

## RESULTS FACTSHEET

### Partnership for Good Governance regional projects January 2022

#### Key figures

- 2 successive phases since 2015
- 4 regional projects with a budget of EUR 4,299,000

#### What is the Partnership for Good Governance?

Through the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) the European Union and the Council of Europe are working together to strengthen governance in the Eastern Partnership region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus<sup>1</sup>).

The PGG provides tailormade support to Eastern Partnership countries to bring legislation and practice closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy.

#### Project: Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime (Jan 2019-Feb 2023)

The PGG II provides support to strengthen capacities of Eastern Partnership countries to **fight and prevent economic crime**, by focussing on shared challenges and advancing the understanding and adoption of new tools and mechanisms to effectively tackle corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF).

#### Strengthened mechanisms for regional co-operation in preventing corruption and ML/TF

- **A toolkit** was developed to enhance existing Codes of Conduct for the Members of Parliament.
- **20 practitioners and policymakers increased their knowledge of good practices** in identifying and tracing terrorist and proliferation funding, implementing effective national co-ordination mechanisms, and enforcing sanctions for terrorism and proliferation financing during a regional workshop.
- **Specialised corruption prevention and oversight bodies are better equipped** with the necessary tools and knowledge as regards the **verification and analysis of declarations of assets and interests**.
- **71 practitioners from oversight and monitoring bodies** in the Eastern Partnership region **improved their knowledge of efficient systems for the verification of declarations using red flags**.
- **53 beneficial ownership (BO) practitioners** from the Eastern Partnership region **deepened their understanding of EU standards, regulatory frameworks and best practices of establishing and managing BO registers**.

<sup>1</sup> The co-operation activities with Belarus are on hold until further notice given the political situation in the country; any proposed activities with participation of Belarus are subject to DG NEARs' approval.

- **The efforts of Azerbaijan to identify the necessary legal and institutional mechanisms to advance BO transparency, and of Ukraine to design a verification system for BO transparency were enhanced**, providing a clear view of the steps to be taken and alternative approaches to establishing and managing BO registries.

***Enhanced cross-border co-operation and regulatory framework on confiscation of proceeds from crime***

- The review of the regulatory and institutional framework for seizure, confiscation, management and disposal of proceeds from crime was promoted through **a dedicated seminar for 79 national stakeholders** in the Eastern Partnership region **on the benefits and challenges of non-conviction-based confiscation (NCBC)**, and the compatibility of such confiscation system with the European Convention of Human Rights. Seminar participants **agreed on the importance of establishing a suitable NCBC regimes in each jurisdiction** that allows for effective enforcement of NCBC decisions, as well as on the need to set up a proper framework for NCBC co-operation amongst countries.
- The PGG II contributed to the **advancement of the 2018 PACE resolution** inviting all member States of the Council of Europe to provide for non-conviction-based confiscation or similar measures in their national laws, while establishing appropriate safeguards, and adopting successfully tested good practices.
- The Eastern Partnership countries increased their capacities in the **asset recovery sector through international co-operation and promotion of good practice** in this area. Investigators and prosecutors improved their expertise in international co-operation to ensure the legal responsibility of corporations and the management of corporate assets in corruption and money laundering cases.

[A background information sheet on this project is available on the website.](#)

**Project: Strengthening the profession of lawyer in line with European standards (Jul 2019-Feb 2023)**

*The PGG II supports Bar Associations to strengthen co-operation amongst them in order to improve their functioning and advance independence to ensure **better legal protection of citizens**.*

***Independence and professionalism of lawyers reinforced through interaction mechanisms for co-operation among bar associations***

- **The regional co-operation** among bar associations, free legal aid institutions and professional lawyers' associations in five<sup>2</sup> Eastern Partnership countries **was strengthened to improve their internal functioning and contribute to the independence of the legal profession**.
- **Partners** in Eastern Partnership countries **are better aware of the functioning of the legal profession in other countries** and the need for further improvements in line with European standards following the

<sup>2</sup> Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

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comparative reviews<sup>3</sup> and regional exchanges of the PGG II. The proposed improvements in the Eastern Partnership countries are supported through the development of country-specific action plans.

- **The bar associations** in the five<sup>4</sup> Eastern Partnership countries benefit from an **online regional co-operation network**, which provides a platform for online interactions, exchange and discussions of relevant documents, and a database of the lawyers and law firms from participating countries who are available for transnational co-operation.
- **The regional networks of young lawyers and women lawyers were initiated**, starting with the concept of the Regional Network of Young Lawyers Association for which a concept paper and road map on supporting youth in the legal profession was prepared and shared with partners (and same activities for regional network of women lawyers are underway)

[A background information sheet on this project is available on the website.](#)

## **Project: Strengthening the access to justice through non-judiciary redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech (Feb 2019-Feb 2023)**

*The PGG II seeks to **improve access to justice for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech** through non-judicial redress mechanisms; to strengthen the capacity and co-operation of Equality bodies/Ombudsperson's Offices with NGOs and other institutions; and to raise awareness towards non-discrimination.*

### **Legislative/policy framework improved**

- **Amendments to the legislation on hate speech were prepared and support was delivered to align the Draft Law on National Minorities** with European standards in Armenia; amendments **to the Draft Law on Equality** in the Republic of Moldova were developed and expert advice on strengthening the **Mandate of the Ombudsperson on Antidiscrimination** in Azerbaijan was provided.

### **Institutional frameworks/capacities strengthened**

- In Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine, the PGG undertook **systemic analysis of national responses to hate speech, in order to identify the specificities of the spread of hate speech**, the current responses and how to develop a better governance and policies on this topic. In Georgia, the final report, launched in November 2021, constitutes a roadmap towards a comprehensive strategy against hate speech.
- Relevant institutions in Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine are **equipped with the methodology** to monitor discrimination, hate speech, and hate crime **through disaggregated data collection mechanisms**, which was one of the recommendations of ECRI.
- **Multi-stakeholder platforms on combating hate speech** were established in Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

<sup>3</sup> Comparative review on the i) procedural and institutional setup of the functioning of lawyers, ii) the internal structure of the bar associations, iii) procedural safeguards of lawyers and protection against undue interferences and iv) the systems of legal representation, including free legal aid and the monopoly of advocates

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- Ombudsperson's Offices, equality bodies, law enforcement, other relevant public institutions, and NGOs across the region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine) are more **competent in tackling hate speech, hate crime and discrimination** supported by the availability of HELP courses in Armenian, Azerbaijani, Romanian, and Ukrainian.
- Thanks to the **intense and fruitful co-operation of the PGG with the law enforcement in the Republic of Moldova**, 16 officers from the General Police Inspectorate gained competences and tools to deliver cascade trainings on equality and non-discrimination. Further 25 Police officers, prosecutors and judges enhanced their professional skills in combatting hate crimes through an inter-professional training, with another 24 judges and prosecutors completing the HELP course on combating hate speech.

### **Public awareness raised**

- **Engagement of the civil society was reinforced** through 11 grants offered to NGOs from Armenia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. In Azerbaijan, civil society organisations were encouraged by the PGG II to form an Equality Platform.
- **Awareness raising products and educational tools** were produced for equality bodies, law enforcement, the judiciary and NGOs.

[A background information sheet on this project is available on the website.](#)

### **Project: Women's Access to Justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards (Jan 2019-Feb 2023)**

*The PGG II provides support to **strengthen access to justice for women and women victims of violence** in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), contributing towards its ratification by Eastern Partnership countries.*

### **Legislative/policy framework improved**

- The PGG **raised awareness across the region on women's access to justice and the Istanbul Convention** and encouraged counterparts to pursue the signature and ratification processes of the Convention, thus contributing to the **approval of the Draft Law on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the Parliament in the Republic of Moldova in October 2021**, the preparations for ratification in Armenia and Ukraine, and the discussions on the possible signature in Azerbaijan.

### **Institutional frameworks/capacities strengthened**

- The national partners in five Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine) **improved co-ordination of their efforts to ensure equal access to justice** at regional level, supported by a roundtable report on measuring access to justice accounting for women's specific experiences and needs.
- **Promoting the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards in the Eastern Partnership region**, the PGG II gathered over 400 key stakeholders at the high-level online international

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conference “Women’s Access to Justice: moving closer to full ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention”.

- The pilot **mentoring programme for legal professionals** enabled 30 legal professionals to develop their capacity as mentors to train other legal professionals on ensuring women’s access to justice and appropriate legal answer to violence against women and an additional 30 legal professionals have been involved by mentors in the pilot mentoring programme.
- The capacity building mechanisms of the national judicial institutions in five Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine) were reinforced by the **incorporation of the HELP course on Access to Justice for Women** in their curricula.
- **224 legal professionals, of which 111 are certified, strengthened and expanded their competences** in the field of women’s access to justice by following tutored HELP courses on Access to justice for women in their national languages adding to the 5 765 participants enrolled in self-learning, with 703 receiving their certification.
- **97 legal aid lawyers** in the five Eastern Partnership countries (58 women, 39 men) **strengthened their competences on international standards on women’s access to justice and violence against women**, including the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Istanbul Convention standards.
- The PGG II continued to support **policy exchanges on access to justice and gender equality in the Eastern Partnership countries** through regular guided meetings with international experts and relevant stakeholders.

**More information:**

<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/pgg2/regional>

**Contact :**

Ogdp\_pgg@coe.int

 @partnershipgovernance

 @CoeEapPCF

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