

# European Union and Council of Europe **Partnership for Good Governance II** 2019-2022

ქონს Східне партнерство Eastern Partnership აღმოსავლეთ პარტნიორობა Part  
გი Partenariat Oriental არსეუან ფირბრსსეროქონს Східне партнерство Eastern  
პარტნიორობა Parteneriatul Estic თაფდასიქ Partenariat Oriental არსეუან ფირ  
აღმოსავლეთ პარტნიორობა Parteneriatul Estic ჟარქ თაფდასიქი Partenariat Orienta  
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## **PARTNERSHIP FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE**

Judicial reforms and the fight against corruption are essential for more trust by citizens in state institutions, an investment-safe climate and long-term regional stability in the Eastern Partnership area.

Based on this conviction, and anchored in shared values, the European Union and the Council of Europe work together with the Eastern Partnership countries to support their EU 2020 deliverables and commitments to the Council of Europe. This is done through the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) which was launched as a joint initiative in 2014. PGG provides tailor-made support to Eastern Partnership countries to bring legislation and practice closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy.

Since 2017 PGG has focused on providing legal expertise and technical assistance to help national institutions implement reforms in the field of the judiciary and the fight against corruption in line with Council of Europe standards. The programme runs until 2022.

Progress has already been made on independent anti-corruption bodies and judicial reforms. The work continues with a focus on citizens achieving more efficient and better quality services, and on sustaining the already achieved results.

PGG methods involve a combination of legal expertise, capacity-building, awareness-raising and peer-to-peer reviews, including needs assessments, legislative review, conferences/seminars, networking and training led by Council of Europe staff and international experts. The programme follows an approach with multiple angles and stakeholders, based on cross-sectoral co-operation.

A high degree of openness and flexibility is a major strength of the PGG, as testified by stakeholders and beneficiaries. PGG aims at delivering highly relevant, effective and sustainable assistance, which already has been confirmed in recent assessments.

## EU 2020 Deliverable 9: Strengthening the rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms

### WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED:

- ▶ Adoption of laws strengthening the norms in the fields of fight against corruption, money-laundering and terrorist financing in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
- ▶ More efficient asset declaration and conflict of interest systems in Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine
- ▶ Better transparency of beneficial ownership as a leading tool to tackle illicit financial flows, money laundering, corruption and financing of terrorism
- ▶ Increased capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate corruption cases
- ▶ Improvement of policy-makers and practitioners knowledge on the use of tools enabling them to address illicit enrichment
- ▶ Improved mechanisms to assess and mitigate risks of money-laundering and terrorist financing in Belarus and Georgia
- ▶ Enhanced capacity of 400 criminal justice actors to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate money-laundering and terrorist financing cases in Azerbaijan and Georgia

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

- ▶ Further strengthening institutional frameworks for combating corruption in line with GRECO recommendations
- ▶ Further enhancing the systems of asset declaration and conflicts of interest
- ▶ Further improving investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption-related crimes
- ▶ Further strengthening the capacities of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing structures
- ▶ Further strengthening mechanisms for regional co-operation in fighting and preventing corruption, money-laundering and terrorist financing

#### Council of Europe standards and monitoring

■ The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) identifies deficiencies in national anti-corruption legislations and policies and encourages states to carry out the necessary legislative, institutional or administrative reforms. Its evaluation is based on the relevant Council of Europe conventions.

■ The Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) evaluates the effectiveness of systems to counter money laundering and terrorist financing in member States.

# EU 2020 Deliverable 10 : Supporting the implementation of key judicial reforms

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED:

- ▶ Strengthened judicial accountability and adoption of related legislation in Armenia in line with Council of Europe standards
- ▶ More efficient day-to-day court administration in Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova in line with the tools and methodology of the Council of Europe Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)
- ▶ Improved collection and analysis of judicial data to increase the efficiency and quality of services in pilot courts in Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova
- ▶ Improvement of the enforcement of judgments of domestic courts and of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)
- ▶ Strengthened capacities of judicial training institutions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to ensure better judicial competences and application of the European Convention on Human Rights
- ▶ Improvement of the ethical and disciplinary procedures in Georgia and the Republic of Moldova: 63% of lawyers in Georgia and 56% in the Republic of Moldova perceived disciplinary procedures to be fairer and more effective
- ▶ Improved knowledge of European judicial standards by 70% of representatives of the justice sector from Eastern Partnership countries
- ▶ Improved structures, policies and practices for women's access to justice in Eastern Partnership countries

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

- ▶ Further strengthening the legislative framework and implementing mechanisms for judicial reforms and supporting the implementation of targeted judicial reforms in Eastern Partnership countries
- ▶ Further strengthening an effective system of judicial accountability based on European standards and good practices
- ▶ Further improving access to justice, in particular for women
- ▶ Further strengthening the implementation of CEPEJ tools to improve the efficiency and quality of justice
- ▶ Further enhancing training and capacities of training institutions to deliver training to the justice sector actors in line with European standards and best practices
- ▶ Further improving the enforcement of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)
- ▶ Further strengthening regional co-operation amongst the Bar associations and law societies

## Council of Europe standards and monitoring

■ The work of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) is focused on developing management tools, best practices and guidelines for improving the quality and efficiency of justice. It regularly publishes reports on the evaluation of European judicial systems.

■ The Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) prepares opinions, promotes the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2000)19 on the Role of Public Prosecution in the Criminal Justice System and collects information about the functioning of prosecution services in Europe.

■ The Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) prepares opinions and promotes the implementation of the Council of Europe standards to strengthen the role of judges in Europe.

## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW (VENICE COMMISSION)

■ The European Commission for Democracy through Law is the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters which provides legal advice to its member States enabling them to bring their legal and institutional structures in line with European standards and international experience in the fields of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

■ The Venice Commission also helps to ensure the dissemination and consolidation of a common constitutional heritage, playing a unique role in conflict management, and provides "emergency constitutional aid" to States in transition.

### QUICK RESPONSE MECHANISM

■ Under the Quick Response Mechanism (QRM), legal expertise can be provided by the Venice Commission in its areas of competence, including democratic institutions and fundamental rights; elections, referendums and political parties and constitutional and ordinary justice.

# Promoting gender equality and non-discrimination

## Combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and women

■ Non-discrimination is an integral part of the principle of equality. It ensures equal access to and enjoyment of human rights regardless of a person's national or ethnic background, language, religion, political or other opinion, social or economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity. PGG contributes towards meaningful progress in fighting discrimination and hate crime and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and women.

### WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED:

- ▶ Better prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence: signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) by Georgia, signature of the Convention by Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
- ▶ Adoption of legislation on violence against women and domestic violence by Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
- ▶ Better access to justice for women in Eastern Partnership countries through training of legal professionals, strengthened capacities of judicial training institutions and harmonised judicial training tools

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

- ▶ Ensuring access of all Eastern Partnership countries to the Istanbul Convention and effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention
- ▶ Improving alignment of anti-discrimination policies with European standards, including in the areas of hate crime and hate speech
- ▶ Strengthening capacities of 'equality bodies' and civil society organisations to assist persons belonging to vulnerable groups in pursuing discrimination complaints

#### Council of Europe standards and monitoring

■ The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) is the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) by the Parties.

■ The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) regularly monitors problems of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, anti-semitism and intolerance in the 47 member States and makes recommendations to member States.

■ The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) is a monitoring mechanism which evaluates the protection of minorities in the countries concerned, their right to freedom of assembly, of expression, of conscience, of religion and freedom of access to the media and to their language.



The Partnership for Good Governance contributes to the achievement of the EU deliverables for 2020 which aim to deepen and strengthen relations between the EU and its member States and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, and to deliver tangible results for citizens across the region.



## LEARN MORE

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<http://partnership-governance2-eu.coe.int>

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Member States of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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