

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

Civil Participation in Decision-Making in the Eastern Partnership Countries

Regional Project

Who will benefit?

- ▶ Civil society actors - better empowered for participation in democratic decision-making;
- ▶ Public authorities - acquire access to methodology and are better equipped for interaction and consultation with civil society;
- ▶ Citizens - acquire a greater influence on the decisions taken by the authorities, leading to a more inclusive, participatory democracy.

How will the project work?

- ▶ Through multilateral working group meetings;
- ▶ In cooperation with the selected NGOs, independent experts and representatives of public authorities;
- ▶ Through different means of communication, including via existing networks;
- ▶ In coordination with the EU delegations in the countries of the Eastern Partnership in order to increase the effectiveness and maximise the impact of the activities.

How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total project budget is 300,000 Euros

Who is responsible for the project?

The project is implemented by the Council of Europe's Civil Society Division

The aims of the project

- ▶ Promote the effective interaction between civil society and public authorities;
- ▶ Stimulate the participation of civil society actors in the democratic decision-making process;
- ▶ Strengthen civil society in the region.

Project activities

- ▶ Working group meetings, awareness-raising actions, workshops;
- ▶ Preparing two regional studies on strategic and immediate priority issues;
- ▶ Multilateral regional conferences on relevant issues, notably those covered by the studies;
- ▶ Drafting a regional strategy for promoting civil participation in decision-making.

Length of project

- ▶ The project runs from October 2015 to April 2017

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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