

Partnership for Good Governance



NOTE FOR THE PRESS

Support for the penitentiary reform in Ukraine

Who will benefit?

- ▶ Prisoners in Ukraine and their families
- ▶ Staff of the State Criminal Executive Service in the headquarters and in the local and interregional administrations
- ▶ Ministry of Justice of Ukraine
- ▶ Parliamentary Committee on Ensuring Legislative Support to Law Enforcement Bodies (the Sub-Committee on Penitentiary Reform)
- ▶ Civil society organisations
- ▶ Public in general

Why is the project being run?

- ▶ To improve the treatment of prisoners in line with human rights standards
- ▶ To improve, diversify and make wider use of rehabilitative services in Ukrainian prisons
- ▶ To improve prison management aligning it with European standards

How will the project work?

- ▶ The project is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the State Criminal Executive Service. It also includes other stakeholders, such as the Parliament, the Ombudsman, human rights defenders, other representatives of civil society, academic institutions and international organisations. Its objective is to contribute to improving the treatment of prisoners. The project works with nine pilot prisons (a bottom-up approach) and with the policy makers (a top-down approach).
- ▶ Special attention is paid to cooperation with the In-service Training Center to integrate project courses into the training curriculum for prison staff.

What are the expected results?

- ▶ Delivery of social and life skills courses in nine pilot prisons through exchanges among prison social educators
- ▶ Upgrading the In-service Centre faculty's adult teaching skills so as to deliver courses on dynamic security, pro-social modeling and interpersonal skills
- ▶ Workshops for prison senior staff on the revised internal inspection standards and simulations of inspection visits for regional inspectors
- ▶ Interactive learning sessions for all prison governors on combatting ill-treatment based on the reviewed Code of Ethics
- ▶ Comparative study on the introduction and the use of risk and needs assessments of prisoners
- ▶ Provision of technical expertise to the Ministry of Justice and the Parliament so as to align the penitentiary legal framework with European standards

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How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget is around 1,300,000 Euros
- ▶ 90% is funded by the European Union and 10% by the Council of Europe. The programme is implemented by the Council of Europe

How long is the project?

- ▶ The project runs from 1 January 2015 to 31 July 2018

Who is responsible for the project?

The Project is implemented by the Council of Europe's

- ▶ Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law
- ▶ Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine

How do we get more information?

- ▶ Olga Sandakova, Programme Manager, olga.sandakova@coe.int

In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed that targeted co-operation activities with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus – the EU's Eastern Partnership countries – would be implemented under the Partnership for Good Governance.

These co-operation 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.

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