

RESULTS FACTSHEET

Partnership for Good Governance in Georgia

March 2023

What is the Partnership for Good Governance?

This factsheet presents examples of results achieved so far under the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG). The Programme has three successive phase PGG I (2015-2018), PGG II (2019-2022) and PGG III (2023-2027), which started in March 2023. In addition to the country specific projects mentioned below, Georgia benefits from regional interventions.

The “Partnership for Good Governance” (PGG) is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe for strengthening good governance in the Eastern Partnership region.

PGG provides tailor-made support to Eastern Partnership countries to bring their legislation and practice closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy. It supports, in particular, Eastern Partnership countries’ domestic reforms to strengthen justice, counter economic crime, promote equality and non-discrimination, advance women’s access to justice and combat violence against women.

Project: Enhancing the system of prevention and combating corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing in Georgia (Jan 2019-Feb 2023)

The PGGII contributed to strengthening capacities of fight and prevent economic crime, in particular corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) in accordance with European and other international standards

- Following the adoption of the 2019 Anti-money Laundering (AML) Law supported in the previous Project phase, a technical expertise in the form of four legal opinions was produced with the aim to improve the anti-corruption and AML/CFT institutional and legal framework. As a result, the Georgian authorities updated the AML legislative framework on topics such as customer due diligence; the application of a risk-based approach; transparency of beneficial ownership; implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on combating corruption; the use of financial intelligence by law enforcement agencies; the monitoring of virtual asset service providers; accounting firms, microbanks, and investment funds.
- The capacities of over 700 public officials were enhanced in the prevention and prosecution of financial crimes. A total of 30 public officials from the corruption prevention and oversight bodies received training on the verification and monitoring of asset declarations, conflict of interest and integrity, and protection of whistle-blowers. More than 270 representatives of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary

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attended various capacity-building activities and as a result are better equipped to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate economic crime cases.

- The institutional frameworks regarding major stakeholders in the fight against economic crime have been improved. The National Commission for the Implementation of the UNSC Resolutions acquired the tools for the practical enforcement of UN sanctions at national level. The Secretariat and Working Group of the Anti-corruption Council is better equipped to draft, update, and implement the relevant national anti-corruption policy documents. The national authorities have received practical guidance to prevent corruption in the public sector, and to improve submission and verification of asset declarations.
- Public officials from seven municipalities were exposed to the risks of corruption in six awareness meetings organised by the Project and led by Council of Europe experts, and fifteen public officials were trained by the Project as anti-corruption trainers, hence advancing sustainability of Project results. Four hundred representatives from the private entities are better equipped to deliver on their AML/CFT obligations and better informed of the relevant regulatory frameworks, which is likely to result in improved compliance, and in the implementation of enhanced AML/CFT measures targeting major risks.

A background information sheet on this project is available on the PGG website.

Project: Implementation of judicial reforms

1. *The PGG II provided support to **enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the court system.***

- The Georgian Bar Association's Continuous Legal Education Programme was strengthened through the creation of 8 high-resolution, interactive online courses. This initiative has resulted in the capacity building of 2,000 lawyers, indicating a positive impact on the accessibility and diversification of the programme.
- The national authorities received a model for statistical reporting, showing the efficiency of Georgian courts of the first instance, and providing an analysis of existing data and statistical reporting processes to demonstrate how CEPEJ methods can be applied to the available data in the Georgian judiciary.
- The implementation of the Employee Satisfaction Survey, based on the CEPEJ methodology and tested in two pilot courts (Supreme Court of Georgia and Zugdidi Regional Court), facilitated the assessment of job satisfaction for up to 150 court staff. The findings of the survey enabled court management to create follow-up programs and activities in line with the results, thereby enhancing employee satisfaction.
- The project support (in the form of a grant) facilitated the update of the electronic infrastructure of the Constitutional Court of Georgia, resulting in improved accessibility to Constitutional Justice for court users. The updated infrastructure also allows online participation of parties who are unable to attend the hearings physically, further enhancing accessibility.
- The #JusticeForAll awareness campaign, comprising of 8 personal stories of people with disabilities, minority groups, women and children in their struggle to access justice mechanisms engaged around 50,000 people on social media to demonstrate visible and invisible barriers that women, children, persons with disabilities, queer community, national and ethnic minorities face before they reach courts.

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- The creation of the Child Claimant's Form, in accordance with the Code on Child amendments, has guaranteed further access to justice for children. Its implementation has resulted in 10 children applying to the court directly, highlighting its positive impact.
2. *The PGG II provided support to **improve criminal proceedings** in Georgia in line with European standards.*
- The Georgian authorities were provided with an expert review on the compatibility of Georgia's Criminal Procedure Code and related legislative provisions with the European standards in particular the European Convention of Human Rights, the main findings of which were acknowledged by the chairperson of the Georgian Parliament and the Minister of Justice as a good basis to build upon further work related to the reform of the criminal justice legal framework. A review of the Georgian Law on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters was completed in co-operation with the General Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice, to introduce the results into the legislation, thus enhancing the performance of the national authorities in matters of international mutual co-operation.
 - The adopted "Strategy of the Prosecution Service of Georgia for 2022-2027" envisages specific steps for further strengthening the institutional independence of the prosecution and prosecutorial self-governance.
 - The legally binding document - internal guidelines for prosecutors "The Standards of Working with Witnesses, Victims and Defendants with Disabilities" is enforced and applied by prosecutors in practice.
 - The court system has access on up-to-date case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and local court practice on various matters of law, thanks to the work of the analytical department of the Supreme Court. More than 300 requests from judges, 43 summaries to the decisions of the ECtHR translated and 320 decisions, have been translated into Georgian and uploaded on HUDOC data base. With the support of the project around 49 reports on case-law of the ECtHR and national court practice were produced.
 - A Guidebook focusing on practical skills and the protection of human rights standards in criminal proceedings that was prepared for state funded Legal Aid Service lawyers is applied as a source for legal arguments while working on criminal cases.

A background information sheet on this project is available on the PGG website.

More information:

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

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