



## “COMMITMENT TO CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE” PROJECT TARGET SECTORS AND ISSUES

In finalizing a list of priority sectors and issues, the project has referred to the following:

- Eastern Partnership - Focusing on key priorities and deliverables (the “2020” document),
- Financing Agreements and related documents provided to ALA by the EUD,
- The Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (“CEPA”),
- RA Government’s Program from 2017-2022, (RA Government’s Program),
- CSOs’ assessments of priority issues, mainly focus group discussions, based on the mapping study conducted by the project in 2017,
- Recommendations of EUD,
- Latest trends.

The project has also taken into account the sectoral expertise of the consortium members, bearing in mind that their experience is focused on 4 sectors (justice, education, business and local government), while a total of 9 sectors will be covered by the project.

Set out below are the 9 proposed sectors and issues (at least one issue per sector), with a short summary of the reasons for choosing the sector, and the state of play of reform. Where there is more than one issue listed, the first one is deemed the main target, and if the implementing CSO coalition can also participate/influence the other issues, that will be a bonus.

### SECTOR 1. JUSTICE

#### Issues:

#### 1.1. Need to increase access to justice of vulnerable groups, including the strengthening of the public defender institute.

- Is included based on *EUD’s recommendation*.
- Is envisaged in the *Government’s Program*.
  - introduce incentive mechanisms for pro-bono legal service providers;

- expand the scope of providing free legal aid; in particular, increase the limit of the minimum amount for receiving free legal aid in cases of property (monetary) claims to one thousand five hundred-fold of the minimum salary;
  - in parallel with providing free legal aid, introduce, jointly with the Chamber of Advocates, legal and institutional mechanisms necessary for the provision of affordable legal aid;
  - introduce the institution of mandatory insurance against the error of law for advocates by developing criteria for compensating the damage caused due to professional error
- Was raised during *focus group* discussions.

### **1.2. Need to improve the Compulsory Enforcement Service of Judicial Acts.**

- Is envisaged in *CEPA*,
  - Is envisaged in *the 2020 document*,
  - Is envisaged in *Government's Program*.
    - clarification and minimizing of the timeframes for enforcement actions, including expert examinations;
    - ensuring that the document electronically flow between compulsory enforcement officers and the participants of enforcement proceedings;
    - introducing video and audio recording for specific enforcement actions;
    - creating an electronic system between courts and the Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, while abolishing the process of issuing writs of execution to trial participants.
- Was raised during *focus group* discussions.

### **1.3. Need to improve of ethical behaviour in the judicial system.**

- Is envisaged in *2020 document, Section 10. Implementation of key judicial reforms*
  - Adoption of effective disciplinary rules and codes of ethics in line with EU standards for judges and prosecutors,
  - Comprehensive and effective training of the judiciary on judicial competences and ethics
  - Setting a functioning complaint mechanisms accessible to the public.

### **1.4. Need to improve the RA Legal and Judicial Reforms Programme, poor level of professional CSOs' participation mechanisms in the processes of developing, improving, monitoring and advocating for the RA Legal and Judicial Reforms Programme; need to ensure bigger involvement of CSOs in the processes of developing, improving, monitoring and advocating for the RA Legal and Judicial Reforms Programme.**

- Is envisaged in *Government's Program*.

- develop a new RA strategy for legal and judicial reforms and its action plan,
  - develop a comprehensive electronic management system jointly with the Supreme Judicial Council (upon consent),
  - undertake necessary measures deriving from the RA Constitutional Law on the Judicial Code, including activities for drafting regulatory legal acts.
- Is envisaged in *2020 document, Section 10. Implementation of key judicial reforms*
- Including Substantial reduction of the backlog of civil and criminal cases and case disposition time across Partner Countries.
- Is envisaged in *CEPA*,
- Mainly refers to the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, the right to a fair trial and efficiency of judicial system.
- Was raised during *focus group* discussions.

**1.5. Need to improve the probation institution, poor level of professional CSOs' participation mechanisms in the processes of improving, monitoring, and advocating for the probation institution; need to ensure bigger involvement of CSOs in the processes of improving, monitoring and advocating for the probation institution.**

- Is envisaged in *Government's Program*.
- ensure phase-by-phase operation of the electronic monitoring system implemented by the State Probation Service,
  - implement a re-socialisation programme within the State Probation Service by engaging at least 30 percent of beneficiaries;
  - ensure the use of measures of restraint that are alternative to detention;
  - put into full practice the functions of the State Probation Service, as well as enhance and improve the capacities of the Service.
- Was raised during *focus group* discussions.

### SECTOR 3. PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

**Issues:**

**1.1. Low level of child- and gender-sensitive budgeting mechanisms at national and local levels, as well as within CSOs and CSO coalitions. The need for improving these mechanisms, as well as of greater involvement of CSOs in monitoring and advocacy activities.**

Gender sensitive budgeting is an approach designed to mainstream the gender dimension into all stages of the budget cycle. It refers to the process of conceiving, planning, approving, executing, monitoring, analyzing and auditing budgets in a gender-sensitive way. It involves analysis of actual expenditure on women and girls as compared to on men and boys taking into account their different needs and priorities. It helps to decide how strategies should be made, adjusted and reprioritized. It is

a tool for effective policy implementation where one can check if the allocations are in line with policy commitments and are having the desired impact.

- Is envisaged in *CEPA* in more general sense (gender equality)
- Is envisaged in *2020 document, Section 2. Gender equality and non-discrimination* in more general sense (gender equality).
- Was raised during *Focus group* discussion in more general sense (gender equality).
- Is envisaged in *“Public finance policy reform” Financial Agreement* in more specific way.

**1.2. Low level of CSO participation in discussions on the Simplified State Budget of the RA and its public communication process. The need for improving these mechanisms, as well as of greater involvement of CSOs in monitoring and advocacy activities.**

- Is envisaged in *Public Finance Policy Reform FA*
  - Publication of Simplified State budget in line with international standards,
  - Discussion of Simplified State Budget with CSOs
- Is envisaged in *2020 document, Section 11. Implementation of public administration reform*
  - Improvement of management and transparency of public finances”.