

 Start of the Project: **1 January 2023**
 Duration of the Project: **24 months**

 Budget: **900 000 EUR**
 Funding: **The Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2023-2026**

 Main partners: **National Assembly; Ministry of Health; Human Rights Defender's Office; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; National Institute of Health; Office of the Representative on International Legal Matters**

 Project objective: **Project aimed at contributing to harmonise national legislation and practices in the field of biomedicine and healthcare with the European human rights' and ethical standards in the field of biomedicine preparing Armenia to join the Council of Europe Oviedo Convention.**

The Achievements of the Project

Armenia signed the Council of Europe Oviedo Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine on 16 May 2024.

Harmonisation of national legislation with the European standards enshrined in the Oviedo Convention.



Contribution to the Development and Improvement of the Legal Framework

- Draft laws on "Comprehensive health insurance system" and "Individual licensing of healthcare professionals"
- By-laws, including draft of the Government decree on "Professional compliance and qualification requirements of the General Director of the Comprehensive Health Insurance Fund and qualification procedure for candidates for the General Director" and Draft of the Government decree on "The form of the request for the release of medical equipment, the procedure for its completion and release" developed for the RA Law on "Comprehensive health insurance system"
- Recommendations on the law on "Reproductive health rights"
- Order N 262-N of the Minister from 19 August 2024 on approving the procedure of "The implementation of providing information to the population about the meaning of organ and tissue transplantation, donation prerequisites and other issues related to transplantation, as well as the right to disagree to act as a cadaver donor, the right of cadaver donor family members to give consent"
- By-laws for the law on "Medical Care and Assistance to the Population"

Contribution to the implementation of National Human Rights Action Plan 2023-2025

- Manual on Medical Secret and Confidentiality has been developed in line with the European Standards in accordance with the 5.5 Activity of the Action Plan.
- Report on the European best practices with regard to regulation of non-consensual treatment with a specific focus on the right to access to justice, as well as package of draft laws on "Amendments and Additions to the Civil Procedure Code"; on "Additions to the Law on Mental Health Services and Servicing"; on "Amendments and Additions to the Law on State Duty" have been developed in accordance with the 3.12 Activity of the Action Plan.

Contribution to the execution of the judgments of European Court of Human Rights

■ An extensive report on the "Analysis of domestic legal framework and practice on the restriction of legal capacity of persons with mental health issues: Execution of the European Court of Human Rights judgement *Nikolyan vs. Armenia*" was published, providing recommendations for national authorities on proper assessment of legal capacity, establishment of tailor-made restrictions of legal capacity, review of restrictions of legal capacity, improvement of guardianship and trusteeship system in Armenia, and contributing to execution of the European Court of Human Rights judgment "Nikolyan vs. Armenia".

Supporting to the Establishment and Functioning of the Ethics Committee for Healthcare Professionals

- Ethics committee successfully examines the cases of possible violations of code of conduct of healthcare professionals.
- Regulatory and operational framework of the Ethics Committee has been developed and approved by the Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
- Members of the Ethics Committee enhanced their capacity and exchanged the international best practices of France, Sweden, Malta and Italy.
- Members of the Ethics Committee took part in the 31st, 32nd and 33rd NEC Forums discussing ethical issues and sharing best practices of other European countries. Website of the Ethics Committee for healthcare professionals has been developed (www.mec.am)

Development of the Council of Europe new HELP Course

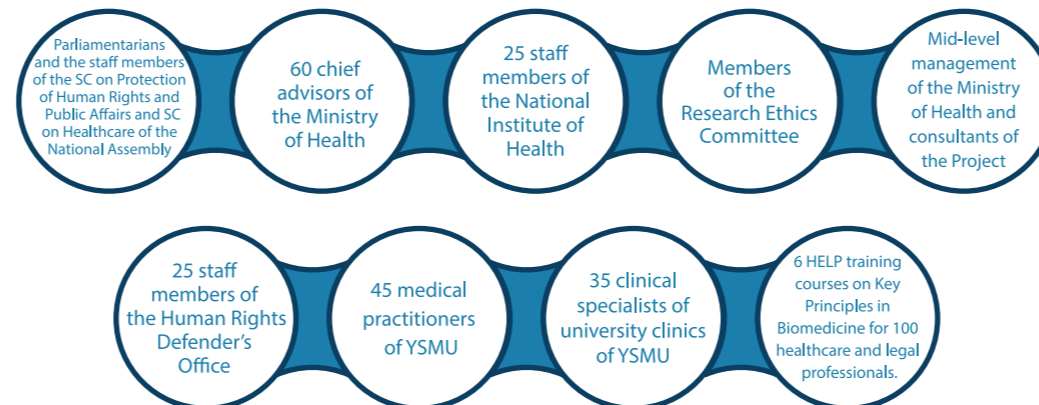

"HUMAN RIGHTS IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES" NEW HELP COURSE WAS DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL BE USEFUL NOT ONLY FOR ARMENIAN CONTEXT, BUT FOR OTHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER-STATES AS WELL.

Capacity-Building Activities for Healthcare and Legal Professionals

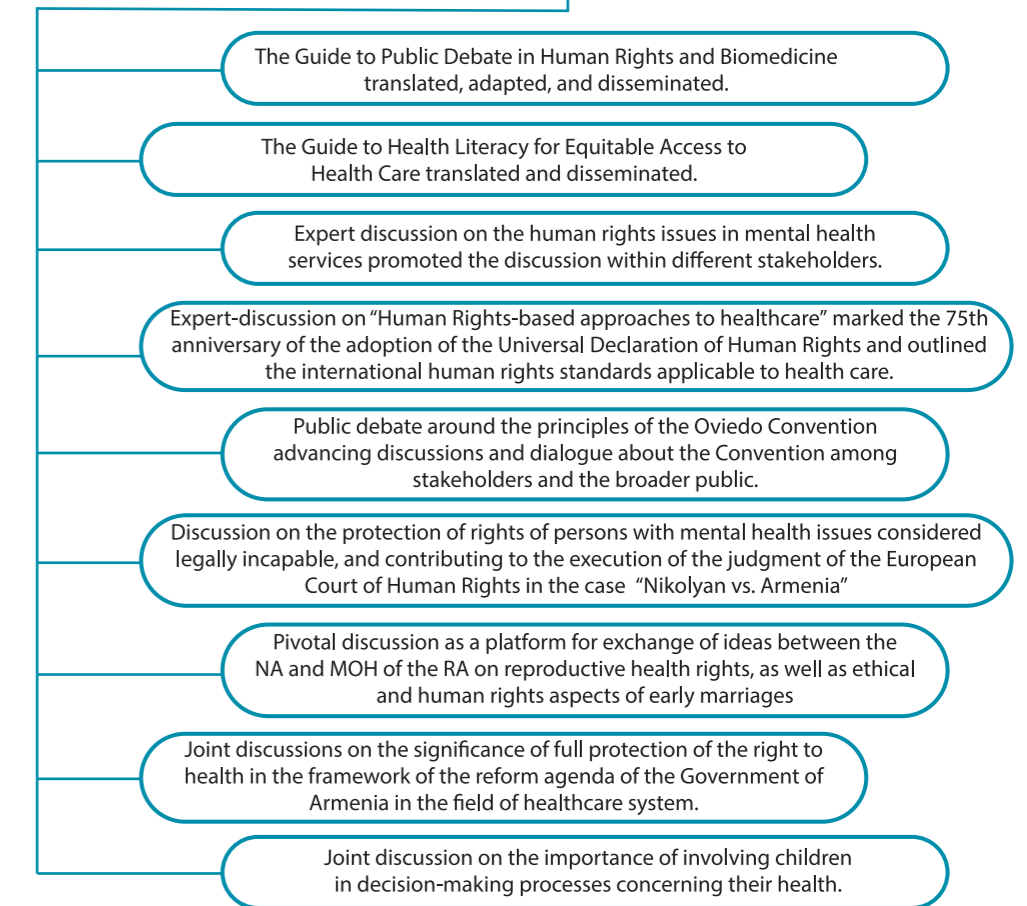
Improved capacities on the Oviedo Convention and its Additional Protocols;

Strengthened capacities and skills on public debate and health issues;

Gained knowledge on ethical rules for healthcare professionals and functioning of the Ethics Committee for healthcare professionals.



Public Dialogue on Health Issues Increased

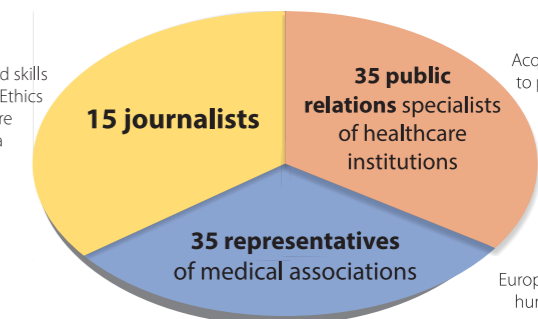


Study visits organised



Activities with journalists and CSOs

Acquired knowledge and skills to promote the work of Ethics Committee for healthcare professionals in Armenia



Acquired knowledge and skills to promote the work of Ethics Committee for healthcare professionals in Armenia.

Gained knowledge on the European standards in the field of human rights and biomedicine.

Support to the Integration of Refugee Healthcare Professionals into Armenian Healthcare System*

March-July 2024

July-November 2024

Around 150 refugee healthcare professionals
Provision of trainings for strengthening knowledge and capacities on key human rights principles in healthcare and biomedicine.

Around 150 refugee healthcare professionals
Provision of essential mental health support and fostering overall recovery programmes.

* These activities are part of the Council of Europe comprehensive response package to the refugee influx in Armenia and aimed to support the Government of Armenia in its efforts to integrate healthcare professionals from Karabakh region into the healthcare system in Armenia.

Audio-visuals developed



The Oviedo Convention: Protecting Human Rights in the Field of Biomedicine ([video](#))



National Authorities and the Council of Europe Officials Share Their Views on the Importance of the Ratification of the Oviedo Convention by Armenia ([video](#))

Publication and Resources

- Oviedo Convention and its Additional Protocols, 400 copies
- Ethical Rules for Healthcare Professionals (in Armenian), 200 copies
- Guide to Health Literacy (in Armenian), 200 copies
- Flyer on Project Overview (in Armenian), 200 copies
- Brochure on Ethics Committee for Healthcare Professionals (in Armenian), 200 copies
- Guide to Public Debate on Human Rights and Biomedicine (in Armenian), 200 copies
- Report on the Execution of the European Court of Human Rights Judgement Nikolyan vs Armenia (in Armenian and English), 30 and 5 copies
- Guide to Children's Participation in Decisions about their Health (in Armenian), 35 copies
- Report on the Application of AI in Healthcare and its Impact on the "Patient-Doctor" Relationship (in Armenian), 50 copies
- Report on Human Rights Based Approaches in Healthcare (in Armenian), 100 copies

Results in numbers



32 training sessions/92 days/



8 expert discussions, including 2 high-level



6 HELP training sessions on Key Ethical Principles on Bioethics for around 100 participants with 85 successful completion.



2 reports developed



Around 10 Council of Europe documents and reports translated



5 Study visits

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BIOMEDICINE II



Contact information:

Council of Europe Human Rights and Biomedicine Division website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bioethics/home>

Council of Europe Office in Yerevan website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/yerevan>

ENG

www.coe.int

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.