

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



Mid-term results of projects in Azerbaijan under the Council of Europe/European Union Programmatic Cooperation Framework (2015-2017)

What is the Programmatic Cooperation Framework?

In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed to implement targeted cooperation activities with EU's Eastern Partnership countries to bring them closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The projects under the 'Programmatic Cooperation Framework' (PCF) in 2015-2017, are funded primarily by the EU, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe.

In addition to 14 regional projects, there are **four country-specific projects for Azerbaijan, with a total budget of € 4.7 million.**

Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in Azerbaijan

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017; its budget is 1.4 million Euros.

- ▶ A field assessment identified training needs and modified approaches to improve Justice Academy learning process of judges and advocates and provided the Academy with a road map for continuous human rights education;
- ▶ The Training of Trainers programme established a pool of 38 competent instructors to deliver practical training on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). A number of national instructors were already engaged by the Justice Academy to provide training to legal professionals in its 2015 and 2016 programmes;
- ▶ In 2015 and 2016, 108 judges representing various courts and 385 advocates across the country were trained on European human rights standards during two-day training seminars;
- ▶ A team of trainers of the Justice Academy received a tailor-made four-day training of trainers session on HELP programme, and the articulate version of the HELP course on Article 5 of the ECHR was finalized;
- ▶ Four guidebooks produced by the Council of Europe and the European Court were translated into Azerbaijani and printed in 3000 copies. A selection of more than 20 books on the ECHR was purchased and presented to enrich the library of the Academy of Justice.

 [Link to information sheet on this project](#)

Improving the efficiency and quality of judicial services in the Republic of Azerbaijan

The project is running from April 2015 until 31 December 2016; its budget is 1.5 million Euros.

- ▶ The efficiency and quality of judicial services in five pilot courts located in Baku and in the regions of Azerbaijan are improved through the application of the methodology and tools developed by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) on judicial time management and quality of justice.
- ▶ The project identified the needs of the Justice Academy as a training institution for judges: institutional development and governance, staff, organisational issues, budget, curricula, infrastructures as it applies to the initial and continuous training of judges by the Academy.
- ▶ Based on this needs assessment, a pool of 4 selected Justice Academy trainers was trained to deliver courses on efficient courts management and quality of justice to their peers. To further strengthen training capacity of the Justice Academy, a pool of 14 trainers is being taught on training cycle management.

 [Link to information sheet on this project](#)

Strengthening capacities to fight and prevent corruption in the Azerbaijani administration

The project is running from January 2015 until December 2017; its budget is 1 million Euros.

- ▶ Capacity of specialised prosecution and investigation bodies, judges, financial analysts and auditors was enhanced to tackle corporate corruption cases, asset recovery, money laundering and plea bargaining. Accompanying training materials were developed;
- ▶ The drafting of the new National Anti-Corruption Action Plan was supported through organising a public discussion that ensured a transparent consultation process for all relevant stakeholders; A technical paper *“Review of Draft National Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2016-2019 and Draft Action Plan for 2016-2018 on Promotion of Open Government”* was produced;
- ▶ Draft anti-corruption curricula and chapters of the trainer’s handbook of the anti-corruption manual for the Commission for Combating Corruption were developed;
- ▶ The teaching capacities of Civil Service Commission were reinforced through tailor-made ToT course on ethics;
- ▶ Capacities of national authorities to monitor and report on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Promotion of Open Government 2016-2018 were enhanced through providing them with an electronic platform, accessible by all relevant stakeholders.

 [Link to information sheet on this project](#)

Freedom of expression and media freedom

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017; its budget is 800,000 Euros.

- ▶ About 150 journalists and media professionals were trained on Council of Europe standards and relevant domestic legislative provisions on media coverage of elections, safety of journalists, access to information, gender equality and media, freedom of expression and privacy;
- ▶ A conference on Internet and Human Rights was held on 1 March 2016 in Baku that raised awareness of 70 representatives of national authorities, media, academia and civil society about Council of Europe standards on human rights protection on the Internet, the Internet infrastructure and online media;
- ▶ A round table on Defamation was held on 31 May 2016 in Baku that raised awareness of 60 representatives of national authorities, media, academia and civil society about Council of Europe standards and best European practices on defamation issues and freedom of expression;
- ▶ 15 Azerbaijani journalists participated in a study-visit in Strasbourg on 11-12 May 2016 and became acquainted with Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights work in the field of freedom of expression and media freedom;
- ▶ A Guide to Human Rights for Internet Users and a Guide on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights were translated and published within the Project.

 [Link to information sheet on this project](#)

For more information see <http://eap-pcf-eu.coe.int>

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