

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



Mid-term results of projects in Ukraine 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, including Ukraine, 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 carried out with all the Eastern Partnership countries, there are **five country-specific projects for Ukraine**, with a **total budget of € 3.9 million**.

Strengthening the implementation of European human rights standards in Ukraine

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 20 December 2016; its budget is 1.7 million euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Expert advice was provided on the following draft legislation:
 - On National Police of Ukraine;
 - On Private Detective Activity;
 - On Misdemeanours;
 - On Operative Search Activities
 - On Public Assemblies
 - The Code of Ethics of the National Police;
 - Anti-discrimination legislation
- ▶ Newly appointed 70 staff members of the National Police Human Rights Directorate and 2,700 police investigators in nine regions of Ukraine received training on human rights standards;
- ▶ Council of Europe experts prepared recommendations for the Ombudsperson's on prevention of ill-treatment and torture, data protection and anti-discrimination;
- ▶ The amendments developed by the Ombudsperson to the Law of Ukraine "On Personal Data Protection" were reviewed;
- ▶ The Ombudsperson's Office received expert support in the implementation of the National Preventative Mechanism;
- ▶ Several distance learning courses were developed through the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) programme:
 - Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights and case-law of the European Court of Human Rights;
 - Pre-trial investigation in light of the European Convention on Human Rights;

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- Ill-treatment in light of the European Convention on Human Rights;
 - Evidence and Proof;
 - Labour rights in light of the European Convention on Human Rights’
- ▶ A network of certified HELP trainers in Ukraine is being created.

Further support for the penitentiary reform in Ukraine

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 20 December 2016; its budget is 1 million euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Council of Europe experts provided comments to six draft laws advocating rehabilitation approaches towards prisoners. On 6-7 September 2016, four of the drafts were signed into laws creating more humane conditions in penitentiary establishments, including through modifying visiting arrangements and system of incentives and penalties, facilitating contacts with the outside world, allocating prisoners and other changes;
- ▶ The Ukrainian Parliament has asked for further support in the revision of additional laws.

Fight against corruption in Ukraine

The project is running from 1 January 2016 until 20 December 2017; its budget is 1 million euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Council of Europe’s experts provided advice on draft anti-corruption legislation, have helped to build management capacity of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and enable it to exchange data with other state institutions;
- ▶ NABU leadership and staff received mentoring and training to be able to act as investigators;
- ▶ The Council of Europe together with the Ukrainian authorities has developed General Rules of Ethical Conduct for Civil Servants and Local Government Officials of Ukraine;
- ▶ A corruption risk assessment methodology and anti-corruption programs for the public sector as well as performance indicators and progress benchmarks were developed for the National Agency of Corruption Prevention.

Freedom of media in Ukraine

The project is running from 1 January 2016 until 20 December 2016; its budget is 177,000 euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ A number of activities were organised to strengthen the capacity of the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine in the implementation of the law on transparency of media ownership, digital switchover, imposition of sanctions on broadcasters, transition from licensing to permissions system, oversight of the public broadcast sector;
- ▶ A media campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the role of the public service broadcaster;
- ▶ Stakeholders’ knowledge on the European standards in community media (legal framework, technical aspects, sustainability) was raised via training activities;
- ▶ Hearings were organised together with the Parliament Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information Policy on community media perspectives in Ukraine;
- ▶ The report “Community media in Ukraine: A spectrum for development” was produced and distributed among regional media outlets.

Supporting free and fair elections in Ukraine

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 20 December 2017; its budget is 88,000 euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ An informal working group was created of representatives of all parliamentary factions, electoral law experts and civil society representatives to discuss the existing draft electoral laws with a view to their reform;
- ▶ The third edition of the "European democratic achievements in the field of electoral law" was published;
- ▶ A public debate between candidates to the Central Electoral Commission was organised;
- ▶ Under the project, the Venice Commission provided an Opinion on the amendments to the Law "On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine".

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

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