

# OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF PROGRAMMES (ODGP)



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Heads of Council of Europe Offices and Programme Offices meet with Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić at the occasion of their bi-annual meeting in November 2019 in Strasbourg.

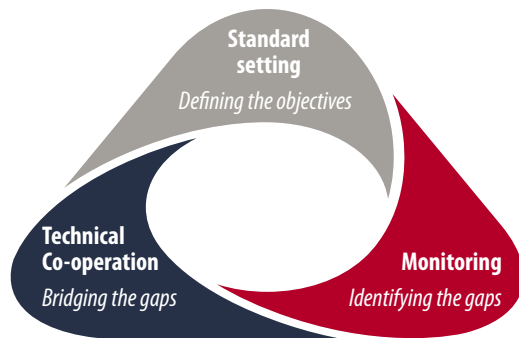
■ The Council of Europe is a leading Organisation providing support for human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The Office of the Directorate General of Programmes (ODGP) designs and co-ordinates these co-operation activities in member states and the neighbourhood. The support is undertaken to help countries reach European standards in these fields, making a significant contribution towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

■ ODGP ensures strategic planning, mobilises extra-budgetary resources and supports the implementation of co-operation activities. ODGP is also responsible for 17 Offices located in member states and the neighbourhood. There are two types of Offices: Council of Europe Offices, which represent the Secretary General and implement projects, and Programme Offices, established solely for the implementation of projects. Offices play an active part in identifying and implementing projects and in raising funds.

## Co-operation programmes: one of the main tasks of the Council of Europe

■ The Council of Europe has three main missions: standard setting (international law), monitoring mechanisms, including binding mechanisms (to ensure that standards are reached and maintained) and co-operation activities (to address shortcomings).

■ Standard setting, monitoring mechanisms and co-operation activities are often referred to as the Council of Europe's dynamic triangle, which is part of the unique added value of the Organisation.



### This triangle links together:

- ▶ Council of Europe standards for human rights, the rule of law and democracy which have been developed by the Organisation since 1949.
- ▶ The conclusions and recommendations of the Council of Europe's monitoring bodies, which highlight the areas where improvements are needed, on the basis of the Organisation's conventions.
- ▶ The co-operation programmes established largely on the basis of the monitoring conclusions in order to assist the beneficiaries in their efforts to apply Council of Europe standards.

The Council of Europe and the European Union officially launched a regional joint programme in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) in November 2019.



## Strategic programming

ODGP plays an important role in setting the priorities of the Council of Europe's work programme and ensures that they are translated into co-ordinated co-operation programmes in member states and beyond. To do this, it draws on the expert knowledge of different Council of Europe services.

ODGP ensures strategic programming mainly in the form of country and regional action plans and co-operation documents. It contributes to the priority-setting for the Organisation's biennial Programme and Budget, oversees the extra-budgetary resources and co-ordinates implementation within the remit of its mandate. It also advises the Secretary General on programme matters, such as how to deal with new challenges arising in member states and the neighbourhood.

Action plans and co-operation documents are adopted by the Council of Europe's governing body, the Committee of Ministers, following close consultations with national authorities.

## Co-operation in Europe

National or regional action plans set out priority actions in the fields of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. They are prepared with national authorities, in consultation with the ministries of foreign affairs and other specialised ministries and stakeholders. In-depth consultations with other national and international players, including donors, are also conducted to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the co-operation on the ground.

The projects, which are defined in co-operation documents, receive funding from various sources, but the majority of the funding is provided by voluntary contributions from member states and other donors, such as international institutions and observer states. An important number of these projects are implemented as joint programmes between the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Monitoring and oversight, including evaluation and audit, as well as risk management and lessons learnt form an important part of the Council of Europe co-operation programme cycle.

## Co-operation in neighbouring countries

The Council of Europe comprises 47 member states and five observer states. The co-operation sector has an even broader reach. This co-operation is built on the Council of Europe policy towards its neighbouring regions, which focuses on areas where the Organisation has a particular added value, through conventions and standards. The support to neighbouring regions aims to facilitate democratic political transition, promote good governance, reinforce the Council of Europe's regional action in combating transborder threats and pursue the creation of a common legal space for Europe and neighbouring regions.

# Action Plans and co-operation documents

- ▶ Action Plan for Armenia 2019-2022
- ▶ Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2018-2021
- ▶ Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021
- ▶ Action Plan for Georgia 2020-2023
- ▶ Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova 2021-2024
- ▶ Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2022
- ▶ Action Plan for Belarus 2019-2021
- ▶ Overview of Co-operation Activities in Kosovo\*
- ▶ Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021
- ▶ Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia 2018-2021
- ▶ Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Kazakhstan 2019-2022

\*All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

## Fundraising and relations with donors

ODGP is responsible for co-ordinating fundraising across the Council of Europe. Extra-budgetary resources complement the Organisation's Ordinary Budget and are used primarily for co-operation programmes (in Europe and the neighbourhood area). Through its proactive resource mobilisation strategy, strong donor relations and the promotion of longer-term framework agreements with donors, the volume and consistency of extra-budgetary resources is increasing. Over the last decade, extra-budgetary receipts have more than doubled to reach €72.9 million in 2020.

Voluntary contributions are sought and accepted for the Council of Europe co-operation priorities set by the Committee of Ministers in the framework of the Organisation's Programme and Budget and specific action plans. The Council of Europe accepts voluntary contributions from member states, observer states, non-member states, the European Union, international organisations and foundations, the private sector and individuals who fully share the goals and values of the Organisation.

## Providing support for the Organisation's co-operation activities

ODGP ensures the management of these extra-budgetary financial resources, the co-ordination of project implementation in the field, as well as reporting commitments to donors.

ODGP also provides a number of other transversal functions, such as leading the development project management tools. This includes the Council of Europe's specific Project Management Methodology for the co-operation sector (PMM), which supports the implementation of a human rights approach, including gender mainstreaming, throughout co-operation programmes.

## Outreach and impact (January 2021)

- ▶ Council of Europe co-operation currently supports 38 countries and territories.
- ▶ The co-operation programmes include more than 5 000 different activities.
- ▶ Contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular to:
  - SDG-16 “Peace, justice and strong institutions”
  - SDG-5 “Gender equality”
  - SDG-8 “Decent work and economic growth”
  - SDG-3 “Good health and well-being”
  - SDG-4 “Quality education” and
  - SDG-11 “Sustainable cities and communities”
- ▶ 400 staff in field offices in addition to headquarters.
- ▶ The total budget of on-going co-operation is in excess of €200 million.

### Close partnership with the European Union

■ The European Union (EU) is the main political partner of the Council of Europe. A very close partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union has been built up over more than two decades and is reflected politically and financially in joint programmes based on common values and goals which advance democratic governance, human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe and beyond.

■ This partnership now includes large-scale co-operation frameworks, which are comprehensive, designed geographically and multi-annual programmes:

- ▶ the Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022 (Horizontal Facility) in the EU Enlargement Region,
- ▶ the Partnership for Good Governance 2019-2021 (PGG) in Eastern Partnership countries,
- ▶ the Regional Support to Reinforce Human rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean 2020-2022 (South Programme IV) in the Southern Neighbourhood and,
- ▶ the Central Asia Rule of Law Programme 2020-2023 in Central Asia.

■ An agreement between the EU DG REFORM and the Council of Europe is the basis for action tailored to the needs of EU member states, to support structural reforms related to the rule of law, human rights protection and efficient democratic governance.

### External presence

■ ODGP co-ordinates administrative, financial, logistical and human resources, and ensures the financial management of programmes implemented by the Council of Europe Offices and Programme Offices.

■ There are offices in: Ankara, Baku, Belgrade, Bucharest, Chisinau, Kyiv, Moscow, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tbilisi, Tirana, Venice and Yerevan, as well as Rabat, Tunis and Pristina.

■ In addition, the Council of Europe has Liaison Offices in Brussels, Geneva, Vienna and Warsaw for contacts with international institutions and organisations.

## CONTACTS

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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