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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.



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Rule of Law Platform Central Asia

A project implemented by Altair Asesores S.L. (Spain), in Consortium with IBF International Consulting (Belgium), Nicolaas Witsen Foundation (the Netherlands), and Central Asia International Consulting (Kyrgyzstan)

Rule of Law Platform – Central Asia

Support to the Rule of Law Initiative

The Rule of Law Initiative constitutes the overarching regional framework for enhanced cooperation in the Rule of Law area, aimed at supporting reform and good governance in judicial systems. The Initiative proceeds on a joint multilateral and bi-lateral path, similarly to other focal areas of EU engagement with Central Asia. The Initiative is based on a sustained EU-Central Asia policy dialogue at regional and bilateral levels which provides the framework for strengthened cooperation implemented through EU funded programmes both regionally and bilaterally.

The Initiative assists the countries of Central Asia in the approximation of their national judicial models, legislation and practices with international (primarily European) standards.

France and Germany, supported by the EEAS and the European Commission and working with the other Member States, coordinate the Initiative.

The Initiative also provides an organizational mechanism under which the support from member states, the EU and other international actors can be coordinated and rationalised.

Under the auspices of the Initiative, the Rule of Law Platform regional support project acts as a coordination mechanism to facilitate policy dialogue and promote the measures needed to encourage and support legal and governance reforms in each of the Central Asian countries. The Platform focuses on Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, and Judicial Reform, which form the "common work agenda" agreed on by representatives from the five respective countries at the ministerial conferences in Brussels (2008) and Dushanbe (2010).

The Initiative is a key element of the 'EU-Central Asia: Strategy for a New Partnership' which identified three 'pillars' for enhanced cooperation: 'Rule of Law', 'Education' and 'Environment'.

Overall Project Objective

To further the goals of the Rule of Law Initiative and the political dialogue, the project supports the Central Asian partners with core legal and judicial reforms, contributing towards the development of a stable and democratic political framework, functioning of economic structures and promotion and respect of human rights, as called for by the EU strategy for Central Asia.

Target Groups

Major partners in the Central Asian countries are the supreme and constitutional courts as well as the five ministries of justice and ministries of interior (Rule of Law Initiative Coordinators), parliamentary organs, lawyers, public prosecutors, legal aid providers, members of other legal professions, training centers, universities and civil society representatives.

Expected Results

As agreed on ministerial level, the expected results are the following:

- Experience, lessons learned, best practices shared between EU and Central Asian actors
- Knowledge of legal and judicial international standards and practices strengthened
- Training of legal professions improved
- Better understanding of the judicial/legal reforms processes and the needs of Central Asian Countries
- A network of experts/institutions with closer linkages between Central Asia and EU is created and mutual understanding enhanced
- Coordination and synergies between the three EU platforms established under the "EU and Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership".

Participating Countries

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Project Components

Component 1: Forums for dialogue.

Conferences and technical working group seminars, will focus on priority areas. Recommendations will be provided to enhance policy coherence. New ways for the EU to assist the legal and judicial reform will be identified.

Component 2: Training.

The development of training programmes and the delivery of training sessions for targeted legal professions on the specific topics on the political agenda will be of high importance to the improvement of the legal capacity of Central Asia.

Component 3: Communication/Mapping/Networking.

The sharing of information will be facilitated by the creation of a network of experts and institutions, new information and communication products, and coordination of all donor's actions in the Rule of Law sector.

Component 4: Advice facility.

Background analysis and studies will complement dialogue events and will serve at developing policy advice.

Timeframe: 36 months

