



Partnership for Good Governance II (2019-2022)

Regional Project

Strengthening the access to justice through non-judicial redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech

What is the goal?

- ▶ To strengthen access to justice for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech through non-judicial redress mechanisms in Eastern Partnership countries.

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ General public and in particular victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech, will benefit from better protection of their rights through non-judicial redress mechanisms.
- ▶ Equality bodies and/or Ombudspersons' Offices.
- ▶ Civil society organisations working with/representing vulnerable communities.
- ▶ Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Interior, judiciary and law enforcement agencies.

How does the project work?

- ▶ In close co-operation with the national partners.
- ▶ Through regional activities and networking to support peer learning from good practices.
- ▶ Applying a tailor-made approach to meet the concrete needs of the country.
- ▶ Building on the results of co-operation in the field of anti-discrimination under PGG Phase I (2015-2018).

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ The legislation on anti-discrimination, hate crime and hate speech is improved and implemented more effectively in line with European human rights standards.
- ▶ Procedures and tools for disaggregated data gathering on hate crime are further strengthened.
- ▶ The capacity of Equality bodies/ Ombudspersons' Offices and NGOs to assist men and women from vulnerable groups in pursuing discrimination complaints through relevant non-judicial redress mechanisms is increased.
- ▶ Awareness of the work of 'equality bodies' / Ombudspersons' Office and non-judicial redress mechanisms is increased among women and men from vulnerable communities, general public, and NGOs.
- ▶ National stakeholders are mobilised and equipped to cooperatively tackle hate speech, in line with human rights standards.

How much does it cost?

- ▶ The total budget is EUR 1,714,000.
- ▶ 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?

- ▶ No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit, in the Council of Europe's Anti-Discrimination Department (Directorate General of Democracy).

What is the project duration?

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

Contact information

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This project 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 (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.

¹ *In the view of the political situation in Belarus, 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, in accordance with the restrictive measures issued by the European Union.*