

# Partnership for Good Governance

## პარტნიორობა კარგი მმართველობისთვის

ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
The European Union for Georgia



ევროპის საბჭო

## Results of projects in Georgia under the European Union/Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance<sup>1</sup>

### What is the Partnership for Good Governance?

In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed to implement targeted cooperation activities with EU's Eastern Partnership countries to bring them closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The projects under the Partnership for Good Governance, are funded primarily by the EU, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe.

In addition to 14 regional projects, there are **eight country-specific projects for Georgia**, with a total budget of **3.7 million euros**.

### Application of the European Convention of Human Rights and harmonisation of national legislation and judicial practice in line with European standards in Georgia

The project is running from 1 July, 2015 until 31 December, 2017; its budget is 1 087 189 Euros ([more information](#)).

- ▶ Decision on the creation of the European Court of Human Rights Database (HUDOC) Georgian interface has been made and it will become operational by the end of 2017;
- ▶ 90% of judges responsible for reopening proceedings are aware of the procedure of 're-opening of cases' following a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights;
- ▶ Bench&Bar meetings were organized with the purpose of creating a homogenous practice on certain legal issues among all legal professionals;
- ▶ More than 1300 legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) increased their knowledge of various ECHR provisions and the case-law of the ECtHR;
- ▶ Capacity of the training centres of judicial institutions (High School of Justice, Chief Prosecutor's Office and Georgian Bar Association) to deliver high quality trainings has been increased by preparing

<sup>1</sup> Previously known as the Council of Europe/European Union Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

curricula and pools of trainers on the following topics: General Human Rights, Reviewing cases on Hate Crime for HSOJ, Fair trial Standards and fight against discrimination for Prosecutors and Personal Data Protection for the Georgian Bar Association;

- ▶ 150 judges and judge assistants have completed in-depth trainings on jury trials and ill-treatment and are capable to apply those standards in their daily operations;
- ▶ Newly appointed prosecutors raised their qualification in European anti-discrimination standards through a three-month intensive distance learning course within the HELP platform;
- ▶ Internal regulatory framework of Chief Prosecutor's Office has been improved by developing five prosecutorial guidelines – (1) on investigating hate crimes; (2) on investigating cases involving people with disabilities (3) on giving the right qualification to the facts of ill-treatment; (4) investigation of crimes committed on religious intolerance grounds and (5) on protection of victims;
- ▶ 45 ECtHR judgments and summaries became available in Georgian;
- ▶ Internal guidelines of Courts on disclosing court judgments without violating the right to privacy have been developed and are in use;

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

## Support to the Georgian Bar Association

The project ran from February 2015 until July 2016

- ▶ Updated regulatory framework, inter alia defining the mandate and status of the GBA;
- ▶ Running initial training program for the candidate-lawyers through a pilot program;
- ▶ Updated commentary to the Code of Ethics for the Code's uniform interpretation and practice;
- ▶ Pre and post training evaluation cycle introduced;
- ▶ Updated training modules, based on the project-run training needs assessment;
- ▶ Updated electronic examination software that enables conducting the Bar entrance exam electronically together with the automatic assessment of the results;
- ▶ Updated electronic examination procedure, based on the outcomes of the 2016 July project-run survey;
- ▶ Established sustainable platform of annual meeting of regional bar associations with best practice and challenge sharing.

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

## Georgia: Promoting freedom, professionalism and pluralism of the media

The project is running from January 2015 until December 2017

- ▶ Provided legal expertise on the draft amendments to the law on broadcasting;
- ▶ Trained more than 25 staff of the Public Service Broadcaster "Adjara" television on the mission and role of regional broadcasters;
- ▶ Trained more than 40 journalists and students on best international standards and practices of avoiding cultural and gender stereotypes in media reporting;

- ▶ Trained more than 30 journalists from regional public service broadcasters on duties and responsibilities during pre-election campaign period;
- ▶ Prepared Study on ensuring access to audiovisual media services for persons with visual and hearing disabilities;
- ▶ Provided expert support to the Georgian National Communications Commission regarding the European experience on regulations of TV like Service and Programs Having Detrimental Effect on Children.

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

## Georgia: protecting internet freedom through legislation and arrangements for multi-stakeholder dialogue

The project is running from January 2015 until December 2017

- ▶ Supported the organization of the third Annual Internet Governance Forum 2017;
- ▶ Supported Georgia's bid to host the next annual meeting of EuroDIG (2018) in Georgia;
- ▶ Supported the First General Meeting of the representatives of the Association of the Small and Medium Internet Service Providers;
- ▶ Increased public awareness about standards and practices for protection of online rights.

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

## Human rights and healthcare in prisons and other closed institutions in Georgia II

The project is running from March 2016 until December 2017

This is a follow-up to and builds on the results of the EU/CoE Joint Programme on "*Human rights and healthcare in prisons and other closed institutions*" that finished in February 2016. The Project assists the Georgian authorities in consolidating the results achieved in previous years.

- ▶ Supported the development of the Action Plan on healthcare quality control in prisons for 2018-2020
- ▶ Contributed to the development of the Action Plan on crises intervention in the penitentiary system
- ▶ Supported the development of the following screening documents: mental healthcare screening document, and the suicide screening document.
- ▶ Provided expert support in the development of the suicide prevention tools
- ▶ Supported the development of the special programme for the psychiatric nurses
- ▶ Supported the ToT for the initially selected psychiatric nurses
- ▶ Contributed to the capacity rising of the MoC staff through trainings, study visits, grant agreement, and expert support in different issues, including healthcare quality control, suicide prevention, hot and cold suicide debriefing tools, prisoners with mental disorders, healthcare management etc.

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

## Electoral assistance to the election stakeholders in Georgia

The project is running January 2015 to December 2017

- ▶ The Venice Commission adopted a joint opinion with OSCE/ODIHR on a draft revision of the electoral code which revised the delimitation of constituencies in a way that represented an important step forward to hold elections respecting the principle of equal suffrage. In June 2016 the Venice Commission was informed that the Central Electoral Commission had proceeded to the delimitation of constituencies required by the law after holding consultative meetings. This delimitation appears to be in conformity with the principles of the European electoral heritage.
- ▶ The Venice Commission provided legal support to the Central Election Commission in the context of the October 2016 parliamentary elections, including through advice on legal matters and training seminars on election dispute resolution intended at chairpersons of district election commissions as well as judges. Capacity-building of judges in this field went on with a new seminar in September 2017 in advance of local elections. As a result, capacities of members and staff of the CEC as well as other relevant parties involved in the electoral process were enhanced enabling better functioning of the electoral administration in general and improved procedures on the Election Day, in particular.
- ▶ The involvement of the Venice Commission in the strategy of the Central Election Commission of Georgia on gender equality in elections, started in 2015, should proceed in 2018.

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

## Combating money-laundering and terrorism financing Georgia

The project is running from January 2015 until December 2017

- ▶ Progress made in the preparation of National Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Risk Assessment of Georgia;
- ▶ Facilitated the implementation of MONEYVAL Recommended Action Plan for Georgia (2012) by providing recommendations and overall guidance on regulatory framework for non-profit organisations, dealers of precious metals and stones, cash couriers, and leasing and gambling sectors;
- ▶ Improved practices of monitoring, supervisory and regulatory entities on AML/CFT compliance and transparency of beneficial ownership by building capacities and providing topical guidelines and training module;
- ▶ Fostered capacities of national law enforcement agencies to successfully investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing cases; and customs authorities on cash smuggling and related money laundering/terrorist financing cases;
- ▶ Reinforced capacities for effective prosecution and investigation of money laundering and terrorist financing cases, seizure of proceeds of crime, cash smuggling and corporate economic crimes through training activities and provision of guidelines on international standards and good practices.

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

## Civic Integration of National Minorities in Georgia and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)

The project ran from 9 March 2015 until 31 February 2017

- ▶ Supported the preparation for signing and ratifying the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML); facilitating its subsequent implementation, the project contributed to the implementation of concrete ECRML provisions as following:
- ▶ Contributed to raising awareness of minority rights by producing bilingual information material and holding information meetings throughout Georgia for all linguistic groups and their NGOs;
- ▶ Helped to combat stereotypes and promote positive images of national minorities, by producing awareness raising material which was widely distributed to public institutions, decision-makers as well as all secondary schools;
- ▶ Implemented a series of promotional activities to encourage parents to enroll their children in schools teaching minority languages;
- ▶ Produced 52 kindergarten textbooks in 13 minority languages to improve the quality of education in minority language in schools;
- ▶ Translated the most important national laws and those pertaining to national minorities into minority languages to facilitating the use of minority languages before courts.

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

**For more information** <http://partnership-governance-eu.coe.int>

**Contact:** [Nichola Howson](#), Communication Officer, +33 3 88 41 22 39

**September 2017**