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2 Democracy and political questions

2.3 Policy of the Council of Europe towards neighbouring regions

Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Neighbourhood Partnership for 2018-2021, developed jointly with the Moroccan authorities, aims to consolidate the support provided to Morocco in the process of democratic changes and tackle the challenges linked to human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

Since 2012, the partnership forged with Morocco in key areas for democratic reform has been continually stepped up and broadened, while underpinned by political dialogue and technical co-operation in these different areas.

Enhanced political dialogue has opened up substantial opportunities for dialogue between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities. In practice, the dialogue forged with Morocco has developed particularly strongly at the technical level with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and specialised ministries, including through their participation in the Council of Europe's committees of experts, confirming Morocco's commitment to fully implementing the Neighbourhood Partnership. The Partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) granted to the Moroccan Parliament in 2011 has also provided a basis for regular political dialogue. The present Neighbourhood Partnership should make it possible to pursue and consolidate that political dialogue.

The Neighbourhood Partnership for 2018-2021 also pursues the key objective of developing co-operation in areas where a sound basis has been established with the Moroccan partners while extending that co-operation, at their request, to new sectors included on the national reform agenda, in particular the fight against discrimination. More broadly speaking, this new co-operation framework will make it possible to support the implementation of the National action plan on democracy and human rights (PANDDH) in line with the Constitution and the relevant European and international standards in this field.

Morocco has made considerable progress in the human rights field since 2012, through the adoption of laws and integrated policies or the implementation of specific protection mechanisms, while acting on its desire for closer alignment with European and international standards through a process of ratifying several Council of Europe conventions. There are still major challenges to be taken up in the coming years, whether in pursuing harmonisation of the legislative and regulatory framework with those standards, in effectively implementing the laws passed or in setting up and running the newly created bodies. Those challenges lie at the heart of the priorities of the co-operation framework proposed for the years 2018-2021.

The present Neighbourhood Partnership is also intended to strengthen co-operation with Morocco in the area of the rule of law, mainly through ongoing support for implementation of the reform of justice, including constitutional justice, the promotion of freedom of the press and the media and the combating of threats posed to the rule of law, such as corruption or trafficking in human beings.

Where democracy is concerned, the Neighbourhood Partnership will pursue the objective of intensifying co-operation with the Moroccan Parliament in connection with its status of Partner for Democracy with the PACE, including with a view to facilitating the adoption of new legislative frameworks conforming to European standards and the 2011 Constitution and building the capacity of parliamentarians and officials, assisting Morocco with the implementation of its advanced regionalisation process, fostering the participation of citizens at local and regional levels and developing the capacities of stakeholders in democratic governance, particularly civil society.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ALGA	African Local Government Academy
AOM	Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen
AOMF	Association of Mediators and Ombudsmen of Francophonie
APALD	Authority for Parity and Fight against All Forms of Discrimination
APT	Association for the Prevention of Torture
AU	African Union
Budapest Convention	Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime
CAHDATA	Ad Hoc Committee on Data Protection
CAHENF	Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child
CCFE	Advisory Council on Family and Childhood
CCJE	Consultative Council of European Judges
CCPE	Consultative Council of European Prosecutors
CCR	Consultative Committee on Regionalisation
CDMSI	Steering Committee on Media and Information Society
CDPC	European Committee on Crime Problems
CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice of the Council of Europe
CESE	Economic, Social and Environmental Council
CGEM	General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises
CM	Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
CMRPI	Moroccan Centre for Polytechnic Research and Innovation
CNDH	National Human Rights Council
CNDP	National Commission for the Control and the Protection of Personal Data
CODEXTER	Committee of Experts on Terrorism – Council of Europe
Congress	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
Convention 108	Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data
CSPJ	Superior Council of the Judiciary
DGAPR	General Delegation to the Prison Administration and Reintegration
DGSN	General Directorate of National Security
DSPP	Parliamentary Projects Support Division
ECEP	Citizenship School of Political Studies
ECRI	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance – Council of Europe
ENM	French National College of the Judiciary
ESC	European Social Charter
EUD	European Union Delegation
GEC	Gender Equality Committee – Council of Europe
GRECO	Group of States against Corruption – Council of Europe
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings – Council of Europe
GR-EXT	Rapporteur Group on External Relations of the Council of Europe
HACA	High Authority for Audiovisual Communication
HELP	European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
ICC	Intercultural Cities Programme – Council of Europe
ICPC	Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption
INPPLC	National Authority for probity and fight against corruption
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISM	Higher Judicial Institute
Istanbul Convention	Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
Lanzarote Convention	Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
LFB	Local finance benchmarking
MAECI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation
MEDICRIME Convention	Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health
MedNET	Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions

MedSPAD	Committee of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs
MedUni	Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship
MFSEDS	Ministry for Family Affairs, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development
MONEYVAL	Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism
MP	Member of parliament
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism against torture
NSC	North-South Centre – European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe
ODGP	Office of the Directorate General of Programmes of the Council of Europe
ONDA	National Observatory on Drugs and Addictions
ONDE	Moroccan National Observatory for Child
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
PANDDH	National Action Plan on Democracy and Human Rights
PATHS	Programme of Advanced Training in the field of Human rights, the rule of law and democracy for Southern Mediterranean – Council of Europe
PC-CP	Council for Penological Co-operation – Council of Europe
PC-OC	Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters – Council of Europe
Pompidou Group	Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs – Council of Europe
PPIPE	Integrated Public Policy for the Protection of Childhood in Morocco
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SNPM	National Union of Moroccan Press
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNIDEM	University for Democracy
UTRF	Financial Intelligence Processing Unit
Venice Commission	European Commission for Democracy through Law
VC	Voluntary contribution

INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.1.1 COUNCIL OF EUROPE POLICY TOWARDS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

At its 121st Session on 11 May 2011 in Istanbul, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM) endorsed the proposals made by the Secretary General regarding a Council of Europe policy towards its immediate neighbourhood, aimed at promoting dialogue and co-operation with the countries and regions in the vicinity of Europe which express the will to co-operate with the Council of Europe, based on the common values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Committee of Ministers further invited the Secretary General to draw up action plans for the implementation of this policy.

The Council of Europe policy towards neighbouring regions, which is demand-driven and country-specific, is designed for partners in North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, and pursues the following three objectives:

- to facilitate democratic political transition in the countries concerned;
- to help promote good governance through the protection of human rights and the rule of law; and
- to reinforce and enlarge Council of Europe regional action in combating transborder and global threats.

The policy has been implemented in close partnership with the European Union (EU), on the basis of the modalities endorsed by the CM, in particular its two key components:

- the Neighbourhood Co-operation Dialogue, carried out at political level; and
- the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities, setting out specific co-operation activities to be carried out in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

At its 127th Session held on 19 May 2017 in Nicosia, the CM invited the Ministers' Deputies and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to assess the results obtained from the policy towards neighbouring regions in order to decide on the follow-up action to be taken. On 3 October 2017, the Ministers expressed their broad support for the Secretary General's proposals for building on the results achieved within the framework of the Istanbul principles of the 2011, and in particular, renewing the partnership with Morocco, initially envisaged for the period 2015-2017 (see the section on "The Council of Europe and Morocco" below).

The document "Neighbourhood Partnership" was adopted by the CM on 21 March 2018. The Neighbourhood Partnership document is divided into two parts:

- PART I – ENHANCED POLITICAL DIALOGUE**
PART II – CO-OPERATION

The first part, on Enhanced Political Dialogue, offers wide opportunities for dialogue between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities, ranging from High-level strategic dialogue with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the CM, on topics on the bilateral agenda and political issues of common interest to more technical consultations relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The second part focuses specifically on co-operation priorities identified during discussions between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan national authorities concerned.

1.1.2 CO-OPERATION OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe, in line with the Council of Europe's policy towards its neighbouring regions, is to assist Morocco in its efforts to address challenges related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy and in particular:

- to consolidate the achievements of the co-operation implemented since 2012 through the operation "Co-operation Priorities for 2012-2014" and the "Neighbourhood Partnership with new areas of co-operation in line with national reform priorities, based on the demand-driven approach, in the fields of expertise of the Council of Europe;
- to continue the efforts made to facilitate the creation of a common legal area between Europe and Morocco, encouraging the authorities to bring Moroccan legislation into line with European and international standards and to ratify Council of Europe conventions open to non-member States, with due regard for the procedures set out in the relevant conventions;
- to provide support to the effective implementation of new legislation in accordance with European and other international standards ;
- to provide support to the setting-up and to the effective functioning of human rights institutions and new governance structures; paying particular attention to the independent bodies created by the Constitution of 2011;
- to consolidate Morocco's presence in Council of Europe structures already a member or observer (European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), European Audiovisual Observatory, European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe (North-South Centre), Pompidou Group) and to encourage it to participate in other Council of Europe structures, according to needs.

The present framework of co-operation is a flexible, dynamic strategic tool setting out priorities for co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe for the period 2018-2021. The main areas of co-operation presented have been identified on the basis of high-level consultations as well as of detailed technical consultations between the Moroccan authorities concerned and the Council of Europe.

Consultations have also been carried out with other international organisations - the European Union (EU) in particular, as the main partner of - and with other actors, of including those who are contributing to the financing of the Council of Europe action in the country, so as to ensure a co-ordinated approach. In particular, close consultations were held in various formats during the period 2015-2017 with the main international agencies operating in Morocco in related sectors with a view to identifying synergies and avoiding overlaps. The organisation of joint events with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) was noteworthy in this connection.

On 29 November 2017, the CM examined the final report on implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017, took note of its outcomes and paved the way for the new Neighbourhood Partnership for 2018-2021.

1.1.3 THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND MOROCCO

The relationship between the Council of Europe and Morocco has been enhanced in the context of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Policy established by the Council of Europe in 2011, making Morocco a privileged partner in the region. However, Morocco was already working with the Council of Europe prior to that date, even though the possibilities for co-operation on topics linked to human rights, democracy and the rule of law were fairly limited. Morocco has been a member of the Venice Commission since 2007. The country has ratified several Council of Europe conventions. It has also enjoyed observer status with the European Pharmacopoeia since 1997 and has been a member of other enlarged partial agreements: Co-operation Group for the Prevention of, Protection Against and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters (EUR-OPA, 1995), North-South Centre (2009), Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS, 2010), Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group, 2011). The Moroccan Parliament has enjoyed Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) since 2011.

Co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe on topics at the core of the Organisation's work saw a sharp upswing after 2011. The drawing up of the "Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014" document approved by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs in April 2012 laid formal foundations for the strengthening of co-operation. The conclusion of the ensuing Memorandum of Understanding paved the way for the opening of the Council of Europe office in Rabat

in 2012. Political dialogue and technical co-operation with Morocco were further consolidated within the framework of the "Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2015-2017".

From 2012 onwards, co-operation efforts focused on supporting constitutional reforms, setting up new governance bodies and promoting common standards in the areas of human rights, rule of law and democracy, including through Council of Europe conventions, with a view to creating a common legal area. To date, Morocco has entered into commitments in respect of the Council of Europe by signing the conventions listed in appendix IV.

In 2015, further to the fruitful political dialogue held between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities and the successful implementation of the Priorities for 2012-2014, the CM considered it necessary to give a new momentum to the relationship with this country, which shares with the Council of Europe the values of human rights, rule of law and democracy. On 4 February 2015, at its 1218th meeting, the CM adopted a "Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco and 2015 strengthening the Council of Europe's Policy - political dialogue and co-operation - along the lines set out in the lines of action fixed in Istanbul in 2011. The Partnership proposed, on the one hand, a "Political Dialogue", and on the other hand, co-operation activities in the field of human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

Following the successful implementation of the partnership with Morocco, the CM backed the Secretary General's proposal to renew it for the period 2018-2021. This initiative was welcomed by Morocco, which had expressed its desire to pursue co-operation and enhanced political dialogue. The "Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021" document was approved by the CM on 21 March 2018.

This co-operation framework is structured into two parts; one dedicated to enhanced political dialogue and the other to co-operation activities in the areas of human rights, rule of law and democracy.

1.1.4 ADDED VALUE OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Council of Europe technical assistance programmes form an integral part of the unique strategic triangle (Fig. 1) of standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation: the development of legally binding standards is linked with their monitoring by independent mechanisms and supplemented by technical co-operation to facilitate their implementation. The Council of Europe in this area is a unique actor. The Council of Europe has strong expertise and added value.

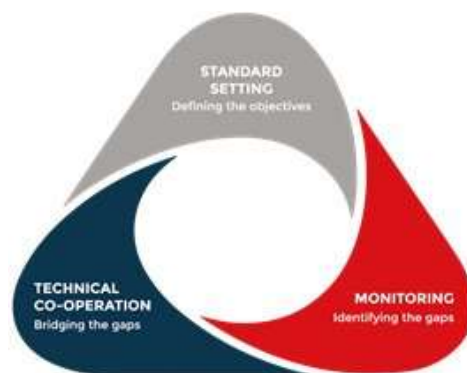


Figure 1: Council of Europe strategic triangle

In the case of Morocco, as a non-member State of the Council of Europe, monitoring mechanisms will not apply until this country becomes a contracting party of relevant conventions. However, the methodology of a number of monitoring mechanisms, such as the one of the Group of States against Corruption, or that of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) has been used to assess the country's areas and to formulate recommendations in line with European legislation and practices. Other tools, like those developed by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), have been fully used in Morocco.

The co-operation projects are designed to help the country, through concrete action taken within the framework of projects implemented jointly by the Council of Europe and Morocco, to develop tools and competencies suited to the national context and capable of addressing the problems identified.

1.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP GOALS

The present Neighbourhood Partnership is a strategic programming instrument for the period between 1 March 2018 and 31 December 2021. Its goal is to support the underway democratic reforms in Morocco, in particular to ensure that Council of Europe standards are taken into account in its legislation, and to bring its institutions and practice further into line with European standards in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

The main objectives pursued by the Neighbourhood Partnership are as follows:

- to pursue political dialogue at high-level and through different means including Moroccan expert participation in relevant intergovernmental committees and conventional structures of the Council of Europe;
- to continue to support Morocco in the reforms undertaken in strategic areas, in which a solid basis has been established in the context of co-operation with the Council of Europe and which include: promoting equality between women and men and combating violence against women; promoting children's rights, and particularly protecting children from exploitation and sexual abuse; preventing torture; combating trafficking in human beings; promoting the rights and integration of migrants; protecting personal data; combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs; combating the counterfeiting of medical products; promoting the independence, efficiency and quality of justice, including constitutional justice; promoting freedom of expression and media pluralism; fighting organised crime (corruption, money laundering); fighting cybercrime; training political and civil society stakeholders in democratic governance;
- to initiate and strengthen co-operation in priority areas covered by the national reforms agenda, as and when the demand exists, in the Council of Europe's fields of expertise, notably: human rights training for law professionals, local and regional governance, combating discrimination and preventing radicalisation;
- to continue to foster the gradual creation of a common legal area between Europe and Morocco, by supporting the development and effective implementation of new laws in line with European standards, including laws drawn up in collaboration with the Council of Europe, and by encouraging Morocco's accession to Council of Europe conventions open to non-member States, in compliance with the procedures set out in the conventions concerned;
- to support the establishment and effective functioning of human rights protection bodies and new governance structures, with a special focus on the bodies established by the 2011 Constitution or whose creation is provided for in the Constitution;
- to raise awareness among certain Moroccan stakeholders of the functioning of the Council of Europe, for example by receiving administrative officials, experts and post-graduate students on study visits (currently being defined).

The Neighbourhood Partnership presents the priorities for co-operation following the structure of the Council of Europe's Programme of Activities.

PART I – ENHANCED POLITICAL DIALOGUE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Neighbourhood Partnership proposes a framework for enhanced political dialogue between the Council of Europe and the relevant Moroccan authorities, the intensity of which could reflect the quality of the co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe.

This enhanced political dialogue opens up a number of possibilities, ranging from high-level dialogue on topics included in the bilateral agenda and political issues of common interest, to more technical consultations on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership. In addition, the measures listed below cover the whole range of the Council of Europe's intergovernmental bodies

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM) will closely follow the implementation of the enhanced political dialogue.

2.2 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

The CM may invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Morocco, or other high-level government representatives, to attend its sessions.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Minister Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Morocco will hold consultations at least once a year on the issues covered by the bilateral agenda and subjects of common interest.

Ministers from Morocco may be invited, as observers, to attend conferences of specialised ministers relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership, as provided for in Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)7](#).

2.3 CONSULTATIONS

In addition to the high-level dialogue, the Ministers may invite the relevant Moroccan ministries and institutions to consultations on matters related to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The CM Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) will hold exchanges of views with representatives of the Moroccan ministries and institutions concerned when examining issues relating to co-operation with Morocco and follow-up to the implementation of the Partnership. The other rapporteur groups may also hold such exchanges of views.

2.4 PARTICIPATION IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS

Representatives of Morocco will be able to attend certain parts of relevant meetings of intergovernmental committees of experts as observers when matters relating to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership are being discussed.

2.5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

The Consul General of Morocco in Strasbourg has been appointed by the authorities of the Kingdom as the Neighbourhood Partnership representative to the Council of Europe to liaise on its implementation.

PART II- CO-OPERATION PRIORITIES FOR 2018-2021

3.1 HUMAN RIGHTS

Morocco has made significant progress in the human rights field since 2012. Particularly noteworthy were the implementation of a broader awareness-raising and training programme with a view to setting up a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) against torture, the adoption of the law instituting the Authority for Parity and Fight against All Forms of Discrimination (APALD) and also the consolidation of children's rights and means of protecting children against violence, including through the adoption of an Integrated child protection policy (PPIPE). Similarly, Morocco has acted on its desire for closer alignment with the Council of Europe's standards by ratifying several conventions of the Organisation: the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights and the Convention on Contact concerning women is concerned, a bill was tabled in Parliament in summer 2016. In addition, having become a destination country for migrants in recent years, Morocco has introduced a new migration policy, together with a revised

legislative framework covering, in particular, questions of irregular migration, asylum and trafficking in human beings.

There are still major challenges to be taken up in the coming years, be it in effectively implementing the laws passed, in setting up and running the newly created bodies or in pursuing harmonisation of the legislative and regulatory framework with European and international standards.

3.1.1 PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The 2016-2021 governmental programme provides for the adoption of an integrated policy in the human rights field, using strategic and participatory planning and the updating of the National Action Plan on Democracy and Human Rights (PANDDH) in line with the Constitution and the international conventions ratified by Morocco. The Council of Europe remains available to assist the Moroccan authorities with the implementation and assessment of this plan, including through the drawing up of indicators for monitoring.

Overall objective: to protect and promote human rights through the development of a strategic, integrated and participatory policy

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** The PANDDH is implemented in conformity with the Constitution and the relevant European and international standards in this field;
- **Expected outcome 2:** Indicators for monitoring and assessing the PANDDH are devised with the support of the Council of Europe.

Main national partners: Ministry of State for Human Rights, National Human Rights Council (CNDH), other ministries and bodies concerned, civil society.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

Training courses in human rights and governance organised as part of the Programme of Advanced Training in the field of Human rights, the rule of law and democracy for Southern Mediterranean (PATHS) from 2015 onwards have highlighted the interest shown by partners in the region in more specialised training in the human rights protection system in Europe for legal professionals. Accordingly, the HELP Programme will be used to build the capacity of Moroccan judges, prosecutors and lawyers in their day-to-day work and also to develop the capabilities of the bodies in charge of promoting and protecting human rights.

Through the HELP programme, legal professionals will be provided with high-quality tools having proven their worth in Council of Europe member States via traditional-style classes and an "e-learning" platform on human rights, which will be tailored to Morocco's specific needs.

Overall objective: to give legal professionals greater understanding of human rights and strengthen the capabilities of instances in charge of promoting and protecting human rights

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** The capacity of legal professionals to protect and promote human rights is strengthened;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The capacity of the relevant governance bodies to protect and promote human rights in keeping with their terms of reference is strengthened.

Main national partners: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of State for Human Rights, CNDH, Higher Judicial Institute (ISM), professional associations of members of the judiciary, national training institutions, law colleges.

PREVENTION OF TORTURE

The implementation of a NPM in Morocco is in line with the country's international obligations as a signatory of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT). On that basis and after an assessment of the needs, the Council of Europe, in partnership with the CNDH and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), developed a full training programme for the members and staff of the future NPM, implemented in 2016 and 2017. Among other things, the programme focused on arrangements for visits by NPM personnel to places of detention, and particularly the interpersonal skills needed in their dealings with detention centre staff and detainees. In addition, in 2017, Morocco participated in an observer capacity in the launch of the Forum of European NPMs where the network's terms of reference, methodology and work programme were discussed. Immersion visits for representatives of the future Moroccan NPM to similar structures in Council of Europe member States also enabled them to familiarise themselves with their internal organisation, working methods and interaction with the other stakeholders concerned on the ground.

The Council of Europe will pursue its co-operation with Morocco under the new Neighbourhood Partnership with a view to the setting up of the Moroccan NPM and the harmonisation of its functional pattern with the relevant European and international standards in this field.

Overall objective: to support the setting up of Morocco's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) against torture within the framework of the CNDH's terms of reference and develop the competencies of the NPM's members and staff.

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** The NPM is set up in Morocco in conformity with European and international standards; it is capable of effectively exercising its duties;
- **Expected outcome 2:** Visits to places of deprivation of liberty are organised effectively by the NPM and generate high-quality reports produced in keeping with international commitments;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The competencies of the members of the NPM are enhanced through the training plan comprising exchanges with equivalent institutions in Council of Europe member States and in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Main national partners: CNDH, future NPM, Directorate General of Prison Administration and Reintegration (DGAPR), Ministry of State in charge of Human Rights, administrations responsible for other places of deprivation of liberty, civil society.

3.1.2 PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

EQUALITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY

The Council of Europe has developed close co-operation with the Ministry of Family Affairs, Solidarity, Equality and Social development (MFSEDS) since 2012. The Organisation assisted with the preparation of the draft legislation instituting the Authority for Parity and the Fight against all Forms of Discrimination (APALD), provided for in the 2011 Constitution and passed in 2017, through a Venice Commission opinion. Support included targeted awareness-raising and capacity-building activities and also the participation of Moroccan representatives in meetings of the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Commission (GEC). The next challenge is the actual setting up and effective functioning of the APALD and the launch of initiatives provided for in its terms of reference, including action against gender stereotyping and equal access to justice for women as well as efforts to develop relations with the other institutional human rights protection mechanisms in Morocco.

In addition, the authorities received assistance from the Council of Europe for the preparation of a bill for combating violence against women, tabled in Parliament in summer 2016. Among other things, the bill proposes a number of amendments increasing fines and prison sentences for certain offences in this area. A National Observatory on Violence against Women and a National Observatory for the Image of Women in the Media, whose strategy, role and resources are yet to be determined, were set up in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The authorities have repeatedly shown interest in possible accession to the Istanbul Convention and have participated, alongside representatives of civil society, in various awareness-raising activities centred

on the Convention's standards. As a platform for intercultural and inter-institutional dialogue, the North-South Centre will also help to build the capacities of Moroccan civil society organisations in the areas of combating and preventing violence against women, through exchanges of experience and good practice between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.

Overall objective: to promote equality between women and men and combat violence against women by adapting the legislative frameworks in this area and raising awareness among the target groups

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** A gender equality-oriented approach is encouraged in legislation, policies and practices, in particular through communication and training initiatives aimed at a wide range of professions (including within elected bodies and political parties, the civil service and the judiciary) at central and local levels;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The law for combating violence against women is passed by Parliament and the introduction of measures for its effective implementation is supported by the Council of Europe;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The capacities of the institutions, including the National Observatory on Violence against Women, the National Observatory for the Image of Women in the Media and professionals (justice, police, social services and health care) responsible for caring for women who have been victims of violence, and also civil society are strengthened in line with best European practices;
- **Expected outcome 4:** The APALD benefits from Council of Europe support and exchanges of experience with similar bodies in the member States;
- **Expected outcome 5:** The media have greater awareness of equality issues and contribute to promoting a positive and non-stereotyped image of women and men in the media.

Main national partners: MFSEDS, National Observatory on Violence against Women, National Observatory for the Image of Women in the Media, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of State in charge of Human Rights, Ministry of the Interior, CNDH, future APALD, Parliament, HACA, associations of journalists, civil society.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

The fight against all forms of discrimination is now a top priority for Morocco.

The Council of Europe will provide its expertise, particularly that of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), for the development of independent institutions tasked with combating discrimination and promoting equality, taking into account the initiatives already carried out or planned by the authorities. Furthermore, Morocco has become a destination country for migrants and is faced with a set of social and legal issues typical for countries receiving immigrants. The Council of Europe is willing to assist the authorities with continued guidance in the implementation of a migration policy initiated in 2013, including in the area of parliamentary co-operation (particularly through the Parliamentary network on diaspora policies, created by the PACE in 2017) and also at local and regional levels. In this context, Morocco might also wish to benefit from the expertise and assistance of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees.

Campaign against hate speech

The Moroccan authorities have appreciated the opportunity to be part of the Council of Europe's No hate speech campaign and have participated in relevant initiatives in this field, including the seminar on "Combating sexist hate speech" (Strasbourg, February 2016) and would like the campaign broadened within the framework of the present Neighbourhood Partnership, in particular to migration issues in order to encompass questions linked to stereotypes and clichés around migrants. Other relevant methodologies and tools of the Council of Europe could also be exploited. This strengthened mobilisation of civil society through the continuation of the No hate speech campaign on a broader scale will help to consolidate the capacity of the Moroccan authorities, at different levels, to manage diversity and ensure equality and non-discrimination in society.

Network of Intercultural Cities

The Council of Europe has also been co-operating with Morocco at local level over the last two years through the Intercultural Cities programme (ICC) to help Moroccan cities to deal with public perceptions of migrants and diversity generally and develop local policy strategies. The Moroccan Network of Intercultural Cities, launched in July 2016 in Tangier, has benefited from pooled experience thanks to its connection to 121 cities involved in the Intercultural Cities programme.

Under the new Neighbourhood Partnership, the main objective will remain the development and strengthening of the Network and the running of an anti-rumours campaign, as requested by the cities involved in the Network.

The anti-rumours strategy aims to raise awareness of the importance of countering diversity-related prejudices and rumours that hamper positive interaction and social cohesion and lay the foundations of discriminatory attitudes. The strategy, understood as a public policy, has several components: identifying major rumours existing in a city; collecting objective data and also emotional arguments to dismantle false rumours; creating an anti-rumour network of local actors from civil society; empowering and training "anti-rumour agents"; and designing and implementing anti-rumour campaigns to raise awareness, including by creating and disseminating new tools and resources, both creative and rigorous.

Overall objective: combating discrimination

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** A work programme for combating all forms of discrimination, drawn up on the basis of an assessment carried out with the Council of Europe's methodological tools in this field, is agreed with the Moroccan authorities;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The No hate speech campaign is broadened and consolidated in Morocco;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The role of Parliament with regard to the new migration policy, particularly where the human rights aspects are concerned, is strengthened;
- **Expected outcome 4:** The Moroccan Network of Intercultural Cities is consolidated; the anti-rumour methodology is adopted and tailored to the national context, and the member cities of the network of Intercultural Cities introduce anti-rumour strategies to combat the causes of discrimination.

Main national partners: APALD, CNDH, Ministry of State in charge of Human Rights, Parliament, Ministerial Department under the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation with responsibility for Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry responsible for relations with Parliament and civil society, youth organisations and civil society, local authorities, HACA.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Morocco and the Council of Europe have developed close co-operation in this field, particularly with regard to combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) has served as a basis since 2015 for guiding the authorities' efforts to develop skills and knowledge and overhaul existing policies and mechanisms in line with international norms and standards. Representatives of Morocco have also regularly participated in activities of the Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention and the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF). The country's accession to the Lanzarote Convention, already approved by Parliament, is in the final phase of ratification, as is accession to the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights and the Convention on Cont

At the request of the Moroccan authorities, the Council of Europe provided assistance for the framing of a National Implementation Programme for the Integrated public policy for child protection (PPIPE), launched in 2016, and supported the preparation and launch in 2017 of the "e-salama" programme on new technologies and children and its action plan, which draws on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2021.

The draft Law establishing the Advisory Council for Families benefited from technical support from the Council of Europe, which remains available to support the operation of this new body after the corresponding law has been passed.

Overall objective: to promote children's rights and protect children against all forms of violence by adapting the legislative frameworks in this field and raising awareness among the target audiences

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** Morocco completes the ratification process for the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights and the Lanzarote Convention and participates in the latter convention's Committee of the Parties;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The legislative and institutional frameworks and also children's rights protection structures are reinforced and harmonisation with the provisions of Council of Europe conventions is continued;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The national implementation programme for the PPIPE is consolidated, particularly for the strategies on children and the Internet, the participation of children, the building of NGOs' capacities and local and regional arrangements;
- **Expected outcome 4:** The adoption by Parliament of the law creating the CCFE and the introduction of measures for its effective implementation are supported by the Council of Europe;
- **Expected outcome 5 :** The general public, parents, children and child protection professionals have greater awareness of combating the sexual abuse and exploitation of children;
- **Expected outcome 6:** The capacities of institutions and professionals responsible for caring for child victims of violence are strengthened in line with European best practices.

Main national partners: MFSEDS, National Observatory for Children's Rights (ONDE), future CCFE, Parliament, CNDH, HACA, civil society, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and the Digital Economy, Ministry of Education, CNDP, DGSN, CMRPI.

3.2 RULE OF LAW

Since 2015, co-operation with Morocco in the field of the rule of law was stepped up, mainly in the following areas: support for judicial reform, for the implementation of the 2011 Constitution and for the preparation of the laws deriving from it and also for the fight against corruption. The partnership developed around these themes in 2016 and 2017, particularly in the field of justice with the launch, in 2016, of a new joint European Union-Council of Europe "Programme to support the justice sector reform - improving the functioning of justice in Morocco using the tools of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)" (2016-2017). The stepping up of the partnership in these various areas was intended to bring the Moroccan legal framework closer to European standards and thereby facilitate the creation of a common legal area, including through Morocco's accession to the relevant Conventions under the auspices of the Council of Europe. Efforts were also made to promote freedom of expression and media freedom in Morocco, including through raising awareness of the principles underpinning those rights.

3.2.1 ENSURING JUSTICE

Independence and efficiency of justice

Following the adoption of the 2011 Constitution, Morocco embarked upon a sweeping reform of its judicial system, the precise scope of which was defined by a Charter for Reform of the Judicial System, adopted in 2013. From the very outset of the partnership, the Council of Europe has been closely associated with the implementation of this reform on the basis of an analysis of Morocco's judicial system by the CEPEJ. The direct support provided by the CEPEJ to a number of Moroccan courts (the "pilot courts") to test out its tools for improving the efficiency and quality of judicial services for users has been a major line of action. To date, 14 pilot courts have benefited or are benefiting from this support. On the basis of these "pilot experiments", training in the tools and methodologies of the CEPEJ was provided for trainers in partnership with the Higher Judicial Institute (ISM) with a view to ensuring more widespread deployment of those tools and methodologies at the

level of Morocco's courts, including through regional training courses. In addition, in 2017, an introductory training course in judicial management was organised in partnership with the Moroccan Ministry of Justice and the French National College of the Judiciary (ENM) for all court managers in Morocco (some 300 people). The Ministry of Justice has itself developed its know-how and taken ownership of the tools of the CEPEJ, including by incorporating CEPEJ indicators into its applications for assessing the work and performance of Morocco's courts.

The "CEPEJ – Morocco" 2016-2017 programme was also aimed at reinforcing the status of judges as well as the operational capacity of the new Supreme Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ). The two implementing laws on the status of judges and the CSPJ, having undergone expert appraisal by the CEPEJ, the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) and the Venice Commission in order to more closely align them with European standards, entered into force in 2016, and the CSPJ was set up in April 2017.

The application of these laws, as well as the law transferring powers from the Ministry of Justice to the Prosecutor General's Office¹, will be crucial for enshrining the principle of the independence of justice in Morocco. The Council of Europe remains available to assist the authorities in this exercise, as well as with other laws linked to judicial reform. The CEPEJ met representatives of the CSPJ and the Prosecutor General's Office in 2017. Close co-operation could be developed with these two institutions, particularly as regards their internal organisation, the carrying out of their tasks and their interaction with the main judicial players, particularly the Ministry of Justice.

Following the setting up of the CSPJ and the transfer of powers from the Ministry of Justice to the Prosecutor General's Office, the prerogatives and organisation of the Ministry of Justice must be reviewed. The CEPEJ has offered its services to the Ministry of Justice to support it in the analysis and operations in this area, in particular, by organising a seminar in 2017 on the Inspectorate general of judicial affairs and a workshop on the restructuring of the Ministry's organigram. It has also issued, in conjunction with the CCJE and the Venice Commission, an informal opinion on the draft law on the organisation of the judiciary in Morocco. The partnership provides an opportunity to pursue, intensify and develop these activities.

Morocco participated in the 2016-2018 evaluation of judicial systems run by the CEPEJ, with which it has enjoyed observer status since 2013, and this should be of overall benefit to the partnership envisaged for 2018-2021.

¹ Law no. 33.17 transferring powers from the Governmental Authority responsible for Justice to the Crown Prosecutor General at the Court of cassation, in his capacity as president of the Prosecutor General's office, and incorporating them in the statute governing the presidency of the Prosecutor General's office.

Overall objective: to promote the independence, efficiency and quality of justice by improving court performance and supporting the implementation of judicial reform and revision of the relevant legislative frameworks, in line with European standards

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** The organic laws on the status of judges and the CSPJ are implemented in accordance with the Constitution and the recommendations of the Charter for Reform of the Judicial System; other laws concerning judicial reform are in line with European and international standards; the Council of Europe provides legislative expertise on draft laws at the specific request of the authorities;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The CSPJ receives specific assistance from the CEPEJ in framing the internal rules governing its operation (rules of procedure, organisation chart) and shares information on experience with similar bodies in Council of Europe member States;
- **Expected outcome 3:** All senior officials in the Moroccan judiciary and administration gradually undergo CEPEJ training on certain relevant aspects of the organic law on the CSPJ, the organic law on the status of judges, the law on the independence of the prosecution service and the draft law on the administration of justice;
- **Expected outcome 4:** The process of computerising proceedings and improvements in the notification of court decisions go hand in hand with the sharing of advice and expertise from European specialists; the expertise of the CCJE and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) helps to boost the moral integrity of the judicial system through exchanges of information on experience and good practices;
- **Expected outcome 5:** Morocco continues to participate evaluate judicial systems.

Main national partners: Ministry of Justice, CSPJ, ISM, professional associations of judges.

3.2.2 REINFORCING THE RULE OF LAW

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW (VENICE COMMISSION)

The Venice Commission, of which Morocco has been a member since 2007, contributed to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco by combining support for implementation of constitutional reform with the strengthening of the capacities of democratic governance bodies.

Dialogue was stepped up in the course of several years between the Ministry of Justice, the Constitutional Council and the Venice Commission in connection with the preparation of implementing laws on the Supreme Council of the Judiciary and the Status of Judges and the implementing law on the preliminary ruling of constitutionality. This new legislation will recognise the right of any individual or body party to proceedings to lodge a claim that a legislative provision violates rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. In the framework of its regional activities, the Venice Commission presented and discussed with the Moroccan authorities the exercise of this right, illustrated by the experience of European and Arab constitutional courts. The setting up, in 2017, of the new Constitutional Court in Morocco also opens up a central channel for possible involvement of the Venice Commission.

The support of the Venice Commission for the creation and functioning of governance bodies took tangible form partly through institutional capacity-building activities (communication, methodology, expertise and promotion of human rights) of the Ombudsman of the Kingdom, including within the regional framework bringing together the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM) and the Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of Francophonie (AOMF). The Venice Commission's efforts to build legal capacity were also aimed at senior Ministry officials whose skills relating to questions covered by the Venice Commission's expertise were consolidated through regional seminars run in Morocco in collaboration with the Ministry of Administrative and Civil Service Reforms, with which the Venice Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the

further development of this collaboration. The University for Democracy (UNIDEM) brought together representatives of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia and Palestine* through regional campuses.

Overall objective: the Venice Commission supports the implementation of the 2011 Constitution, including the Constitutional Court

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** The Organic law on the preliminary ruling of constitutionality is passed and implemented in conformity with European and international standards;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The Constitutional Court's rules of procedure are prepared so that it can fully exercise its tasks;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The capacities of the Constitutional Court's judges and staff are strengthened;
- **Expected outcome 4:** The Constitutional Court has an established network of relations with its counterparts in Council of Europe member States and other regions (MENA in particular);
- **Expected outcome 5:** The organic laws on the status of judges and the CSPJ are applied in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the recommendations of the Charter for Reform of the Judicial System; at the request of the authorities, the Venice Commission provides expertise on other draft legislation, including on ethical questions relating to the civil service;
- **Expected outcome 6:** The capacities of governance bodies and the senior administrative officials concerned are strengthened through training sessions provided through the UNIDEM.

Main national partners: Constitutional Court, Ministry of Justice, ISM, Ombudsman of the Kingdom and other independent governance bodies, Ministry of Administrative and Civil Service Reforms, CNDH.

COMMON POLICIES AND STANDARDS

Since the implementation of the partnership in 2012, the creation of a common legal area between Morocco and the European continent has been a central objective underpinning a substantial number of co-operation activities. There have been tangible results, with the accession of Morocco to several Council of Europe conventions, the incorporation of the Organisation's standards in new laws with a view to legal harmonisation and more effective dissemination of those standards through awareness-raising and training activities.

Morocco has acceded to several Council of Europe conventions and signed others (see appendix IV). Procedures for acceding to other instruments are in progress. A number of the Council of Europe's conventions are of interest to Morocco in the context of the coming partnership, especially in the fields of combating corruption, torture, violence against women, terrorism, organ trafficking or match-fixing. The working group on conventions, co-ordinated by the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (MAECI) and the Council of Europe's Office of the Directorate General of Programmes (ODGP), has played a decisive role in planning work to raise awareness of conventions and partial agreements to meet the needs of the partners and the priorities of Morocco. This working group, which meets once a year on the fringes of the South Programme Steering Committee, should continue to play an important role within the present co-operation framework.

The goal of creating a common legal area between Morocco and the European continent is a more gradual objective which, beyond accession to the relevant Council of Europe instruments, calls for the implementation of various support measures. Since the beginning of the partnership, Morocco has benefited from awareness-raising activities aimed at improving knowledge, understanding and ownership of the standards laid down in the conventions in which the country has shown an interest. A Compendium of conventions in the field of human rights, produced in Arabic and French, was published and officially launched in 2015 in Rabat at a seminar attended by high-ranking representatives of public and private bodies as well as representatives of the international community.

* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States on this issue.

Furthermore, the Moroccan Constitution enshrines a number of social and economic rights whose guarantee may represent a considerable challenge in the current difficult economic, social and political context. In this connection, the European Social Charter, which is a Council of Europe treaty guaranteeing human rights in day-to-day life, may be a useful instrument to fuel thought on Morocco's social model, even though it is not open to States that are not Council of Europe members. Under the present Neighbourhood Partnership, some activities will be geared to presenting Council of Europe standards and discussing their relevance in the Moroccan context at specialised conferences and workshops. More specific activities could be organised in a second phase, depending on the interest of the partners and the availability of funding.

In addition, Morocco has fully benefited, since 2012, from its participation in the Organisation's intergovernmental and convention-based committees. Among other things, this enabled Morocco to be closely involved in the preparation of the new Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, opened for signature in May 2017.

Overall objective: to gradually create a common legal area between Morocco and the Council of Europe

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** Morocco completes the process of ratifying the Council of Europe conventions and asks to be invited to accede to other instruments in priority areas covered by the Neighbourhood Partnership, in line with the roadmap established by the working group on conventions;
- **Expected outcome 2:** Legislative frameworks conforming to European standards are adopted in priority areas covered by the present Neighbourhood Partnership and effectively implemented;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The ministries, governance bodies and civil society have acquired knowledge of Council of Europe conventions and partial agreements in their respective areas of responsibility.

Main national partners: MAECI, other ministries and independent bodies concerned, Parliament, CNDH, civil society.

INFORMATION SOCIETY AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE

PROMOTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA PLURALISM

Since 2015, the Council of Europe has striven to promote freedom of expression and media freedom in Morocco in a context where the country was adopting a raft of new laws governing the media, including a new Press Code and a law instituting a National Press Council. Accordingly, at the request of the beneficiaries, the Organisation's work entailed building better knowledge of European standards and principles governing freedom of expression and media freedom among the professionals concerned in connection with the preparation and implementation of ongoing and future legislative reform in this area. Moroccan journalists, in particular, benefited from capacity-building activities relating to their on-line and off-line rights, journalistic ethics and professionalism of the media, as well as issues of libel and slander, respect for private life and hate speech in the media. The High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA) also saw a consolidation of its institutional regulator capacities through the sharing of information and experience on cultural diversity, structural pluralism in the media and the question of reconciling freedom of expression with other rights and interests in the light of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The Ministry of Culture and Communication expressed the need for specific training for staff on guarantees of freedom of expression in the printed press, in audiovisual media and on the Internet.

The partnership with Morocco in this field offers numerous possibilities, whether for the effective setting up of new bodies such as the National Press Council, the implementation of the legislation passed or the preparation of new laws building on the ongoing reform in this area. At the request of the Moroccan beneficiaries, new thrusts for co-operation are envisaged, particularly in respect of raising awareness in the judiciary of standards governing freedom of expression and media freedom.

In that process, Morocco will continue to benefit from its participation in the meetings of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and its subordinate bodies as well as its status as a member of the European Audiovisual Observatory.

Overall objective: to promote freedom of expression and the independence of the institutional regulator of audiovisual communication and the other bodies concerned and to create a pluralist media landscape

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** The National Press Council is set up; the institutional capacities of its members are enhanced;
- **Expected outcome 2:** Legislation on freedom of expression and media freedom is brought into line with European and international standards;
- **Expected outcome 3:** Representatives of the Ministry of Communication, the HACA, the judiciary and the National Union of the Moroccan Press (SNPM) have better knowledge of the Council of Europe standards and principles and European best practices governing freedom of expression and media freedom.

Main national partners: Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Justice, HACA, SNPM, future National Press Council, Higher Institute of Information and Communication, civil society.

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

Morocco's access to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and its additional Protocol remains the final step of a process that began in 2012. Since then, co-operation with the Moroccan National Data Protection Authority (CNDP) has steadily developed. In 2015, the Council of Europe prepared legal expertise at the request of the CNDP, analysing the conformity of the proposed amendments to Moroccan legislation on data protection with Convention 108, as well as its updated version.

This well-established co-operation with the CNDP, further reinforced by its participation in meetings of the Council of Europe's Ad hoc Committee on Data Protection (CAHDATA) and the Consultative Committee of Convention 108, should be consolidated under the Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2021 with a view to further harmonisation of Moroccan legislation with Convention 108 and ultimately Morocco's accession to the Convention and its additional protocol. The Council of Europe will also support the CNDP in the development of an ecosystem for protecting private life and personal data via awareness-raising activities aimed at specialised stakeholders in this field representing the private sector, civil society, universities and journalists and also in the consolidation of its role within the African network for the protection of private life and personal data.

Overall objective: to ensure application of international and European standards of personal data protection

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** Morocco completes the procedure for accession to Convention 108 and its additional Protocol;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The legislative and institutional framework for personal data protection is brought into line with the provisions of Convention 108;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The CNDP has its status enhanced and is networked with similar bodies in Europe through its regular participation in meetings of the Committee of Convention 108 and other relevant structures and activities of the Council of Europe;
- **Expected outcome 4:** Awareness-raising activities aimed at specialised stakeholders in this field (private sector, civil society, universities, journalists) contribute to the development of an ecosystem for protecting private life and personal data protection.

Main national partners: CNDP, other ministries and bodies concerned, private sector, civil society, universities, media.

3.2.3 COUNTERING THREATS TO THE RULE OF LAW

TERRORISM, CORRUPTION AND ORGANISED CRIME– MONEYVAL – GRETA – GRECO – ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS (POMPIDOU GROUP)

ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In May 2016 Morocco passed Law no. 27-14 against trafficking in human beings, whose provisions - particularly those relating to prevention, protection of victims and prosecution of perpetrators – drew on the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings. From 2015 onwards the Council of Europe was closely involved in the preparatory phase of the draft law through activities aimed at raising awareness and building capacities based on the main provisions of the Convention. After the law was passed, the Organisation pursued its efforts by providing training for the judiciary on the fundamental aspects of the conceptual and legal frameworks for action against trafficking in human beings, in partnership with the HELP Programme and for the benefit of the Moroccan university sector. The Council of Europe closely co-ordinated its efforts in this area with other international players active in Morocco in this field, notably the IOM.

The passing of this new legislation opened the way for other activities involving co-operation with international and national partners, geared to full application of the law, the effective creation of the national body tasked with defining and implementing the National Strategy against trafficking in human beings and the building of the capacities of the stakeholders concerned. In addition, under the Neighbourhood Partnership for 2018-2021, the Moroccan authorities might consider asking to be invited to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings.

Overall objective: to strengthen action against trafficking in human beings through the application of the law and the building of the capacities of all the stakeholders concerned

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** The introduction of the implementing texts and structures provided for in legislation on action against trafficking in human beings is supported by the Council of Europe;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The competencies of members of the national body for action against trafficking in human beings are enhanced by training courses organised by the Council of Europe, including exchanges with similar bodies in Council of Europe member States;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The capacities of the institutions and professionals responsible for caring for trafficking victims and for action against trafficking in human beings, including specialised investigators, are strengthened on the basis of European and international standards and best practices.

Main national partners: Ministerial Department under the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation with responsibility for Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs and other relevant ministries Ministry of justice, Ministry of State in charge of Human Rights, CNDH, civil society, universities.

COMBATING CORRUPTION, MONEY-LAUNDERING AND TERRORISM

Since the publication, in 2014, of the diagnostic report analysing Morocco's anti-corruption framework, compiled using the GRECO's methodology, the roadmap for co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe in this area has hinged on implementation of that report's recommendations. The report covers topics which are priorities for the authorities, such as the justice system, political life, public tenders or the law enforcement agencies. This work should also enable Morocco to move forward in its consideration of possible accession to the GRECO.

From 2012 onwards, the Council of Europe provided in-depth assistance to the Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption (ICPC), particularly for strengthening its internal structures, capacities and role as co-ordinator with other stakeholders in the fight against corruption. With a view to broadened terms of reference for the ICPC in order to include administrative anti-corruption investigations, the Council of Europe helped to prepare a procedural manual containing a step-by-step presentation of the investigation procedure and

a corresponding check-list. The ICPC's networking capacities were strengthened at international level through study visits by members of that body to similar structures in Council of Europe member States. The ICPC is shortly to be replaced by a new constitution-based body, the National Authority for Probity and fight against corruption (INPPLC) created by a 2015 law.

Other institutional stakeholders (staff of the ministry inspectorates, Financial Intelligence Processing Unit, Central Bank, Ministry of Administrative and Civil Service Reforms and the private sector have also benefited from training for trainers on different topics related to preventing and combating corruption, including the conceptual bases of anti-corruption efforts and the European and international standards in this field, as well as administrative and criminal investigation techniques. Building the capacities of other specific stakeholders, on the basis of tools developed by the Council of Europe, is a strong thrust of co-operation for the coming partnership. Likewise, the Council of Europe could assist Morocco with the revision or preparation of its legislation and institutional framework for fighting white-collar crime, particularly in respect of money laundering, public tenders, illicit enrichment and managing and declaring assets. A review of Moroccan whistle-blower legislation, based on Council of Europe standards and guidelines, has already been carried out.

Overall objective: to promote good governance and the prevention of corruption, money laundering and terrorism

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** Morocco pursues implementation of the recommendations resulting from the diagnostic report on the anti-corruption framework;
- **Expected outcome 2:** Additional anti-corruption legislation is brought into line with the recommendations of the diagnostic report and European and international standards in this sphere;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The stakeholders in efforts to prevent and combat corruption receive support and have their capacities built, notably the future INPPLC and its main partners; these stakeholders participate actively in the Council of Europe networks linked with preventing and combating corruption;
- **Expected outcome 4:** Specific players, including in the areas of the environment and sport, benefit from modules to build their knowledge and capacities in anti-corruption efforts, on the basis of tools developed by the Council of Europe (manual for administrative anti-corruption investigations for example).

Main national partners: ICPC, future INPPLC, Ministry of Administrative and Civil Service Reforms, Financial Intelligence Processing Unit (UTRF), Judicial Agency of the Kingdom, Directorate General of National Security (DGSN), other public administrations concerned, General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM).

COMBATING DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS

Morocco is the first country in the Arab world to have introduced opioid substitution treatment, thanks in particular to training for Moroccan medical personnel of the MedNET network. MedNET, a co-operation network on drugs and drug abuse in the Mediterranean region spanning 15 beneficiary partners, promotes co-operation, exchange and mutual transfer of knowledge between countries on both sides of the Mediterranean as part of South-South, North-South and South-North co-operation, with due regard to human rights and gender mainstreaming. Its long-term goal is to develop and implement consistent policies on addictive behaviours.

An important feature of its work is gathering and analysing information on drug use among school students through MedSPAD (Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs).

During the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017, the MedNET network increased the number of practitioners trained in addictology at the Rabat and Casablanca faculties of medicine, enabling work on addiction prevention and treatment to be gradually extended throughout Morocco and thus improving skills and capacities for action under Morocco's National Health Plan.

The Pompidou Group also continued to support the Moroccan National Observatory on Drugs and Addictions (ONDA) by providing it with expertise in connection with the publication of its first and second annual reports in 2015 and 2016. Morocco is the first country in the region to have set up a monitoring centre of this kind.

Overall objective: to strengthen the human rights approach in policies on drug abuse and trafficking and addictive behaviours

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** The national strategy on drugs is informed by the results of the population surveys and the MedSPAD school surveys;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The diploma courses taught at the universities of Rabat and Casablanca are extended to other institutions and universities, improving the care and treatment of addictions in Morocco;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The National **Observatory** on Drugs and Addictions reports annually on addiction in Morocco and interacts with its partners in the MedNET network.

Main national partners: Ministry of Health, ONDA, universities, civil society.

COMBATING CYBERCRIME

The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) is in the final phase of ratification by Morocco. In this context, the Council of Europe has provided assistance to Morocco under GLACY and its successor GLACY+,² joint programmes funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe from 2013 to 2016, and subsequently under the CyberSouth programme³ launched in July 2017 for the Southern Neighbourhood. The purpose of these programmes is to help beneficiaries strengthen legislation and institutional capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence in line with human rights and rule of law requirements.

The Organisation has accordingly supported the process of bringing Moroccan legislation into line with the Budapest Convention while endeavouring to build the specific capacities of the main stakeholders working to combat cybercrime in Morocco, in particular judges and p Secretariat and law enforcement agencies.

² [EU/Council of Europe joint programme "Global Action on Cybercrime" \(GLACY\), 36 months \(November 2013 – October 2016\), 3.35 million euros](#)

[EU/Council of Europe joint programme "Global Action on Cybercrime Extended" \(GLACY+\), 48 months \(1 March 2016 – 28 February 2020\), 10 million euros.](#)

³ [EU/ Council of Europe joint programme "Cooperation on Cybercrime in the Southern Neighbourhood" \(CyberSouth\), 30 months \(July 2017 – 30 June 2020\), 3,35 million euros](#)

Overall objective: to promote Morocco's implementation of European standards on cybercrime and its participation in co-ordinated action in co-operation with European states and the Southern Mediterranean region

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** Morocco completes the process of ratifying the Budapest Convention;
- **Expected outcome 2:** The legislation on action against cybercrime is brought into line with the Convention on Cybercrime;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The capacities of the players concerned (in particular the judicial professions, law enforcement agencies and departments specialising in cybercrime) are enhanced.

Main national partners: Ministry of the Interior/Directorate General of National Security, Directorate General of Internal Affairs, Directorate of International Co-operation, Ministry of Justice, ISM, Ministry of Trade, Industry and New Technologies, CNDP, Directorate General for the Security of Information Systems.

Combating the counterfeiting of medical products

In June 2016, the Government Council approved draft law no. 16-16 ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (MEDICRIME Convention) which was subsequently adopted by Parliament during the summer 2016 and is currently in the final stages of ratification. The Council of Europe, and invited it to attend a regional workshop (Tbilisi, June 2016), the purpose of which was to strengthen the single points of contact provided for in the MEDICRIME Convention and to bring the working methodology of judicial and law-enforcement authorities into line with the latter. Morocco also took part in the 4th regional conference on the MEDICRIME Convention (Larnaca, November 2016), which involved and provided an opportunity to look closely at the benefits of ratifying the Convention and the difficulties entailed.

Overall objective: to promote Morocco's implementation of European standards on combating the counterfeiting of medical products

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** Morocco deposits the instruments of ratification for the MEDICRIME Convention;
- **Expected outcome 2:** Legislation in this area is brought into line with the provisions of the MEDICRIME Convention;
- **Expected outcome 3:** Co-operation between the competent authorities is enhanced, including through the creation of national and international networks.

Main national partners: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General of National Security, Customs Directorate.

3.3 DEMOCRACY

Since 2015 the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco in the field of democracy has focused mainly on capacity-building for members of the government and civil society who are involved in the processes of democratic reform, through the activities of the Citizenship School of Political Studies (ECP), the North-South Centre and the PATHS Programme. Interparliamentary co-operation, through the Partner for Democracy status which Morocco has enjoyed with the PACE since 2011, has been stepped up for the benefit of both members of parliament (MP)s and parliamentary officials, particularly in the run-up to the October 2016 parliamentary elections. In addition, work on the priorities for action on local and regional governance began in 2017. The Moroccan authorities have also expressed a desire to benefit from the expertise of Eurimages, the Council of Europe's Partial Agreement on the production, distribution and exhibition of European cinematographic works, in order to provide support for Moroccan films, with a view to fostering participation and diversity.

3.3.1 STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND FOSTERING INNOVATION

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The Moroccan Parliament has enjoyed Partner for Democracy status with the PACE since 2011. Thanks to this status, it has been able to form a permanent parliamentary delegation whose 12 members are entitled to play a full part in ordinary sessions of the PACE and the work of its committees. Since 2012, and following the creation within the PACE of the Parliamentary Projects Support Division (DSPP), the Assembly has implemented, at its own level, the Co-operation Priorities 2012-2014 and subsequently the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017, enabling Moroccan MPs and parliamentary officials to be involved in regional conferences and initiatives as well as in activities organised specifically for them.

In its review of the implementation of the status, the political reforms introduced in the country and the political commitments given by the Moroccan Parliament in this context, the PACE made a broadly positive assessment of the results, welcoming in particular the fact that the partnership continues to enjoy broad support both at government and parliament levels, as well as among political circles and civil society. It has been instrumental in launching and developing crucial reforms in a number of key areas, and in triggering multifaceted co-operation between the Council of Europe and Moroccan institutions.⁴

Among other things, interparliamentary co-operation has helped, through peer exchanges and awareness-raising activities, to enhance Parliament's capacity to fulfil its responsibilities, in particular as regards its role in the process of adopting certain organic laws or procedures to oversee government activity. Parliamentary officials have also been able to improve their knowledge of various European institutions and European and international standards in priority areas of the parliamentary agenda for reform and develop their competencies in terms of the support to be given to members of their Parliament in various areas, including parliamentary oversight of public policy implementation.

The period 2018-2021 affords myriad opportunities for building on and improving the implementation of Resolution 1818 (2011) on Partner for Democracy status, and for carrying out new activities specifically intended for Moroccan parliamentarians and officials under the Neighbourhood Partnership. The partnership should pave the way for greater co-operation on specific aspects of parliamentary activity in relation to Parliament's administrative tasks, on further developing its relations with government, civil society, Parliament and civil society, bearing in mind that the Parliament elected in October 2016 will be required to pass, by the end of its 5-year term in 2021, legislation to consolidate the reforms begun in previous years.

Overall objective: to strengthen the role and capacities of MPs and parliamentary officials on the basis of the priorities jointly identified in Resolution 1818 (2011) on Partner for Democracy status

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** MPs' capacities in the passing of laws are enhanced through, *inter alia*, exchanges of experience and relevant practices with representatives of the parliaments of Council of Europe member States;
- **Expected outcome 2:** MPs have a better knowledge and understanding of Council of Europe standards in the fields included in Resolution 1818 (2011) on Partner for Democracy status;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The competences of the officials and staff of both chambers (Chamber of Representatives, Chamber of Counsellors) are enhanced in keeping with the strategic development plans for the two assemblies.

Main national partners: Parliament, ministries concerned, CNDH.

⁴ Report on "Evaluation of the partnership for democracy by the PACE in June 2015" of the Pa

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Contacts between Morocco and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe were forged as far back as 2010 within the framework of the Consultative Committee on Regionalisation (CCR) set up in 2010 and tasked with devising a model for advanced regionalisation in Morocco. Following a fact-finding visit to Rabat by the Congress in November 2016, new priorities for action in this area were identified with the Moroccan authorities. They include the implementation, by Morocco, of the new legislation on advanced regionalisation adopted in 2015, the strengthening of local and regional government associations and the development of mechanisms to promote citizen participation at local and regional level, with the emphasis on the participation of women, young people and civil society.

The activities currently being developed include framing a proposal for the establishment of a national commission on regionalisation as a mechanism for consulting all those involved in this process and organising specific activities: sensitising MPs and local and regional elected representatives to local self-government principles and standards, migrant integration, tackling radicalisation and engaging citizens at local level. Measures to strengthen the two local and regional government associations (the Moroccan Association of Chairs of Municipal Councils and the Association of Regions of Morocco) are being developed (review of the statutes and development strategies, upgrading of websites and other internal and external communication tools, leadership and advocacy skills). Activities will be organised for local and regional elected representatives and their administrations, as well as for young people and women in particular, to promote participatory and inclusive democracy. Dialogue is also continuing with the Local Authorities with a view to building the training capacities of regional administrations, and with the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) on sharing expertise on the legislative framework for regionalisation. Co-operation with Morocco will also benefit from the assistance of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform of the Council of Europe in cooperation with the executive committee of the Congress. In addition, the Moroccan authorities have confirmed their intention to apply for Partner for Local Democracy status, as adopted by the Congress in 2014.

The efforts of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform will be directed mainly at regional-level training (needs assessment and strategy development) in order to ensure the introduction and dissemination of modern human resource management systems and methods, support responsible local financial management through indicators (local finance benchmarking (LFB)), introduce the e-learning tool on good governance and adapt it to the local context (on the basis of the Council of Europe's special toolkits for good governance with the African Union), and develop the skills of local government officials. Among other things, this support will take the form of legislative assistance and practical advice, peer meetings, training programmes and study visits and the promotion of contextualised use of the Council of Europe's special toolkits for good governance with the African Union, the African Local Government Academy (ALGA), the United Cities and Local Governments network (UCLG) and the African Union (AU).

Overall objective: to support Morocco in implementing the new legislation on advanced regionalisation, strengthening local and regional government associations and developing mechanisms to foster citizen participation at local and regional level

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** Morocco applies for Partner for Local Democracy status with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and a delegation of local and regional elected representatives from Morocco participate
- **Expected outcome 2:** The new legislation on advanced regionalisation is implemented with the assistance of the Congress, in line with European and international standards and good practice in this area;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The capacities of elected representatives and national associations of local and regional authorities are enhanced through specific activities organised by the Congress and by the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform of the Council of Europe, in co-ordination with the Congress; citizens, the media and civil society are sensitised to the role and responsibilities of local and regional authorities and of their elected councils;
- **Expected outcome 4:** the Moroccan authorities, at central and local level, acquire a sound understanding of European best practice on good democratic governance through the use of the e-learning tool on the 12 Principles of Good Local Governance of the Council of Europe; thanks to the principles and tools developed by the Council Reform (including via the Leadership Academy Programme), they also have the necessary knowledge and competencies to implement modern methods of human resource management and responsible local financial management.

Main national partners: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Administrative and Civil Service Reforms, local and regional government associations, public administration training centres, CESE, media, civil society, ALGA, UCLG, AU.

Democratic governance

Support for the Citizenship School of Political Studies (ECEP)

The Council of Europe has continued to support the ECEP set up in 2013. The ECEP is now a recognised player in the training of young leaders, and belongs to network. In 2015-2017, nearly 100 young leaders, from various parts of Morocco and a range of backgrounds - civil society, politics, economics and culture – developed their leadership skills and capacities thanks to the annual training programme consisting of five national seminars. These seminars tackled key topics related to the principles and practice of democracy, all of them high on decision-making processes, public policy making, devolution and territorial governance in Morocco, and the role of elections in democratic governance.

International activities and peer exchanges with other Schools of Political Studies (in particular the Euro-Mediterranean summer academies, the annual international alumni conference and the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg) provide an opportunity for Moroccan representatives from the ECEP to share experience and best practice with other schools in the network. Regional co-operation has also developed thanks to regional seminars, involving the Tunisian School of Political Studies and other representatives from the Southern Mediterranean. Developing the regional dimension and consolidating the alumni network are among the future priorities of the ECEP.

3.3.2 PROMOTING PARTICIPATION AND DIVERSITY

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY – NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship

Under the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Co-operation project, Morocco plays an active part in promoting the role of young people as active stakeholders in governance in the Southern Mediterranean. Specifically, Morocco is involved in the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni), which the North-South

Centre has been organising since 2013 in co-operation with the National Youth Observatory of Tunisia and other international youth organisations based in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. The University sessions bring together a hundred or so participants from both sides of the Mediterranean, with a view to building the capacities of young people and youth organisations, promoting youth participation in political life, encouraging Euro-Mediterranean youth co-operation and developing trans-Mediterranean networks. This initiative will be continued over the period 2018-2021 and efforts made to generate synergies between youth organisations' involvement in local and regional level by the Council of Europe programme Morocco.

Morocco is also among the 40 members of the North-South Centre's Global Education Network to promote global education in the formal and non-formal education sectors. Moroccan educators also participate in distance training on education for global citizenship.

Lastly, Morocco has attended the various sessions of the Lisbon Forum held by the North-South Centre since 1994. The Forum, which promotes the "quality and regional" dialogue between authorities and civil society, is the only assembly of its kind and has, since it was launched, openly addressed matters of interest to the main Southern Mediterranean partners concerned with a view to finding solutions based on consensus.

The NCS may, within its areas of competence, continue to support the objectives of the present Neighbourhood Partnership according to needs.

Overall objective: to promote the participation of civil society and young people

Expected outcomes

- **Expected outcome 1:** participants in Morocco's ECEP are better organised and positioned, to play an active role in upholding human rights, the rule of law and democratic standards in Morocco and make a contribution to implementing the Council of Europe programmes in Morocco;
- **Expected outcome 2:** the capacities of participants in Youth and Global Citizenship are enhanced and networks between organisations in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean are strengthened;
- **Expected outcome 3:** The Lisbon Forum adopts conclusions to help address the issues facing the Southern Mediterranean region in an innovative way, with a follow-up process to ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

Main national partners: ECEP, youth organisations, Ministry of Youth and Sport, MAECI, Ministry responsible for relations with Parliament and civil society, CNDH, youth organisations and civil society.

PART III- IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 METHODOLOGY

The overall co-ordination of technical co-operation implemented by the Council of Europe falls within the remit of the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes (ODGP) which steers the programming of and fund-raising for co-operation actions whilst ensuring the good functioning of Council of Europe Offices in the field.

Neighbourhood Partnership projects are implemented by the Council of Europe, which is responsible for the relevant area of expertise. The Council of Europe plays a key role in co-ordinating and supporting the implementation of the projects in the field in accordance with the decentralisation policy applying to co-operation. As of December 2017, 7 staff members are responsible for the implementation of the projects.

The implementation of Neighbourhood Partnership projects involves, as necessary, needs assessments, legislative expertise, capacity-building, awareness-raising and peer-to-peer reviews. The methodology followed, in line with the [Council of Europe Project Management Methodology](#), aims to reinforce the ownership of national stakeholders and to ensure the sustainability of the outcomes.

In addition, the co-operation designed by the Council of Europe allows different Council of Europe's institutions and independent governance institutions such as the Ombudsman, local and regional authorities, and civil society, in order to create a unique leverage for comprehensive, inclusive, successful and sustainable reforms.

Gender equality is taken into account in all Council of Europe projects in accordance with the [Guidelines on gender mainstreaming](#). The gender mainstreaming approach will be clarified when the actions associated with the Neighbourhood Partnership are developed, but it will already be applied to certain activities regardless of the field of co-operation. For example, the standards for gender account when the various pieces of legislation and national frameworks are revised in the light of European standards. The issue of equality between women and men will also be incorporated into training and programmes. The impact of gender will be analysed when projects are designed and implemented. In addition to gender mainstreaming, specific actions will be considered in order to promote equality between women and men. Furthermore, the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership will seek to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Particular emphasis will be laid on the contribution to SDG 5, "Achieve gender equality and end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere", and target 5.2, "Eliminate violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation", and SDG 16, "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and transparent institutions". A gender mainstreaming toolkit will support Council of Europe's

Similarly, the Organisation promotes active participation of civil society in co-operation activities, in accordance with its [Guidelines for the participation of civil society or activities](#) and the recommendations arising out of the conference "Promoting co-operation with civil society".

The present Neighbourhood Partnership also takes into account the **lessons learned** during implementation of co-operation established with Morocco since 2012:

- the present Neighbourhood Partnership has provided an opportunity to address human rights issues which Morocco was less open to discussing during the previous period (such as combating trafficking in human beings, preventing torture). This change is a reflection of human rights-friendly developments in Morocco and the fact that a relationship of trust has been established between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities, based on the results already achieved through co-operation and political dialogue;
- progress in implementing the Partnership remains conditional, however, on the pace of reform in a number of areas. This applies particularly to support for reforms in the justice field, and also to completion of the ongoing processes of accession to Council of Europe conventions;
- because Council of Europe policy towards its neighbouring regions is based on a demand-driven approach, it is important that the framework for co-operation should remain flexible. Non-earmarked voluntary contributions are welcome here, because they allow for adjustment to the needs and dynamics of reform processes. Flexible working methods and adjustments to the pace of interventions are needed to cushion the effect of a slowdown in certain co-operation activities;
- day-to-day co-ordination with other international stakeholders is crucial and is fundamental in achieving tangible results. It should be noted, however, that this sometimes leads to delays in implementation;
- the excellent quality of the political dialogue at a technical level has gone hand in hand with regular political dialogue in connection with the Partner for Democracy status. Regular high-level dialogue at intergovernmental level would be a welcome addition. Efforts to this effect are underway;

- the results achieved so far have been facilitated by having a Neighbourhood Partnership Representative in Strasbourg and a Council of Europe Office in Rabat; beneficial for both the co-operation and the Enhanced Political Dialogue;
- the Council of Europe has proved that it can respond to the interests of specialised ministries and provide expertise through its intergovernmental committees of experts. The involvement of Moroccan experts in these bodies is an important feature of the dialogue and should be encouraged. It helps to integrate Morocco's institutions into the relevant legal area;
- on the basis of its commitment to full implementation of the Partnership, Morocco has already indicated its interest in longer-term institutional relations with the Council of Europe beyond 2017.

Furthermore, as is the case with other frameworks for co-operation:

- The Council's human rights approach to technical assistance is an important supplement to the existing international aid programmes in Morocco;
- Council of Europe standards and principles are both means and objectives of technical assistance and as such can significantly contribute to the realisation of those rights;
- long-term technical assistance in conducting comprehensive reforms requires a long-term funding perspective and effective co-ordination mechanisms among national and international partners;
- Neighbourhood Partnership funding also allows some flexibility in terms of allocating funds where they are most needed.

Due to the nature of its mandate, the Council of Europe has to operate at times in complex and unstable environments which expose it to risks. The analysis of risks relevant to implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership as well as possible mitigation strategies are identified in Appendix II of the present Neighbourhood Partnership on the basis of the Council of Europe [risk management guidelines](#).

4.2 CO-ORDINATION

Co-ordination to ensure an efficient use of resources and performed at different levels and in different forums, including the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe's actions are worked out and implemented with strong expertise and added value. Joint co-operation with the Moroccan authorities is developed based on a thorough analysis of the objectives followed by other international organisations and actors in the field and their work, implemented and/or planned to achieve these objectives.

To ensure the relevance of its actions, the Council of Europe works in close co-ordination with relevant international partners, notably the European Union and in particular the EU Delegation in Morocco.

Co-ordination is also ensured with other organisations, e.g. with the IOM (action against trafficking in human beings), with UNESCO (freedom of expression and media freedom). Where appropriate, platforms for co-ordination with other international organisations are set up and joint activities undertaken as, for example, in the case of the activities to combat trafficking in human beings in Morocco.

The Council of Europe also keeps close contact with development agencies in the States.

4.3 FUNDING

The overall budget of the Neighbourhood Partnership is a related to ongoing negotiations of the South Programme III (2018-2020, 24 months) as well as funding of the following Joint Programmes: CEPEJ – Morocco (2016-2018, 30 months), CyberSouth (2017-2020, 36 months) and GLACY+ (2016-2020, 48 months), it is estimated that around €

Projects in the Neighbourhood Partnership are to be funded from multiple sources. Funding is to be provided mainly from voluntary contributions (VC) from donor countries and international organisations, including the EU/ Council of Europe Facility as relevant.

The co-ordination of the Neighbourhood Partnership implementation is carried out with the help of general management costs amounting to maximum 7% of the Neighbourhood Partnership budget.

In line with the Council of Europe resource mobilisation strategy, fundraising efforts under the co-ordination of the ODGP are concentrated on the Neighbourhood Partnership as a whole.

The present Neighbourhood Partnership structure from 2018 to 2021 follows the structure of the Programme and Budget of the Council of Europe and is aligned with its two biennial cycles in order to increase coherence, complementarity and co-ordination.

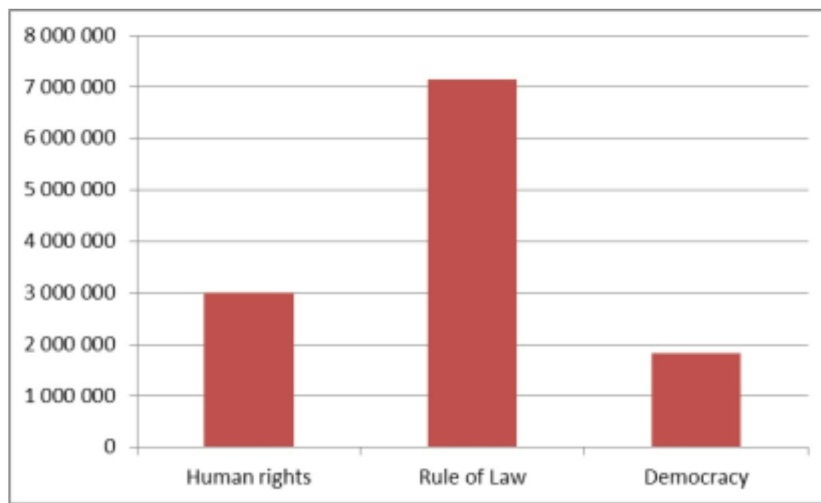


Figure 2: Estimated budget per theme of the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021

4.4 GOVERNANCE

The CM is responsible, through its GR-EXT for the overall assessment of the Neighbourhood Partnership implementation.

The Council of Europe will provide regular updates on the progress and outcomes of the Neighbourhood Partnership. To this end, the ODGP will submit interim and final reports to the CM as follows:

- written information 12 months after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Partnership, to present the state of advancement after the Neighbourhood Partnership's
- comprehensive mid-term Progress Review Report, 24 months after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Partnership;
- final Progress Review Report at the end of implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Progress made under the Neighbourhood Partnership will also be jointly assessed by the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities. For this purpose, a Neighbourhood Partnership Steering Committee is established, composed of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation and other national stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership as well as of representatives of the Council of Europe.

This Steering Committee will assess the implementation of approved projects, discuss relevant proposals for future co-operation and challenges faced, and recommend any measures to improve the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Partnership. Meetings will take place after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Partnership, to assess the mid-term implementation, and before the end of the Neighbourhood Partnership, to assess the overall implementation.

In addition, the ODGP will address annual Neighbourhood Partnership Reports to those donors contributing at the level of the Neighbourhood Partnership, in line with reporting requirements.

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APPENDIX I: LOGFRAME OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP WITH MOROCCO 2018-2021

Gender equality and civil participation in decision-making (cross-cutting issues):

- **Gender equality** is mainstreamed throughout the Council [Guidelines on Gender Equality](#) projects in a
- **Civil society**'s decision making is promoted by the Organisation in line with the [Guidelines on Civil Society Organisations' participation](#).

Impact: Contribute to strengthening human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Morocco, by providing ongoing assistance to the democratic reform processes, based on the demand-driven approach, in the fields of expertise of the Council of Europe.

Human rights	
Thematic result: Contribute to strengthening human rights in Morocco by supporting the harmonisation of legislation, institutions and practices with European and international practices and standards.	
Results	Indicators
<p>1.1. PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS</p> <p>1.1.1. A strategic, integrated and participatory policy is developed in the human rights field;</p> <p>1.1.2. Understanding of human rights standards among legal professionals is strengthened and the capabilities of independent bodies are built up through the HELP programme;</p> <p>1.1.3. The ability of the new NPM to protect and promote human rights in accordance with its remit is strengthened.</p>	<p>The PANDDH is implemented in conformity with the Constitution and the relevant European and international standards in this field.</p> <p>Existence of institutional mechanisms and bodies to protect human rights effectively, in particular actual setting up of the NPM.</p> <p>Extent of implementation of human rights standards by legal professionals and relevant independent bodies in their work.</p>
<p>1.2. PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY</p> <p>1.2.1. Equality between women and men is promoted and violence against women is combated by adapting the legislative frameworks and raising awareness among the target groups;</p> <p>1.2.2. Discrimination is combated;</p> <p>1.2.3. Children are better protected against all forms of violence and their rights are promoted by adapting the legislative frameworks and raising awareness among the target groups in this respect.</p>	<p>Accession of Morocco to the Council of Europe conventions concerning children, and participation in the Committee of the Parties of the Lanzarote Convention.</p> <p>Level of conformity of legislative and institutional frameworks and bodies governing equality between women and men and the protection of children's rights with European a</p> <p>actual implementation of the law on combating violence against women.</p> <p>Degree of implementation of the legislative framework.</p> <p>Existence of institutional mechanisms and bodies to promote human rights and dignity, in particular actual setting up of the CCFE and the APALD.</p> <p>Frequency of exchanges between organisations promoting human rights and dignity in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.</p> <p>Development of a work programme for combating all forms of discrimination.</p>

	<p>Number of tools of the No Hate Speech campaign employed.</p> <p>Number of local initiatives based on In particular the anti-rumour methodology.</p> <p>Size of the community of national experts in the fields of human rights and dignity.</p>
<p>Rule of law Thematic result: Contribute to strengthening the rule of law in Morocco by supporting the harmonisation of legislation, institutions and practices with European and international practices and standards.</p>	
<p>Results</p>	<p>Indicators</p>
<p>2.1. ENSURING JUSTICE 2.1.3. The independence, efficiency and quality of justice are promoted by improving court performance and supporting the implementation of judicial reform and revision of the relevant legislative frameworks, in line with European standards.</p>	<p>Level of conformity of the implementation of the organic laws on the status of judges and the CSPJ with the provisions of the Constitution and the recommendations of the Charter for Reform of the Judicial System.</p> <p>Level of conformity of the other laws in the field of justice with European and international standards.</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming, including legislation and policies developed.</p> <p>Number of CEPEJ tools used by Moroccan courts.</p> <p>Number of meetings between Moroccan participants and similar bodies in Council of Europe member States.</p>
<p>2.2. STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW 2.2.1. The implementation of the 2011 Constitution, including the Constitutional Court, is supported by the Venice Commission; 2.2.2. A common legal area is gradually created between Morocco and the Council of Europe; 2.2.3. Freedom of expression and the independence of the institutional regulator of audiovisual communication and the other bodies concerned are promoted and a pluralistic media landscape is created; 2.2.4. International and European standards on personal data protection are implemented.</p>	<p>Number of invitations to accede to Council of Europe conventions or Council of Europe partial agreements or enlarged agreements.</p> <p>Number of conventions which Morocco has acceded to.</p> <p>Passage of the implementing law on the preliminary ruling of constitutionality and level of conformity of its implementation with European and international standards.</p> <p>Level of conformity of the legislative and institutional framework in the field of strengthening the rule of law with European and international standards.</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming in the legislation and policies developed.</p> <p>Number of democratic governance bodies actually set up.</p> <p>Level of interaction between the various democratic governance bodies.</p> <p>Size of the network of relations between the Constitutional Court and democratic governance bodies with counterparts in Council of Europe member States and the MENA region.</p>

<p>2.3. COMBATING THREATS TO THE RULE OF LAW</p> <p>2.3.1. Efforts to combat trafficking in human beings are strengthened by enforcing the law and building the capacities of all relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>2.3.2. Good governance and the prevention of corruption, money laundering and terrorism are promoted;</p> <p>2.3.3. The human rights approach is promoted in policies on drug abuse and trafficking and addictive behaviours;</p> <p>2.3.4. The implementation by Morocco of European standards on cybercrime and its participation in co-ordinated action in co-operation with European and Southern Mediterranean countries are promoted;</p> <p>2.3.5. The implementation by Morocco of European standards on combating the counterfeiting of medical products is promoted.</p>	<p>Accession of Morocco to the conventions and additional protocols on Cybercrime and on Data Protection, the MEDICRIME Convention and the Convention on the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism and participation in the work of the various related bodies.</p> <p>Level of conformity of the legislative framework and national bodies with Council of Europe standards in terms of countering threats to the rule of law in general.</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming in the legislation, strategies and policies developed.</p> <p>Degree of implementation of the legislative framework.</p> <p>Level of conformity of the national strategies to combat threats to the rule of law with Council of Europe standards.</p> <p>Size of the community of national experts in the various fields of combating threats to the rule of law.</p> <p>Degree of national and international networking in the relevant fields.</p>
<p>Democracy</p> <p>Thematic result: Contribute to strengthening democracy in Morocco by supporting the harmonisation of legislation, institutions and practices with European and international practices and standards.</p>	
<p>Results</p>	<p>Indicators</p>
<p>3.1. STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND PROMOTING INNOVATION</p> <p>3.1.1. The role and capacities of MPs and parliamentary officials are strengthened on the basis of the priorities jointly identified in Resolution 1818 (2011) on Partner for Democracy status;</p> <p>3.1.2. Morocco is supported in implementing the new legislation on advanced regionalisation, local and regional government associations are strengthened and mechanisms to foster citizen participation at local and regional level are developed.</p>	<p>Accession of Morocco to Partner for Local Democracy status.</p> <p>Level of conformity of implementation of the new legislation on advanced regionalisation with European and international standards and good practice in this area.</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming in the legislation and policies developed.</p> <p>Size of the network of relations which MPs and parliamentary officials and local and regional elected representatives maintain with their counterparts in Council of Europe member States.</p>
<p>3.2. PROMOTING PARTICIPATION AND DIVERSITY</p> <p>3.2.1. The participation of civil society and young people is promoted.</p>	<p>Number of spaces for dialogue and exchange within Moroccan civil society, in particular in youth organisations.</p> <p>Degree of national and international networking in the relevant fields.</p>

APPENDIX II: RISK REGISTER OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP WITH MOROCCO 2018-2021

Scenarios	Mitigation strategies
Risks associated with the political context	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political instability. 	<p>Maintain contact at the highest level in order to discuss the political situation in the region and especially in Morocco;</p> <p>Promote constant dialogue with the authorities, parliamentarians and civil society;</p> <p>Make the target groups aware of the importance of implementing European standards;</p> <p>Examine the risk mitigation strategies with international partners (especially the European Union);</p> <p>Monitor the country's situation closely</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties encountered in the implementation of the reforms (and in particular vis-à-vis the delays and postponements of the reforms). 	<p>Support national authorities to ensure the conformity of legislative and regulatory frameworks with European standards;</p> <p>Strengthen the capacity of institutions to apply these standards, raise public awareness of these standards;</p> <p>Promote institutional partners promoting European standards.</p>

Risks associated with the planning and implementation of project/programme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of consensus between international partners with regard to the priorities and scope of programmes; • The mechanisms for co-ordination with national and international partners are not effective enough to prevent overlaps and create synergies between programmes; • The programming of the European Union activities is dependent on the evolution of its relations with the Moroccan authorities; • Gender stereotypes have a negative impact on the implementation of the project. 	<p>Focus on reviewing the legislative and regulatory frameworks and building capacity in this area;</p> <p>Ensure constant dialogue and co-ordination with the Delegation of the European Union in Rabat;</p> <p>Increase the number of joint activities involving international partners with whom projects are already being co-ordinated – in order to convey a stronger joint message, promote greater efficiency and promote reforms;</p> <p>Strengthen Council of Europe Office in Rabat;</p> <p>Careful communication on gender issues, engaging gender experts to check materials and propose a new language.</p>
Operational risks	
<i>Risks associated with communication</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge, among the main national and international partners, the target groups and the population as a whole, of the Council of Europe's contribution to the country; • Confusion between the Council of Europe and the European Union. 	<p>Widen the scope of communication activities in order to provide professional groups, international partners and the general public with information about the Council of Europe's contribution to the country (through the website and the distribution of newsletters);</p> <p>Give each programme its own communication strategy in order to interest the main stakeholders in the Organisation's activities;</p> <p>Apply the visibility rules agreed between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the implementation of joint programmes;</p> <p>Apply the Council of Europe's visibility rules;</p> <p>Increase the dissemination of information and visibility items in Arabic.</p>

<i>Risks associated with human resources</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of training for local staff; Competition with other international organisations to recruit locally. 	<p>Increase training opportunities for local staff;</p> <p>Anticipate recruitment procedures as much as possible.</p>
<i>Risks associated with financial aspects</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of funds to implement the Neighbourhood Partnership. 	<p>Allocate funds to programmes that have added value;</p> <p>Intensify efforts to mobilise resources;</p> <p>Continue to respond to and take account of comments from partners and donors in order to improve design, implementation, results-based monitoring and reporting practices to attract and retain donors.</p>
<i>Risks associated with security and logistics</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The security situation could eventually force the Council of Europe to restrict its operations in certain areas and could, in the future, jeopardize its ability to provide assistance. 	<p>Monitor security risk management measures in co-ordination with other international organisations working in these regions;</p> <p>Implement a security plan for the Rabat Office.</p>

APPENDIX III: FINANCIAL TABLE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP WITH MOROCCO 2018-2021

All amounts in Euros

Sectors	Total budget	Funded EU (with Council of Europe co-funding)[1]	Funded VC	Unfunded
Human rights	3 006 675			
1. Protecting human rights	1 437 500			
2. Promoting human rights and dignity	1 569 175			
Rule of Law	7 149 280			
1. Ensuring justice	2 561 280			
2. Strengthening the rule of law	1 943 500			
3. Countering threats to the rule of law	2 644 500			
Democracy	1 836 550			
1. Strengthening democratic governance and fostering innovation	1 089 050			
2. Promoting participation and diversity	747 500			
TOTAL	11 992 505	2 120 000		9 872 505

[1] Estimates based on ongoing negotiations of the South Programme III (2018-2020, 24 months) as well as funding of the Joint Programmes: CEPEJ - Morocco (2016-2018, 30 months), CyberSouth (2017-2020, 36 months) and GLACY+ (2016-2020, 48 months).



Partially funded by the European Union (according to the estimates of the above-mentioned current negotiations)

APPENDIX IV: SITUATION OF THE ACCESSIONS OF MOROCCO TO THE CONVENTIONS AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. Participation in conventions

Accession		
ETS 062	European Convention on Information on Foreign Law	19/06/2013
ETS 066	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage	19/06/2013
ETS 097	Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Foreign Law	19/06/2013
ETS 104	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	25/04/2001
ETS 120	European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches	17/01/2013
ETS 135	Anti-Doping Convention	16/06/2013
Signature not followed by ratification		
ETS 127	Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters as amended by the 2010 Protocol (CETS No 208)	21/05/2013
ETS 211	Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention)	13/12/2012
Invitations to accede		
ETS 027	European Agreement concerning Programme Exchanges by means of Television Films	428 th CM meeting September 1989
ETS 029	European Convention on Compulsory Insurance against Civil Liability in respect of Motor Vehicles	1188 th meeting 15/01/2014
ETS 034	European Agreement on the Protection of Television Broadcasts and Protocols ETS 54, 81, 133	422 nd CM meeting November-December 1988
ETS 053	European Agreement for the Prevention of Broadcasts transmitted from Stations outside National Territories	422 nd CM meeting November-December 1988
ETS 108	Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data	1160 th meeting 30/01/2013
ETS 160	European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights	1156 th meeting 28/11/2012
ETS 181	Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows	1160 th meeting 30/01/2013
ETS 185	Convention on Cybercrime	1162 nd meeting 13-14 February 2013

ETS 189	Additional Protocol to the Convention on cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems	1162 nd meeting 13-14 February 2013
ETS 192	Convention on Contact concerning Children	1156 th meeting 28/11/2012
ETS 198	Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism	1156 th meeting 28/11/2012
ETS 201	Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	1156 th meeting 28/11/2012
Right to sign		
ETS 215	Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions	Participation in the elaboration of the Convention
ETS 218	Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events	State Party to the Convention ETS No 120 prior to 3 July 2016
Right to accede		
STE 188	Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention	State Party to the Convention ETS No 135

2. Participation in Enlarged Agreements, Enlarged Partial Agreements, Partial Agreements

Title	Status
European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	Member 1/6/2007
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)	Member 1/7/2009
Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)	Member 1/7/2011
Co-operation Group for the Prevention of, Protection Against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters (EUR-OPA)	Member 01/03/1995
European Audiovisual Observatory	Member 13/5/2014
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)	Member 20/4/2010
Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card	Invited to accede 1101 st meeting 8 December 2010
Convention on the elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia	Observer 06/06/1997