

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 € 5.2 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 2018; its budget is 1.75 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 2018, 375 judges representing various courts, 815 advocates, 74 prosecutors and investigators, 25 judge assistants and court clerks, 230 practicing lawyers and human rights defenders across the country were trained on European human rights standards;
- ▶ A conference to provide a forum for open discussions on national implementation of the ECHR among representatives of state organisations, advocates, judges, prosecutors and human rights defenders was organised in February 2018 in Baku;

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

- ▶ Two Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Trainings of Trainers were organized to introduce legal professionals to the HELP training methodology and prepare them to fulfil the role of HELP trainers for national training institutions. The articulate version of the HELP course on Article 5 of the ECHR was finalised;
- ▶ A group of 125 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 in 2017.
- ▶ Conference on property rights was organised in September 2018 with more than 80 participants, mainly judges and court staff of the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court and Baku Appeal Court attended, aimed at exploring theoretical and practical implications of the right to property as defined by the case-law of the European Court Human Rights, as well as to discuss outstanding issues of the national practice;
- ▶ 40 lawyers successfully completed three-month HELP distance courses on “Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights”;
- ▶ A human rights training curriculum was developed to serve as an essential resource in pre-service and in-service judicial trainings offered to legal professionals by the Justice Academy;
- ▶ The Project started free-legal aid program within the legal clinic of the Academy of Justice of Azerbaijan. 31 selected law students supervised by 15 experienced lawyers are engaged in the provision of pro-bono legal aid services to general population;
- ▶ 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. 400 copies of the “Law of the European Convention on Human Rights” (in Russian) were procured for distribution among legal professionals in Azerbaijan.

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

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

The project ran 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 familiarise 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 regional justice divisions (RJDs) across the country was agreed upon at a training on modern legal awareness tools in 2017.

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

Strengthening anti-money laundering in Azerbaijan

The project is running from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

- ▶ 40 representatives of specialised prosecution and law enforcement bodies, as well as judges, were trained on investigative techniques in anti-money laundering. Accompanying training materials were developed;
- ▶ 30 representatives of specialised prosecution, law enforcement bodies and judges were trained on handling terrorism financing cases, based on good practices;
- ▶ A training toolkit on money laundering and terrorist financing investigative techniques was developed and presented to beneficiaries;
- ▶ Capacity on processing and adjudicating money laundering cases of specialised prosecution, investigative bodies and judges was enhanced. Accompanying training materials were developed;
- ▶ Legal review on Application of “Fit and Proper” Standards in Azerbaijani Legislation in line with Moneyval and FATF recommendations was delivered;
- ▶ A guidance paper for carrying out a risk assessments in the banking sector was developed, following a scoping mission with main financial supervision authorities and commercial banks;
- ▶ Sector-specific guidelines for financial institutions in order to effectively apply risk-based procedures have been developed;
- ▶ A legal opinion on the new Draft Law on Regulations of Ethical Conduct of Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan was delivered in order to ensure that the law is in line with relevant GRECO recommendations;
- ▶ Guidance document for MPs was drafted to provide practical advice on situations involving the acceptance of gifts, conflicts of interest and contact with third parties.

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

Freedom of expression and media freedom

The project ran from 1 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 200 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;
- ▶ 15 Azerbaijani judges trained on ECHR standards relating to certain aspects of freedom of expression in the TOT/study visit of a group of Azerbaijani judges in Strasbourg on 17-19 October 2016.
- ▶ The Project developed two expert reports to analyse the compliance of Azerbaijani legislation on Access to information and Freedom of expression with the Council of Europe standards and provided 40 recommendations to improve the legislation in the relevant fields.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ About 70 representatives of state authorities, academia, and members of the Press Council, media professionals and civil society participated in the conference to promote media education and to provide a forum for open discussions on challenges and perspectives of media education in Azerbaijan which took place on 7 December 2017 in Baku.

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

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

Contact: [Nichola Howson](#), Communication Officer, +33 3 88 41 22 39

September 2018