

Partnership for Good Governance



Results of projects in Ukraine under the European Union/Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance¹

What is the Partnership for Good Governance?

In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed to implement targeted cooperation activities with EU's Eastern Partnership countries to bring them closer to European standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The projects under the Partnership for Good Governance, are funded primarily by the EU, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe.

In addition to 14 regional projects, there were **six country-specific projects implemented in Ukraine between 2015-2018**, with a **total budget of € 4.4 million**

Strengthening the implementation of European human rights standards in Ukraine

The project ran from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017.

- ▶ Legislation was reviewed to comply with European standards: the Law on National Police, the Law on Private Detective Activity, on Misdemeanours and on Operative Search Activities, the Law on Public Assemblies and the Law on Personal Data Protection. The Law on National Police was adopted in 2016 and the draft amendments to the Law on Personal Data Protection reflected around 70% of Council of Europe recommendations.
- ▶ Effective cooperation with the National Police of Ukraine resulted in its strong commitment to implement Council of Europe recommendations, aligning reform policy with European standards and contributed to setting up the Police's Human Rights Department empowered to prevent ill-treatment cases within the police system.
- ▶ The Ombudsperson's Office received expert support in the implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism at the central and especially regional level; as well as data protection and anti-discrimination. Skills advocating data protection and equality cases were improved among the Office's staff with an increase in the number of cases being dealt with. The capacities to monitor places of detention significantly improved after new methodologies were successfully piloted in 32 prisons and police stations in 12 regions.
- ▶ The new distance learning courses, including the ones on collection of evidence, labour law and fight against ill-treatment, were developed through the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme and successfully piloted among 75 judges of the courts of general jurisdiction and 25 prosecutors improving their knowledge in these areas. A pool of 50 certified HELP trainers was created in

¹ Previously known as the Council of Europe/European Union Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

order to transmit human rights knowledge to lawyers, prosecutors and judges, making Ukraine's national resource for Human Rights training more sustainable.

- ▶ Around 3,000 judges, civil servants and police investigators improved their knowledge and skills on the European Convention on Human Rights. The training impacted considerably on the Human Rights Department of the National Police and the National Preventive Mechanism.

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

Strengthening the protection of national minorities in Ukraine

The project is running from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2018.

- ▶ Expertise and advice was provided to the national authorities on strengthening the national structures for protecting the rights of national minorities and for consulting the national minorities. A comprehensive report of CoE experts is being finalized and will analyse the current institutional structures existing in Ukraine and provide recommendations for further enhancement. The report will be presented to national authorities in November 2018.
- ▶ National authorities dealing with the protection of national minorities were presented with different institutional models existing in other CoE Member states during a peer-to-peer meeting; a second peer-to-peer visit will be organized in November 2018.
- ▶ Best practices for minority language education existing in other CoE member states were presented to Ministry of Education as well practitioners dealing with education at the local level during two seminars organized in May and October 2018.

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

Further support for the penitentiary reform in Ukraine

The project ran from 1 January 2015 until 31 July 2018.

- ▶ Draft penitentiary laws prepared under the auspices of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Penitentiary Reforms were reviewed aligning their provisions with European standards. The Parliament adopted four out of the six reviewed draft laws in September 2016 paving the way to a shift from a punitive to rehabilitative approach. The Ministry of Justice passport for penitentiary reforms also features this shift together with dynamic security approach towards prison management with prison staff directly supervising and engaging with prisoners.
- ▶ The Code of Ethics for Prison Staff developed and adopted by the Minister of Justice; 90% of prison governors went through the relevant trainings to implement the Code of Ethics in practice.
- ▶ Policies towards a rehabilitative approach and individualization of the execution of sentences were strengthened. Twelve social and skill development courses were developed and tested in pilot prisons. The courses now form an integral part of the pre-release rehabilitation programmes. Around 700 prisoners have benefited from the courses.
- ▶ Gender courses are now better mainstreamed in the revised Internal Prison and Pre-trial Detention Rules. This provided a good basis for more gender sensitive policies and practices to be introduced within Ukraine's Penitentiary Service.

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

Fight against corruption in Ukraine

The project is running from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2018.

- ▶ As of January 2018, in close cooperation with the dedicated thematic Working Groups of the National School of Judges of Ukraine (NSJ), progress has been made towards strengthening judicial training through development of training courses concerning adjudicating money laundering offences and corruption cases involving covert investigative methods and electronic evidence.
- ▶ Development of training courses will be followed by pilot trainings for more than 70 judges in Kyiv and Lviv from November to December 2018.
- ▶ Sustainability of the developed training courses is ensured through a train-the-trainer sessions for up to 60 judges to take place within the NSJ educational framework by December 2018.

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

Freedom of media in Ukraine

The project is running from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2018.

- ▶ A number of activities were organised to strengthen the capacity of the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine in the implementation of the law on transparency of media ownership, including study visit to Georgia and development of the web-site module and software for collecting and publishing the data on media ownership.
- ▶ Expert support was provided to the development of the draft law on audio-visual services in line with European standards and best practices.
- ▶ Concepts of the new media and community media were actively promoted. Recommendations to the development of the draft law on community media were provided.
- ▶ The reform of state and communal print media was supported particularly through regional trainings and development and launching of the on-line course on the issues concerned.

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

Supporting free and fair elections in Ukraine

The project ran from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2017.

- ▶ The Venice Commission provided opinions on the draft law on the financing of political parties and on amendments to the Law on elections of people's deputies in order to align the legislation with European standards.
- ▶ International conference "Women's political representation in the EaP countries – regional study and exchange of information", took place on 1 December 2016 in Kiev, with 80 participants representing Parliaments, Central Election Commissions and CSOs from EaP countries as well as media and international independent gender experts. The conference was accompanied by a photo exhibition co-organised with GIZ about political active women at local level in EaP countries to raise awareness of local actors on the importance of women's inclusion in electoral processes.

- ▶ Following the regional presentation of the Gender Study, a national Forum “Political parties ‘strategy on enhancement of women political participation”, was organised on 25 April 2017 in Kiev, where the Ukrainian version of the regional study was presented, and the recommendations of the study in particular for Ukraine were discussed with Ukrainian MPs and representatives from local authorities.
- ▶ A delegation from Ukraine (MP, CEC, CSOs and NAPC) participated in the regional conference on money in politics in Tbilisi on 19-20 June 2017 and exchanged about the current problems relating to political party financing and strategies to improve transparency, accountability and ethical behaviour of relevant actors.
- ▶ The e-learning course was launched and handbooks produced for domestic observers in 2017. Electoral stakeholders were prompted to use the tool within the observer community in order to improve reporting on election observation and the use of international standards in elections.

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

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

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