

## Partnership for Good Governance



### Results of projects in Armenia under the European Union/Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance<sup>1</sup>

#### What is the Partnership for Good Governance?

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 Partnership for Good Governance, are funded primarily by the EU, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe.

In addition to 14 regional projects, there are **five country-specific projects for Armenia**, with a **total budget of € 2.4 million**.

#### Strengthening healthcare and human rights protection in prisons in Armenia

The project was running from March 2015 until July 2017 ([more information](#))

- ▶ Legislative and institutional framework of the prison health care was improved with the adoption of the “Concept Paper on upgrading medical services in the Republic of Armenia” on 19 January 2017 and with the submission of an extensive package of proposed legislative amendments based on the recommendations of the Concept Paper.
- ▶ Prison staff has increased their skills and knowledge through the training of 775 prison staff members (medical and non-medical) on Health Promotion and Medical Ethics by a pool of national trainers created within the Project and on the basis of training material prepared under the Project.
- ▶ The material conditions of healthcare units in all eleven prisons in Armenia were significantly upgraded thanks to the provision of medical equipment.
- ▶ Training capacities of national authorities were strengthened with the development of a curriculum for the professional development of medical staff.
- ▶ The provision of mental health care was improved with the training of 15 (fifteen) prison psychologists and recommendations for the improvement of mental health care in prisons submitted following an assessment carried out by Council of Europe consultants.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously known as the Council of Europe/European Union Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

- ▶ Fifteen representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Penitentiary and the Armenian civil society benefited from a direct transfer of international know-how through study visits to Spain, Sweden, and Denmark.

## Supporting the criminal justice reform and combating ill-treatment and impunity in Armenia

The project is running from July 2015 to December 2017 ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Expert assistance was provided to harmonise the draft Criminal Procedure and Criminal Codes of Armenia, as well as the laws on the Human Rights Defender's Office, the Constitutional Court and the Prosecution Office with the European human rights standards.
- ▶ Human rights curriculum including five training modules for investigators have been developed for the Justice Academy:
  - ▶ Criminal investigative methodology
  - ▶ Investigation of alleged torture and ill-treatment
  - ▶ Investigations involving vulnerable victims/suspects
  - ▶ Pre-trial detention and related investigatory issues
  - ▶ Admissibility of evidence in criminal proceedings
- ▶ A pool of 22 specialists was formed who taught these modules at the Justice Academy in 2016 and in 2017.
- ▶ A Manual on admissibility of evidence has been published.
- ▶ A total of 445 investigators and 52 candidate investigators were trained on the human rights curriculum in 2016-2017.
- ▶ Institutional capacity of the Human Rights Defender's office is strengthened and the professionalism of its staff, including on the National Preventive Mechanism is enhanced.

## Strengthening integrity and combatting corruption in higher education in Armenia

The project is running from January 2015 to December 2017 (more information).

- ▶ Model Codes of Ethics for students, academic staff and managers of higher education institutions (HEI) of Armenia have been developed. Staff from 15 major HEIs has been trained on development of these Codes of Ethics and other relevant key policy papers for HEIs including policy on conflict of interest, whistle-blower's protection, academic honesty policy, etc. Expertise is provided to 5 piloting HEIs as they develop the Codes of Ethics and other key policy papers.
- ▶ Three toolkits containing reporting and assessment templates for educators, students and university staff are developed with the participation of the civil society and the Ministry of Education and Science. They meant to ensure transparency and accountability in higher education governance, human resource management, student assessment and curricula development, and enable

students and educators to “set the alarm” when a suspicion of corruption or other offensive behaviour arises. Staff from 15 major HEIs has been trained on implementation of these toolkits.

- ▶ Based on the toolkit enhancing transparency and accountability in higher education governance, the online reporting platform *Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in Governance* of higher education institutions (<https://etags.emis.am>) has been developed and staff from 15 HEIs is trained on its implementation.
- ▶ Four civil society organisations have carried out awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns for general public and main stakeholders on integrity and corruption risks in higher education in Armenia through the Micro Grant Scheme.

## Long term electoral assistance to the election related stakeholders of Armenia

### Component 1 ([European Commission for Democracy through Law – Venice Commission](#))

The project is running from January 2015 to December 2017

- ▶ [An opinion on the draft legislation on political parties](#) was provided by the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR. The adopted draft took a number of the recommendations into account which will liberalise the creation and registration of political parties in Armenia.
- ▶ Long-term legal assistance for the implementation of the new Electoral Code according to international and European standards was provided by the Venice Commission to the Central Electoral Commission for five weeks prior to the Parliamentary elections that took place on 2 April 2017.
- ▶ A series of seminars and trainings on Electoral Dispute Resolution were provided by the Venice Commission to the Central Electoral Commission and the territorial electoral commissions, and to the proxies of political parties in February and March 2017, over 108 persons were trained. As a result, capacities of members and staff, as well as other relevant parties involved in the electoral process were enhanced, enabling better functioning of the electoral administration in general and improved procedures on the Election Day, in particular.

### Component 2

The project was running from January 2016 to June 2017

- ▶ Training programmes, as well as communication practices of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) have been analysed, and the respective expert reports have served as guidelines to improve the CEC training methodology (modernisation of techniques, up-dated materials, transparent and standardised selection criteria for trainers, systematic evaluation), and the internal and external communication strategy (internal newsletter, use of social media, introduction of new communication tools).
- ▶ A pool of about 300 domestic observers has been trained, according to international standards. During the local elections in Gyumri and Vanadzor, parliamentary elections and Yerevan city council elections the project has deployed 200, 250 and 150 domestic observers respectively. The election observation results have been analysed, published in separate reports and presented to election related stakeholders at formal settings.
- ▶ About 310 politically active women have been trained, with a view to enhancing their participation in local elections (50 of them have been elected as councillors). After being elected, about 150 women

mayors and councillors have participated in leadership schools and seminars to improve their legal and political knowledge.

- ▶ More than 50 investigative journalists have received training on independent election coverage and international standards for media in elections, followed by the establishment of hotline and deployment of mobile crews of journalists during local and parliamentary elections, where more than 100 incidents have been reported by the independent media in order to be followed up adequately.
- ▶ Within an education campaign for first-time voters more than 30,000 schoolchildren countrywide have been engaged in mock elections, during which they could experience their role as citizens in the electoral process.
- ▶ Two national conferences have provided space for an efficient dialogue between different electoral stakeholders about the follow-up to the recommendations of international election observation missions, as well as constraints and challenges faced during the previous elections and good practices that could be applied in future elections in Armenia.

## Support to the implementation of the judicial reform in Armenia

The project is running from 15 June 2017 until May 2018

- ▶ The working group established by the Project finalised the revision of the draft Judicial Code and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for further processing;
- ▶ The working group established by the Project finalised the revision of the Civil Procedure Code. The draft Code is ready to be submitted to the Council of Europe for expertise after being translated;
- ▶ The Project finalised the draft law on making changes and addition in the Civil Code related to the legal regulations on the intellectual property rights and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for further processing;
- ▶ The Project addressed the list of questions of the Ministry of Justice on the right against self-incrimination in the draft Code on Administrative Offences concerning the administrative competition proceedings. This opinion was taken into consideration by the Ministry of Justice when revising the draft Code of Administrative Offences.

**For more information** <http://partnership-governance-eu.coe.int>

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