

# 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 € 2.8 million**.

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

The project is running from March 2015 until December 2018

The project helped the national authorities to improve the legislative and institutional frameworks with the adoption by the Government of the Concept Paper and with the submission of an extensive package of proposed legislative amendments based on the recommendations of the Concept Paper and needs assessment reports. The project assisted the Government in the establishment of Penitentiary Medicine Center State Non-Commercial Organisation that has paramount importance for ensuring professional independence and enhancing professional competences of medical staff of prisons. The material conditions of health care units in eleven prisons in Armenia were significantly upgraded by the provision of 230,000 Euros worth of medical equipment. About 900 prison staff, including medical and non-medical staff, was trained on healthcare and human rights of prisoners and a pool of specialised national trainers was established to further promote health and medical ethics among prison staff.

► [A background information sheet on this project is available on the website](#)

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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

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

The project is running from July 2015 to December 2018.

Expert assistance was provided to harmonise the draft Criminal Procedure and Criminal Codes, 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-to improve provisions aiming to combat ill-treatment and impunity. 650 investigators and 112 candidate investigators were trained on the human rights curriculum prepared with the support of the project and a pool of experts was established to teach this curriculum in the Justice Academy. The evaluation carried out after the trainings delivery demonstrated that 85% of investigators from the Investigative Committee and 59% of investigators from the Special Investigation Service used the training materials and applied the new skills and knowledge when investigating different types of criminal cases; 55% of the respondents from the Special Investigation Service indicated that they applied knowledge and used training materials in investigating torture and ill-treatment cases. The project has also contributed to enhance the institutional capacity of the Human Rights Defender's office and to increase the professionalism of its staff.

► [A background information sheet on this project is available on the website](#)

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

The project ran from January 2015 to December 2017.

The project contributed to strengthening integrity and combat corruption in higher education, one of the main areas recognised as “at risk” by the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015-2018. The project helped to develop a comprehensive institutional framework by providing the model codes of ethics and accompanying toolkits to guide universities in developing their integrity regulations. Practical guidance was provided to the universities in rolling out the code of ethics, train academic and administrative staff and preparing transparency and accountability reports that display governance practices and procedures.

► [A background information sheet on this project is available on the website](#)

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

The project supported the implementation of the national Strategic Programme for Legal and Judicial Reforms 2012-2017 and contributed to the progress of related legislative reforms. It helped to develop the draft Judicial Code, the draft Civil Procedure Code, Code of Administrative Offences and a number of legal acts deriving from the draft Judicial Code, including the draft law on the Service at the Judicial

Department, the draft law on Mediation. The Project also contributed to the development of the Road Map on Introducing the E-court Unified Electronic system.

► [A background information sheet on this project is available on the website](#)

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

The project ran from January 2015 to December 2017.

The Venice Commission, in co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR, provided legal opinions to Armenia to ensure coherence of its electoral legislation with the European electoral standards. These included opinions on the New Electoral Code and the new draft constitutional law on political parties. Recommendations helped to address issues such as voter identification, the independence of election administration officials, women's representation in the elections as well as party registration.

To accompany the implementation of the new Electoral Code (adopted in 2016), the project contributed to reducing shortcomings in dealing with electoral complaints and appeals by training 108 electoral commissions' members, judges, civil society and proxies of political parties. It helped to develop professionalism of the Central Electoral Commission in better management of elections and communicating more openly and proactively with voters. More than 300 Territorial Election Commissioners were trained on the new Electoral Code and management of the electoral process.

A particular focus was paid to increasing capacities of domestic observers and political representation of women. The national network of domestic observers was established and provided a structured framework for numerous capacity-building activities for civil society organisations active during the electoral period in 2016 and 2017. The project deployed 200, 250 and 150 domestic observers during the local elections in Gyumri and Vanadzor (2 October 2016), parliamentary elections (2 April 2017) and Yerevan municipal elections (14 May 2017), respectively.

About 310 politically active women from five regions participated in regional training seminars and women's leadership schools, with a view to enhancing their participation in local elections. Out of those female candidates, about 85 ran for local elections 2016, with more than 50 winning, mainly for community councillors.

► [A background information sheet on this project is available on the website](#)

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

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**September 2018**