

Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Implemented
by the Council of Europe

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

Improving the efficiency and quality of judicial services in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Who will benefit?

- ▶ Ministry of Justice, Judicial Legal Council and Justice Academy of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- ▶ Judges and court staff undergoing professional training focused on efficiency and quality of justice;
- ▶ Pilot courts selected in cooperation with the national stakeholders, which will gain in confidence and level of satisfaction of court users;
- ▶ Court users who will benefit from speedier and more qualitative judicial services.

The aims of the project

- ▶ To improve judicial time management and quality of judicial services in the pilot courts;
- ▶ To strengthen the capacity of judicial authorities to assess the efficiency and quality of courts and take appropriate response measures;
- ▶ To develop and promote for implementation at a national level of an action plan for increased efficiency and quality of judicial services.

How will the project work?

- ▶ Through application of the methodology and practical tools developed by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), based on the experience of European judicial systems;
- ▶ Exchanges on the best practices and continuous cooperation between CEPEJ experts and the pilot courts in view of implementing coaching programmes and activities to improve the functioning of courts and users' satisfaction;
- ▶ Introduction in the training programmes for judges and courts staff of court efficiency and quality topics;
- ▶ Complementary approach and building on the current reforms. Close co-ordination with the European Union and other national and international stakeholders.

Project activities

- ▶ Support to implementation of the methodology and tools developed by the CEPEJ in five pilot courts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, through improving the judicial statistics, increased transparency and communication, customer satisfaction surveys etc.;
- ▶ Support to the Justice Academy, through expert advice, training-of-trainers and cascade seminars, to improve the training of judges on efficient court management and quality of justice.

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How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget for the project is of €1.5 million.

Length of project

- ▶ The project will run from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016.
- ▶ The launching of the first component took place on 22 July 2015.

Who is responsible for the project?

The project is implemented by the Council of Europe, Justice and Legal Co-operation Department, Division for the Independence and Efficiency of Justice, which acts, at the same time, as the CEPEJ Secretariat.

The Council of Europe Office in the Republic of Azerbaijan is actively involved and supports the implementation process.

For more information

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In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed that targeted cooperation activities with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus - the EU's Eastern Partnership countries - would be implemented under a 'Programmatic Cooperation Framework' (PCF).

These cooperation activities will strengthen the capacity of 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.

The overall PCF budget for 2015-2017 is €33.8 million.

<http://eap-pcf-eu.coe.int>

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