

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



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

What is 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 the Republic of Moldova**, with a **total budget of € 2.4 million**.

Supporting national efforts for prevention and combatting discrimination in Moldova

The project is running from July 2015 until June 2017; its budget is 456,965 Euros ([more information](#)).

The project has provided substantial assistance to the Equality Council, strengthening their internal capacities through organising training courses for their staff, assisting them in drafting internal regulations, assessing the Development Strategy and Action Plan, etc. The project also focused on legislative expertise and has provided expert opinions on the two main laws that regulate the activity of the Council. The expert opinions consist of concrete recommendations for the improvement of the laws for the Equality Council to consider when preparing the amendments to the laws and for the Government of Moldova to take into account when promoting the draft amendments.

Strengthening the efficiency of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova

The project is running from January 2015 until December 2016, its budget is 1,400,000 Euros.

Component I Strengthening the efficiency of justice ([more information](#))

- ▶ Development of a Court Coaching Programme directed at improving the efficiency and quality of services in the six pilot courts selected for implementation of CEPEJ tools. The programme took place in several phases: fact-finding and assessment of court efficiency and quality by CEPEJ Experts; familiarisation of the national partners with the CEPEJ, its activity and instruments; self-assessment by the pilot courts of efficiency and quality through CEPEJ checklists; discussion of the findings and CEPEJ experts' recommendations for further improvements, and final approval by the beneficiaries of the court coaching reports.
- ▶ Development by the pilot courts of their individual priorities, based on the court coaching reports.
- ▶ Familiarisation and training of the pilot courts and other justice sector stakeholders (Superior Council of Magistrates, National Institute of Justice, and the Agency for Courts' Administration) on the CEPEJ-recommended methodology and best European practices for the analysis of statistical data and statistical reporting, use of court efficiency indicators, as well as management of judicial timeframes.

- ▶ Internal capacities were created through specialist training and support was provided to the pilot courts and other national partners in view of conducting satisfaction surveys, as a tool to measure and improve the quality of judicial services. Based on CEPEJ methodology and lessons learnt in other European countries, the Moldovan pilot courts conduct satisfaction surveys targeting court users, lawyers and court staff.
- ▶ The project supported the National Institute of Justice to develop training courses on court management and to introduce CEPEJ tools on efficiency and quality of justice in the initial and continuous training for judges and court staff. A working group composed of trainers from the Institute and from the National School for the Judiciary of France, accompanied by CEPEJ experts, developed the curricula and necessary training materials. The first round of cascade seminars for judges will take place in October 2016.

Component II Support to lawyers' profession ([more information](#))

- ▶ The Needs Assessment of the Moldova Bar Association resulted in a road map for the development of key issues in the management structures and procedures, professional ethics, lawyers training and clients' personal data protection.
- ▶ A number of key Moldovan Bar Association self-governance documents, including the Development Strategy for 2016-2020 and the Communication Strategy and Policy, prepared with the support of the Project, were approved by the MBA Council in February 2016.
- ▶ The draft amendments to the Law on Advocacy were assessed by Council of Europe experts, in view of bringing it closer to European standards, and was submitted to the Parliament.
- ▶ The revised Lawyers Deontology Code, developed with the support of the Project and other development partners, was approved by General Assembly of Lawyers on 1 July 2016.
- ▶ The Moldovan Bar Association signed memorandums of cooperation agreements with other justice sector stakeholders to foster their contribution to the rule of law and administration of justice.

Strengthening respect for human rights in the implementation of the Republic of Moldova's Digital Agenda

The project is running from July 2015 until December 2016, its budget is 400,000 Euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Forty judges, prosecutors and candidate judges followed a training course to further increase skills and knowledge on the European Court of Human Rights case law and Council of Europe standards on human rights protection on the internet and rule of law in the digital world.
- ▶ The Council of Europe report on Human Rights on the Internet in the Republic of Moldova has been elaborated to assess whether national policies are in line with Council of Europe adopted standards ([Recommendation \(2014\) 6 on the Human Rights Guide for Internet Users on Internet](#)) and to raise awareness among public, private and civil sectors of these standards.
- ▶ The first ever international conference on "The Internet User's Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Day" in the Republic of Moldova was organised to highlight a series of key actions and activities that seek to protect the freedom, privacy and security of Internet users and to empower and engage them as stakeholders in Internet governance dialogue.
- ▶ Moldovan Academy of Public Administration's existing LLN/MA/MSc curricula for civil servants was harmonised with CoE Internet human rights and Internet Governance standards and related European Court of Human Rights case-law.
- ▶ 60 LLN professors from the Academy of Public Administration and Moldova's Universities were trained on Council of Europe standards and best European practices on Internet and Human Rights including Internet Governance.
- ▶ Over nine days, 39 girls aged between 16 and 20 from 10 regions of Moldova had the opportunity to learn about the CoE standards on Internet and human rights, network neutrality while developing web applications.
- ▶ An awareness campaign on youth online safety has been developed and is being implemented.
- ▶ Legal expertise on Council of Europe standards and best European practices on Internet and Human Rights has been provided.

Cooperation on electoral matters in the Republic of Moldova

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017; its budget is 195,000 Euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Training sessions on international standards in the resolution of electoral dispute were held for judges, members and staff of the Central Election Commission, chairpersons of the district election commissions and civil society organisations. The sessions were devoted to best practices on electoral dispute resolution, case studies and European standards.
- ▶ Representatives of political parties ('proxies') in Moldova were trained in electoral dispute resolution and other election-related aspects, with about 80% of the participants being highly satisfied with the training.
- ▶ Moldovan authorities requested and received [an opinion of the Venice Commission on the draft law on the amendment and completion of the electoral code](#) regarding direct elections of the President.
- ▶ A communication strategy (2015-2018) was developed in co-operation with the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training covering 2016 presidential elections and activities of the Centre in between elections
- ▶ An assessment of the training curriculum was conducted and recommendations issued with a particular focus on improving the Centre's capacities as a research institute in the field of elections.
- ▶ Representatives of the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, Central Election Commission of Moldova, Ministry of Education, National Institute of Justice, Academy of Public Administration and State University of Moldova exchanged with their peers from Spain about various forms and methods of management and promotion of electoral research activities as well as public governance issues.

Press Contact: Jaime Rodriguez: jaime.rodriquez@coe.int +33.390.214.704

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