

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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23 May 2019

Council of Europe - Strasbourg

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



Total budget around
€5,5M

15
programmes/projects

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.

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**



Armenia (13/12/2018)

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



Strasbourg (08/11/2018)

- 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

BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES

- **HELP course** adapted and translated into **13 languages**
- **Tailor-made training** for almost 300 professionals



*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

Guaranteeing Equal Access
of Women to Justice



*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)*

LESSONS LEARNED – ADDED VALUE

*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)*

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONVENTION ON
PREVENTING AND
COMBATING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

Istanbul
Convention

Istanbul
Convention
as the
added value

LESSONS LEARNED – STRENGTHS

*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)*



Sharing experiences, local and international promising practices

EEA and Norway Grants

LESSONS LEARNED – STRENGTHS

*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)*

Collaboration with national authorities, stakeholders, CSOs and IOs



Ukraine (29/11/2018)

LESSONS LEARNED – AIMED RESULTS

Informed
debated on
GBV and DV



*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)*

Legislation
may improve

Armenia (13/12/2018)

LESSONS LEARNED – AIMED RESULTS

Professional expertise will increase

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)



Georgia (19/06/2018)

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**