

---

# Gender Equality Commission

Updates on the cooperation work on Strategic Objective 3:  
Ensure the equal access of women to justice

Anca Sandescu, Gender Equality Division  
April 2021

# Partnership for Good Governance

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## Council of Europe approach and added value



## Regional project: Women's access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards

### General objective:

To strengthen access to justice for women, especially women victims of violence in line with the Council of Europe standards and contributing towards the Eastern Partnership countries ratification of the **Istanbul Convention**.

### What do we expect to achieve?

Justice sector professionals introduce measures to **ensure that the justice chain is gender-responsive** and apply in their work new knowledge and practical skills on the standards on women's access to justice contained in the Istanbul Convention, in order to remove the challenges and obstacles women face.

## Regional project: Women's access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards

### Relevance for CoE:

- Council of Europe strategic documents :Gender Equality Strategy for 2018-2023 and all Council of Europe Action Plans with the Eastern partnership countries
- **Duration:** 3 years (1 January 2019- 31 December 2021): plans for a no cost extension until 31/08/2022
- **Main partners:** training institutes for judges and prosecutors in all Eastern Partnership countries

## Regional project: Women's access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards

### Main results

- Enhanced competences on gender sensitive access to justice
  - **Mentoring Programme for Legal Professionals**
  - **National courses for legal aid lawyers on Access to Justice for Women victims of violence**
  - **HELP course on Access to Justice for Women translated in the EaP languages**
  - **Synergy Network HELP launch: reaching out to EU countries that are leading the anti-Istanbul Convention trend**
- Strengthen understanding on how to measure the structural inequalities women face in accessing justice, with a focus on women victims of violence through indicators for measuring access to justice
  - **Report on the Framework for measuring access to justice including challenges facing women with recommendation for follow up**



## Regional project: Women's access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards



Tools for gender mainstreaming Law Schools

Strengthen co-operation and engagement with national partners and relevant stakeholders throughout the COVID 19 crisis

## Regional project: Women's access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards



Home News About Thematics Countries Testimonies Publications Newsletter Contact

You are here: Preventing for Good Governance > Main menu > Improving the lives of citizens through better governance

### Combating violence against women

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CITIZENS THROUGH BETTER GOVERNANCE (LIFE 2014)

#### Combating violence against women in the Eastern Partnership countries

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

**ENHANCED CAPACITIES**

**AWARENESS**

Full infographics in all languages

This section presents the PGG support to **ensuring equal and non-discriminatory access to justice to women**, in particular women victims of violence, in line with the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)**; examples of promotion and implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention at national level and future actions to strengthening access of women to justice and combating violence against women in line with the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy and European standards.

**Give us your opinion!**  
Complete our Suggestion Box and contribute to further develop and define future co-operation priorities for the Eastern Partnership region.

#### Improving the lives of citizens through better governance

- Live panel - 5 October 2020
- Live panel - 7 October 2020
- Suggestion Box
- Better justice for citizens
- Combating violence against women
- Fighting economic crime
- Protection against discrimination
- Photo competition
- Quiz

EaP Eastern Partnership

Visibility: the project pages on the Gender Equality Division and the PGG II's websites are used to promote the project objectives and activities

## Regional project: Women's access to justice: delivering on the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards

### Future activities

- National training courses for legal aid lawyers on Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence (January-June 2021)
- Launching the second generation of mentors in the Mentoring Programme for Legal Professionals (last quarter of 2021)
- **Regional launch** of the HELP course on Access to Justice for Women (8 June 2021)
- National tutored HELP course on Access to Justice for Women (June/November 2021)
- **International Conference** “Women’s Access to Justice: Moving closer to full ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention” (7-8 October 2021)
- Visibility campaign focused on the results of the project



# Partnership for Good Governance

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

Thank you!



Making gender equality standards a reality in Europe!