

Support to Justice Reform in Armenia – I

General Information

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| <u>Sector:</u> | Justice |
| <u>Duration:</u> | 4 years |
| <u>Implementation period:</u> | 2009-2012 |
| <u>Overall Budget:</u> | EUR 18 mln |
| <u>Budget support:</u> | EUR 16 mln |
| <u>Complementary support:</u> | EUR 2 mln |

Project Description

Objective: To form a more efficient judicial system, providing legal and social guarantees of the justice system, increasing its availability, enhance the defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as promote law enforcement efficacy and introduce new anticorruption measures.

Specific objectives:

- Objective I:** To assure an independent and accountable justice and improvement of the implementation of court orders.
- Objective II:** To assure the transparency of justice and improvement of anticorruption measures.
- Objective III:** To increase the effectiveness of justice.
- Objective IV:** To provide better services to population.
- Objective V:** To enhance accessibility of justice system.

Scope of the reforms:

- Increasing independence and accountability of justice, as well as improving implementation of the court orders through ensuring transparency of procedures for selection, appointment, promotion of judges, approximation of the Code of Conduct to EU standards, revision of the operational principles of the Council of Justice and improvement of regulations for implementation of punishment;
- Decreasing corruption risks and ensuring transparency of operations through application of “random selection” to the distribution of cases in courts, enhancement of the mechanisms for discovering cases of corruption and disciplinary violations and introduction of public monitoring on court’s activities;
- Increasing effectiveness of justice through enhancement of the role of first instance courts, modernisation of the management of court archives, assurance of the quality of judicial decisions using unified templates, improvement of statistics on court orders and enhancement of juvenile justice effectiveness by specialising at least one judge in each court;
- Providing better services to population through the enhancement of the advocates’ effectiveness, promotion of the alternative methods of dispute resolution, construction of new buildings for courts and reconstruction of the existing ones;
- Increasing accessibility to the justice through improvement of operational effectiveness of Public Defender’s Office, scaling up a “free of charge” legal aid in accordance with the EU standards, establishment of procedure for collective claims, revision and improvement of appeal procedures and mechanisms against the orders of the administrative court and the Court of Cassation.