EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMATIC CO-OPERATION FRAMEWORK ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE: REFORMING ELECTORAL PRACTICE



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.



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he Council of Europe and the European Commission have signed the Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (2015-2017). In the framework of this agreement, the Division of Electoral Assistance of the Council of Europe implements two projects:

REGIONAL ACTION: REFORMING ELECTORAL PRACTICE AND DEVELOPING REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN ELECTORAL MATTERS

The regional project on electoral assistance in the countries of the Eastern Partnership will focus, inter alia, on:

- Improving citizens' election observation through the development of discussion platforms;
- The professionalization of domestic observers through the development of an e-learning course on report writing techniques and international standards in elections;
- Increasing NGOs capacities to address specific election violations in line with European standards through the development of a toolkit on election dispute resolution for non-governmental organisations;
- Enhancing the participation of women, youth and national minorities both as voters and candidates through the development of a toolkit for political parties and the organisation of seminars for their representatives;
- Improving the tools for quick counting of ballots through the development a handbook on parallel vote tabulation;
- Strengthening NGOs capacities to monitor financing of political parties and campaigns through the development of toolkits, trainings and seminars.

BILATERAL ACTION: ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Council of Europe will continue to support the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training under the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Moldova established in 2011 in order to consolidate the training of various electoral stakeholders.

In the framework of the Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation, the Division of Electoral Assistance will contribute, among others, to:

- Increasing the training capacities of the Centre;
- Strengthening its communications strategy, maximizing the opportunities offered by new media to communicate with different elections' stakeholders;
- Enhancing the training skills of its staff through the conduct of training and the organisation of study visits.

HOW DO WE WORK?

The Division of Electoral Assistance of the Council of Europe implements its activities:

- In cooperation with the NGOs network for elections observation and its members, Election 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 effectiveness and maximise the impact of the electoral assistance programmes.