

Support for Justice Reform in Armenia - Phase II

General Information

<u>Sector:</u>	Justice
<u>Duration:</u>	4 years
<u>Implementation period:</u>	2014-2018
<u>Overall Budget:</u>	EUR 29 mln
<u>Budget support:</u>	EUR 25 mln
<u>Complementary support:</u>	EUR 4 mln

Project Description

Objective: To contribute to the development of a more independent, transparent, accountable, accessible and efficient judicial system, in line with the “2012-2016 Strategic Programme for Legal and Judicial Reforms”.

Specific objectives:

- Objective I:** To introduce anti-corruption measures for a more independent, transparent and accountable justice sector, specifically targeting judges.
- Objective II:** To improve cooperation between all the stakeholders of justice sector, setting up proper schools for advocates, judges and prosecutors.
- Objective III:** To revise the Criminal Code and promote alternative punishment system in line with international standards.
- Objective IV:** To increase the quality of services to the public (including businesses) in the areas of arbitration, notarisation and civil registration.
- Objective V:** To improve the detention conditions of inmates.

Scope of reforms:

- Increasing independence, accountability and transparency of the justice sector through improvement of the mechanisms of nomination, promotion and punishment of judges, establishment of electronic system of e-filing for civil and administrative court cases, digitalisation of all court records starting from 2011 and providing access for public to court records, archives and statistics;
- Enhancing accessibility and efficiency of justice through improvement of performance and cooperation of the Justice Academy and the School of Advocates, conduction of training for all Public Defenders at the School of Advocates and rehabilitation of necessary building infrastructure for Public Defender’s Office;
- Revising and improving the criminal code and alternative punishment systems and establishment of functional Probation service to reduce imprisonment rates and the risk of re-offending;
- Improving the quality of services to the public and businesses through development of the model of Alternative Dispute Resolution including an Arbitration Code and other Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules;
- Conducting penitentiary reform through alignment of detention conditions of inmates in pilot prisons with CoE Committee for the prevention of Torture recommendations and adoption of penitentiary reform implementation Action Plan according to the Council of Europe standards.