



Partnership for Good Governance



PACE project of parliamentary cooperation with the Parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the framework of the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) Phase I, 2015-2017

RATIONALE

The Eastern Partnership - subsequently Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) - was developed in 2014 within the programmatic Cooperation Framework (PCF), a new modality of cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE), for six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It was implemented through 3-years' phases as from 2015 until 2020 (see the link to the PGG pages : <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/eap-pcf/home?desktop=true>).

This joint programme, financed by the EU and the CoE and implemented by the Council of Europe, builds upon the CoE and the EU policies and priorities in the context of the 'Eastern Partnership' region and on the CoE expertise in standard-setting, monitoring and cooperation experience with its partners

Its main action plan for Phase I aimed at reinforcing the rule of law, enhancing the respect of human rights and promoting democratic governance, which are at the core of Council of Europe standards.

PACE PROJECT

PACE contributed to the Phase I, in 2015-2017, by developing parliamentary cooperation with the Parliaments of the region on peer to peer basis and by an awareness raising among Members of national parliaments of the necessity of their stronger involvement in democratic reforms and in guarantying the respect of human rights in their country.

PACE activities aimed at implementing its resolutions in the field. They were organised by the Parliamentary Project Support Division in co-operation with relevant PACE Committees and other partners and aimed at strengthening the role and structure of national parliaments of six partners to better ensure in the partner countries:

- Democratic governance through the improvement of democratic electoral system, which may ensure the right to free and fair elections to all citizens (*Resolution 1897 (2012) Ensuring greater democracy in elections*);
- Respect of human rights through an effective implementation of human rights standards of the European Convention on Human Rights in national legislation (including the European Social Charter) and through the supervision by the Parliament of the effective execution of ECtHR judgments (*Resolution 1823 National parliaments: guarantors of human rights in Europe and Resolution 17871 (2011) Implementation of judgments of the ECtHR*);

- Respect of freedom and transparency of Media, including public broadcasting, and safety of journalists (*Resolution 1920 (2013) on the state of media freedom in Europe*)

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Assembly organized 18 activities in 3 years: 6 activities in 2015, 5 activities in 2016 and 7 activities in 2017, with a total number of 793 participants registered: 402 parliamentarians (MPs) and 391 other participants (staff members of national parliaments, experts, NGOs, specific national or international organisations).

Four major themes have been developed in co-operation with the PACE Committees and other partners during our activities (*see also chronological calendar of implemented activities below*), which contributed first, to the awareness raising of Members of national parliaments of partner countries (with a limited impact on the Parliament of Belarus, which is no more member of the PACE), and then to their greater involvement and concrete actions leading to a better implementation of the above mentioned adopted texts of the Assembly as well as of Council of Europe standards in their countries:

- ❖ HUMAN RIGHTS: five activities were organised in co-operation with the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (AS/JUR) and two other major partners: the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Department for the execution of the ECtHR judgments (DG I) – two regional parliamentary seminars on the role of national parliaments in implementing ECHR standards (Tbilisi, September 2015 and Budapest, June 2017), one regional capacity building seminar on ECHR for the staff of national parliaments (Strasbourg, March 2015) and two activities for the Parliament of Georgia (Strasbourg, April 2016 and Borjomi, March 2017);
- ❖ EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER AS PART OF ECHR: four activities were organised in co-operation with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (AS/SOC) – two parliamentary seminars on fostering social rights in the partner countries (Chisinau, May 2015 and Baku, June 2017), one parliamentary seminar on social, legal and economic protection of children and young people (Paris, October 2016) and one parliamentary seminar on ensuring equal employment opportunities and inclusion for all (Paris, 28 October 2017);
- ❖ ELECTIONS: four activities were organised in co-operation with the PACE Election observation and Interparliamentary co-operation Division (ELECT) and Venice Commission and with the participation of representatives of NGOs and CEC (Central Electoral Committees) – two regional parliamentary conference for six partner parliaments: one on the implementation of the right to free elections and applying CoE standards (Paris, June 2015) and one on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes (London, November 2017); also one national round table on electoral standards and electoral processes for the Parliament of Belarus (Minsk, May 2016) and one transversal joint parliamentary conference on Media freedom as a cornerstone for democratic elections (Berlin, July 2016)
- ❖ MEDIA: four activities were organised in co-operation with the PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (AS/CULT) and Media and Broadcasting organs – one regional parliamentary conference on awareness raising of the safety of journalists (Kyiv, June 2015), two regional conferences on the role of national parliaments in improving freedom, independence and pluralism of media (London, April 2016 and Budapest, December 2017) as well as one transversal parliamentary conference (see elections) on Media freedom as a cornerstone for democratic elections (Berlin, July 2016).

For more details, see the link to our summary report on “Activities in the framework of the Partnership for Good Governance implemented by the PACE in 2015-2017”, available in our “Useful links”: <http://www.assembly.coe.int/LifeRay/APCE/pdf/PPSD/2018/PPSD-2018-06-EN.pdf>

**CALENDAR OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES IN 2015-2017
and participation statistics**

Date and Venue / main partner	Activity	MPs	Other participants
2015 (6 activities)			
19-20 March 2015 STRASBOURG (AS/JUR)	Capacity Building Seminar on the European Convention on Human Rights (Execution of Judgments) for the staff of national parliaments	0	45
18 May 2015 CHISINAU (AS/SOC)	Parliamentary Seminar on "Fostering social rights in the Eastern Partnership area: focus on the European Social Charter"	37	10
12 June 2015 KYIV (AS/CULT)	Parliamentary Conference on awareness raising of the safety of journalists	15	22
4-5 June 2015 PARIS (ELECT)	Parliamentary Regional Conference on the implementation of the right to free elections: the challenge of applying election legislation and the Council of Europe standards	22	50
21-22 September TBILISI (AS/JUR)	1 st Regional Parliamentary Seminar on the role of national parliaments in implementing standards of the European Convention of Human Rights	21	22
10-11 December 2015 PARIS (AS/PRO)	Parliamentary Regional Seminar on the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns: legislation and control mechanisms	22	20
Total		117	169
TOTAL 2015		286	
2016 (5 activities)			
11 April 2016 LONDON AS/CULT	Regional Parliamentary Conference on national parliament's role in improving freedom, independence, transparency and diversity of media	22	23
25-26 April 2016 STRASBOURG AS/JUR	Workshop on the European Convention of Human Rights: Parliamentary Dimension for the Parliament of Georgia	18	9
18 May 2016 MINSK (ELECT)	National Round Table on electoral standards and the electoral process improvement in Belarus	37	10
4 July 2016 BERLIN (Germany) (AS/CULT - ELECT)	Regional Parliamentary Conference on Media freedom as a cornerstone for democratic elections	22	33
28 October 2016 PARIS (AS/SOC)	Parliamentary seminar on "The right of children and young people to social, legal and economic protection"	18	9
Total		117	84
TOTAL 2016		201	

2017 (7 activities)			
17 March 2017 BORJOMI (AS/JUR)	Round Table on the role of the Georgian Parliament in implementing European Convention on Human Rights standards	12	5
2 June 2017 BAKU (AS/SOC)	National parliamentary seminar on "Fostering socio-economic rights in Azerbaijan from the perspective of the European Social Charter"	19	12
12-13 June 2017 BUDAPEST (AS/JUR)	2 nd Regional Parliamentary Seminar on the role of national parliaments in implementing standards of the European Convention of Human Rights	22	9
7-8 September 2017 LISBON (AS/MIG)	Launching Parliamentary Conference of the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies	54	44
28 October 2017 PARIS (AS/SOC)	Parliamentary Seminar on "Employment, training and equal opportunities: how to ensure fair treatment and inclusion for all"	21	14
9-10 November 2017 LONDON (ELECT)	Regional Parliamentary Conference on "Misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: a major challenge for democratic elections"	26	32
6 December 2017 BUDAPEST (AS/CULT)	Regional Parliamentary Conference on the role of national parliaments in improving independence and pluralism of the media	14	22
Total		168	138
TOTAL 2017		306	
TOTAL FOR 3 YEARS - 18 ACTIVITIES		793	