

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

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



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by the Council of Europe

NOTE FOR THE PRESS

Reforming electoral legislation and practice and developing regional cooperation in electoral matters

Regional Project

Who will benefit?

- ▶ The electorate as a whole, who will benefit from the improvement of electoral law and practice
- ▶ Civil society organisations who monitor elections
- ▶ Electoral stakeholders involved in the conduct of elections, more precisely:
- ▶ The Central Election Commission and electoral commissions at all levels
- ▶ Judges in charge of electoral disputes
- ▶ Parliament, Government, political parties, proxies, observers

The aims of the project

- ▶ to improve legislation on elections and political parties in order to ensure its conformity with international standards
- ▶ to enhance capacities of the Central Election Commission and electoral bodies at all levels to organise elections in line with international standards
- ▶ to strengthen mechanisms to address and remedy electoral disputes
- ▶ to improve observation of elections at national level
- ▶ to increase participation of women candidates in elections including from minorities
- ▶ to ensure equal treatment of candidates through transparent campaign finance procedures and financing of political parties
- ▶ to enhance inter-parliamentary co-operation on election related issues

How will the project work?

- ▶ Through bilateral and multilateral exchanges of experience, in particular conferences
- ▶ In cooperation with the NGOs network for election observation and its members, Electoral Management Bodies, political parties, judges, lawyers and journalists among others
- ▶ In coordination with the EU delegations in each country of the Eastern Partnership as well as with other key international actors (OSCE/ODIHR, UNDP, IDEA, NDI among others), in order to increase

Project activities

- ▶ Multilateral conferences and meetings for the electoral management bodies (Central Electoral Commissions) and other electoral stakeholders
- ▶ Drafting of Handbooks and Tools for domestic observers inter alia on report writing techniques, interpretation of principles of Europe's electoral heritage, election dispute resolution, financing of political parties, etc.
- ▶ Regional study on women political representation
- ▶ Peer-to-peer exchanges and study visits, training sessions, workshops, conferences; awareness raising actions
- ▶ Development of observation methodologies

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

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effectiveness and maximise the impact of
the activities

- ▶ Development of recommendations to electoral stakeholders
- ▶ Awareness raising activities for national parliaments

How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget for the project is 1,350,000 Euros

Length of project

- ▶ The programme will run from 1 January 2015 - 31 December 2017
- ▶ The project was launched on 16 February 2015

Who is responsible for the project?

The project is implemented by the Council of Europe's

- ▶ DG I, Division of Electoral Assistance and Census
- ▶ Venice Commission
- ▶ Parliamentary Assembly

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.

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