

Management Response and Action Plan

Name of Evaluation Report:	Final Evaluation of the project “The Path towards Armenia’s Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2019 – 2022)”		
Date of Evaluation Report:	30 November 2022	Date of Action Plan:	01 January 2023

Overall management response to the evaluation:

The report presents the findings of the external evaluation of the CoE project “The Path towards Armenia’s Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”, funded by the donors contributing to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019–2022 and implemented by the Council of Europe. This evaluation assessed the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project and focused on follow-up ideas for continuation of the project. The CoE project team accepts most of suggested recommendation in the evaluation report, which have already been included in the follow-up project proposal. One recommendation is under consideration, and one is rejected on the reasons provided below. Accepted evaluation recommendations are also in line with the project’s partners exchanges during the project board meetings and individual needs assessment meetings with the national stakeholders that took place before drafting the new project proposal. The new project started its implementation in January 2023.

Management Decision ¹	Entity in Charge	Planned Actions ² (determined by Entity)	Justification ³ for Non-Acceptance	Target Date for Action	Person Responsible for Action
Recommendation 1:					
<u>On project settings and monitoring framework</u>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider a broadened (less formalistic) mandate and/or larger institutional membership of the project's <i>Steering Committee</i> to address the implementing partners' internal challenges (i.e., change of political leadership, high staff turnover). - Enable a less hierarchical and more results-oriented (technical) type of exchange to stir genuine and transparent discussions on the projects' components as needed. The entire burden should not lie on the CoE project team only, no matter how committed. - 'Chose your battles': consider a more targeted and narrower approach to future intervention logic (the new project in the framework of the CoE Action Plan for Armenia 2023-2026), including the definition of expected results of the project, and carefully assess what can be realistically attained within a comparatively short period. - Consider more systematic and strategic participation of project partners and end-beneficiaries in project design (beyond activity level); trial participatory planning methods to jointly define realistic and attainable project results. 					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	CoE Office in Yerevan DGII – Gender Equality Division (co-operation unit)	A new project “Ending violence against women and promoting gender equality in Armenia” (the follow-up project hereinafter) started on 1 January 2023. An updated setting of the new project includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and approval of the broader mandate (Terms of Reference (ToR)) of the <i>Steering Committee (SC)</i>, stressing the membership of institutions rather than individuals. 		The first SC of the new project (March 2023) Inception period of the new project	Marta Becerra , Head of Unit, Capacity-Building and Co-operation Projects Unit, Gender Equality Division; Larissa Kireeva , Project Manager, Capacity-Building and Co-operation Projects Unit, Gender Equality Division; Liana Amirbekyan , Senior Project Officer

¹ The management decision is in relation to the Recommendation (Accepted, Rejected, Under consideration).

² For implementing accepted recommendations.

³ For recommendations that are rejected or under consideration.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointment of the partners' contact persons for direct working communication on the project implementation to ensure more result-oriented and less hierarchical working communication - Development of the more targeted and result oriented Logframe of the follow-up project - Involvement of the representatives of civil society organisations in the work of the <i>Steering Committee</i> 		<p>(January – March 2023)</p> <p>November-December 2022</p> <p>March 2023 – December 2024</p>	
<p>Recommendation 2: <u>On capacity building components</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enlarge and deepen training efforts towards judges, investigators and prosecutors as those professional groups are in first line to correctly address DV/VAW on the ground. - In trainings for media professionals make sure to address gender (power) imbalances: ensure participation of editors and/or editors-in-chief⁴ who are, in comparison to the journalists⁵, the key decision-makers on articles (stories) composition, coverage, timing, etc. - Diversify training sessions for various levels of participants: beginners, refresher, ToT / experts across sectors. - Find the right balance between online, face-to-face and self-study modalities to keep the focus, limit dropouts and address decreasing motivation. 					

⁴ In majority of cases men

⁵ In majority of cases women

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	CoE Office in Yerevan DGII – Gender Equality Division (co-operation unit)	<p>The new project aims to ensure key stakeholders and the larger public are increasingly aware of gender equality standards, including the Istanbul Convention. For this reason, the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conduct awareness raising workshops on CoE standards in the regions for local communities, and for civil society organisations and will call specifically local and national partners to engage more men and the youth in activities. - ensure participation of mixed groups of legal professionals, Training sessions on protection orders will target the police, courts, and local executive authorities. - Editors/journalists and decision makers, etc will be invited to join trainings. - provide different trainings for different levels of participants. - ensure that frontline professionals, in particular law enforcement, are capacitated to effectively deal with cases of VAW/DV. - adapt and launch the HELP course on VAW for law enforcement. Alumni of the ToT Help course on 		1 January 2023 - 31 December 2024	<p>Marta Becerra, Head of Unit, Capacity-Building and Co-operation Projects Unit, Gender Equality Division</p> <p>Larissa Kireeva, Project Manager, Capacity-Building and Co-operation Projects Unit, Gender Equality Division</p> <p>Liana Amirbekyan, Senior Project Officer</p>

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		<p>VAW launched under the previous project, among which there are judges and civil servants will be involved as local tutors in a new HELP course on VAW for law enforcement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - build the capacities of civil servants through workshops on CoE standards on VAW/DV and roundtables on gender mainstreaming. - offer online trainings to reach participants that have time constrains or cannot participate in in-person trainings. 			
<p>Recommendation 3: <u>On visibility and communication component</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In relation to the additionally integrated communication and visibility component to raise awareness and change perceptions of the general public on DV/VAW and IC, consider the inclusion of media monitoring services and/or studies on public attitudes (market research) into project outputs. Those tools monitor not only public engagement but also media image, communication impact and attitudinal (behavioural) change in relation to certain issues. 					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	CoE Office in Yerevan DGII – Gender Equality Division (co-operation unit)	The communication on the new project will be done in accordance with the general Communication Guidelines of the Council of Europe which is applicable throughout the organisation and managed centrally by DPC. Funding of market research and monitoring media require financial		1 January 2023 - 31 December 2024	Marta Becerra , Head of Unit, Capacity-Building and Co-operation Projects Unit, Gender Equality Division Larissa Kireeva , Project Manager, Capacity-Building and Co-operation Projects Unit, Gender Equality Division

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		availability which may not be realistic in the follow up project.			Liana Amirbekyan , Senior Project Officer
<p>Recommendation 4: <u>On service provision and referrals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage with strategic partners like the European Union to map the functionalities of the DV/VAW referral system, especially from the health and education sectors to identify and address the bottlenecks. Pilots could be carried out at the regional level before the nation-wide upscale. - Consider exploring the options to support local CSOs who are (willing) to launch interventions in mental health programmes with perpetrators. 					
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	CoE Office in Yerevan DGII – Gender Equality Division (co-operation unit)	The education sector is covered by the follow up project’s work on gender mainstreaming in education and developing the skills on educators to combat VAW and DV.	<p>Health sectors and mental health programmes for perpetrators are not the objectives of the follow up project.</p> <p>As to the CSOs, the assistance is planned to be provided in their capacities to raise awareness on the Istanbul Convention. Development of the programmes for perpetrators was not included among the priorities of the new project. Also, to note that setting up perpetrator programmes</p>		

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			according to Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention requires more comprehensive work than simply supporting civil society. Working solely from a “mental health” perspective does not fulfil the requirements Istanbul Convention either.		
Recommendation 5: <u>On advocacy and engagement with legislators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the potential to strategically engage with MPs in a participatory and capacity strengthening manner to promote the ratification of the IC and gender transformative reforms in general. - Take lessons learnt from the existing <i>Simone Veil Programme</i>⁶ of the European Parliament. - Engage with other members of the international community to support the opening of a parliamentary <i>women’s club</i> to network and connect women MPs across political parties to promote gender transformative reforms, including the ratification of the IC. 					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Under consideration	CoE Office in Yerevan DGII – Gender Equality	The CoE Office in Yerevan and the project team will continue to cooperate with the Gender Thematic Group. This group meets on a quarterly basis and co-ordinates action by international actors		1 January 2023 -31 December 2024	Martina Schmidt , Head of Office in Yerevan Marta Becerra , Head of Unit, Capacity-Building and Co-

⁶ A capacity building programme seeking to empower women parliamentarians to promote gender equality, inclusive societies, and democratic change

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	Division (co-operation unit)	and national authorities in Armenia in the field of gender equality. It is chaired by the UN. It also includes the EU, local CSOs and Women’s Council acting under the Deputy Prime Minister. These are the platforms for strategic engagement with key decision-makers and experts in Government and Parliament to advocate for changes to VAW/DV legislation in line with the CoE standards and advocate the ratification of the CoE Istanbul Convention. CoE high management will continue to be involved for further advocacy on VAW/DV to increase leverage, when relevant. Best practices / international peer exchanges will be broadly applied especially while working on establishing multi-agency cooperation scheme. MPs will be invited to participate in the relevant project activities.			<p>operation Projects Unit, Gender Equality Division</p> <p>Larissa Kireeva, Project Manager, Capacity-Building and Co-operation Projects Unit, Gender Equality Division</p> <p>Liana Amirbekyan, Senior Project Officer</p>