

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues to Promote Effective Access to Justice: Armenian experience



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EU-Armenia Justice Dialogue: developing justice sector reform strategy

to involve civil society organizations, representatives of the business sector and the international community of Armenia in the process of further reforms and their finalization

Efforts to increase public confidence

- **More access to justice**
- **Judicial reforms**
- **Anti-corruption strategy**



The EU-Armenia Strategic Policy Dialogue on Justice Reforms aims at developing a justice reform in line with European standards and commitments under the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement. It is a basis for high-level dialogue and more effective cooperation at the technical level.



Strategic Goals

■ “E-JUSTICE”

unified “e-court” and “e-justice” management systems;

electronic systems of justice sector bodies;

digitization of public functions and databases assigned to the Ministry of Justice.

■ TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

to detect systemic human rights violations;
fact-finding activities.

■ DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS DEVELOPMENT

constitutional reforms;
reform of the electoral legislation;

■ CONTINUITY OF JUDICIAL REFORMS

capacity building and specialization of the Judges and the Courts;

Providing the building and logistics of the Anti-Corruption Court;

Providing a legal opportunity to appeal against decisions of the Supreme Judicial Council in regards to disciplinary cases, etc.

■ REFORMS OF CIVIL CODE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE LEGISLATION

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION METHODS



Reports of Watchdog Organizations About the Results of the Reforms

- The need to continue the reforms has been emphasized by stakeholders!



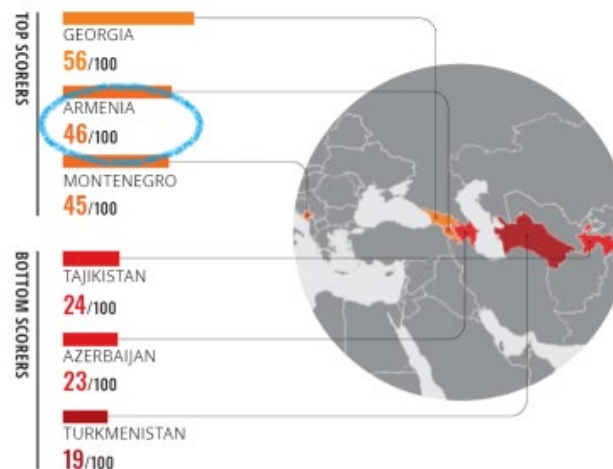
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EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, high-level corruption is closely linked to political instability, weakened institutions and – in the most extreme cases – violent conflict. In the region with the second lowest average score (35), there is a vicious cycle of corruption and authoritarianism, as many governments undermine democratic processes, crack down on civic space and restrict media freedoms.

35

AVERAGE SCORE



Implementation of Constitutional Reforms as One of Key Directions of the Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms

an opportunity for both strengthening environmental rights and their further judicial protection;

an opportunity to revise ecological relations at the constitutional level, to make them more compatible with democratic development and to fill in the gaps.

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- ✓ The Council for Constitutional Reforms was established by the decision of the Prime Minister on January 27, 2022.
 - ✓ **A five-member professional Commission on Constitutional Reforms has been formed on a competitive basis.**

The main function of the Council is to determine the directions of reforms, within the framework of which the professional Commission will elaborate the concept and based on it the draft amendments to the Constitution.



Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues on how to Guarantee Environmental Rights by the RA Constitution

- Professional discussions
- Scientific forums
- Public discussions: involving CSOs
- Involvement of diplomatic missions, accredited in Armenia
- Consultation with international experts
- Awareness campaign



E-Justice Reforms

A UNIFIED
“E-JUSTICE”
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
ENSURING
ACCESSIBILITY OF
ELECTRONIC DATABASES
AND UPDATING THEREOF

Currently, a number of bodies within the field of justice have electronic systems already in place; however, these systems fail to interact with the electronic systems of other bodies in the field of justice.

The introduction of a centralised electronic management system is a comprehensive solution to the problems in the field of justice.

✓ "e-court": a key component of "e-justice" system

- The development and implementation of this system is a priority.
- It will enable the court and the parties to carry out judicial functions within the framework of proceedings in electronic format.
- The system will include electronic tools for civil, administrative, bankruptcy and criminal cases, each with a separate module and combined with electronic databases of all bodies and organizations which are involved in the case or are the processors/managers or beneficiaries of the information necessary for the court.



testing phase

Public-Private Dialogue within the Framework of the Development of the 5th OGP National Action Plan

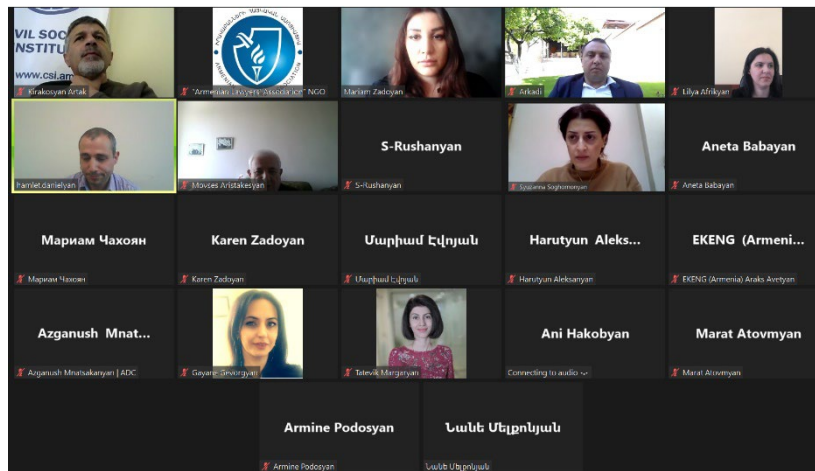


- Online discussions on the Public Communication Strategy and Introduction of e-Justice Tools

state
bodies

specialized
CSOs

experts



highlighted:
justice, as a means of exercising open governance, should ensure availability of appeal mechanisms, and openness, access to all procedural and substantive rights, as well as regular trainings of justice officials (right to information, taxes and justice, climate change and environmental issues).



YSU Environmental Law Research Center after A. Iskoyan as a Platform for Dialogue on Implementation of Aarhus Convention



Engagement of Environmental stakeholders



- **Collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and the Center**

Regular discussions on the Aarhus Convention's standards of access to justice

The QUESTIONNAIRE on Measures to enable effective access to justice served as an occasion both to raise the issues among stakeholders and to share the information



Engagement of young professionals and students





**Thank you for your
kind attention!**

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