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Partnership for Good Governance 2019-2021 (PGGII)

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 its ratification by Eastern Partnership countries.

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.

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.

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.

How much does it cost?

- ▶ The total project budget is EUR 1 050 000.
- ▶ 80% is funded by the European Union and 20% by the Council of Europe. The programme is implemented by the Council of Europe.

How do we get more information?

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

What is the project duration?

- ▶ The programme runs from January 2019 to December 2021.

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

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 (PGGI) started in 2015 and was completed in 2018; the second phase of the programme (PGGII) was launched in 2019 and will run until 2021.

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.