

RESULTS FACTSHEET

Partnership for Good Governance in the Republic of Moldova

March 2023

What is the Partnership for Good Governance?

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

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

This factsheet presents examples of results achieved so far under the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG). The Programme has three successive phase PGG I (2015-2018), PGG II (2019-2022) and PGG III (2023-2027), which started in March 2023. In addition to the country specific projects mentioned below, Republic of Moldova benefits from regional interventions.

Project: Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova (Jan 2020-Feb 2023)

The PGG II contributed to improving the functioning of the justice system through strengthened efficiency and quality of courts and a better system of enforcement of court decisions in the Republic of Moldova.

The following results have been achieved with the support of the PGG II:

- National courts demonstrated high efficiency rates despite the negative impact of external factors such as the Covid-19 crisis. Between 2020 and 2022, the disposition times (DT) and clearance rates (CR) in Moldovan courts remained high, only a few of them displaying a general DT as high as 6 months. A concept which refers to monitoring 30 key performance indicators (KPIs) and provided a basis for their streamlined use in court management, was approved by the Superior Council of Magistrates and is under implementation through an IT platform with a primary objective to increase the efficiency courts and improve the quality of the services provided to court users.
- The Strategy for Ensuring the Independence and Integrity of the Justice Sector 2022-2025 and its Action Plan included the references to the European Commission for the efficiency of justice (CEPEJ) tools for a continuous modernisation of the judiciary. The monitoring mechanism of the Strategy’s implementation progress and impact will apply CEPEJ-recommended key performance indicators

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- The commentaries on the Enforcement Code were developed and broadly disseminated to ensure advanced and uniform practices of enforcement of court decisions in civil and administrative matters. The proposed amendments to the Enforcement Code facilitated the introduction of electronic auctioning of goods in the enforcement procedure.
- National partners accountability was reinforced through enhanced evaluation and reporting modalities on the results. The quality of internal procedures on the evaluation of performance and taking management decisions within courts, at the Supreme Council of Magistracy, and the Agency for Court Administration improved. The knowledge of more than 50 representatives of judiciary were raised on the use of CEPEJ tools for the work with judicial statistics. The JUSTAT AIS (judicial statistic and automated Information System) was developed and implemented as a prototype, to publish and analyse comprehensive judicial statistics. It includes 3 dashboards with 15 Key Performance indicators useful for evaluating the results of the activity of the courts. These deliverables will help the authorities to improve the work with judicial statistics and reporting, at the same time increasing the transparency of judiciary and public trust.
- The capacity of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) was strengthened by updating the training curriculum on court management, including the development of a new training course for distance learning. A total of 300 judges and key court staff improved their knowledge and skills in various aspects of court management and on judicial communication, and relations with the public and media.
- The enforcement of court decisions was strengthened through a close co-operation with the National Union of Enforcement Agents (NUEA) and the Ministry of Justice to improve the professional management. The implementation of a consistent methodology for the evaluation of the enforcement agents was promoted to improve the efficiency and the quality of their services. Advice was provided on the use of key performance indicators, as well as a comparative analysis and recommendations for further development of two information systems – alternative registers of enforcement procedures developed by the NUEA and the Ministry of Justice. Further to national authorities' decision to integrate the register developed by the NUEA with the governmental platforms, the project provided hardware equipment and software to strengthen the IT infrastructure of the enforcement system and ensure a sustainable functioning of its Register.
- Following the provision by the project of the commentary to the Enforcement Code, and of the Methodological guide on improving the enforcement of judgements concerning the determination of the residence and access to the applicants' children, more than 180 enforcement agents and 85 judges were trained on key aspects of enforcement procedures and examination of related files.
- Judicial communication with the public and the mass media evolved with a view to ensuring more transparency of the judiciary, raise the awareness on the objectives and results of courts' activity. The regulatory framework for judicial communication was assessed by international and national experts and the skills for public communication of court managers and specialised personnel were improved by providing information on the European good practices.
- A comprehensive evaluation report was published, followed by a large communication initiative among public on the access to justice for all and without discrimination, highlighting the rights of people from vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, minors, and refugees) in the process of justice delivery. Video, audio spots, and other awareness raising materials have been published on various Internet platforms and national channels, with an outreach estimated at 1.000.000 persons. Publication of

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annual reports on the results of the enforcement system and commissioning of a new webpage supported by the project contributed to improved transparency and communication of the NUEA.

A background information sheet on this project is available on the PGG website.

Project: Strengthening the capacities of the justice sector actors to deliver justice in line with European standards to fight discrimination in the Republic of Moldova (May 2019-Feb 2023)

The PGG II supported justice sector actors to ensure justice delivered at the national level in the field of anti-discrimination in line with European standards.

- The Ministry of Justice was supported with expertise on the draft amendments to the non-discrimination legislation (Laws No. 121 and No. 298), focusing on improvements, harmonisation with European standards and building on the recommendations provided under the PGG project. The amendments to the Law on ensuring equality and the Law on the activity of the Equality Council entered into force.
- The Equality Council drafted and approved its first monitoring strategy, following the recommendations of the PGG II reflected in the report on the assessment of the monitoring mechanism and instruments of the Equality Council to create a more effective monitoring system. The staff of the Equality Council also enhanced their skills related to writing decisions and started to rethink the process of reasoning of the decisions, thanks to the methodological workshop organised by the PGG II.
- 47 trainers of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and 450 legal professionals improved their skills and knowledge on various aspects of discrimination and are expected to start using them in their work, leading to enhanced access to justice for vulnerable groups. In addition, a new pool of 11 certified tutors was created with the HELP team of the Council of Europe.
- The gender analysis report produced by the PGG II provided recommendations on the existing gender challenges in the activity of the Equality Council, National Institute of Justice and Lawyer's Training Centre.
- Awareness of non-discrimination standards and enhancement of relations between the national authorities and NGOs in the region was raised.
- The visibility of the project and the European Union/Council of Europe co-operation in the country were enhanced through the production of two videos highlighting the work of the Equality Council and showing testimonials from its beneficiaries. Both videos were published on the webpage of the Council of Europe Office in Chisinau with 6 070 visitors since June 2019. The video with storytelling was boosted on Facebook and reached around 27 000 people aged between 13 and 65. A video documentary was created showing the story of a woman discriminated on ground of sex and gender and was published on the office webpage.


More information:

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A background information sheet on this project is available on the PGG website.

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