



## CONCLUSIONS

### Local Steering Committee

### EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance 2019 – 2021

**Baku, 3 October 2019**

The Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) **Local Steering Committees (LSC)** of a tri-partite nature (European Union, Council of Europe, Beneficiaries) have been established regarding each of the countries covered by PGG. The LSCs meet once a year with a view to:

- monitor the implementation of the Annual Plans of Action (APAs) in each country;
- monitor the implementation of regional/multi-country projects regarding both regional action and the specific actions of the country concerned;
- formulate recommendations with a view to steering the projects;
- transmit proposals for revised APAs to the PGG Steering Committee (PGG-SC) and formulate recommendations as to the initiation of any other national intervention under PGG, as well as any recommendations regarding regional Action;
- make proposals to the PGG-SC as to the use of reserve funds.

The first meeting of the LSC for Azerbaijan was held on 3 October 2019 in Baku in accordance with the Agenda shown in Appendix I. The list of participants is shown in Appendix II.

## Recommendations and conclusions

Further to detailed presentations of the different PGG projects involving Azerbaijan and in-depth exchange of views, the LSC made some specific recommendations and came to the following conclusions:

- The PGG projects, both country-specific and regional, involving Azerbaijan are relevant for the on-going reforms in the areas of judicial reform and countering money laundering and provide substantial support to bring the national legislation and practice closer to the European standards and to contribute to the achievement of the EU 2020 Deliverables. Participants considered that the actions aiming at preventing and combating discrimination and domestic violence are also relevant for the country and should be pursued.
- The LSC noted that the modalities and degree of involvement of the national partners in the regional co-operation can vary from project to project. In particular regarding the regional project "Strengthening the access to justice through non-judicial redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in the Eastern Partnership Countries", notably its "hate

speech” component, the Azerbaijani authorities underlined that the modalities of the country involvement will be further defined in the light of concrete activities.

- While no request under the Quick Response Mechanism has been submitted by Azerbaijan so far, beneficiaries have taken note of the possibility to use this tool.
- The LSC underlined that permanent contacts and interactions between the main PGG stakeholders - Council of Europe, European Union and the national authorities - are required to monitor the Programme activities and to adjust them in accordance with the country’s needs.
- The PGG country specific and regional projects parameters (including objectives, implementation modalities and proposed activities) were endorsed by the LSC participants.
- Specific recommendations regarding the projects will be reflected in the relevant APAs with a view to their consideration by the PGG-SC. They include:
  - ✓ The project “Strengthening the access to justice through non-judicial redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in Eastern Partnership Countries” should reflect the level of involvement of Azerbaijan (see above).
  - ✓ The work plan for the regional project “Women’s access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards” will be further developed and reflected in the APA.
- The LSC noted that the PGG communication and visibility actions should not only regularly provide update on the Programme implementation to the PGG stakeholders but also provide comprehensive information on the PGG concrete benefits to citizens.
- The LSC also noted that the information flow on regional activities needs to be further reinforced.
- The LSC welcomed the participation of civil society organisations (CSO) in the PGG actions and noted their expressed wish to participate in the roundtables/capacity building events, as well as monitoring of the implementation of projects.
- In this context it was suggested however to invite to the LSC meetings only those CSOs which are stakeholders in the implemented PGG projects or specialised in judicial reforms, countering money laundering, anti-discrimination and fighting violence against women and domestic violence in order to better focus the LSC debates.
- As for the needs to inform a wider range of civil society of the PGG activities, it was suggested to hold an information meeting for CSOs as a separate event back to back to the LSC.

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## APPENDIX I

### LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE

#### EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) 2019-2021 for Eastern Partnership countries

### AGENDA

**BAKU, 3 October 2019**

**14:00-14:30**

#### **Opening session (open to the media)**

**Chair: Zoltan Hernyes, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Azerbaijan**

Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan

Farah Ajalova, Deputy Director, Department of Human Rights and Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Arkadi Sytine, PGG Co-ordinator, Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

**14:30-14:45**

#### **Coffee break**

**14:45-15:30**

#### **Presentation of the PGG II – state of implementation and programming**

##### **Country specific projects**

- **Project “Strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in Azerbaijan”**  
Presentation by Vafa Rovshanova, Senior Project Officer
- **Project “Strengthening anti-money laundering and asset recovery in Azerbaijan”**  
Presentation by Zoltan Hernyes, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Azerbaijan

##### **Regional projects**

Presentation by Arkadi Sytine, PGG Co-ordinator, Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

- **Project “Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime”**
- **Project “Strengthening the access to justice through non-judiciary redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in Eastern Partnership countries”**
- **Project “Women’s access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards”**

**15:30-16:15**

**Questions and answers, exchange of views**

**16:15-16:30**

**Quick Response Mechanism (QRM): Presentation and exchange of views**

Presentation by Arkadi Sytine, PGG Co-ordinator, Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

**16:30-17:00**

**Communication and visibility: Presentation and exchange of views**

Presentation by Pauline Cadeac, Communication Officer, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

**17:00-17:30**

**Conclusions and recommendations**

**17:30**

**Buffet reception**

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APPENDIX II  
List of participants

Full Name	Position	Authority
European Union		
Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas	Head of EU Delegation	EUD
Annalisa Giansanti	Political Officer Political, Economic, Press and Information Section	EUD
Maryam Haji-Ismayilova	International Aid and Co-operation Officer	EUD
Council of Europe		
Ambassador Zoltan Hernyes	Head of Office	CoE Office Baku
Arkadi Sytine	UE/CoE Facilities Coordinator	CoE ODGP
Pauline Cadeac	Communication Officer	CoE ODGP
Vafa Rovshanova	Senior Project Officer	CoE Office Baku
Humay Eminli	Project Assistant	CoE Office Baku
Narmin Akhundova	Office Assistant	CoE Office Baku
National Authorities		
Farah Ajalova	Deputy Director, PGG National Coordinator	MFA
Leyla Hasanova	First Secretary	MFA
Ali Huseynli	Chairman of the Committee on Legal Policy and State Building	Parliament
Aydin Safikhanli	Head of Apparatus	Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman)

Turan Jahangirova	Head of the Unit on Protection of the rights of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants	Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman)
Tural Huseynzade	Senior Advisor	State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs
Teymur Malikaslanov	Deputy Head of Department	Ministry of Justice
Nuraddin Mustafayev	Head of General Department of Enforcement	Ministry of Justice
Tural Mammadov	Group leader at General Department of Enforcement	Ministry of Justice
Yagub Gurbanov	Senior adviser at General Department of Enforcement	Ministry of Justice
Leyla Zakirova	Group leader at Organisation and Supervision General Department	Ministry of Justice
Seyfalpasha Aliyev	Senior Adviser	Judicial-Legal Council
Mr. Elchin Khalafov	Acting Rector	Academy of Justice
Gunel Mustafayeva	Chief methodologist	Academy of Justice
Dayanat Huseynzada	Head of Monitoring Section, Department for International Co-operation and Tax Monitoring at Financial Institutions	Ministry of Taxes
Eldar Babazade	Head of section of the International Relations Department	Ministry of Taxes
Rashid Mahmudov	Head of Section	Anti-Corruption Directorate under the General Prosecutor's Office
Amir Ojagverdiyev	Senior Prosecutor	Anti-Corruption Directorate under the General Prosecutor's Office
Zaur Hajili	Senior Analytic of the Section	Financial Market Supervisory Authority
Fuad Aliyev	Head of International Relations Department	Financial Monitoring Service

Civil Society		
Sahib Mammadov	Chairperson	Citizen's Labor Rights Protection League
Novella Jafarova	Head	Society for the Defence of Women's Rights
Saadet Bananyarli	Chairperson	Azerbaijan Section of the International Organization on Human Rights
Asabali Mustafayev	Head	Democracy and Human Rights Resource Center
Mirvari Gahramanli	Chairperson	Oil worker's Rights Protection Organization
Hafiz Hasanov	Chairperson	"Law and Development" Public Union
Alimammad Nuriyev	Chairperson	Constitution Research Fund
Diplomatic Corps		
H.E. Mr. Onno Kervers	Ambassador	Embassy of the Netherlands
H.E. Mr. Bert Schoofs	Ambassador	Embassy of Belgium
Tuğba Sarayönlü Etensel	Counsellor	Embassy of Turkey
Anna Obsetenchewa	Third Secretary	Embassy of Bulgaria
Senan Suleymanov	Political and Project Officer	Embassy of UK
Annarita La Pietra		Embassy of Italy
Shakir Safarov		GIZ