

Partnership for Good Governance 2019-2021 (PGGII)

Regional Project: Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards

What is the goal?

- ▶ To strengthen co-operation amongst the Bar Associations in order to improve their functioning and advance independence to ensure better legal protection of citizens.

How does the project work?

- ▶ Conducting regional activities to support peer learning from good practices and boost regional networking.
- ▶ Using a tailor-made approach to meet the emerging needs of the national Bar Associations.
- ▶ Building on the results of co-operation in the field of justice under PGG Phase I (2015-2018).

How much does it cost?

- ▶ The total budget is EUR 555,000.
- ▶ 80% is funded by the European Union and 20% by the Council of Europe. The programme is implemented by the Council of Europe.

Where can I learn more?

- ▶ Justice and Legal Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ General public will benefit from better protection of human rights.
- ▶ Self-governing Bar Associations and lawyers.
- ▶ Ministries of Justice of Eastern Partnership countries.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ A regional co-operation network of lawyers and Bar associations is set up to strengthen peer-to-peer exchanges on proper administration of justice.
- ▶ Internal functioning of the Bar Associations is improved.
- ▶ Independence and professionalism of lawyers are strengthened.
- ▶ Provision of legal services by lawyers is improved.

What is the project duration?

- ▶ The project runs from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2021.

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This project is a regional project covering Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus), implemented under the Partnership for Good Governance Programme (phase II 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 programme. 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 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.