Partnership for Good Governance

Project: Combating hate speech in Georgia

This project continues to promote Council of Europe and international standards in the field of promoting equality and non-discrimination and combating hate speech, as well as to support the co-ordination between state authorities, legal and law enforcement professionals, civil society, etc., to adapt domestic frameworks in line with international standards, and to apply those standards to prevent and combat hate speech in Georgia.

This project is implemented within the third Phase of the joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Partnership for Good Governance". It builds on the results of the previous phases of the Partnership for Good Governance in the field of promoting equality and non-discrimination (Phase I 2015-2018 and Phase II 2019-2023).

What are the objectives of the project?

► Improved co-operation among stakeholders to prevent and combat hate speech in Georgia, including better protection of vulnerable groups and more accessible redress mechanisms in line with European standards and best practices.

Who benefits from the project?

► Public Defender's Office;
► Law enforcement agencies, Ministry of Interior, Prosecutor's Office, State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, including the Office of resource officers;
► Local authorities, municipalities;
► Civil society organisations;
► General public.

How does the project work?

► Through a combination of tailored policy/legislative, capacity-building and awareness raising actions;
► By providing support for improved co-ordination and co-operation through working groups and creation of joint proposals for policy/legislative changes;
► By training multipliers in awareness-raising, human rights narratives and co-ordination;
► Through small grants for specific actions that support the co-operation between public sector and civil society organisations on local level.

What do we expect to achieve?

► Georgian institutions respond to hate speech in a systemic and co-ordinated manner involving relevant non-state stakeholders based on shared awareness of the dangers posed by hate speech and the effect it has on those targeted by it;
► Local authorities and non-state stakeholders build common understanding of hate speech, as well of the dangers it poses those targeted in vulnerable situations and are able to respond to it through prevention and protection measures.

What is the budget of the project?

► The total budget is EUR 300,000.
► The overall Programme budget is EUR 19.3 M. (80% is co-funded by the European Union and 20% by the Council of Europe).

What is the project duration?

► The project runs from 1 March 2023 to 28 February 2026.

How to get more information?

► The Project is implemented by the No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit, in the Council of Europe's Anti-Discrimination Department (Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, DG II).

► Partnership for Good Governance Website: http://partnership-governance-eu.coe.int/
email: dpc_pgg@coe.int
► Council of Europe Office in Tbilisi Website: https://www.coe.int/tbilisi;
email address: informtbilisi@coe.int

The "Partnership for Good Governance" (PGG) is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe for strengthening good governance in the Eastern Partnership region.

PGG provides tailor-made support to Eastern Partnership countries to bring their legislation and practice closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy. It supports, in particular, Eastern Partnership countries' domestic reforms to strengthen justice, counter economic crime, promote equality and non-discrimination, advance women's access to justice and combat violence against women. PGG supports Georgia in its European perspective agenda, in line with Council of Europe standards.