



Human Rights and Legal Affairs

Co-operation activities

Co-operation activities offer important support to States in particular when the monitoring procedures reveal areas where measures need to be taken to comply with the standards of the Council of Europe.

The Directorate of Co-operation in the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs manages and implements targeted co-operation projects in beneficiary countries and provides general advice to States on issues relating to justice, judges, prosecutors and other legal professions.

Co-operation on human rights with legal professionals

This work with prosecutors, lawyers, notaries, judges and the police aims to strengthen the level of human rights protection and promote independent, efficient justice. It can take the form of training sessions (including the training of trainers), organised visits, workshops and round tables in order to promote knowledge and awareness of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The European programme of Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) is aimed at integrating training on the ECHR into the national training structures for judges and prosecutors. A wide range of training materials are available on its website in several languages.

Co-operation – training, policy advice, legislative expertise – is also provided in the fields of prison reform, media development and ombudsman support, always taking the Council of Europe's standards and monitoring findings as the starting point.

Co-operation to promote capacity building

The Council of Europe can also help to set up and strengthen a State's institutional and legal framework

by assisting with the creation and implementation of training structures, professional associations and regulatory bodies. Any necessary legislative changes will be drawn up in accordance with international norms and practices. A significant level of support and capacity building is provided as regards the implementation of the ECHR at national level.

Co-operation to promote judicial reform

The Council of Europe manages a significant number of projects in member States to ensure access to justice which is one of the principal rights under the ECHR. Through this targeted assistance, the Council of Europe makes an important contribution to improving the performance of the judiciary and the transparency and accountability of the judicial systems. Moreover, training programmes for legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, etc.) are organised in close co-operation with the competent bodies of the beneficiary countries.

Co-operation against economic crime

Projects against economic crime support countries in the implementation of European standards against corruption, money laundering, the financing of terrorism, organised crime and trafficking in human beings. They follow up on recommendations from monitoring mechanisms such as GRECO and MONEYVAL. Measures include policy and legislative advice, training and institution building, the provision of equipment and the dissemination of good practices. The Council of Europe is also assisting countries not only in Europe but worldwide in the implementation of the Convention on Cybercrime.

Co-operation to strengthen the independence, efficiency and quality of justice

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) assesses the functioning of judicial

systems in the member States and offers, on request, assistance to improve efficiency. The CEPEJ proposes practical tools to improve the fairness, quality and efficiency of justice in Europe, in order to enhance public confidence in national justice systems and limit recourse to the European Court of Human Rights. The CEPEJ produces regular reports comparing the organisation of judicial systems, acts as an observatory of judicial timeframes and develops measures on issues such as the quality of judicial systems, mediation and execution of court decisions.

The Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) is an advisory body on issues related to the independence, impartiality and competence of judges and its main function is to advise the Committee of Ministers on general questions related to these issues, in particular by means of its opinions. It is composed exclusively of judges and is the first such body within an international organisation, making it truly unique. Member States may ask the CCJE to look into specific problems facing their justice system.

The Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) is an advisory body which prepares opinions for the European Committee on Crime problems (CDPC) on difficulties concerning the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2000) 19 on the role of public prosecution in the criminal justice system and promotes the implementation of this Recommendation. It also studies the functioning of prosecution services in Europe and it provides opinions to the Committee of Ministers and also to other Council of Europe bodies, as required.

The Lisbon Network promotes co-operation between the different European judicial training bodies including the setting up or further development of judicial training facilities in member States.

Co-operation with the European Union

Many programmes carried out jointly with the European Union concentrate on the more than 30 Council of Europe treaties that form part of the *acquis communautaire*.

Most joint programmes are country specific, tailor made and developed with the beneficiary State. Recent programmes have focused on Russia, Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine and the South Caucasus and include Support for the Implementation of Human Rights Reforms, a multi-faceted programme targeting the judiciary, gendarmerie, governors and civil society in Turkey. Other examples are projects against money laundering and corruption in Moldova, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

Some programmes are thematic and multilateral, such as minorities protection and social rights, general human rights training and capacity building in States, abolition of the death penalty and racism and intolerance. A two-year programme will be launched in January 2009 on “Combating Ill-Treatment and Impunity” in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. In May 2008 a regional project was launched to support prosecutors in south-eastern Europe in their co-operation against organised crime and corruption.

The Council of Europe participates actively in the EU’s Forum for Justice, in particular through the CEPEJ.

Co-operation with other organisations

Co-operation activities with other organisations can involve co-organising conferences, training courses and other activities, as well as co-producing publications and information campaigns. Partners in such activities include governmental agencies and departments, regional and national courts, NGOs, intergovernmental organisations, professional groups and human rights research institutes.

Websites and contact details

HELP Programme

www.coe.int/help

Legal and Human Rights Capacity Building

www.coe.int/awareness

Joint programmes

www.jp.coe.int

Economic crime

www.coe.int/economiccrime

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice

www.coe.int/cepej

The Consultative Council of European Judges

www.coe.int/ccje

The Consultative Council of European Prosecutors

www.coe.int/ccpe

Lisbon network

www.coe.int/lisbon-network



Co-operation

in the field
of human rights
and legal affairs

Directorate General
of Human Rights and Legal Affairs
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex



Human Rights and Legal Affairs



ENG. Updated: June 2009