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Combating ill-treatment and impunity

Project summary

Project title	Reinforcing the fight against ill-treatment and impunity
Country	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
Budget	1 750 000 €
Funding	EU/CoE Joint Programme (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights)
Duration	33 months (01 July 2011 – 31 March 2014)
Partners and beneficiaries	Ministries of Justice, Offices of the Prosecutors General, Ministries of Interior, Academies of Justice, Prosecutors' Training Centres, Police Academies, penitentiary services, supervisory, investigative and complaints handling structures, executive, judicial and legislative institutions, Ombudsman institutions, Bar Associations, OPCAT bodies, NGOs
Main objective	to develop national capacities for combating ill-treatment by law enforcement agencies and investigative institutions, including strengthening the effectiveness of investigations of allegations of ill-treatment
Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The policy of zero tolerance towards ill-treatment has officially been declared as a priority of all the concerned national governments, highlighted in the addresses of the high level public officials and systematically introduced in the strategic documents of the partner countries;2. Material and procedural legislation of the partner countries has been amended and supplemented with important provisions drawn up as a response to the 2009 and 2012 Country Reports and CoE experts' recommendations on combating ill-treatment. Therefore, the regulatory framework of the partner countries has been improved and is in a better conformity with European and international standards, including the recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), the case



law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Istanbul Protocol;

3. The institutional/operational systems for preventing and effectively investigating complaints of ill-treatment, leading to imposition of sanctions when appropriate, were brought in a better conformity with European and international standards. Specialised investigation services or institutions in charge of investigation of police complaints have been established or are in the pipeline. Their independence and efficiency have been advocated for improved over the Project's period;
4. At least 2700 representatives of the relevant institutions, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police and penitentiary officials, legal staff of Ombudsperson institutions, OPCAT bodies and NGOs, decision-makers of the executive and legislative branches, have been ensured a better access to European and international standards for preventing and combating ill-treatment and enabled to fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with these standards;
5. Regional co-operation and synergy between the partner countries has been enhanced. Professional networks across the involved national jurisdictions have been created through institutional and personal contacts. Exchange of experience between the countries in the context of alignment towards the European standards in the area of fighting ill-treatment has been strengthened through regional conferences at the highest level and by the discussions and consultations during the Steering Committee (SC) meetings.
6. As regards the impact of the work carried out, the frequency of cases of ill-treatment in the partner countries, reported between 2009 and 2014, decreased considerably. The number of national court verdicts based on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) standards has grown steadily and the prosecutorial practices also aligned gradually to the same standards. Accordingly, a tendency of decrease in the number of applications referring to infringements of Article 3 of the ECHR lodged against the partner countries (Moldova in particular) can be observed.