CAPACITY BUILDING AND CO-OPERATION PROJECTS: MAKING EUROPEAN STANDARDS ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN A REALITY

Technical co-operation programmes/projects implemented in 2016-2019: analysis and lessons learned

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AIMS AND METHODOLOGY OF THE REPORT

AIM

**Analysis of** the most recent concluded, on-going and planned co-operation **programmes and projects implemented** by the Co-operation and Capacity Building Unit of the **Gender Equality Division**

TIMEFRAME

2016 - 2019

METHODOLOGY

- Council of Europe **documents/reports**
- **Interviews** with Council of Europe staff, selected stakeholders and civil society organisations
OVERVIEW

15 programmes/projects

Total budget around €5.5M

17 Council of Europe member states + Belarus and Kosovo*

*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.
ACHIEVEMENTS

17 Council of Europe member states + Belarus and Kosovo*

More than 50 partners/stakeholders

Almost 1,200 professionals reached

Consistent quantity of material produced

All the steps that are taken by the Council of Europe are really very effective in this field (Anahit Manasyan, Academy of Justice of Armenia)
THEMATIC AREAS

Promoting the Istanbul Convention standards and path towards ratification

Improving legal, regulatory and policy frameworks

Building and strengthening institutional and operational capacities

Guaranteeing women’s access to justice
PROMOTING THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION STANDARDS AND PATH TOWARDS RATIFICATION

- Avoid misconceptions on the Istanbul Convention
- National authorities/stakeholders/participants are trained
- Visibility of Council of Europe projects

Georgia (19/06/2018)
IMPROVING LEGAL, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Adoption and/or revision of legislation on violence against women and domestic violence
- Definition of guidance for police and/or prosecutors to effectively protect women victims of violence
- Institutional mechanisms and multi-agency co-ordinated bodies/system strengthened
- Monitoring system implemented

Strasbourg (08/11/2018)
The Academy of Justice is the sole institution in Armenia that provides mandatory courses for judges, prosecutors and investigators. We developed a face-to-face course. It was a very important process, because we did not develop just the topic, but also the training material, which was translated into Armenian. We also organised a ToT (training of trainers) session and we included the training course in the annual curricula of the Academy of Justice (Anahit Manasyan, Academy of Justice of Armenia)
GUARANTEEING WOMEN’S ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- Educational programme for judges and prosecutors
- Translation of indicators for measuring access to justice
- Gender mainstreaming the curricula of law schools
- Workshops for legal counsellors and CSOs on legal aid

In co-operation with the regional project of the Council of Europe, a training course, programme and material were prepared on the topic of strengthening women’s access to justice and combating domestic violence and violence against women. The fact that six countries were involved in this project - representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine - amplifies its value. Experts from prosecution service and judicial corps worked jointly on this project (Office of the Prosecutor-General of Georgia)
The Istanbul Convention is a milestone convention as regards combating violence against women and domestic violence. It provides some legal guarantees for victims, it provides some regulation for the state in order to be able to provide good services and be able to protect human rights in this regard. It is very important that we ratify the Convention and become a full member of the family that has the same views with regard to the fight against domestic violence (Lusine Sargsyan, the Human Rights Defender’s Office in Armenia)
It is very important to give prosecutors and investigators the opportunity to share experiences and successful practices of foreign countries, which can be achieved by conducting study visits. Sharing experiences on the spot makes received knowledge more robust, as well as it increases motivation of the participants (Office of the Prosecutor-General of Georgia).
I think projects like this one are very necessary because **the main partners are those who can change the policies and can influence changes in life.** That is why I think it is useful to have meetings between different partners/practitioners, to exchange practices. Also, **civil society organisations should be involved**, especially those that work with women victims (Olena Sibilyova, National Bar Association, Ukraine)
The Council of Europe prepared a publication on the gap analysis on the criminal code in Armenia. That was excellent. It was very well done. The gaps according to the Istanbul Convention were mentioned. That is very helpful. Based on that we can then propose amendments on legislation (Maro Matosian, Women’s Support Centre, Armenia)

Informed debated on GBV and DV

Legislation may improve

Armenia (13/12/2018)
As a result, the prosecutors’ expertise and professionalism was enhanced. In their everyday professional activity the prosecutors actively apply standards set out by the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the Court. Furthermore, figures on the detection of such crimes, launching prosecution and timely and effective response have increased.

(Office of the Prosecutor-General of Georgia)
LESSONS LEARNED – SOME CHALLENGES

- Short timeline of projects and the high number of activities within one project
- The assessment of impact is not budgeted
- Not enough time dedicated to monitoring and evaluation
- High number of one-off training seminars
- Low number of comprehensive awareness-raising events
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue the on-going co-operation
- Strengthen the participatory methodology
- Increase awareness-raising efforts
- Increase complementarity of projects
- Provide for greater flexibility
- Enhance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Increase peer-to-peer exchanges and workshops
- Increase the budgets

Women are the end beneficiaries of the programmes/projects