

## RESULTS FACTSHEET

### Partnership for Good Governance in Georgia

January 2022

#### Key figures

- Two successive phases since 2015.
- 16 projects under the PGG II
- 2 country-specific projects in Georgia with a budget of EUR 2,927,000
- 4 regional projects covering Georgia

#### What is the Partnership for Good Governance?

Through the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) the European Union and the Council of Europe are working together to strengthen governance in the Eastern Partnership region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus).

The 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.

### Project: Enhancing the system of prevention and combating corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing in Georgia (Jan 2019-Feb 2023)

*The PGG II supports strengthening the capacities of Georgian state agencies to **fight and prevent economic crime**, in particular corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/FT).*

#### **Legislative/policy framework improved**

- **The Law of Georgia on facilitating the suppression of money laundering and terrorism financing was adopted in October 2019**, aligning Georgian legislation with key international standards in the field of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. This legislative milestone was supported by the PGG II.
- **The first National money laundering and terrorism financing risk assessment report of Georgia (NRA) was adopted in 2019**. The PGG II provided expert advice on the application of the assessment methodology, data analysis, and identification of remaining gaps in the report. Once adopted, the PGG II conducted an interagency workshop for the parties involved to increase their understanding of the identified risks and priority actions of the NRA.

- **The Law of Georgia on conflict of interest and corruption in public service (Article 12/1-5) was amended in March 2021**, to address current or emerging challenges of corruption. The position of the Anti-Corruption Council was strengthened by appointing the Administration of the Government as the Secretariat of the Council.
- A **Technical paper on the analysis of the current system of disciplinary liability within the Georgian Prosecution Service, with Recommendations and a Roadmap towards the full Implementation of, and compliance with the GRECO fourth round evaluation recommendation XV**, is assisting the General Prosecutor's Office in **updating the legal framework related to the prosecutor's disciplinary liability** in compliance with relevant GRECO recommendations.
- Following the adoption of the new AML/CFT Law of Georgia in 2019, the concerned authorities updated **secondary legislation with regard to AML/CFT supervision, Customer Due Diligence (CDD) requirements, the framework for application of a Risk-Based Approach and beneficial ownership..**

#### *Institutional frameworks/capacities strengthened*

- **The Financial Monitoring Service (FMS), adopted two by-laws, based on the new AML Law** on receiving, systemising and sharing of the information by the FMS. Through capacity-building activities, the PGG II supported the FMS and other concerned stakeholders, in the application of the new regulations.
- Through expert support and based on the Anti-corruption Action Plan of Georgia 2019 – 2020, the capacity of the **Anti-corruption Agency of the State Security Service of Georgia** was strengthened **in preventing corruption in the public sector**. Also, by training future trainers this knowledge-building effort will be made sustainable withing the relevant institutions.
- The **Secretariat of the Anti-corruption Council** improved its skills on **conflict-of-interest management and on the implementation of the national corruption risk assessment methodology**.
- The staff of the **Civil Service Bureau** (Asset Declaration Monitoring Department) and **the specialised investigators** enhanced their capacities on **efficient monitoring of public officials' asset declarations and prevention of conflict of interest**.
- The capacity of the **Service for Accounting, Reporting and Auditing Supervision (SARAS)** was strengthened to **perform its supervision duties in the field of AML/CFT**, in compliance with international AML/CFT standards and implementing the action plan recommended by MONEYVAL. SARAS is also improving its institutional structure by **establishing a separate AML unit**, and 37 representatives of the accounting/auditing sector improved their knowledge in the area.
- Judges of the Supreme Court of Georgia identified **relevant solutions to address legal and practical challenges encountered by the Georgian judges as regards to national and international trends in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of economic crime cases**.



- Representatives of the judiciary, prosecution, and law enforcement agencies **increased their capacities for the effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of economic crime cases.**
- **The Training Centre of the General Prosecutor’s Office increased its knowledge on investigation and prosecution of corruption offences** to ensure systematic in-house training on corruption cases.

**Public awareness raised**

- **Awareness on money laundering and terrorist financing risks was raised among 18 representatives of the financial sector** (commercial banks and microfinance organisations), **the gambling sector, accountants and auditors**, as well as **currency exchange bureaus**, and their capacities for mitigating those risks were strengthened in line with international best practices.
- **Awareness on corruption prevention in the public sector was raised among 40 representatives of state institutions** (Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure) and Tbilisi City Hall in cooperation with the Anti-corruption Agency of the State Security Service.

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

**Project: Implementation of judicial reforms**

**Component 1: Enhancing the accountability and the efficiency of the judicial system and the professionalism of lawyers in Georgia (Nov 2019-Feb 2023)**

*The PGG II provides support to **enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the court system.***

**Legislative/policy framework improved**

- **The Conference of Judges adopted the Code on Judicial Ethics in October 2021**, developed with the Council of Europe’s and other partners’ support, bringing judicial ethics in line with the Consultative Council of European Judges Opinion No 3.
- **The High Council of Justice’s Independent Inspector’s Office Statute was adopted** to ensure a transparent and reasoned investigatory process on judges' disciplinary violations.



### *Institutional frameworks/capacities strengthened*

- **The capacity of the Georgian Supreme Court was strengthened with the support of the PGG II.** The Court finalised its **first Development Strategy (2021-23) and Action Plan** and volunteered to be the pilot court in cases such as evaluation of non-judge staff.
- **The Constitutional Court secured its access to the electronic law library** after the official establishment of the Consortium of electronic law libraries, a Statute signed in 2020.
- **A practical guide on Constitutional Court submissions was prepared** to enable common court judges to challenge the constitutionality of legal norms per individual case.
- **The capacities of training institutions were strengthened by supporting the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) Continuous Legal Education Programme** through new methodologies and tools including training needs assessment and outcomes evaluation tools. Four online training courses were developed by the PGG II and two of them are integrated into GBA's continuous legal education curriculum.
- The Supreme Court is in the process of **development of an electronic software for the evaluation of non-judge staff.** The main features of the software are **based on the findings and recommendations of the CEPEJ expert report.**
- **A guide was developed by the Constitutional Court's Deputy President and Common Court's staff and judicial assistants with detailed case-law analysis and instructions for judges on constitutional submissions** to facilitate a dialogue between common courts and the Constitutional Court and to increase common court judges' readiness to seek interpretation on the potentially unconstitutional norms before resolving a dispute at hand.
- The national authorities received a **model for statistical reporting**, showing the efficiency of Georgian courts of the first instance, and providing an analysis of existing data and statistical reporting processes to **demonstrate how CEPEJ methods can be applied to the available data in the Georgian judiciary.**

### *Public awareness raised*

- **The awareness of the society about their rights and the work of the Independent Inspector's Office was increased** since it started to publish its referrals to the High Council of Justice as a part of the semi-annual reporting. This is a step forward, in line with the transparency recommendations from the Council of Europe and civil society organisations.

ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
The European Union for Georgia



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ევროპის საბჭო

- **The #JusticeForAll awareness campaign, comprising of 8** personal stories of people with disabilities, minority groups, women and children in their struggle to access justice mechanisms **engaged around 50 000 people on social media** to demonstrate visible and invisible barriers that women, children, persons with disabilities, queer community, national and ethnic minorities face before they reach courts.
- **Eight media outlets in Georgia prepared video stories/articles on the Constitutional Court decisions that have changed people's lives.** All media products have aired on TV and/or have been published via social media with the aim to raise awareness of the Court's role for the general public.

**Component 2: Supporting the criminal justice reforms – tackling criminal aspects of the judicial reforms (Jan 2019-Feb 2023)**

*The PGG II provides support to **improve criminal proceedings** in Georgia in line with European standards.*

**Legislative/policy framework improved**

- **Georgian authorities were provided with an expert review on the compatibility of Georgia's Criminal Procedure Code** and related legislative provisions with the European standards in particular the European Convention of Human Rights, **the main findings of which were acknowledged by the chairperson of the Georgian Parliament and the Minister of Justice** as a good basis to build upon further work related to the reform of the criminal justice legal framework.
- **A review of the Georgian Law on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters was completed** in co-operation with the General Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice, to introduce the results into the legislation, thus enhancing the performance of the national authorities in matters of international mutual co-operation.
- The PGG II supported the General Prosecutor's Office in the **revision of its draft Strategy to strengthen the Office's institutional independence** by setting up dedicated procedures for enhanced prosecutorial self-governance.

**Institutional frameworks/capacities strengthened**

- The analytical department of the Supreme Court produced **eight reports on European Court of Human Rights' (ECtHR) judgments in respect of Georgia and the most important case law of the ECtHR; translated 100 decisions into local language and made them available to judges, thus continuing to play an important role in assisting the courts to develop unified court practices.** The structure of the department was strengthened by adding the mandate for statistical data collection within the framework of the PGG I.





- 22 staff members (20 women and two men) of the analytical units of courts **improved their knowledge on criteria-based assessment, measuring institutional performances, specific rules for criminal justice and statistical analysis for criminological purposes.**
- Georgian judges, prosecutors, investigators and other legal professionals improved **their knowledge of European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) standards of the criminal justice system on “International Co-operation in Criminal Matters”, “Reasoning of Criminal Judgments” and “CPT standards and fight against ill-treatment”**, through online HELP courses that were adapted into the Georgian context and conducted in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice, the General Prosecutor’s Office, the State Inspector’s Office and the High School of Justice.
- Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, investigators and legal staff of the courts **strengthened their knowledge on ECHR standards and case-law of the ECtHR on the application of pre-trial measures, fight against ill-treatment, and international co-operation in criminal matters**, contributing to the improved practice of the criminal justice system.
- The **prosecutorial regulatory framework was strengthened, improving access to justice for people with mental health issues** through the Guidelines adopted by the General Prosecutor’s Office. Prosecutors and investigators are identifying the needs of people with disabilities involved in criminal cases and ensure the application of the standard of reasonable accommodation.
- The **Legal Aid Service lawyers improved their practical skills for better protection of human rights standards in criminal proceedings where state-funded legal aid service is used.**
- The **recommendations of the gender analysis report on existing gender challenges were taken into account in project implementation.**


[A background information sheet on both components of this project is available on the website.](#)

**More information:**

<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/pgg2/georgia>

**Contact :**

Ogdp\_pgg@coe.int

 @partnershipgovernance  
@CoeEapPCF

**Regional projects implemented in Georgia:**

- ▶ Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime
- ▶ Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards
- ▶ Women’s Access to Justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards
- ▶ Strengthening the access to justice through non-judiciary redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech

For more information, consult the Factsheet on Regional projects

ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
The European Union for Georgia



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ევროპის საბჭო