



Partnership for Good Governance II (2019-2022)

Regional project: Women's Access to Justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards

What is the goal?

- ▶ To strengthen access to justice for women, especially women victims of violence in line with the Council of Europe Convention preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ([Istanbul Convention](#)) and contributing towards the its ratification by Eastern Partnership countries.

How does the project work?

- ▶ Through bilateral work with national authorities and the regional exchange of practices.
- ▶ Development of mentoring programmes for judges and prosecutors on women's access to justice and training programmes for legal aid lawyers in all six Eastern Partnership countries.
- ▶ Gender mainstreaming the curricula of law schools in all six Eastern Partnership countries.
- ▶ Enhancing national authorities' competences on measuring women's access to justice in all six Eastern Partnership countries.

How much does it cost?

- ▶ The total project budget is EUR 1 071 000.
- ▶ 80% is funded by the European Union and 20% by the Council of Europe. The programme is implemented by the Council of Europe.

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ The general public.
- ▶ Women victims of violence.
- ▶ Judges, prosecutors, lawyers and civil society advocates.
- ▶ Legal professionals dealing with cases of violence against women.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ Authorities, justice sector professionals, and civil society apply in their work new knowledge and practical skills on the standards on women's access to justice contained in the Istanbul Convention, in order to remove obstacles to such access.
- ▶ Authorities, justice sector professionals and civil society introduce measures, including training, to ensure that the justice chain is gender-responsive, particularly for women victims of violence, in line with the Istanbul Convention and other European standards.

What is the project duration?

- ▶ The project runs from 1 January 2019 to 31 August 2022

How do we get more information?

- ▶ [Gender Equality Division](#), Capacity building and co-operation projects Unit, Directorate General II of Democracy, Council of Europe

Contact information

Project Team in Strasbourg:

- ▶ Marta Becerra, Head of Unit
marta.becerra@coe.int
- ▶ Anca Sandescu, Project co-ordinator
anca.sandescu@coe.int

This is a regional project covering Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus¹), implemented under the Partnership for Good Governance Programme in its second phase; also referred to as the PGG II.

In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed that targeted co-operation activities with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus – the EU's Eastern Partnership countries – would be implemented under the Partnership for Good Governance. The phase I of the programme (PGG I) started in 2015 and was completed in 2018; the second phase of the programme (PGG II) was launched in 2019 and will run until August 2022.

These co-operation activities will strengthen the capacity of Eastern Partnership countries, which are member States of the Council of Europe, apart from Belarus, to implement domestic reforms to bring them closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

¹ *In the view of the political situation in Belarus, and in accordance with the restrictive measures issued by the European Union, the co-operation activities with this country are on hold and no new actions are planned for the PGG II remaining implementation period so far.*