

Partnership for Good Governance II (2019-2022)

Project: Implementation of judicial reforms

Component 1: Support to the judicial reform – enhancing the independence and professionalism of the judiciary in Armenia

What is the goal?

- ▶ To promote judicial independence, the effectiveness of legal proceedings and access to justice in Armenia

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ The general public, including persons seeking the protection of their rights in courts;
- ▶ Judges, judicial self-governing bodies, lawyers, members of the Parliament of Armenia who will apply improved legal acts in their daily work;
- ▶ Policy and decision-makers of the field of justice;
- ▶ Mediators and arbitrators;
- ▶ Civil society organisations.

How does the project work?

- ▶ With a tailor-made approach to meet the emerging needs of the justice reform in the country;
- ▶ Through providing legal drafting support to the justice reform;
- ▶ By enhancing the application of mediation and arbitration in accordance with Council of Europe standards and recommendations
- ▶ By engaging the main national partners, civil society and other stakeholders to strengthening the local ownership of the project;
- ▶ Through bilateral meetings as well as multilateral exchange of experience;
- ▶ Through advice and expertise on the legislation, reviews and substantive recommendations;
- ▶ It builds on the results of co-operation in the field of Justice under the PGG Phase I (2015-2018).

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ National legal acts on the judiciary are developed, revised and implemented in line with Council of Europe standards;
- ▶ Transparency and efficiency of the work of the judicial self-governing bodies, namely the newly established Supreme Judicial Council and the General Assembly of Judges are enhanced;
- ▶ Equal access to justice and legal certainty is strengthened and the efficiency of the performance and management of the courts are improved;
- ▶ Practical application of arbitration and mediation in Armenia is improved;
- ▶ Access to justice for the public is facilitated, the backlog of cases is reduced.

How much does it cost?

- The total budget of Component 1 is EUR 915 000.
- 80% is funded by the European Union and 20% by the Council of Europe. The project is implemented by the Council of Europe.

Where can I learn more?

- ▶ Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Justice Sector Reform Unit, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe

What is the project duration?

The project runs from 1 January 2019 to 31 August 2022.

Contact information

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Component 2: Supporting the criminal justice reform and harmonising the application of European standards in Armenia

What is the goal?

- ▶ The Project aims at supporting Armenia in the criminal justice reform through legislative, methodological and capacity-building assistance.

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ General public,
- ▶ Civil society,
- ▶ Partner institutions and their staff:
- ▶ Ministry of Justice,
- ▶ Justice Academy,
- ▶ Judiciary,
- ▶ Representative of the Government of Armenia before the ECtHR,
- ▶ Parliament,
- ▶ Office of the General Prosecutor,
- ▶ Special Investigation Service,
- ▶ Investigative Committee,
- ▶ Human Rights Defender's Office.

How does the project work?

- ▶ Through providing legal expertise in the process of formulating and applying criminal and criminal procedure policy and legal framework by key justice sector stakeholders.
- ▶ By building capacity of the Justice Academy to train judges and training staff of criminal justice sector institutions.
- ▶ Through the provision of tailor-made expert advice, analytical and comparative reviews, developing and advancing methodologies and developing professional and technical capacities of criminal justice stakeholders.
- ▶ Closely co-operating on training activities with the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals – HELP (www.coe.int/help).
- ▶ Building on the results of co-operation in the field of Justice under PGG Phase I (2015-2018)

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ National criminal justice policy and practice are better aligned with European standards
- ▶ Harmonisation of national jurisprudence with the ECtHR case-law facilitated
- ▶ Capacity of the Justice Academy to train judges in criminal justice and human rights is strengthened

How much does it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of Component 2 is EUR 875 000.
- ▶ 80% is funded by the European Union and 20% by the Council of Europe. The programme is implemented by the Council of Europe.

What is the project duration?

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

How do we get more information?

Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), Council of Europe

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This project is a bilateral project with Armenia implemented under the Partnership for Good Governance Programme (phase II 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 programme. 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 aim to strengthen the capacity of the Eastern Partnership countries, which are member States of the Council of Europe, with the exception of Belarus, to implement domestic reforms to bring them closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.