

Partnership for Good Governance



Results of projects in Azerbaijan under the European Union/Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance¹

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 **four country-specific projects for Azerbaijan**, with a **total budget of € 4.7 million**.

Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in Azerbaijan

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017; its budget is 1.4 million Euros.

- ▶ A field assessment identified training needs and modified approaches to improve Justice Academy learning process of judges and advocates and provided the Academy with a road map for continuous human rights education;
- ▶ The training of trainers programme established a pool of 38 competent instructors to deliver practical training on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The national instructors became a capable and permanently available pool for involvement into in-service and continues education programs of the Justice Academy of Azerbaijan.
- ▶ As of October 2017, 284 judges representing various courts, 710 advocates and 155 practicing lawyers and human rights defenders across the country were trained on European human rights standards during two-day training seminars;
- ▶ A team of trainers of the Justice Academy received a tailor-made four-day training of trainers session on HELP programme, and the articulate version of the HELP course on Article 5 of the ECHR was finalized;
- ▶ A group of 63 judge candidates undergoing the preparatory training phase of the judicial selection process at the Justice Academy participated in study visits to Strasbourg to get an insight view of the functioning of the Council of Europe and the ECHR.

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

- ▶ Nine handbooks and guidebooks produced by the Council of Europe and the ECHR were translated into Azerbaijani and printed in 3000 copies. The HELP Guidebook on Human Rights Training Methodology for Legal Professionals was translated into Azerbaijani. A selection of more than 20 books on the ECHR was purchased to enrich the library of the Academy of Justice.

 [Link to information sheet on this project](#)

Improving the efficiency and quality of judicial services in the Republic of Azerbaijan

The project run from April 2015 to 31 March 2017 ([more information](#)).

- ▶ The efficiency and quality of judicial services in five pilot courts located in Baku and in the regions of Azerbaijan are improved through the application of the methodology and tools developed by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) on judicial time management and quality of justice.
- ▶ The project identified the needs of the Justice Academy as a training institution for judges: institutional development and governance, staff, organisational issues, budget, curricula, infrastructures as it applies to the initial and continuous training of judges by the Academy.
- ▶ Based on this needs assessment, a pool of 4 selected Justice Academy trainers was trained to deliver courses on efficient courts management and quality of justice to more than 100 peers. To further strengthen training capacity of the Justice Academy, a pool of 14 trainers was taught on training cycle management and adult learning techniques.
- ▶ Two training sessions on management and organisation development for the staff of the Justice Academy and other judicial institutions were held to familiarize them with effective management techniques.
- ▶ The Justice Academy staff and other judicial institutions were presented with practical approaches on how to write handbooks for judges and prosecutors.
- ▶ Further to a roundtable with the representatives of three pilot Regional Justice Divisions (Sheki, Shirvan and Ganja) and discussions with the Ministry of Justice, an action plan for improving performances of RJDs across the country was agreed upon at a training on modern legal awareness tools in March 2017.

 [Link to information sheet on this project](#)

Strengthening capacities to fight and prevent corruption in the Azerbaijani administration

The project is running from January 2015 to December 2017

- ▶ A pool of 25 national trainers was established through two training-of-trainers courses on Ethics and Anti-corruption in Public Service with an aim to increase the capacities of the Azerbaijani government to independently organise future trainings on these subjects in the public sector for the civil service, education sector and civil society;
- ▶ Three regional pilot trainings were delivered on ethics and anti-corruption by four national trainers certified by the project and selected by the Commission for Combating Corruption and State Examination Centre.
- ▶ The Handbook on Performance Evaluations in Public Service was prepared in order to increase the capacities of civil servants to carry out performance appraisals. In addition, a training-of-trainers course was provided for 24

civil servants dealing with human resources issues. A pilot training took place in Guba region, delivered by two certified national trainers.

- ▶ Capacity of specialised prosecution and investigation bodies and judges was enhanced to tackle corporate criminal liability and whistle-blower protection. Accompanying training materials were developed;
- ▶ As a continuation on the e-platform produced by the project in 2016 and launched in 2017, a methodology for evaluating the implementation level of the National Action Plan on Promoting Open Government 2016-2018, including guidelines for evaluation and specific indicators, were developed. This methodology will serve as guidance for the Commission for Combating Corruption in carrying out accurate measuring of the implementation rate of the activities contained within the Action Plan and reported in the e-platform;
- ▶ A legal opinion was provided to Azerbaijani authorities on the Draft Law on Regulations of Ethical Conduct of Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan in order to ensure that the law is in line with relevant GRECO recommendations.

📄 [Link to information sheet on this project](#)

Freedom of expression and media freedom

The project is running from January 2015 to 31 December 2017

- ▶ About 300 journalists and media professionals were trained on Council of Europe standards and relevant domestic legislative provisions on media coverage of elections, safety of journalists, access to information, gender equality and media, freedom of expression and privacy, internet and human rights;
- ▶ About 100 legal professionals (judges, advocates, prosecutors) trained on Council of Europe standards on freedom of expression and media freedom;
- ▶ About 30 press officers of state authorities and staff members of the Ombudsman Office trained on Council of Europe standards on Access to Information;
- ▶ A conference on Internet and Human Rights was held on 1 March 2016 in Baku that raised awareness of 70 representatives of national authorities, media, academia and civil society about Council of Europe standards on human rights protection on the Internet, the Internet infrastructure and online media;
- ▶ A round table on Defamation was held on 31 May 2016 in Baku that raised awareness of 60 representatives of national authorities, media, academia and civil society about Council of Europe standards and best European practices on defamation issues and freedom of expression;
- ▶ 25 Azerbaijani journalists participated in study-visits to Strasbourg on 11-12 May 2016 and 22-24 March 2017 and became acquainted with Council of Europe and ECHR work in the field of freedom of expression and media freedom;
- ▶ The curricula for two courses “Journalism ethics” and “Media and freedom of expression” were developed and used at the Journalism Faculty, Baku State University;
- ▶ A Guide to Human Rights for Internet Users and a Guide on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights were translated and published;
- ▶ Four textbooks on journalism – TV Journalism, Photo Journalism, Radio Journalism and Journalism of New Media published within the Project and the students of journalism faculties of two universities provided with the textbooks.

📄 [Link to information sheet on this project](#)

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

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