

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

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INSTITUTUL NAȚIONAL AL JUSTIȚIEI  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

**Regional Conference of the project  
“Improving women’s access to justice in five  
Eastern Partnership countries”  
(Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine)**

***Strengthening judicial capacity  
to improve women’s access to justice***

**Chisinau, Republic of Moldova  
24-25 October 2016**

**Organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with the  
National Institute of Justice of the Republic of Moldova**

**Biographies of speakers**

## OPENING SESSION



**Carolina Lasén Diaz** has worked at the Council of Europe since 2005 and is currently the Head of the Gender Equality Unit. Her previous post was in the secretariat of the Council of Europe's monitoring mechanism on action against trafficking in human beings (GRETA). Prior to her arrival at the Council of Europe, Carolina lived in the United Kingdom from 1997 to 2004, where she provided legal advice on international and EU law. She holds a law degree from Madrid's Complutense University and a Master in EU law.



**Anatolie Munteanu**, Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova. In 1996, he received the State University legal profile Bachelors diploma, specialising in law. In 2008 he graduated from the European Studies University with an MA specialising in criminal law. In 2011, Mr Munteanu became a PhD student at the Institute of Legal and Political Research of the Academy of Sciences, on "Guaranteeing the right to physical and mental integrity". His professional activity has been mainly in the area of public prosecution. He started as an assistant to the Prosecutor of the Floresti district, in December 1995. In March 1999 he became a Prosecutor at the Prosecutor's Office of the Chisinau circumscription. Then he worked as a senior assistant to the General Prosecutor of Chisinau. He is a former prosecutor and senior prosecutor in the Department of Homeland Security. In October 2003, he became head of representation of the accusation in the Court of Appeal's criminal justice section. Later he served as Chief of Criminal Justice and Acting Chief of the Judicial Department. Since 2007, Anatolie Munteanu has been a trainer at the "National Institute of Justice", and from October 2008 to April 2015 he has held positions such as Ombudsman, Director of the Centre for Human Rights and President of the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture. He has worked as a lawyer and an expert in the human rights NGO Institute for Human Rights. In 2016, Anatolie Munteanu returned to the Prosecutor General's Office as a prosecutor for special missions. He then became Acting Chief of the Section of International Legal Assistance and European Integration. In May 2015 he was appointed as Deputy Minister of Justice.



**Stela Grigoraş** is the Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova. She holds a PhD in Sociology and has extensive experience in managing programmes which aim to support the Moldovan Government in reforming the child and family welfare system and the residential care system. This is being done by developing and implementing high quality social services, alternative social services for children and their families, in order to ensure the right of children to live in a family type environment. Since November 2015, Ms Grigoraş has been President of the International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO). During this conference she will present the key achievements of the reform of the child protection system in the Republic of Moldova, from the Ministry's perspective.



**Diana Scobioala** is currently the Director of the National Institute of Justice of the Republic of Moldova. She holds a *doctor habilitatus* degree in Law and is an associate professor within the State University of Moldova and the Academy of Public Administration. Since 2012, as a trainer at the National Institute of Justice, she has been training judges, prosecutors and lawyers on issues related to the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights into national law. Between 2002 and 2011, she worked at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova on various managerial positions, mainly as the Head of the International Relations and European Integration Department and the Head of the Government Agent's Department. Previously, she has been constantly involved with Council of Europe's activities. From 2005 to 2013, she has been a member of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) and from 2010 she represented the CDCJ in various committees and forums. Also, from 2012, she has been the focal point for the Republic of Moldova of the Council of Europe's HELP Programme. She has taken part as a speaker in many seminars and conferences in the Republic of Moldova and abroad, especially related to issues concerning international law, European law and human rights. As part of her scientific research activity, it is worth mentioning that her bibliography includes over 67 references.

**Micu Victor** has been the President of the Superior Council of Magistracy of the Republic of Moldova since 2014. He holds a PhD in public law. His legal activity began in 1994 as an investigator, and then he worked as a consultant at the Supreme Court of Justice. His professional experience was marked by his appointment to several public positions. On 30 April 1998, he became a judge in the Riscani Court of Chisinau; later, he was appointed as a Vice-President and then as President of the same court. After his mandate, he was appointed as interim President. He has also experience in teaching as a lecturer at the Law Faculty of the Free International University of Moldova.



**Ian Feldman** is the President of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality. He was appointed by the Moldovan Parliament as a member of the council in 2013 and elected as President in 2015. In 2014, he was one of the three candidates proposed by the UN Human Rights Council Consultative Group for the position of Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. For over 17 years, he has led a professional career in the field of counter-trafficking, international human rights and development as a clinical psychologist, national, regional and international expert, consultant and advisor. He has worked in 10 countries, across three continents on more than 50 projects. He has advised various United Nations bodies, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organisations and has a wide operational experience, including in security challenged regions. Mr Feldman has trained and consulted professionals coming from 27 countries and different regions of the world: Western and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, North-Eastern Africa, Horn of Africa, South-East Asia. In December 2015, under his leadership, the Equality Council received the annual UN Human Rights Award for the efforts in combating discrimination and ensuring equality in the Republic of Moldova.

## SESSION 1



**Sylwia Spurek** is doctor of Law, legal counsel and legislator, and co-founder of the Foundation Governance Clinic. Since 1999, she is involved in the protection of human rights. She is a Fellow of the Legal Fellowship Programme and participant of the International Women's Human Rights Clinic (City University of New York, 2000). Between 2002 and 2005, she was a lawyer at the Secretariat of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Men and Women. She participated in the preparation of the first act on the prevention of domestic violence. Until 2014, she has been counsel at the Office of the Prime Minister (Legal Department), later serving as deputy head of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment. Between 2008 and 2015, she was a member of the Unit for European Court of Human Rights issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and between 2010 and 2012 she was the representative of the Office of the Prime Minister at the Committee of the Protection of Rights. She is university lecturer of Gender Studies at the University of Warsaw and post-graduate studies of Gender Mainstreaming at the Polish Academy of Sciences. She authored numerous publications on domestic violence, as well as equal treatment and discrimination issues. Currently, she is the Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Poland responsible for equal treatment issues.

**Gábor Széplaki-Nagy** is currently the Head of the International Continuous Training and Translation Division (Department for International and European Legal Affairs) of the Prosecutor General's Office of Hungary. He holds a degree in law from the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, and an international degree in public administration from the National School of Public Administration (ENA) in France. In 1994 he was appointed as Head of the Office of Human Rights at the Hungarian Supreme Court. From 2004 to 2010, he was Head of the International Relations Department and European Legal Office of the Supreme Court and Chief of Cabinet of the President's Office, then becoming prosecutor in the Department for International and European Legal Affairs of the Prosecutor General's Office of Hungary. From December 2010 to June 2012, he was a member of the Prosecutor General's Cabinet and dealt with international relations.



## SESSION 2



**Lilia Pascal** is currently Head of Division for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova. She started her professional career in 1998 in this Ministry, moving from Specialist to Head of Department and working in different departments related to social protection area: social assistance policies, family and child protection policies, gender equality, preventing and combating human trafficking and violence against women/domestic violence. She is the national focal point on gender issues and Secretary of the Governmental

Commission on Gender Equality. Ms Pascal's areas of expertise, since 2007, are governmental gender equality policy-making, including combating violence against women/domestic violence and trafficking in human beings; gender mainstreaming, gender equality in social area and family policies. She is also a national trainer on gender issues, prevention of violence and human trafficking, and social assistance policies. In addition, Ms Pascal is the co-ordinator of gender units of national institutional mechanisms. Since 2006 until now, Ms Pascal has represented the Republic of Moldova as a rapporteur for various delegations: as co-rapporteur on national periodical reports; on the CEDAW Convention, as member of national delegation for the reporting on International Pact for Economic, Political and Social Rights and as rapporteur for the UPR national report. Ms Pascal started her higher educational path in the State University Aleco Russo, Balti, specialising in Pedagogy and Psychology, with major specialisation in Social Pedagogy (1995-1998). She continued her further studies at the State University of Moldova, obtaining a degree in Law (2003-2007) and a Master's in Advising on family problems (2011-2013).

**Doina Ioana Străisteanu** is a human rights lawyer and member of the National Equality Council. She previously worked as a lawyer for the Moldovan Helsinki Committee (2000–2004), as Legal Director for Stitching Russian Justice Initiative (2005-2006) and as a lawyer for INTERIGHTS (2007-2009). She has her own law firm since 2010 in the Republic of Moldova, and litigates strategic cases on human rights issues of importance for the region, such as LGBT human rights, gender-based violence, discrimination, mental health and disability, hate crimes and state due diligence obligations, domestic violence, privacy, freedom of expression, right to life, arbitrary detention and fair trial guarantees, prohibition of ill-treatment and mal-practice.





**Baia Pataraiia** is a human rights lawyer and civil activist. She holds a LLM in International Human Rights Law from the Central European University (2006) and a Master's degree in International Law from Tbilisi State University (2004). Since 2013, she has chaired a women's organisation called "Sapari". She is a founder and member of the Georgian Women's Movement. Between 2009 and 2013, she has worked at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in various managerial positions. Since 2008, she has been a visiting lecturer at various universities in Georgia. As a national expert, she has been training judges, prosecutors and lawyers on gender issues, domestic violence and anti-discrimination law in co-operation with international organisations and national training centres since 2011,.



**Makhsat Bereketov** is currently the Vice Rector of the Justice Academy of Kazakhstan. He holds a LLM from the International Kazakh-Turkish University and a Master's Degree in International Development Policy from the Duke University. He has been Chief Specialist of the Legal Division of the Department of Farming at the Ministry Of Agriculture of Kazakhstan. Following this, he has held various positions at the Ministry of Justice: Chief specialist of Department of the Legislation; Head of Division registering rights to real estate and related transactions of the Registration Service Committee; Head of Division of the Department subordinate legislation; Head of the Administration of the Department of Research and Strategic Planning; Deputy Director of the expertise of the International Treaty (agreements) Department; and Deputy Director of the State enterprise "National Institute of Intellectual Property".



**Criştiana Craciunescu** graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Bucharest in 1993 and received a doctorate of civil law (family law) in 2010 from the Institute of Juridical Research "Acad. Andrei Rădulescu" at the Romanian Academy. From 2014 to 2015, she attended postdoctoral studies at the aforementioned institution; these were finished by a study regarding the protection of the best interest of the child. She currently discharges the duties of a judge at the Law Court of Sector 3 (Bucharest), and is seconded to the National Institute of Magistracy as a trainer at the Family Law Department. She is also collaborating as an associate scientific researcher with the Institute of Juridical Research "Acad. Andrei Rădulescu" at the Romanian Academy. She is the author of many publications regarding family law and civil law (courses of academic lectures, monographs, articles), such as: "Regimuri matrimoniale" (Matrimonial regimes) - ALL BECK publishing house, Bucharest, 2000; "Dreptul de dispoziție al soților asupra bunurilor ce le aparțin, în diferite regimuri matrimoniale" (The spouses' right to dispose of the goods belonging to them in various matrimonial regimes), UNIVERSUL JURIDIC publishing house, Bucharest, 2010 (doctoral thesis); Dreptul familiei (Family Law), UNIVERSUL JURIDIC publishing house, Bucharest, 2012, (co-author).

**Carmen de la Fuente Mendez** was born in Madrid. She completed a degree in Law and Economics and later gained a post as public prosecutor in 1998, working in Bilbao, Madrid and now in Cartagena. She mainly works on general criminal matters, being responsible for their investigation and prosecution before the court. However, she has always focused her activity on the most vulnerable groups, such as prisoners, persons with mental diseases and people with disabilities, old people and minors and mainly women victims of domestic violence. She has experience as an international consultant in gender and women's rights, with a focus on violence against women, women's access to justice and gender sensitive parliaments for UN Women, the Inter-parliamentary Union and the AIAM. She has worked as a legal assistant for an NGO specialised in immigrants' rights and as advisor of the Ombudsman for the Basque country. She has taken part as a speaker in many seminars and conferences in Spain and abroad, especially related to violence against women. Likewise, she has published various articles in Spanish, English and German on different subjects. She has collaborated with some social projects and associations – in Spain and abroad – devoted to promoting international co-operation and human rights. Since November 2015, she has been Chief of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Cartagena.



## SESSION 3



**Victoria Neaga** obtained a Master Degree in European Law at Jean Moulin Lyon III University (Lyon, France). After a career in the private sector (legal services), she joined the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova in September 2013 as Justice and Human Rights Project Manager. She is managing the Justice Budget Support Programme and four EU funded Technical Assistance projects, which has the objective of accelerating the justice sector reform process in the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, she is responsible for managing democracy and human rights issues, being the focal point of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

**Biljana Brankovic** is an Independent Researcher-Consultant, feminist and women's rights activist. She is a member of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), as well as a member of the Advisory Group of Experts established by the Council of Europe and UN Women in order to support the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention and multi-country research across Europe. During over 20 years of experience in research, advocacy/lobbying, monitoring, shadow reporting to UN Treaty Bodies (CEDAW Committee and Committee on the Rights of the Child), evaluation and education, she participated in over 20 international research/monitoring projects and numerous national ones.



She conducted the first research study on prevalence of sexual violence against adolescents in Former Yugoslavia/Serbia, which has been later replicated in the region. Her research work has been mostly done in countries of South-Eastern Europe, including cross-cultural, comparative studies on violence against women and children, and analyses of compliance of domestic laws and policies on violence against women with international standards (CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, MDGs, the Istanbul Convention, etc.). She often uses intersectionality as theoretical framing, and focuses on problems of various minority/marginalized groups of women and girls. She co-authored the first National Strategy on domestic violence against women. Her research bibliography includes over 120 references.



**Veronica Birga** joined OHCHR in 1999, after some work in the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo) with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In OHCHR, she has served both at HQ and in the field, covering a variety of thematic issues and country situations. Before joining the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, she served as OHCHR Deputy Regional representative for Central America. She has been heading the Women's Rights and Gender Section since March 2014.



**Dragan Knezevic** has been an advisor at the Gender Equality Unit of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia since 2011. He prepared national instruments for ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), participated in the process of harmonisation of national legislation with EU standards in the field of gender equality, presented national reports before CEDAW Committee and drafted and implemented national policies on gender equality. He has been involved in the national monitoring of the provision of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 - Women, Peace and Security. He has provided technical support to the

Co-ordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia chaired by the Vice Prime Minister, being also Secretary of the Council of Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. He has been a member of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe since 2014 and national focal point for gender equality for the Organisation's network of focal points. He has been an expert member of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention. His expertise is associated with international law, human rights and gender equality as well as humanitarian law.

**Beatrice Duncan** is a gender, child law and human rights specialist. She currently serves as the constitutional and access to justice advisor for UN Women as well as the organisation's focal point for indigenous women and LGBTI issues. Her work involves designing technical tools and providing guidance to UN Women field offices, governments and civil society organisations on a range of issues in these areas of work. She began her career in her native country (Ghana) as a Legal Aid Officer with the Ghana Legal Aid Board and also as a member of the Ghana Chapter of the Federation of International Women Lawyers and Women in Law and Development with emphasis on providing legal aid to indigent women and children. While in Ghana, she also served as Programme Officer for the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative, a tripartite exercise between government, civil society and the World Bank with the aim of assessing the impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes on fifteen countries in different regions of the world. Within the UN system, her work experience has also been with UNICEF Ghana, as Chief of Child Protection; the African Centre for Gender and Social Development of the Economic Commission for Africa, as a Gender Officer; and UNICEF New York as a Human Rights Specialist. Her work experience has led her to support law reforms, tracking of jurisprudence, research, advocacy and policy development in the fields of women's land rights, inheritance, marital property and violence against women and children, while at the same time publishing in these areas. During her tenure at the UNECA, she was responsible for the revision and roll out of the African Gender and Development Index and its accompanying African Women's Report. Quite recently at UN Women, she also led efforts at the revision and roll out of the Global Gender Equality Constitutional Database. She is a product of the University of Ghana (LLB), Georgetown University (LLM) and Birmingham University (PhD).





**Jose Luis Herrero** is currently Head of the Office of the Council of Europe in Chisinau. Previously, he was Head of Mission of the OSCE in Azerbaijan and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Director of the Spanish think tank FRIDE. He has different positions at the United Nations in the areas of political affairs and human rights. He is an associate professor of international relations of IE University in Madrid; and holds a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University and a Master in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Madrid.

**Olga Dorul** holds a PhD in law and is an Associate Professor at the International and European Law Department of State University of Moldova, as well as at the Juridical Sciences Chair of the Academy of Public Administration of the Republic of Moldova. She is a scientific researcher at the Academy of Science of Moldova, and a trainer at the National Institute of Justice. She is also member of the Editorial Board of International Moldavian Journal of International Law and International Relations. She is the author of more than 50 studies regarding international public law and international humanitarian law. She also worked as a consultant for the following projects: "Equal access to justice"(2011), along with Keystone Human Services International Moldova Association; "Inclusive Education" (2011), along with the non-governmental organisation Woman and Child - Protection and Support. In addition, she has been a legal adviser to the Governmental Agent Division of the Moldovan Ministry of Justice (2002-2004), a member of the Disciplinary Board of the Moldovan Superior Council of Magistracy (2014-2015) and Head of the Cabinet of the Moldovan Minister of Internal Affairs (2015-2016).



## SESSION 4



**Nataliia Shuklina** is the Vice-Rector for Research at the National School of Judges of Ukraine. She holds a PhD in Law, and she is a Professor and Honoured Lawyer of Ukraine. She co-ordinates the development of training courses for judges and judicial candidates, the training of judges-trainers and the research methodology support of the training process and of the operation of courts of general jurisdiction, of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine and of the High Council of Justice. She also directs the research for the improvement of the judicial system, of the status of judges and of court proceedings. She manages the study of international experience and the establishment of co-operation with international organisations and international technical assistance projects. She authored over 60 released research papers concerning – among other topics – the theory of Constitution, the theory of the separation of powers, the constitutional jurisdiction, the legal status of persons and the sources of constitutional law. In addition, she is a member of the Scientific and Methodological Council of the Higher Administrative Court of Ukraine (since 2007) and a member of the Lawyers Union of Ukraine.

**Florence Aubry Girardin** graduated in law at the University of Neuchâtel (1987). She then moved to Geneva and obtained a post-graduate degree in law (1992) and a PhD in law (1995). She also holds a patent of lawyer (1990) and has received the title of Doctor *Honoris Causa* at the University of Neuchâtel (2016). After a role as court reporter, she has been judge in various tribunals such as the Federal Appeals Commission for Accident Insurance, the Neutral Tribunal of the Vaud Canton and the Federal Administrative Tribunal (*Commission fédérale de recours en matière d'assurances-accidents, Tribunal neutre du Canton de Vaud, Tribunal Administratif Fédéral*). She was then elected at the Swiss Federal Supreme Court. She has been an active member of the board of the Swiss Magistrates



Association for several years and a member of the Swiss Women Lawyers Association since its foundation. In parallel with her professional activities as a judge, she gives lectures and publishes works concerning different fields of law (labour law, fiscal law, legal procedure). She is also co-author of several legal opinions and comments (e.g. Comment of the federal legislation on the Federal Tribunal; Comment of the federal legislation on direct federal tax). She has always been interested in gender equality issues, a field where she has made several contributions. Among many others, the conference entitled “*Problèmes qui se posent aux juges lors de l'application de la Loi sur l'Égalité*” (Problems faced by judges on the application of the Gender Equality Law) on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swiss Law on Gender Equality and then published in “*Egalité entre femmes et hommes dans les relations de travail*” (Equality between women and men in labour relations - Geneva, 2016); the article on Federal Court jurisprudence’s inputs in favour of equality between women and men, in “*Femmes juristes suisses: différentes!*” (Swiss women lawyers: different! - Berne, 2014); and the Comment to Article 3 of the Gender Equality Law concerning wage discrimination, in “*Commentaire sur la Loi sur l'Égalité*” (Comment to the Gender Equality Law - Geneva, 2011).



**Viktoria Mozgova** is a scientific associate of the department on scientific methodological support of prosecutorial activity in the sphere of corruption prevention and counteraction, administration of scientific methodological support of prosecution activity, at the National Academy of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine. Ms Mozgova has a PhD in law and received a Master's degree in psychology at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University. She received an academic degree of a senior scientific associate. She is the author of more than 50 publications, most of which are dedicated to issues on protecting rights of people who are in detention facilities, implementation of criminal proceedings against minors, prevention of sexual violence against children and domestic violence. She is actively involved in training for prosecutors on issues related to criminal proceedings for minors and legal principles of combating corruption in Ukraine. Ms Mozgova takes active part in expert discussions and in drafting amendments to legislation aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation. Since 2016, Ms Mozgova has been a member of the working group on making national legislation consistent with the European Social Charter, on protecting children from sexual exploitation, pornography and child trafficking (formed according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine). She is also involved in quantitative and qualitative assessment of criminal justice sector cases and cases of domestic violence and violence against women in Ukraine.

**Irakli Kandashvili** is a board member and Chairman of the Educational Council of the Georgian Bar Association, as well as being a Managing Partner of the law office "K&K Consulting" and a licensed mediator. He has been a practicing lawyer for more than 12 years and represents the interests of his clients in all courts with the Georgian jurisdiction, as well as at the European Court of Human Rights. He is a licensed trainer of the American Bar Association in trial skills and an expert of UNHCHR and ILO in Georgia. Moreover, he is a HELP Info Point and represents the Georgian Bar Association at the Council of Europe's HELP Programme. He has experience in being a visiting professor at many universities of Georgia and is the author of more than 50 scientific articles about law which have been drafted in English, Georgian, German, Russian and Ukrainian. He has had experience as an intern at the German Bar Association in Berlin and its Brussels Office, as well as practicing in German law firms. He has successfully studied at the "Academy of American and International Law" (Dallas, Texas) and was elected its Secretary General in 2007.





**Karolina Ristova-Asterud** is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus”, University SS. Cyril and Methodius (UKIM) in Skopje, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, teaching courses in the areas of Jurisprudence, Political Sciences, European Studies and Women’s Studies. She holds a LLB (UKIM, 1994), a LLM in International and Comparative Law (“with distinction”, Georgetown University, 2000), MSc in Political Science (UKIM, 2008) and PhD in Law (UKIM, 2010). In addition to over 25 articles published in academic journals, she is the author of two books (in

Macedonian): “Feminist Theories on Politics” (2009) and “Parliaments, Sovereignty and Democracy in the European Union. Shaping the new European Polity” (2013). She is also the author of four chapters (in English): in “Women’s Access to Political Power in post-communist Europe” (2003); in “Legal Perspectives of Gender Equality in South East Europe” (2012); in “Law, Politics and the Constitution. New Perspectives from Legal and Political Theory” (2014); and in “Legal Interpretation in the Practice of International Courts and Tribunals” (2016). She has served as a member of the City Council of Skopje (2000-2002) and as a member of the Parliament (2002-2006) in the Assembly of the “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (founding chair of the EU Affairs Committee, member of the parliamentary committees on foreign affairs and of the standing parliamentary committee on citizen’s rights and freedoms, parliamentary group coordinator for European and Foreign Affairs).

## SESSION 5



**Konul Gasimova** is an independent European human rights expert since 2012. She conducts researches on human rights issues and delivers trainings to legal professionals on the European Convention on Human Rights. Previously, she worked at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, at the French Embassy in Azerbaijan and in a private law company. When based in Azerbaijan, she volunteered in several human rights NGOs.

**Elisabeth Duban** is a lawyer specialising in gender and development and human rights. Her work is focused on the CIS region and includes analytical projects documenting gender inequality and the development of guidance materials, such as compilations of good practices, toolkits and training materials. The topic of gender-based violence has been central to her work since 2000, when she was involved in human rights fact-finding on domestic violence when working for the Advocates for Human Rights (U.S.-based NGO). Since that time, she has worked as a legal specialist on rule of law projects in Russia with a special focus on improving access to justice for survivors of domestic violence. On a consultancy basis, she has worked for several international organisations, including the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, the United Nations, the United States Agency for International Development and the Asian Development Bank. She holds a JD from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in foreign languages (French and Russian).



**Gohar Hakobyan** is the Head of Criminal Law Division at the Ministry of Justice of Armenia. She holds a LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex (2016) and a Master's degree in Criminal and Criminal Procedure Law from Yerevan State University (2012), where she currently teaches. She is completing her PhD dissertation on the right to privacy at the same university. In 2012, she took part in the Survey on Domestic Violence in Armenia which was reflected in her Master's thesis on latent crime. In her day-to-day practice, she deals with drafting various legal acts seeking to harmonise them with International Human Rights Law. Currently, she is a member of the working group drafting the Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence.



**Maia Bakradze** is the invited trainer of the High School of Justice and leads the tuition course on Strengthening the Judiciary through Gender Equality for the students of the High School of Justice (future candidates to become judge). She is an invited lecturer of Private Law at the Training Centre of Justice and at the University of Georgia. She is the Chairman of the United Association of Judges. She has worked as a lawyer for 6 years and as a judge for 15 years. Her experience includes working on legal issues, preparing and conducting the tuition law courses for adults, administrating projects and human resources, as well as working on administration

of judicial affairs. She holds an Academic Law Degree of Master with honours from the Technical University of Georgia and is the co-author of the “Manual for Judges” on "Traits of Administrative Review".

**Oksana Polna** is a national expert. She has been working at the National School of Judges of Ukraine since 2005. She holds the position of Director of Lviv Regional Branch of the mentioned institution since 2014. She co-ordinates managerial and scientific work of the Regional Branch, namely she organises the training of judges and court personnel, provides support for workshops and round tables, and lectures courses for judges on gender issues. She is the author of several scientific publications and she is currently working on the issue of “Legal aspects of Gender Policy in modern Ukraine”.



## SESSION 6

**Ivana Goranic** is an expert on Justice and Home Affairs at the Regional Co-operation Council since June 2014. Born in 1959 in Zagreb (Republic of Croatia), she graduated at the Faculty of Law of the Zagreb University (1983). After a practise at the Municipal Court, she passed the Bar Exam (1990) and then spent the rest of her career working as a civil servant. She graduated from the Diplomatic Academy in 1997, dealing with the topic of the right to privacy and freedom of expression in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. From 1993 to 1996, she has been working as Head of the Department for the mutual assistance and international co-operation at the Ministry of Justice. Her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia started in 1996 (Deputy Head of Human Rights Department). From 2000 to 2008, she has worked as Minister Counsellor at the Croatian Embassy in Vienna and at the Croatian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, OSCE and other international organisations in Vienna. From 2008 to 2013, she has been working as Director of Judicial Academy having an active role in the Croatian negotiations with the European Union (especially on Chapter 23). She has been a member of numerous governmental and international bodies, structures and institutions and during such period she published around 30 articles regarding human rights protection, case law of the European Court of Human Rights, court system, judicial training in the EU and was invited to intervene in numerous international seminars, EU projects and conferences. She has been Council of Europe's expert regarding independence of judiciary and a project leader in EU projects (among others, PHARE and IPA) on the judicial reform in Croatia, as well as in a few bilateral projects in the same field.



**Maria Marinova-Alkalay** is a freelance trainer and consultant working in the fields of social inclusion, access to justice, human rights and youth work. She holds a MA in International Relations and European Studies from Central European University (Hungary) and a degree in Banking and Finance from the UNWE (Bulgaria). She has been actively involved in the “No Hate Speech Movement” of the Council of Europe since 2013. She has designed and delivered trainings on human rights and tolerance for young people as well as on anti-discrimination for Romanian magistrates (judges, prosecutors and lawyers) and Bulgarian juvenile penitentiary staff.

As a member of the National Legal Aid Bureau of Bulgaria, she has effectively managed the EEA Grants funded project “Improving Access to Legal Aid for Vulnerable Groups, via the Implementation of a Pilot Scheme for Primary Legal Aid Hotline”. The project pioneered the delivery of legal aid via a hotline and regional consultation centres in two of the most densely Roma populated regions in Bulgaria – Vidin and Sliven. The initiative served as a transfer of innovation project to Romania where currently the Superior Council of Magistracy is to set up similar units for legal aid with an emphasis on Roma people. While working for Bulgarian ministries in the field of education and youth, she has been head of training and information developing national pools of trainers and multipliers, preparing training programmes, designing course curriculum and training sessions on active citizenship, volunteering, social inclusion, project management and soft skills. She has an extensive background in European project management and consultancy, having worked as external assessor, project manager and co-ordinator for national and European bodies in the fields of training and education, access to justice and human rights. Her portfolio covers projects funded by the previous Lifelong Learning sectorial programmes, i.e. DAPHNE III, Erasmus+, Fundamental Rights, European Youth Foundation and national operational programmes.

**Angelina Zaporozjan-Pirgari** is a human rights lawyer and women's rights advocate with over ten years of experience. Since 2009, she is the founder and leader of the NGO Women's Law Centre of the Republic of Moldova, which focuses on projects aimed at preventing and combating domestic violence and providing legal empowerment and representation to women victims of domestic violence. She holds a Diploma in Law from Moldova State University (2000) and a European Masters' Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from University of Padova, Italy (2003). She has been one of the main experts in the Republic of Moldova developing the national legal framework in the field of domestic violence in accordance with international human rights standards. In 2009-2010 she acted as member of the group of experts on behalf of the Republic of Moldova contributing to the drafting of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). In 2012-2015 she has been leading the advocacy work to advance the reform in the field of domestic violence, both at the level of legislative and institutional change as well as in the access to services for victims. She has authored and contributed to numerous reports and publications on domestic violence and gender equality.

