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CONCLUSIONS

Local Steering Committee

EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance 2019 – 2021

Yerevan, 1 October 2019

The Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) **Local Steering Committees (LSC)** of a tri-partite nature (European Union, Council of Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 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 Armenia of the PGG phase 2 (2019-2021) was held on 1 October 2019 in Yerevan 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 Armenia and in-depth exchanges of views, the LSC made recommendations and came to the following conclusions:

- As demonstrated by phase I, the PGG Programme is 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 implementation of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the achievement of the EU 2020 Deliverables. The PGG projects, both country-specific and regional involving Armenia are relevant including as regards the on-going reforms in the justice area and to prevent and counter corruption. Participants considered that the actions aiming to preventing and combating discrimination and domestic violence should also be pursued.

- The Quick Response Mechanism has been acknowledged. The three requests made by Armenia since the beginning of the programme show that Armenia has a good awareness of the tool and makes use of it. The use of QRM beyond the Venice Commission may be considered for requesting objective and high-quality legal advice in other areas.
- Considering the fast-evolving reform environment, the PGG needs to make sure that the flexibility inherent to this joint programme is fully taken into consideration as regards actions in Armenia. In this context, steady contacts between the beneficiaries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Coordinator of PGG, the Council of Europe and the European Union will be maintained, notably relating to judiciary reforms and fight against corruption in order to ensure that projects can timely respond to the authorities' needs.
- Specific recommendations regarding the projects will be reflected in the relevant APAs with a view to their consideration by the PGG-Steering Committee. These include:
 - As regards the project "Support to the judicial reform", component 2 "Supporting the criminal justice reform and harmonising the application of European standards in Armenia", after the adoption of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code it is expected to focus attention during subsequent trainings on the pre-trial stage. There should be a larger involvement of investigators in these trainings.
- The links between the objectives of PGG and the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), both referring to the EU 2020 Deliverables were highlighted. It was agreed that clear cross referencing would be made whenever feasible.
- An appropriate level of communication and visibility is crucial to show how PGG actions are beneficial for citizens in Armenia.
- Communication and visibility were also highlighted as a necessary support for raising the general public's awareness in areas such as combating discrimination and violence against women and vulnerable groups. In the light of recent debates within the country regarding notably the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the need to ensure objectivity in communication to feed healthy debates was praised by the participants. Through its actions, PGG should aim at creating sound public awareness across the country.
- The interrelations between PGG projects (including between regional projects that also offer a wider framework for the exchange of best practices) require appropriate co-ordination between them. Likewise, co-ordination with other international organisations and actors in the field should be ensured.
- Participants emphasized the importance of building institutional capacities through training activities and the need to continue developing tools allowing measuring the extent to which newly acquired skills are used by those having been trained.

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APPENDIX I

LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance 2019-2021 for Eastern Partnership countries

AGENDA 1 October 2019 Hotel Marriott, Tigran Mets Ballroom YEREVAN

09:15-09:30 **Welcome and registration**

09:30-10:00 **Opening session (open to the media)**

Chair: Natalia Voutova, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Armenia

Gonzalo Serrano De La Rosa, Head of Co-operation Section, European Union
Delegation to Armenia

Pilar Morales, Head of the Programming Department, Office of the Directorate
General of Programmes, Council of Europe

Susanna Adamyan, Second Secretary, Division of the Council of Europe,
Department of Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

10:00-10:15 **Coffee break**

10:15-11:45 **Presentation of the PGG II – state of implementation and programming**

**Chair: Pilar Morales, Head of the Programming Department, Office of
the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe
Gonzalo Serrano De La Rosa, Head of Co-operation Section, European
Union Delegation to Armenia**

Country specific projects

➤ **Project “Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and
prevent corruption in Armenia”**

Presentation by Tatevik Barseghyan, Senior Project Officer, Economic
Crime and Co-operation Division, Directorate General of Human Rights
and Rule of Law, Council of Europe Office in Yerevan

Exchange of views

- **Project “Support to the judicial reform”**
Component 1: Enhancing the independence and professionalism of the judiciary in Armenia

Presentation by Narine Gasparyan, Senior Project Officer, Justice and Legal Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe office in Yerevan

Exchange of views

- Component 2: Supporting the criminal justice reform and harmonising the application of European standards in Armenia**

Presentation by Gayane Hovhannisyan, Senior Project Officer, Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

Exchange of views

Regional projects

- **Project “Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime”**

Presentation by Tatevik Barseghyan, Senior Project Officer, Economic Crime and Co-operation Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe Office in Yerevan

Exchange of views

- **Project “Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards”**

Presentation by Karen Karapetyan, Project Officer, Justice and Legal Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe office in Yerevan

Exchange of views

- **Project “Strengthening the access to justice through non-judiciary redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in Eastern Partnership countries”**

Presentation by Pilar Morales, Head of the Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, 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 Natalia Voutova, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Armenia

Exchange of views

12:30-12:50

Quick Response Mechanisms (QRM): presentation and exchange of views

Presentation by Pilar Morales, Head of the Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

12:50-13:30

Communication and visibility: presentation and exchange of views

Presentation by Anna Abenhaim, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe

13:30-14:00

Conclusions and recommendations

14:00

Lunch

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APPENDIX II

List of Participants

PGG II LSC

1 October 2019

	Name	Organization	Position
1.	Gonzalo SERRANO DE LA ROSA	EU Delegation to Armenia	Head of Co-operation Section
2.	Ms Irina MOVSESYAN	EU Delegation to Armenia	Project Manager
3.	Mr Paulius STRELCIUNAS	EU Delegation to Armenia	Project Manager
4.	Ms Susanna ADAMYAN	MFA	Second Secretary, PGG National Coordinator, European Department
5.	Ms Ani MKHITARYAN	Supreme Judicial Council	Member of the Supreme Judicial Council
6.	Ashkhen GHARSLYAN	Head of Expertise Service of the the Staff	Court of Cassation of the Republic of Armenia
7.	Ms Nora KARAPETYAN	Association of Judges of the Republic of Armenia	Coordinator of the Women Judge's Section of the Association of Judges of the Republic of Armenia
8.	Mr Tigran DADUNTS	Center of legislation development and legal research" fund of Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	Acting Director
9.	Sona KHACHATRYAN	Chamber of Advocates	Specialist, Legal Department
10.	Ms Anna VARDAPETYAN	Ministry of Justice	Deputy Minister
11.	Ms Kristinne GRIGORYAN	Ministry of Justice	Deputy Minister

12.	Ms Anahit MANASYAN	Justice Academy	Deputy Rector
13.	Arthur VARDANYAN	Deputy Head of the 3 rd Department for Criminal Investigation Colonel	Deputy Head of the 1st Department for Fight against Corruption and Economic Crimes of the Police
14.	Mr Edgar POGHOSYAN	Head of Investigation Department of Corruption, Organized and Official Crimes	Special Investigation Service
15.	Mr Arsen AYVAZYAN	Investigative Committee	Deputy Chairman of the Investigative Committee (to nominate representative)
16.	Ms Tatevik KHACHATRYAN	Open Society Foundation Armenia	Programmes Coordinator
17.	Ms Sona AYVAZYAN	Transparency International Armenia	Executive Director
18.	Nikolay HOVHANNISYAN	Eurasia Foundation	Human Rights Project Manager
19.	Mamikon HOVSEPYAN	PINK human rights defender NGO	Executive Director
20.	Mr Ara GHAZARYAN	ARNI Consult	
21.	Ms Melanya ARUSTAMYAN	Public Defender of Armenia	Public Defender of Armenia
22.	Mr Mikayel KHACHATRYAN	HRD office	Head of Department International Co-operation
23.	Ms Mariam GALSTYAN	Ministry of Justice	head of Anti-corruption Policy Development Division

24.	Mr Hayk MOVSISYAN	General Prosecutor's office	Deputy Head of the Dep't of State Interest Protection
25.	Mr KHUDAVERDYAN	Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials	Deputy head
26.	Mr Vanik MARGARYAN	Self-governing organisation of mediators of Armenia	Board Member
27.	Ms Aida AVANESSIAN	Legal Clinic of the American University of Armenia	Arbitrator
28.	Ms Anna SHAHNAZARYAN	Deputy Head of the Office of the Representative of the Republic of Armenia before the European Court of Human Rights of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia	Representative of the Republic of Armenia before the European Court of Human Rights
29.	Ms Anahit HARUTYUNYAN	Chief Specialist of the Department for Research and Development of the Office of the Representative of the Republic of Armenia before the European Court of Human Rights of the	

		Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia	
30.	Ms Anush KHACHATRYAN	Human rights expert, Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Armenia	UNDP
31.	Ms Natalia VOUTOVA	Council of Europe	Head of Office in Yerevan, CoE office in Yerevan
32.	Ms Gayane HOVHANNISYAN	Council of Europe	Senior Project Officer, Criminal Justice reform Project, CoE Office in Yerevan
33.	Mr Karen KARAPETYAN	Council of Europe	Project Officer, Professionalism of lawyers-delegated regional project, CoE Office in Yerevan
34.	Ms Narine GASPARYAN	Council of Europe	Senior Project Officer, PGG II, CoE Office in Yerevan
35.	Ms Tatevik BARSEGHYAN	Council of Europe	Senior Project Officer, Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia
36.	Ms Pilar MORALES-FERNANDEZ-SHAW	Council of Europe	ODGP, Head of Programming Department
37.	Ms Isabelle IMBS	Council of Europe	ODGP, PGG
38.	Ms Anna ABENHAİM	Council of Europe	ODGP, Communication Officer
39.	Ms Anna SAHAKYAN	Council of Europe	Assistant to the Head of Office
40.	Ms Gayane MATEVOSYAN	Council of Europe	Project Assistant
41.	Ms Anna DARBINYAN	Council of Europe	Project Assistant
42.	Ms Anush NAZARYAN	Council of Europe	Project Assistant
43.	Ms Mariam MAZHINYAN	Council of Europe	Project Assistant
44.	Ms Anna DARBINYAN	Council of Europe	Project Assistant

