

# Central Asia Rule of Law Programme 2020-2024

Common legal space  
Enhancing human rights protection  
Fighting economic crime  
Institutional support

Co-funded  
by the European Union



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Co-funded and implemented  
by the Council of Europe



**T**he Central Asia Rule of Law Programme (2020-2024\*) is a co-operation initiative based on the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union, based on shared values and common goals. The Programme is open to all Central Asian countries wishing to benefit from the Council of Europe expertise and meeting the conditions for co-operation in line with the policy of the Council of Europe towards neighbouring regions. The Programme is also in line with the European Union Strategy for Central Asia. The Programme aims to improve the lives of citizens by reinforcing human rights, rule of law and democracy in accordance with European and other international standards, based on a demand-driven approach.

■ The Programme consists of three main Actions:

- ▶ 1. Facilitating the creation of a common legal space between Europe and Central Asia and enhancing human rights protection;
- ▶ 2. Promoting transparency and action against economic crime;
- ▶ 3. Promoting efficient functioning of state institutions and public administration.

\* The Programme was extended until July 2024.

## WHAT DO WE AIM TO ACHIEVE?

- ▶ Promote and expand a regional common legal space between Europe and Central Asia and enhance human rights protection;
- ▶ Enhance human rights protection, through the promotion of HELP in Central Asia;
- ▶ Enhance business integrity and compliance in the private sector, reducing administrative barriers and ensuring the protection of rights of entrepreneurs in the countries of Central Asia;
- ▶ Enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and asset recovery systems in the countries of Central Asia;
- ▶ Enable national counterparts to reform the national legal systems, state institutions and the judiciary.

### The Central Asia Rule of Law Programme at a glance

The Programme is implemented by the Council of Europe with the overall budget of €8 889 000 (90% is funded by the European Union, 10% by the Council of Europe);

The geographical scope of the Programme covers Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, with an important regional dimension;

The guidance of the Central Asia Rule of Law Programme implementation is ensured by regional and bilateral steering committees composed of representatives of national authorities, the European Union and the Council of Europe.

## HOW DO WE WORK?

- ▶ Raising awareness of key Council of Europe Conventions and promoting a sound understanding of the Convention system and the effective implementation of ratified Conventions and other international standards;
- ▶ Fostering regional dialogue and promoting regional mechanisms for networking and sharing best practices in Central Asia;
- ▶ Providing expertise to improve legal and policy frameworks and build institutional capacities in the countries concerned;
- ▶ Offering expertise, capacity-building and other forms of technical assistance to reforms implemented by Central Asian countries.



## A UNIQUE APPROACH

### Regional dimension

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Through a good balance between country specific and regional interventions, the Programme allows to address common regional challenges more effectively in a co-ordinated manner while, at the same time, responding effectively to the specific needs of the countries concerned.

### Demand-driven

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The Programme is based on a demand-driven approach, allowing for flexibility upon the requests of the respective national partners. Consultations are regularly conducted with relevant authorities so as to adjust the Programme's interventions and ensure that the support is provided in the areas where it is most needed and where it will yield better results.

### Ownership

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The ownership of the Programme and its results is ensured through an active and continuous involvement of the partners in the design and implementation of the Programme. Among others, the local ownership contributes to the sustainability of results and the firm commitment to the Programme on the part of the partners.

### Cross-cutting issues

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All interventions under the Programme are conducted with a human rights approach, incorporating principles of gender equality – in line with the Gender Equality Strategy of the Council of Europe and based on the Gender mainstreaming toolkit for co-operation projects – as well as non-discrimination, equality and inclusive participation, focusing on vulnerable groups and minorities. Co-operation with civil society organisations is ensured in accordance with the Council of Europe's Guidelines on Civil Society Organisations' participation in Council of Europe co-operation activities.

## Enhanced Integration for Prosperity in Central Asia

## Усиление интеграции во имя процветания в Центральной Азии

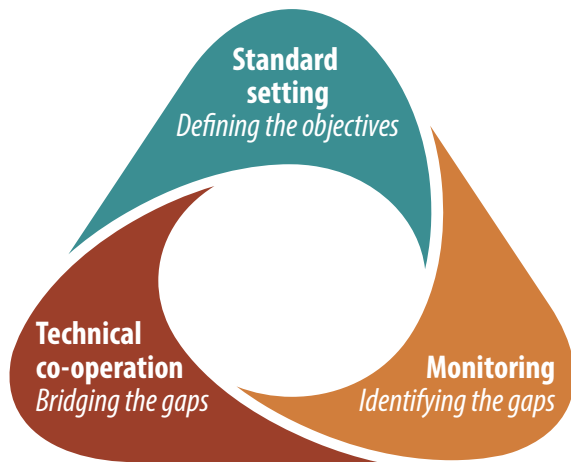
27-29 November 2019  
Rixos Hotel  
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

27-29 ноября 2019  
Отель Rixos  
ур-Султан, Казахстан



### The Council of Europe strategic triangle

■ Council of Europe technical assistance projects form an integral part of the unique strategic triangle 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. In the case of countries of Central Asia, as non-member States of the Council of Europe, the monitoring mechanisms will not apply until these countries become a contracting party to the relevant conventions. Actions are developed and implemented in areas of the Council of Europe expertise and added value where the Organisation has all necessary expertise provided by the pool of recognised international experts.



## CONTACT

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## WEBSITE

<http://central-asia-eu.coe.int/>

The member states of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 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.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

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