

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

Facilitating accession to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Belarus

Who will benefit?

- ▶ Speakers of national minority languages traditionally used in Belarus who will become aware of good practices in Europe in the field of minority language promotion
- ▶ National authorities who will get acquainted with the scope of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) provisions

The aims of the project

- ▶ Assist the authorities of Belarus in examining legal scenarios for the country's possible accession to the ECRML
- ▶ Study the experience with implementation of the ECRML in countries having already ratified this convention, in particular those with Belarusian national minorities
- ▶ Inform national minority associations and the public about the ECRML

How will the project work?

- ▶ through roundtables attended by representatives of all stakeholders;
- ▶ exchange of good practices;
- ▶ legal advice.

Project activities

- ▶ Round table meetings and meetings of a joint expert working group with the participation of national authorities, national minority associations and Council of Europe experts;
- ▶ Small grants to support actions based on the ECRML in pilot municipalities;
- ▶ Preparation and distribution of information material.

How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget for the project is 115,000 Euros

Length of project

- ▶ The project will run from 2016-2017
- ▶ It was launched on 7 June 2016

Who is responsible for the project?

The project is implemented by the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe

For more information

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

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Background: 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>