of redress to individuals, especially from vulnerable groups.;</p> <p>An additional mechanism of systematic, independent preventive visits to places of deprivation of liberty was put in place.</p> <p>Staff of the Ombudsman's Office was trained.</p> <p>The networking of the National Human Rights Structures in the protection and promotion of people with disabilities was reinforced.</p>
<p>Project 1.2.5: Developing a National Patient Safety Action Plan</p>	<p>To improve the health status of citizens of Ukraine by developing policies which improve patient safety, prevent medical errors and decrease costs of malpractice, through implementation of recommendation Rec(2006)7 on management of patient safety and prevention of adverse events in health care.</p>	<p>The "Green Book" on national patient safety was published in Ukrainian, including the CoE CM Recommendation Rec(2006)7 on management of patient safety and prevention of adverse effects in health care, and its Explanatory Memorandum. The publication was financially supported by the Council of Europe.</p> <p>Representatives of the All-Ukrainian Council for Patients' Rights and Safety participated in the CoE Workshop on citizens' consultation on the right to the protection of health (Strasbourg, 8 – 9 November 2012).</p> <p>The Council of Europe contributed with four speakers to the First National Patient Safety Congress, Kyiv, 29 – 30 November 2012.</p>

1.3. Equality, diversity and the rights of the vulnerable

<p>Project 1.3.1: Implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities (2006 – 2015) at national level</p>	<p>To provide assistance in the implementation of the CoE Disability Action Plan 2006 – 2015 in priority areas; Enhance the capacity and knowledge of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the disability field. To provide assistance in the review of existing legislation, policy and practice against the blueprint of the CoE Disability Action Plan</p>	<p>Further CoE CM Recommendations and publications, complementary to the Disability Action Plan 2006 – 2015 (Recommendation(2006)5), have been adopted and issued in order to consider in more detail and provide further support in the implementation of certain topics covered by the Action Plan (i.e. Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)2 on ensuring full inclusion of children and young persons with disabilities into society and its accompanying Report.</p> <p>Over 100 participants, including high-level national and regional officials, directors of Ukrainian rehabilitation centres, heads of regional social protection departments, representatives of the National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine, and others were involved in the proposed activities in Lviv and Chernigov and enhanced their awareness and knowledge on the human rights-based approach to disability.</p> <p>The capacity of a wide range of participants to implement the the CoE Disability Action Plan 2006 – 2015 was raised.</p>
<p>Project 1.3.2: Achieving effective social inclusion for Roma: development and adoption of a comprehensive National Plan for Roma in Ukraine and providing tools for its implementation, including a training programme for Roma Mediators (ROMED) and awareness-raising activities (Dosta!)</p>	<p>ROMED Training programme of mediators and ROMED2 Democratic Governance and Community participation through Mediation. To improve the quality and effectiveness of the work of school/health/employment mediators, with a view to supporting better communication and co-operation between Roma and public institutions (schools/healthcare providers/employment offices).</p>	<p>The International Charitable Organisation, Roma Women Fund “Chiricli”; the National Focal Point for the Programme, carried out the training programme (in Kirovograd and Odessa) for a new group of mediators and social workers with support from the Ministry of Social Policy.</p> <p>Highly qualified trainers of the programme and the ROMED team are working closely with the Ministry of Social Policy to include the ROMED Curriculum in the general professional training provided to all the Social Workers under the payroll of the state.</p> <p>The ROMED2 programme with the new approach of intensive local intervention was also launched in Ukraine in May 2014. Five pilot Municipalities joined the programme and are at present applying the ROMED 2 Methodology: Odessa, Uzhgorod, Kirovograd, Kiev, and Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyi.</p>

1.4. Ensuring social rights		
Project 1.4.1: Tackling drug problems in prisons	To help bring Ukrainian drug policies and practices closer to European standards.	<p>In a series of workshops and seminars, Pompidou Group experts provided best practice examples for prison staff on treatment and rehabilitation for drug using prisoners.</p> <p>Prison staff from all regions of Ukraine participated in the events and prepared recommendations for Ukrainian policy-makers.</p> <p>At a female juvenile prison in Melitopol a rehabilitation programme was developed and tested by the prison staff.</p>
Project 1.4.2: Support of the implementation of a National drug strategy and Action Plan	To provide support for the Ukrainian State Service for Drug Control to implement a national drug strategy and action plan that corresponds with the general principles included in the EU Drugs Action Plans 2009 – 2012 and 2013 – 2016.	<p>Pompidou Group experts provided expertise to the Ukrainian Drug Control Service which contributed to the development and adoption of a new Ukrainian Drug Strategy that is based on human rights principles. The Strategy was adopted in September 2013 by the Ukrainian parliament.</p> <p>A project group consisting of governmental actors, civil society and Pompidou Group experts elaborated a nationwide drug prevention campaign targeting parents and children in Ukraine.</p> <p>In June 2014 the Pompidou Group launched together with the Ukrainian Drug Control Service, UNICEF and the NGO Aids Foundation East-West (AFEW) two new drug prevention video clips with the title, "Our Attention is the Best Prevention". The shorter drug prevention clip will be broadcast on the Ukrainian television.</p> <p>A comprehensive report with recommendations provided guidance to Ukrainian stakeholders to support displaced patients from Crimea.</p> <p>Further to the conference on "Reducing the demand for drugs – improving human life", organised jointly with the Ukrainian Drug Control Service and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in September 2014 in Kyiv, expertise is provided to relevant stakeholders and decision-makers on the implementation of the Ukrainian Drug Strategy in the fields of drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug users and drugs in prisons.</p>

2. RULE OF LAW		
2.1. Ensuring justice		
Project 2.1.1: Supporting the reform of the judicial system	To assist with the establishment of an independent, impartial, efficient and professional judiciary in Ukraine, accessible to all citizens, working effectively and transparently vis-à-vis citizens and civil society.	<p>Legislative advice was provided to the authorities on key pieces of legislation, such as the law on Free Legal Aid, the draft law on the Bar, the draft law amending the law on the Judiciary and Status of Judges, the draft Code of Criminal Procedure, in order to ensure their compliance with European standards. A number of expert opinions were prepared jointly with the Venice Commission. A new law on Free Legal Aid was adopted in July 2011. The new Criminal Procedure Code, the Law on the Bar and amendments to the Law on Judicial System and Status of Judges were also adopted.</p> <p>The efficiency of the court system was increased.</p> <p>In the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution, mediation was introduced in four pilot courts and led to a decrease in the number of cases dealt with by courts and the strengthening of the efficiency of courts.</p> <p>The TEJSU project organised the procurement of electronic networks in all courts.</p> <p>New key institutions were established and activities continued to ensuring that they were able to fulfil their role. The initial training for judges was introduced for the first time in Ukraine during this period.</p> <p>The capacity of judges to apply European standards to their work was improved.</p> <p>Two in-depth reports, "Human Rights training needs assessed in Ukraine" and "Assessment report on ongoing training needs of judges in Ukraine", were carried out and recommendations provided and applied.</p> <p>The work of the CoE and its standards received great visibility throughout the project in particular, during the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.</p>

Project 2.1.2: Supporting prison reform in Ukraine	To enhance reforms in the area of execution of criminal sanctions in Ukraine, in line with CPT and other Council of Europe standards and recommendations. The project used a combination of approaches, such as policy advice; awareness-raising; training, including management training and the development of training tools and curricula as well as peer-to-peer contacts with other European jurisdictions.	<p>The functioning of the Criminal Executive Inspection Service was improved; greater use of alternative sanctions was promoted; programme to help increase the prospects of successful reintegration of prisoners was introduced; the professional skills and management capacities of high and middle ranking prison staff were developed;</p> <p>350 high-ranking prison officials from various Ukrainian regions, covering a large percentage of the top management staff from almost all penitentiary establishments, including around 30 newly appointed prison directors increased their knowledge of the European standards;</p> <p>300 participants from almost all Ukrainian regions, covering 10% of the total staff of the Criminal-Executive Inspection Service (CEIS) and 70% of CEIS managers improved their knowledge of the principles and role of probation in the execution of criminal sanctions and of modern probation methods;</p> <p>The awareness of 250 judges and prosecutors was raised on the social advantages of alternative sanctions and probation.</p> <p>Probation methods were piloted in three regions (Kharkiv, Poltava, Bila Tserkva);</p> <p>CoE provided an expert opinion on the draft Law on Probation.</p> <p>A Manual on Effective Leadership and Prison Management for senior prison officials including a training programme was developed and formed a basis for ToT and in-service training sessions. The Manual is available in 500 print copies in Ukrainian and 100 print copies in English, as well as in digital form.</p>
Project 2.1.3: Enhancing judicial reform in the Eastern Partnership countries	To support and enhance the ongoing process of reform of the judiciary, with a view to increasing the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the judicial systems of the participating beneficiary countries, through intensive information exchange and	<p>A comprehensive analysis of Ukraine's legislation and practice was made available to the Ukrainian authorities with regard to issues of institutional independence of the judiciary and the independence of the individual judge; the role of the Bar, the access to the profession of lawyer, the training and ethical standards based on the tools and methodology of the Council of Europe European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).</p> <p>A new comparative report on judicial systems of the Eastern Partners including Ukraine and review of performance of their national courts has</p>

	best practice sharing.	<p>been prepared.</p> <p>Key aspects of the 2013 review of the efficiency of the judicial system in Ukraine have been presented to the relevant Ukrainian national authorities and stakeholders.</p> <p>The evaluation showed that vis-à-vis the European benchmarks set by the CEPEJ for CoE member states, Ukraine needs to reconsider increasing the resources allocated to the functioning of its justice system. Performance of the national courts (only Kyiv and Odessa courts were analysed) and efficiency indicators, the conclusions of the project were quite positive: Clearance rate was performed at a high level of almost 100% in all the courts and the general trend also showed improvement from 95% in 2009 to 102% in 2010. The courts' backlog was reduced in 2010 around 40%. The Ukrainian courts delivered their decisions within a very quick calculated turn-around time at an average of 42 days (EaP median was 33 days).</p>
Project 2.1.4: Strengthening the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the judiciary in Ukraine	To strengthen the independence, efficiency and professionalism of the Ukrainian judiciary and to facilitate institutional and legislative reforms related to the Ukrainian judiciary in line with European standards.	<p>Expertise in the design, assessment and implementation of the Law on Restoring Trust in the Judiciary in Ukraine was provided. The Law, adopted in April 2014, can be considered as the most important piece of legislation for the Ukrainian judiciary after the 2010 Law on Judiciary and the Status of Judges. According to the assessment of the compliance of the adopted law with the Opinion of the CoE experts, around 80% of all recommendations had been taken into account in the final text of the law.</p> <p>Structural problems in the Ukrainian judiciary related to the accountability issues raised by the judgment in the case of Olexandr Volkov vs. Ukraine have been addressed.</p> <p>An assessment of the financing system of the Ukrainian judiciary was provided and identified further steps to improve this system. The Council of Judges of Ukraine defined key aspects and plans for the development of strategies for the Ukrainian judiciary, highlighting the aspects of financing of judiciary and communications of the judiciary with the public.</p> <p>A report on development of national standards for judicial education for the National School of Judges' has been finalised.</p>

		<p>300 copies of the three-volume ECtHR case-law on Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (right to fair trial) were published.</p> <p>Civil society organisations (CSOs) have been involved in the reform of the judiciary. The "Centre of Judicial Studies" completed the monitoring of the status of judicial independence in Ukraine.</p>
2.2. Countering threats to the rule of law		
Project 2.2.1: Good governance and the fight against corruption in the Eastern Partnership countries	<p>To strengthen national capacities of Ukraine (along with other members of the Eastern Partnership Initiative) to apply prevention and law enforcement measures in order to enhance their good governance and fight against corruption.</p> <p>Specific objective: To enhance good governance and strengthen the capacities of the public administration and criminal justice sector in order to effectively prevent and fight corruption in line with Council of Europe conventions and other international treaties.</p>	<p>The Ukrainian income and asset declaration system has been assessed. Recommendations for its further improvement were provided and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine has incorporated some of them into draft amendments to legislation on income and asset declarations.</p> <p>The Ukrainian authorities presented the results and findings of the risk assessment at the Regional Conference, "Presentation of risk assessment: Typologies of underlying causes of corruption", in Chisinau on 11 April 2013 and engaged in a cross-regional exchange.</p> <p>The information and case studies from Ukraine were aggregated and fed into a regional typology study which was adopted at a regional conference held in Minsk, in November 2013.</p> <p>Pilot activity expertise was implemented and a workshop on the new Action Plan ("State Program") 2011 – 2015 was held.</p> <p><i>The new Anti-Corruption Action Plan</i> has been translated into English and an assessment was finalised. Recommendations on further improvement of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan were provided.</p> <p>Awareness has been raised among Ukrainian lawmakers and other relevant stakeholders of the normative and financial benefits of liability of legal persons and of the new draft law submitted to the Verkhovna Rada on 17 January 2013.</p> <p>A comprehensive Training Manual (including practical cases) has been developed and widely used. The Manual is available in English and Russian.</p> <p>Training of professionals and civil society representatives, such as investigative journalists, has been provided on how to analyse declarations</p>

		financially and to detect hidden income and expenditures. The civil society representatives enhanced their watchdog functions with regard to asset declarations.
Project 2.2.2: Co-operation against cybercrime in Eastern Partnership countries (CyberCrime@EAP)	<p>To enhance the reform processes in the six partner countries through a multilateral approach and to bring them closer to Council of Europe and EU standards in core areas covered by the Eastern Partnership Platform 1. Specific objective:</p> <p>To strengthen the capacities of criminal justice authorities of Eastern Partnership countries to co-operate effectively against cybercrime.</p>	<p>The adoption of a set of strategic priorities in October 2013 on a conference hosted by the Ukrainian authorities provided guidance to countries on cybercrime policies. A draft cyber security strategy of Ukraine has been prepared by the Government and is expected to be adopted soon.</p> <p>Ukraine was provided with a set of tools for action against cybercrime, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - advice on legislation: The entry into force of the new Criminal Procedure Code in November 2012 left a number of gaps in the procedural law. A new law has been drafted in the meantime to address some of the gaps; - advice on specialised units: Ukraine considerably strengthened its institutional capacities. In early 2012, a separate Cybercrime Department was established within the Ministry of Interior and cybercrime units within the State Security Service; - judicial and law enforcement training concepts: Ukraine developed concepts in both fields, including following specific workshops at EUROPOL on law enforcement training (May 2014) and Bucharest on judicial training (June 2014); - financial investigations: Ukraine has now an active role in linking cybercrime investigations with investigations on money laundering and crime proceeds, and serves as an example for other EAP countries.

3. DEMOCRACY

3.1. Parliamentary democracy; support to improve electoral legislation and practice

<p>Project 3.1.1: Supporting free and fair elections in the Eastern Partnership countries</p>	<p>To ensure the effective implementation of the principles of the European electoral heritage, relying notably on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities involving both the competent authorities and civil society.</p>	<p>Professionalisation of domestic observers was increased.</p> <p>Awareness of electoral issues among women and young voters was raised and women's participation in political and public life was strengthened.</p> <p>18 completed activities contributed to bridging the gap between Electoral Administration and civil society on a variety of election-related topics.</p> <p>Joint training with the participation of representatives of CEC and domestic observers were organised. The development of standards was agreed; training tools were developed and used to help domestic observers write structured and well documented reports that in turn can help the electoral administration to improve the electoral rules and take remedial actions.</p> <p>A network of experienced trainers in election reporting was established and is fully operational.</p> <p>A country report on the topic of the participation of women in politics was prepared. Recommendations were developed.</p>
<p>Project 3.1.2.: Assistance in capacity-building to the Central Electoral Commission of Ukraine and training of electoral officials and judges</p>	<p>To draft election-related legislation and its implementation, enabling the effective exercise of voting rights and creation of the necessary conditions for the free and informed participation of voters.</p>	<p>A specific pre-electoral support programme composed of a media campaign, principally through the internet and radio, was launched, the training handbook was developed (follow up foreseen under the project "Media").</p>

3.2. Local democracy: support public discussions on international standards for democratic elections

<p>Project 3.2.1.: Strengthening local democracy and support for local government reforms in Ukraine</p>	<p>To provide policy guidance, legal assistance and technical expertise to the Ukrainian authorities. The programme will contribute to the establishment of an efficient local government system, in order to promote good governance and more effective provision of services to citizens in Ukraine. The purpose of the programme is to contribute to the improvement of an institutional and legislative framework for local democracy in Ukraine and the development of a system of decentralised governance consistent with the European Charter of Local Self-Government, European standards and objectives of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine.</p>	<p>Structural local self-government (LSG) reforms were designed and integrated into a wider PAR process. Division of roles and responsibilities between local governments and local state administrations were streamlined.</p> <p>Local finance system and inter-budgetary relations were enhanced to reduce vertical and horizontal imbalances; LSG budget autonomy was strengthened; budget management was improved.</p> <p>The National Programme of Reform and Development of the Housing and Municipal Economy was enhanced. Inter-municipal co-operation was encouraged.</p> <p>Public and stakeholders' awareness of the reform process and of its impact was raised.</p> <p>Over twenty legal appraisals and policy advice papers on draft legislation provided; about a hundred roundtable discussions and workshops organised in two years;</p> <p>CoE recommendations were integrated into the National Concept of the Civil Service in local government bodies, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in December 2011;</p> <p>Conclusions and recommendations of the CoE experts were taken into account and integrated into the equalisation formula for inter-budgetary transfers for 2012 and into the Law on Regional Development Fund;</p> <p>A comprehensive legislative package on LSG reform, including administrative and territorial reform, was drafted.</p>
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3.3. Promoting democratic governance and stability

<p>Project 3.3.1: Intercultural cities</p>	<p>To establish a Ukrainian and wider (Eastern European) network of poly-cultural cities as a partner network of CoE ICC programme, allowing a wider exchange of experience and using the multiplier effect.</p>	<p>The city of Melitopol was the pioneer Ukrainian city joining the Intercultural Cities Programme (ICC).</p> <p>A solid knowledge base for the city's new intercultural strategy was developed. Regular surveys were carried.</p> <p>A methodology for the evaluation of the strategy's impact has also been designed. The city created a new specialised team preparing an action plan to implement the intercultural strategy.</p> <p>Melitopol became one of four cities members of the international Intercultural cities network to develop a Community-Based Result Responsibility (CBRA) strategy and established a business incubator for start-ups in local business initiatives based on intercultural collaboration.</p> <p>The Ukrainian intercultural cities network includes 11 cities.</p> <p>Their achievements are: two international fora (Forum of intercultural cities and Forum of mayors) in the city of Lutsk, activation of intercultural exchanges between cities (Melitopol and Pavlograd, Pavlograd and Lutsk, Pavlograd and Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia and Pavlograd and Melitopol, etc.); the transfer of expertise and knowledge between Melitopol and the other cities of the national network, on cultural mapping, intercultural policy development and the ICC INDEX benchmarking.</p> <p>Most of the cities prepared a special section on their official sites dedicated to intercultural issues.</p> <p>Melitopol and Vynitsia prepared case studies for sharing experience on new urban policies for new cities members of the Ukrainian intercultural cities programme, for improving local governance and community life.</p> <p>A joint project between the Botkyrka municipality (Sweden) and the Ukrainian Platform of Intercultural cities, supported by the Swedish Institute was carried out. Two large surveys of 700 persons about intercultural perceptions and relations were carried out in Lutsk and Pavlograd.</p>
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Project 3.3.2: Framework programme of co-operation in the field of youth policy	<p>The Framework Programme contributes to the development of youth policy in Ukraine, primarily on matters pertaining to the development of youth mobility, participation of youth in the life of society, recognition of cultural diversity, struggle against all forms of discrimination, and promotion and strengthening of healthy life styles among children and youth. The goal of the programme meets Ukraine's priorities in the sphere of youth policy, in part to the State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine" for 2009 – 2015, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on January 28, 2009, № 41.</p>	<p>In 2012 a Framework Programme for Co-operation in the sphere of youth policy for 2012 and 2013 was signed and successfully implemented in the framework of the CoE 2011 – 2014 Action Plan for Ukraine, "A Partnership for Reform".</p> <p>The youth dimension of both the Action Plan for Ukraine and the Framework Programme addressed the training of key multipliers, trainers and youth policy officers who can play a role in initiating processes for youth policy reforms, supporting youth participation and the mainstreaming of human rights.</p> <p>A long-term project, "Capacity-building for youth participation in youth policy and human rights education in Ukraine", included a training course on youth policy development and human rights education.</p> <p>An international review on the national youth policy in Ukraine was carried out in 2012 by the CoE and the State Service of Sport and Youth Policy of Ukraine. Objectives and recommendations have been provided for youth policy implementation in Ukraine.</p> <p>The launch of the all-Ukrainian Conference on "No Hate Speech Movement" campaign (January 2014) was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine and the Association "KVN Ukraine". (50 participants). A strategy for the national campaign, "No hate speech movement", has been developed for 2014 to consider integration of the campaign in youth policy, to network with others in the human rights sphere and to engage in cross-cultural dialogue.</p>
Project 3.3.3: International review of Ukrainian youth policy	<p>An international team of youth policy experts will conduct an in-depth review of the youth policy of Ukraine and make recommendations, following the model used in the previous analyses.</p>	<p>The Compass 2012 – Manual on Human Rights Education with Young People has been translated into Ukrainian and is available on the CoE site.</p> <p>Ukrainian activists toured several European countries in August 2014 to advertise the "No Hate Speech Movement" and to share experience with colleagues from other countries.</p>

Project 3.3.4: European identity and education (European Higher Education Area)	To carry out higher education reform in Ukraine based on European standards and good practices, in particular concerning the legal framework and qualifications frameworks, in line with the principles of the European Higher Education Area.	The CoE provided legal expertise to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on the development of the Law on Higher Education. This Law was one of the priorities of the new government of Ukraine (included in the 100-days' programme of the government). The President of Ukraine signed the Law on 1 August 2014.
Project 3.3.5: Promotion of European standards in the Ukrainian media environment	To raise journalistic standards with a view to ensuring that the Ukrainian public is better informed about political and social processes in Ukraine	<p>The project contributed to the ratification of the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (December 2008) and its implementation notably, the advertising and sponsorship rules.</p> <p>The analyses provided were instrumental in bringing the draft Law on Access to Public Information in line with the European standards (adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament in January 2011).</p> <p>Comprehensive practical guides on organising access to information in a public authority were provided in order to facilitate the successful application of the law. The publications were made available on the web-sites of the Presidential Administration, local authorities, the State TV and Radio Committee of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada Committee for Freedom of Speech and Information, CSOs etc.</p> <p>Training on the application of the access to information law was conducted for 800 public officials, journalists and civil society activists in 17 regions of Ukraine. 103 institutions successfully set up the units responsible for organising access to information, comprising more than 300 officials in total. In 2011 – 2012 access was granted to 290 000 documents held by public authorities.</p> <p>An expert opinion on the law on Television and Radio Broadcasting was provided.</p> <p>Large-scale international expert debates were organised on the transition to digital broadcasting and improving the effectiveness, independence and transparency of the media regulator, also in the framework of Ukraine's</p>

		<p>Chairmanship of the CoE Committee of Ministers in 2011.</p> <p>An effective dialogue between media, local authorities and civil society on issues of public interest in 6 cities of Ukraine enhanced the mutual understanding of the stakeholders' different roles in the democratic process.</p>
<p>Project 3.3.6: Swiss/Ukrainian Pilot Initiative on the CoE Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education [ad. in the framework of Rec.CM/Rec(2010)7]</p>	<p>To explore possible ways of implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE), in the form of technical co-operation.</p>	<p>Study visits were organised to Switzerland and Ukraine and a book on the outcomes of this initiative was published in 2013.</p> <p>The project inspired the setting up of the EDC/HRE pilot projects' scheme open to all countries of the European Cultural Convention, to be co-financed by the European Commission.</p>

3.4. Building a democratic culture		
Project 3.4.1: History teaching	To provide assistance to the reform of history teaching in Ukraine; to align the national educational system to European standards and to help the young generation to acquire the necessary skills to live and build partnerships in the present-day multicultural society.	<p>Guidelines were provided for the reform of the history teaching in Ukraine and notably for alignment of the national educational system to European standards; networking of the high education institutions and associations of teachers was reinforced.</p> <p>Guidelines were provided for teaching sensitive issues in a multicultural context without creating tension or confrontation; assistance was provided for young people to build partnerships in the multicultural society.</p>
Project 3.4.2: European lessons in shared histories	To facilitate a public discussion on reconsidering the role of multicultural education in the post-communist society, and to identify new opportunities for building a multicultural image of Ukrainian society based on the European democratic approach to education.	The competence-oriented approaches in the initial and in-service teacher training were developed enabling history teacher to work efficiently in a multicultural environment in Ukraine.
Project 3.4.3: Youth Forum for Democracy and Human Rights in schools	To develop sustainable mechanisms for the promotion of citizenship and human rights education in Ukraine, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.	<p>The Youth Forum for Democracy and Human Rights at School in Ukraine was held on 23 – 27 September 2013 in Laspi with a specific focus on the CoE Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, youth participation and project learning approach.</p> <p>The multiplier teams were trained to put into practice principles of the Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights through implementation of youth initiatives and local community projects.</p> <p>The multipliers were trained to use the CoE Charter on EDC/HRE, Compass and the EDC/HRE Pack for teaching and learning purposes as well as for dissemination activities.</p> <p>At the follow-up stage lasting for 4 months, 6 EDC/HRE school projects</p>

		<p>were carried out reaching out to at least 2 000 secondary beneficiaries (students, teachers, school administration, parents, local administration and business representatives). Awareness of the importance of democratic participation was raised.</p>
Project 3.4.4: Language Education Policy Profile	To provide assistance in reflecting upon language education policy.	<p>The Language Education Policy was self-evaluated in a spirit of dialogue with CoE experts and recommendations for the possible future policy development were provided.</p> <p>A Country Report to describe and evaluate current policy, outlining new or planned initiatives and highlighting challenges was prepared and disseminated. The document, "Language Education Policy Profile", was drafted and approved by the national authorities (published on the CoE website).</p>
Project 3.4.5: Enhance and consolidate national policies related to sport, in order to provide the UEFA European Football Championship 2012 with the best possible legal and political framework, in compliance with international standards	To monitor the implementation of the European Convention on Spectator Violence; to support the preparation and the organisation of major sport events, in particular the UEFA European Football Championship 2012; to support the Ukrainian authorities in the development of an anti-doping policy.	<p>A consultative visit was organised in Ukraine in June 2011 to monitor the implementation of the European Convention on Spectator Violence;</p> <p>Ukrainian key players were trained in designing and implementing spectator safety and security policies and mechanisms before the tournament in line with European standards and practices;</p> <p>Inspection visits were carried out in each of the 8 host cities a few months before the competition (in Kyiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Lviv and the four Polish cities)</p> <p>Reports were elaborated and shared with UEFA after each visit, and then forwarded to the Ukrainian national authorities for examination and implementation before the beginning of the championship.</p> <p>The project has been successfully implemented; no major problems occurred in terms of safety and security of spectators during the UEFA EURO 2012 European Football Championship, apart two incidents in Warsaw and Donetsk.</p> <p>The Monitoring Group of the Anti-doping Convention identified areas where Ukraine is non-compliant to the Convention and to the Wada Anti-Doping Code and invited Ukraine to consider a proposal to organise a consultative visit in 2015 and 2016.</p>

<p>Evaluation of the CoE Action Plan for Ukraine</p>	<p>This evaluation was divided in two parts: the first part focused on the process of definition and adoption of the Action Plan for Ukraine 2008 – 2011. The second part focused on the global effectiveness and, therefore, the substance of the AP.</p>	<p>The five case studies on corruption, media, local governance, crime control and judiciary projects of the Action Plan for Ukraine 2008 – 2011 were finalised.</p> <p>The Synthesis Report was prepared. Four working visits by consultants to Strasbourg and Kyiv were organised. Interviews with the stakeholders were carried out.</p> <p>The training and coaching programmes and materials on monitoring, risk assessment and result-based management of the Action Plan at programme level was developed and 4 training sessions for the national stakeholders were organised by ODG-PROG in 2012 – 2013.</p> <p>The “Manual” and “Guidelines” on the “Action Plan and project management” were published in English and Ukrainian and presented to the national stakeholders.</p> <p>The documents were used for training the national stakeholders and project managers with a view to reinforce the Action Plan design, increase efficiency of the Action Plan and project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</p>
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APPENDIX II SUMMARY TABLE – COUNCIL OF EUROPE ONGOING PROJECTS IN UKRAINE 2011 – 2014

Project	Objective	Outcome
Strengthening the lawyers' capacity for domestic application of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and of the Revised European Social Charter (RESC)	To develop national capacities for effective human rights protection by increasing knowledge and skills on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the Revised European Social Charter (RESC).	<p>30 lawyers and human rights defenders have been trained in Ukraine with the capacity to train their peers and other legal professionals on ECHR topics and specifically on topics related to discrimination and the Revised Social Charter. 470 lawyers and human rights defenders were trained through 10 cascade seminars.</p> <p>220 professionals have been trained on the ECHR, ECtHR case law and the Revised Social Charter.</p> <p>The Handbook on European Non-Discrimination Law and the update of the Case Law developed by the ECtHR and the Fundamental Rights Agency has been translated and made available.</p>
Support to the criminal justice reform	To improve the effectiveness of criminal justice in Ukraine, in line with European standards.	<p>Support for the implementation of the new Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine was provided.</p> <p>The compatibility of at least 16 sub-legislative acts and 7 information letters with the new CPC and the ECHR standards was examined.</p> <p>A joint Opinion of the Directorate for Human Rights and the Venice Commission on the Draft Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine was endorsed by the Venice Commission at its 96th Plenary Session.</p> <p>In October 2014, Verkhovna Rada adopted the new law on the Public Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine.</p> <p>More than 100 selected legal professionals (prosecutors, judges, lawyers and criminal investigators) were trained on matters related to the CPC implementation in line with ECHR standards. Subsequently, 900 judges, prosecutors, lawyers, criminal investigators and other criminal justice actors acquired knowledge and skills to apply ECHR.</p> <p>A Concept of Assessment of the CPC Implementation was developed.</p> <p>The quality standards were approved by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 25 February 2014. The lawyer-trainers trained through cascade seminars around 2 000 lawyers participating in the free legal aid system.</p>

Prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence	<p>The capacity of national institutions to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence is enhanced, and the awareness of the relevant law and policy makers responsible for providing effective assistance and redress to victims of violence against women and domestic violence is increased.</p>	<p>Relations with all relevant public bodies and women's rights NGOs whose cooperation is required for a successful ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention by Ukraine were established.</p> <p>The CoE experts met the Istanbul Convention Inter-agency Working Group (ICIWG) to determine the scope of work that needs to be accomplished in order to bring Ukrainian legislation in line with the Convention and legislative expertise and specific recommendations are provided.</p> <p>The Explanatory Report to the Istanbul Convention was made available to Ukrainian lawmakers and other national stakeholders.</p> <p>The CoE experts and a thematic sub-group of the ICIWG on data collection take stock of the current situation regarding the collection of sex-disaggregated data on violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine.</p> <p>Two regions (Oblasts) of Ukraine – Lvivska and Kirovohradska – were selected by the central authorities to participate in pilot activities to assess the cooperation between various local actors involved in providing assistance and redress to survivors of violence against women and domestic violence.</p>
Strengthening and protecting children's rights	<p>To enhance the capacity of national institutions to promote and protect children's rights, to develop child-friendly services and systems as well as to increase awareness of violence, and in particular sexual violence, against children among the judiciary, law enforcement personnel, health and social work professionals, educators, and other relevant professionals and</p>	<p>Assessment of the needs of the key partners and the development of the Project Document in line with the priorities of the CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012 – 2015 has been conducted.</p> <p>The Inception Report was presented to the key stakeholders with the main objectives and activities and adopted by the members of the Steering Group in January 2014;</p> <p>The Ukrainian Youth Forum for Democracy and Human Rights in School was organised in Laspi in September 2013 and continued to increase young people's participation in public life by implementing the CoE Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and the CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012 – 2015.</p> <p>10 youth projects in Ukraine on a whole school approach to education for human rights and citizenship have been successfully implemented.</p> <p>100 participants from almost all regions of Ukraine took part in a series of trainings</p>

	the public.	<p>on prevention of and combating violence against children at home and in school. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine initiated a competition of school projects about how to prevent and combat violence against children at home and in school during 2014/2015 academic year.</p> <p>The International Conference "Childhood without Violence: Society, School and Family on Protection of Children's Rights" was held in Ternopil to analyse the ability of the state protection system's mechanisms to protect children's rights and provided recommendations. A flash-mob "No violence against children" (with 240 children) was held in the aim of raising awareness on children's rights in Ukraine and the CoE children's rights Programme.</p>
Strengthening of Local Democracy and Support to Decentralisation Reform in Ukraine	To contribute to the development of local and regional democracy in Ukraine, to promote further the knowledge of European best practice and standards and to build confidence and trust in local and regional elected representatives.	<p>Some activities in the area of legal and policy advice were conducted under the project, "Strengthening the institutional capacity of the local self-government authorities and their associations in the implementation of European standards of good governance at local level, providing active citizenship and participatory democracy" (for results; see below). Similarly, some activities of the political dialogue and activities aimed at enhancing local leaders' capacities and citizens' involvement in local public affairs are undertaken under the previously cited project and within the "Immediate Measures Package".</p>
Strengthening the institutional capacity of the local self-government authorities and their associations in the implementation of European standards of good governance at local level, providing active citizenship and participatory democracy	To improve the quality of local self-governance in Ukraine. To support Ukraine in improving the quality of local self-governance and developing national legal framework in line with the CoE standards.	<p>The Concept of Local Self-governance and the Reform of Territorial power were drafted. The final version was formally adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in April 2014.</p> <p>Assistance in the field of capacity-building is currently being successfully implemented.</p> <p>The CoE ensures co-ordination of four out of the six reform "task forces" concerning decentralisation and local government reform, namely on: amalgamation of local authorities; inter-municipal co-ordination; territorial state presence reform; the Land Code.</p> <p>The institutional capacity of Local Government Associations (LGA) to deal with their tasks was strengthened.</p> <p>Expert opinions were provided on the local self-government reform and territorial organisation of power, draft Laws on the Right of Territorial Communities for</p>

		<p>Amalgamation and on Co-operation of Territorial Communities.</p> <p>Assistance was provided via the platform for discussion of Recommendation 348 (2013) on local and regional democracy in Ukraine adopted by the CLRAE.</p> <p>Peer reviews were conducted leading to action plans for reform in pilot municipalities. 20 pilot local authorities improved 3 local services through the definition and use of performance indicators.</p> <p>Strategy for Innovation and the Good Governance and ELoGE award have been tested in Odessa with very good results.</p> <p>The manual on "Good governance in Ukrainian municipalities: Council of Europe Best Practice Programme" (BPP) was prepared.</p> <p>The database of the BPP-2013 was developed in line with the CoE methodology and used by the Ministry of Regional Development.</p> <p>The Local Finance Benchmark was adapted for use at the level of Ukrainian municipalities.</p> <p>The CoE toolkit, "Modern leadership for modern local government", was tested during a series of regional.</p> <p>The adapted CoE toolkit, "Towards a modern Local Government Association", was developed.</p> <p>Ethical standards were reinforced in the participating LSGAs. 16 LSGAs developed and approved codes of ethics.</p>
Integration of European standards in the media environment	To promote freedom of expression in Ukraine via further aligning the legal framework for the media with international standards; to support policy work on the internet and human rights issues; to raise professional and ethical standards in journalism, capacity-building for media and the	<p>The law on public broadcasting was adopted in April 2014 which was a long-standing commitment of Ukraine.</p> <p>Assistance and support was ensured to facilitate its implementation;</p> <p>Capacity-building activities for the establishment of a genuine public broadcasting system are organised. The main outputs included the development of the strategy of transition from state to public broadcasting, training of the Supervisory Board, transfer of best practices for operation and management of the public broadcasting organisations, training for core staff.</p> <p>Journalists from Crimea, East and South of Ukraine and lead national media were trained on how to work safely in times of crisis.</p>

	relevant civil society groups, thus improving quality and availability of information for society.	The legal framework for accessing official documents was improved in 2014. The journalists' self-regulatory model was strengthened: the structure of the Journalist Ethics Commission of Ukraine was enhanced and a new unified Journalist Ethics Code was adopted by lead Ukrainian journalist NGOs in 2013.
Integration of European standards in Ukraine's media environment, internet governance and data protection system	To strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms through: greater freedom, diversity and pluralism in the media; an open, inclusive, sustainable, people-centred and human rights-based approach to the internet; an effective system of protection of individuals with regard to their right to privacy and right to control their personal data.	A draft work plan with priority activities has been established with the focus on elaboration of a strategy for approximation of media legislation with European standards, legal basis for privatisation and de-monopolisation of the media, fair and balanced media coverage of elections (legislation and practices), safety of journalists, access to information (legislation and its implementation), improved training and awareness of internet governance and human rights, enhanced multi-stakeholder dialogue and participation of Ukrainian stakeholders in international fora on internet governance, enhanced institutional capacities for monitoring and further improvement of the law on data protection.
Completing the constitution of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest	To protect biodiversity in the targeted countries. To implement the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi targets on protected areas, as well as the EU and Bern Convention's principles on the protection of habitats and species, through the setting-up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.	The Emerald database for Ukraine for species, habitats and other relevant ecological information was prepared for 159 Emerald Sites. The sites include 18 Nature Reserves, 6 Biosphere Reserves, 43 National Nature Parks, 31 Wildlife Reserves of National and local importance, 18 Regional Landscape Parks, 6 Ramsar Wetlands, 13 wetlands and 24 areas with high biodiversity, species and habitats from the Res. No. 4 (1996) and Res. No. 6 (1998) of the Bern Convention. The area represents 7.4% of the total territory of Ukraine. The country authorities have proven to share the Bern Convention/EU nature protection standards. The implementation of the Emerald Network has been included in the Association Agreement EU/Ukraine (Chapter on Economic and Sector Cooperation).

APPENDIX III – LIST OF DONORS

1. European Union
2. Denmark
3. Finland
4. Germany
5. Hungary
6. Netherlands
7. Norway
8. Romania
9. Sweden (Sida)
10. Switzerland (SDC)
11. United Kingdom
12. Canada

APPENDIX IV – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Action Plan revised budget: € 30 073 260

Funding Secured: € 25 841 824

Table 1: GENERAL BUDGET (in euro)

Type of project	Funding secured			
	Ordinary Budget	EU/CoE Joint Programmes	Voluntary Contributions	Total funds secured
TOTAL	553 000	13 257 701	12 031 123	25 841 824

Table 2: BUDGET BY PILLAR (all figures in euro)

Pillars	Total funds secured
1. Human rights	5 505 650
2. Rule of law	8 990 727
3. Democracy	10 845 447
Action Plan Evaluation	500 000
TOTAL	25 841 824