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## CONCLUSIONS

### Local Steering Committee

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

**Minsk, 8 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 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-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 Belarus was held on 8 October 2019 in Minsk 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 Belarus and in-depth exchanges of views, the LSC made some specific recommendations and came to the following conclusions:

- The PGG Programme was considered an efficient instrument providing tangible and results oriented technical assistance to the EaP countries in the implementation of domestic reforms with the aim to bring the national legislation and practice closer to the European standards and to contribute to the achievement of the EU 2020 Deliverables. The PGG projects, both country-specific and regional involving Belarus, are relevant for the on-going reforms in the area of justice, countering money laundering and terrorism financing.
- Participants considered that the actions aiming to preventing and combating discrimination and domestic violence are also relevant for the country and should be pursued.

- The PGG projects involving Belarus (including objectives, implementation modalities and proposed activities) were endorsed by the LSC. Specific recommendations regarding some of the projects will be reflected in the relevant APAs with a view to their consideration by the PGG Steering Committee. These include:
  - ✓ With regards to the project "Countering money laundering and terrorism financing" additional information should be provided on the project baseline.
  - ✓ The work plan for the regional project "Women's access to justice" will be reflected in the APA.
- Considering the current reform environment in Belarus, permanent contacts between the beneficiaries, the Council of Europe and the European Union will be maintained notably in the areas relating to judiciary reforms, countering money laundering and terrorism financing in order to ensure that the projects' parameters can be timely adjusted to the authorities' needs.
- The LSC should meet on a regular basis, as it is an important platform for discussion, assessment and co-ordination of the PGG activities with all national stakeholders contributing to reinforce the Belarusian partners' engagement in the co-operation projects and to sustain the activities' results.
- While no request under the Quick Response Mechanism has been submitted by Belarus so far, beneficiaries have taken note of the possibility to use this tool.
- The LSC noted that the co-ordination mechanism set up under PGG contributed to improve the information flow on the activities implemented under the PGG programme.
- Communication and visibility were highlighted as a necessary support not only for keeping stakeholders informed of the PGG implementation but also for raising the general public's awareness of the PGG activities' benefits for citizens, notably in the areas of justice and combating economic crime.
- The interrelations between the PGG projects (including between regional projects) require constant and comprehensive co-ordination in order to ensure synergy and complementarity of the country specific and regional projects. Likewise, co-ordination with other international organisations and actors in the field should be ensured.
- The involvement of civil society and notably NGOs dealing with combating money laundering and implementation of judicial reforms in Belarus is of utmost importance in order to ensure the success of PGG actions.

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## APPENDIX I

### LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE

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

### AGENDA

**MINSK, 8 October 2019**  
**President Hotel, VIP Conference Hall**

**13:45-14:00**      **Welcome and registration**

**14:00-14:30**      **Opening session (open to the media)**

**Chair: Arkadi Sytine, PGG Coordinator, Programming Department,  
Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe**

Taru Kernisalo, Attaché, Project Manager, Delegation of the European Union to  
Belarus

Arkadi Sytine, PGG Coordinator, Programming Department, Office of the  
Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

Andrei Bushilo, Head of the European Co-operation Department, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

**14:30-14:45**      **Coffee break**

**14:45-16:15**      **Presentation of the PGG II – state of implementation and programming**

**Chair:**  
**Arkadi Sytine, PGG Coordinator, Programming Department, Office of  
the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe**  
**Taru Kernisalo, Attaché, Project Manager, Delegation of the European  
Union to Belarus**

#### **Country specific projects**

➤ **Project "Countering money laundering and terrorism financing in  
Belarus"**

Presentation by Zahra Ahmadova, Project Manager, Action against Crime  
Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law,  
Council of Europe  
Exchanges of views

- **Project “Implementation of judicial reforms”**  
**Component 1: Strengthening the right to a fair trial in Belarusian criminal justice**  
 Presentation by Maria Oreshkina, Project Coordinator, Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
  
- Component 2: Supporting the civil justice reforms – strengthening the judicial system**  
 Presentation by Arkadi Sytine, PGG Coordinator, Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe  
 Exchange of views

### **Regional projects**

- **Project “Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime”**  
 Presentation by Zahra Ahmadova, Project Manager, Action against Crime Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe  
 Exchange of views
  
- **Project “Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards”**  
 Presentation by Arkadi Sytine, PGG Coordinator, Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe  
 Exchange of views
  
- **Project “Strengthening the access to justice through non-judicial redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in Eastern Partnership countries”**  
 Presentation by Jovana Matic, Project Manager, Anti-Discrimination Department, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe  
 Exchange of views
  
- **Project “Women’s access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards”**  
 Presentation by Jovana Matic, Project Manager, Anti-Discrimination Department, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe  
 Exchange of views

**16:15-16:35**

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

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

**16:35-17:15**

### **Communication and visibility: presentation and exchange of views**

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

**17:15-18:00**                      **Conclusions and recommendations**

**18:00**                                **Reception**

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## APPENDIX II List of Participants

1. Mr. Andrey SELIVANOV, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of International Relations
2. Mr. Maksim SAPSAI, First secretary, European Co-operation Department
3. Mr. Aleksandr Basalyha, Ministry of Justice
4. Mr. Nikolay Savanovich, National Centre for Legislation and Legal Research of the Republic of Belarus
5. Ms. Olga Smolianko, Chair, Legal Transformation Center LAWTREND
6. Mr. Dmitriy Georgievich, BGU
7. Ms. Srebra Dmitrievich Vassilievich
8. Ms. Andreeva Nataliya Aleksandrovna
9. Ms. Suzdaleva Galina Valeryevna
10. Mr. Grinevich Anton Igorevich
11. Ms. Popova Marina Vyacheslavovna
12. Mr. Kalinin Sergey Arturovich
13. Ms. Lalieva Irina
14. Ms. Petrova Olga Valentinovna
15. Mr. Golubitskiy Igor Ivanovich
16. Mr. Bushilo Andrey
17. Ms. Medanovich Nataliya
18. Mr. Yakimenko Nikolay
19. Mr. Ilkokavich Sergey
20. Mr. Yuriy Komeshkin
21. Ms. Iglukova Amma
22. Ms. Jdenova Tatyana
23. Mr. Dmitriy Chernih
24. Mr. Vadim Ivanovich Samarin
25. Mr. Ginko Aleksandyr Evgenyevich
26. Mr. Bogdanovich Olga Sergeevna
27. Mr. Brausov Aleksandyr Mihaylovich
28. Mr. Taru Kernisalo, EUD
29. Ms. Bogdan Dariya
30. Ms. Viktoriya Dedok, Head of the Council of Europe Information point in Minsk
31. Ms. Jovana Matic, Council of Europe
32. Ms. Zahra Ahmadova, Council of Europe
33. Ms. Maria Oreshkina, Council of Europe
34. Mr. Arkadi Sytine, Council of Europe
35. Ms. Isabelle Imbs, Council of Europe
36. Ms. Inessa Malachenko, Supreme Court