

Partnership for Good Governance



NOTE FOR THE PRESS

Regional project: Strengthening access to justice for women victims of violence

Who will benefit?

- ▶ Women victims of violence
- ▶ Legal professionals, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers and civil society advocates dealing with cases of violence against women

Why is the project being run?

- ▶ To increase awareness of the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) among national authorities, justice sector professionals and civil society in the Eastern Partnership countries, in particular as regards access to justice for women victims of violence.
- ▶ To enhance dialogue on the standards of the Istanbul Convention among national authorities in the Eastern Partnership countries, particularly in regard to access to justice for women victims of violence
- ▶ To support national authorities in their efforts towards the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

How will the project work?

- ▶ Through bilateral work with national authorities and the regional exchange
- ▶ Development and promotion of a new online e-learning course on women's access to justice through the Council of Europe Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals Programme, targeting judges, prosecutors, lawyers and civil society advocates

What are the expected results?

- ▶ National laws on preventing and combating domestic violence are brought in line with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and new laws are adopted as appropriate
- ▶ National authorities take steps forward towards the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention
- ▶ Improved knowledge and skills of professionals involved at the different stages of the justice chain (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) on gender equality, women's rights and non-discrimination

<http://partnership-governance-eu.coe.int>

How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget is 248, 321 Euros
- ▶ 90% is funded by the European Union and 10% by the Council of Europe. The programme is implemented by the Council of Europe

How long is the project?

- ▶ The programme will run from 1 February 2018 to 30 November 2018

Who is responsible for the project?

- ▶ Co-operation Unit of the Equality Division, Directorate General II of Democracy, Council of Europe

How do we get more information?

- ▶ Antonina VYKHREST, Programme Supervisor: antonina.vykhrest@coe.int

In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed that targeted co-operation activities with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus – the EU's Eastern Partnership countries – would be implemented under the Partnership for Good Governance.

These co-operation activities will strengthen the capacity of Eastern Partnership countries, which are member States of the Council of Europe, with the exception of Belarus, to implement domestic reforms to bring them closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.