



**PPSD (2020) 01**  
16 January 2020

# Parliamentary co-operation activities

## Work plan 2020

## 1. Introduction

1. To further interaction with national parliaments, in 2012 a Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD) was created within the Assembly secretariat, whose prime objective is, in partnership with the secretariats of PACE Committees and other sectors of the Council of Europe secretariat, to devise and promote specific co-operation projects involving parliamentarians and staff of national parliaments.

2. Through the activities proposed in the 2020 Work Plan (Appendix 2) and building on the initiatives carried out during 2019 (Appendix 1), it is intended to ensure that the Assembly's Resolutions are better known by national parliaments of member States and beyond, in particular in parliaments having the status of Partners for Democracy. By targeting its co-operation with national parliaments on thematic priorities which are at the core of its work, the Assembly can also usefully complement and reinforce initiatives taken by the Council of Europe at the inter-governmental level.

3. There is a need for careful assessment and consultation when it comes to preparing new parliamentary co-operation activities. All future projects must be within the CoE priorities and bring tangible added value and impact. PACE has implemented - and is presently implementing - useful and successful projects complementing the intergovernmental efforts either in promotion and/or implementation of some CoE key conventions.

4. The parliamentary seminars are often organised in conjunction with PACE Committee or Sub-committee meetings, thus underpinning the peer-to-peer character of the exchanges among lawmakers. The objective is to achieve tangible results and this result-orientation remains the key criterion that has guided the design of the activities proposed. Seminars, workshops and exchange of good practices, organised around a well-defined agenda and involving a limited number of countries, have been preferred to large-scale conferences.

5. Moreover, workshops for the staff of national Parliaments aim to improve their understanding on a series of issues such as the relevant legal instruments of the Council of Europe as well as the structure and functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly. Their goal is to improve the capacity of staff members to support parliamentarians in their activities.

## 2. Sources of financing and activities

6. Some of the proposed activities will be financed from the Assembly operational budget (subject to the availability of funds). These include multilateral parliamentary seminars on supervision of the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), on promoting children's rights, as well as meetings of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence. In addition, financial resources for the implementation of activities will be provided from outside the operational budget of the Assembly, including through voluntary contributions by national parliaments and governments. In this respect, in November 2019, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly wrote to the chairpersons of national delegations to the Assembly drawing their attention to some of these projects. The bulk of guaranteed financing, however, comes from CoE-EU joint programmes and voluntary contributions, as follows:

### 2.1. CoE/EU financed Programmes already in the process of implementation

#### 2.1.1. *Horizontal Facility Phase II (HF II)*

7. In this CoE/EU joint programme, PACE Secretariat received financial support to implement co-operation activities with the Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia around two themes. The first one: "Implementing the execution of ECtHR judgments – the role of Parliament" aims to consolidate the understanding of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and the parliamentary involvement in the oversight process of the implementation of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) judgments at each national level. As part of the project, the PACE Handbook for parliamentarians "National parliaments as guarantors of human rights in Europe" is available in Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Macedonian and Serbian in hard copy and on the web, in order to serve Members of Parliament and their staff in their endeavors.

8. The second theme concerns "Freedom of expression and freedom of media", focusing on an improved legislative framework as regards the protection of the media, ethical standards in journalism, and establishing an appropriate model for public service media to ensure its editorial, financial and managerial independence against political and economic interference. This project also aims at improving the regional co-operation between the four countries, in line with the European Union's

Western Balkans Strategy. A budget of 285 000 euros has been allocated to the HFII action “*PACE Cooperation with the parliamentary assemblies with a view to achieving legislative improvements*” (for a duration of 13 months in 2019-2020).

9. In 2019, one seminar in a regional setting was organised for parliamentary staff from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and other CoE beneficiaries to present ECHR standards, raise awareness regarding their implementation and discuss practical measures for the execution of the ECtHR judgments. Parliamentary staff from the specialised commissions of the Serbian Parliament will participate in a similar seminar in 2020. One regional parliamentary seminar is planned for MPs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia to present ECHR standards and raise awareness of the obligation of their implementation in the national legislation, as well as on the practical measures to be taken to supervise the Government’s action as regards the execution of ECtHR judgments.

10. Two regional seminars are planned (one for MPs and one for the staff of the parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia) on parliamentary oversight of freedom of expression and freedom of media, which will look at legal standards for electronic media, transparency and pluralism, independence of media regulators in a democratic society, and the role of parliaments in ensuring independence and freedom of the media.

11. Moreover, the PACE Secretariat received a proposal to co-operate with the intergovernmental Directorate General I for “Strengthening the human rights protection of asylum seekers, migrants and victims of human trafficking in Turkey”, translate and use the Guide “Visiting places where children are deprived of their liberty as a result of immigration procedures” together with the experience of the Parliamentary Campaign to end immigration detention of children. This co-operation could strengthen the role of the Turkish Parliament in protecting and promoting the rights of migrant children and to promote positive and protective alternative practices to immigration detention.

### **2.1.2. South Programmes**

#### ***South Programme (SP III and SP IV) and new proposal***

12. PACE activities in the framework of the South Programme began in 2012. The Assembly is now involved in the implementation of the third phase 2018-2020 of the joint programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union “Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean”. A new phase of this Programme, the so-called South Programme IV, is currently under discussion. It will mainly focus on regional activities.

13. The Secretariat of the Assembly presented a preliminary list of regional initiatives for co-operation to be organised for members of the Parliaments of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the Palestinian National Council, with a view to developing parliamentary co-operation in the Southern Mediterranean region on common issues with Europe such as migration.

14. This new phase will build on the experience gathered as part of the work, conducted in the last seven years, with the Parliament of Morocco and the Parliament of Jordan, which obtained their Partnership for Democracy status to the PACE. The proposal foresees seminars to be organised for Members of Parliament and training sessions for their staff members in order to ensure effective progress on the priority issues as defined in the following PACE Resolutions on the Partner for Democracy status for the respective countries:

- Resolution 1818 (2011) Request for Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Morocco, paras. 8.4, 8.5 and 8.10-12;
- Resolution 1942 (2013) and Resolution 2061 (2015) Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco, paras. 10.6-9;
- Resolution 2086 (2016) Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan, paras. 9.1 and 9.9-16;
- Resolution 2183 (2017) Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Jordan, paras. 6.2, 7 and 8.
- Resolution 2282 (2019) Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco, para 5.5

15. These initiatives will touch upon the relationship between the Parliament and the government, the parliamentary control of the executive, the relationship between the majority and the opposition in a democratic parliament; the role of political parties; the relationship between the Parliament and civil society, and its capacity for legislative initiative; the role of Parliaments in the promotion of human rights

standards and in the control of their implementation as well as the role of the Parliament in the adoption and implementation of migration policies.

16. The Secretariat of the Assembly has prepared for submission to the European Union the funding a proposal for a new three years project (2020-2022) called “Reinforcing democratic reforms in Morocco; the role of the parliament”. The project aims at supporting the overall role of the Moroccan Parliament as a guarantor of the democratic reforms.

17. The proposal includes parliamentary seminars for the elected Members of the Parliament of Morocco. The project will also work at reinforcing the capacity of the staff of the two Chambers of the Parliament to support their members. It will also support the development of the newly created Department of parliamentary research and its Documentation Centre.

## **2.2 Voluntary Contribution of Norway to the Action Plan “furthering co-operation with Morocco and Tunisia”**

18. In 2019, the PACE Secretariat received additional financial support from the Norwegian voluntary contribution to the Council of Europe. This new facility aims at supporting the development of co-operation activities in the framework of the existing Neighbourhood Partnerships (Action Plans) between the Council of Europe and, on the one hand, Morocco, as defined in the document “Neighborhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021” endorsed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 21 March 2018 and, on the other hand with Tunisia, through the document “Neighborhood Partnership with Tunisia for 2018-2021”, document approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 21 March 2018 (CM/Del/Dec(2018)1311/2.3).

19. The activities, started in October 2019, will continue in 2020 and will complement the activities to be organised in the frameworks of the initiatives South Programme III and IV, since the latter will be just focusing on initiatives at regional level. Therefore, these initiatives at national level will develop the co-operation with the Members of Parliament and staff members of the Parliaments of both countries.

## **2.3 Strengthening the Parliamentary capacity to implement Council of Europe standards and policies in Ukraine (UKR) – Phase II**

20. The Assembly takes part in the implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021, financed by voluntary contributions. In 2020, activities will focus on awareness raising of newly elected Members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine regarding Council of Europe standards and policies on combating corruption and on the promotion of free and fair elections. Through peer-to peer exchanges, the aim is to improve awareness and understanding of MPs in law-making, including laws on election and anti-corruption. The total budget foreseen for the PACE project is 400 000 Euros for the period of November 2018 - April 2020.

21. The first implementation phase of the project has focused mostly on capacity-building activities for the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada, enhancing the capacity of its staff in carrying out the legislative, organisational, administrative and other tasks of the Parliament, as well as supporting Members of the Rada in exercising their mandate in conformity with the parliamentary rules of procedure. The second implementation phase will focus exclusively on MPs. In this respect, the first activity took place in November 2019 by supporting Members of the Rada in improving their knowledge of the ECHR and of the case-law of the Strasbourg Court, including the requirement of implementation of the Court’s judgments with respect to Ukraine. The extension of the project until December 2020 is expected. Three more thematic activities on media, anti-discrimination and dialogue between the majority and opposition will be proposed for implementation upon the possible confirmation of the project’s extension in April 2020.

## **2.4 Strengthening the Parliamentary capacity to implement Council of Europe standards and policies in Georgia**

22. Since 2019, PACE Secretariat has participated in the development of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2016-2019, funded by voluntary contributions. The parliamentary dimension was included in this Action Plan in 2019 and activities will continue in 2020. These activities are also included in the programme of the Georgian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers for the period November 2019- May 2020.

23. Co-operation initiatives aim to deal with the development of the role of national parliaments in the implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the discussion of election-related issues, in view of the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Georgia in the second part of 2020, and the relations between the majority and the opposition in the Parliament.

## **2.5. Projects submitted for Voluntary Contributions (VC)**

24. In 2017, five Council of Europe-wide multilateral projects were submitted by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Committee of Ministers for voluntary contributions. These involve different sectors and institutions of the Council of Europe on combating corruption, no hate, diaspora, empowering and protecting children, and public health including climate change. Within this context, the Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children, thanks to the backing of the Swiss delegation to the Assembly, has received financial support from the Swiss Government from 2016 to 2019. It is expected that other initiatives linked to the activities of various Assembly committees will receive further voluntary contributions in 2020.

I. Thematic overview of activities to be organised in 2020 by PPSD Secretariat with the contribution of the Secretariats of the following Committees

COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>	ACTIVITY	TENTATIVE DATE	TENTATIVE VENUE	SOURCE OF FUNDING
<b>AS/POL</b>				
<b>I.</b>	<b>Implementation of the partnership for democracy with the Parliament of Morocco</b>			
	<i>Seminar for the staff of the Chamber of Councillors of the Parliament of Morocco on the Council of Europe structure and priorities</i>	February	Strasbourg	Norway VC <sup>i</sup>
	<i>Seminar for the staff of Moroccan Parliament (both chambers) on financial and administrative good governance</i>	Spring	Strasbourg	SP IV <sup>ii</sup> / Norway VC
	<i>Seminar for the staff of Moroccan Parliament (both chambers) on the control of public policies</i>	Fall	Rabat	Norway VC
<b>II.</b>	<b>Development of the co-operation with the Parliament of Jordan</b>			
	<i>Capacity building activities for the staff of the Jordanian Parliament (drafting legislation, media and communication)</i>	February	Strasbourg	SP III <sup>iii</sup>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Regional activities with the Southern Mediterranean countries</b>			
	<i>Seminar for MPs on parliamentary democracy and political parties</i>	Spring	Amman	SP IV /
	<i>"Parliamentary Conference on the Partnership for Democracy: achievements and changes", for the Parliaments of Morocco, Jordan and Palestinian National Council</i>	May - June	Rabat	SP IV /
<b>AS/JUR</b>				
<b>I.</b>	<b>Parliamentary mechanisms and structures for the supervision of the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights</b>			
	<i>Seminar for MPs of the Parliaments from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia on implementation of ECHR: key role of Parliament</i>	January - February	Strasbourg	HF II <sup>iv</sup>
	<i>Regional Parliamentary Seminar on the role of the Parliament in implementing the ECHR and the ECTHR judgments</i>	March - April	Tbilisi	AP Georgia <sup>v</sup>
	<i>Multilateral Parliamentary seminar for the MPs of selected member States</i>	Fall	tbc	OB <sup>vi</sup>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Capacity building Seminar on the European Convention on Human Rights for the staff of national parliaments of member states</b>			
	<i>2 multilateral seminars for staff of national parliaments of selected member States</i>	Spring and Fall	Strasbourg	OB
<b>III.</b>	<b>The role of parliaments in the implementation of the CPT (Committee for the prevention of torture) standards and recommendations</b>			
	<i>Multilateral seminar for the MPs of member States</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	tbc	OB (tbc)
	<i>Multilateral Seminar for staff of national parliaments of member States</i>	Fall	Strasbourg	OB (tbc)

<sup>1</sup> The activity falls within the terms of reference of the Committee(s) indicated below

<b>AS/CULT</b>				
	<b>Freedom of expression and media</b>			
	<i>Regional Seminar for MPs of the Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia on freedom of expression and freedom of media</i>	June - July	Budapest TBC	<b>HF II</b>
	<i>Capacity Building Seminar for staff-members of the Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia</i>	February	Strasbourg	<b>HF II</b>
<b>AS/PRO</b>				
	<b>Fight against corruption</b>			
	<i>Seminar for MPs from the Verkhovna Rada on combating corruption</i>	April	Oslo TBC	<b>UKR</b> <sup>vii</sup>
<b>ELECTIONS OBSERVATION DIVISION (EOD)</b>				
	<b>Developing the parliamentary dimension of co-operation in electoral matters</b>			
	<i>Seminar for MPs of the Verkhovna Rada on the electoral system</i>	February	Berlin TBC	<b>UKR</b>

<b>PACE Seminars for the Secretaries of national delegations</b>				
	<i>Half-day information seminar</i>	24 April	Strasbourg	<b>OB</b>
	<i>Half day information seminar</i>	11 Dec	Paris	<b>OB</b>

**II. Activities to be carried out by PACE Committees and their Parliamentary Networks:**

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TENTATIVE DATE</b>	<b>TENTATIVE VENUE</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b>
<b>AS/SOC</b>				
<b>I.</b>	<b>Parliamentary action for social rights</b>			
	<i>Parliamentary seminar on the European Social Charter</i>	Fall	Strasbourg	<b>OB/VC</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Parliamentary action for public health and sustainable development</b>			
	<i>Parliamentary dimension of the continent-wide MEDICRIME Conference</i>	Fall	Croatia	
<b>III.</b>	<b>Parliamentary action for the rights of the child</b>			
	<i>Promotion of the CoE Lanzarote Convention and parliamentary action against child sexual abuse in general, including the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (6th edition)</i>	18 November	Different parliaments coordinated from Strasbourg	

<b>AS/MIG</b>				
	<b>Follow-up to the Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children</b>			<b>VC</b>
	<i>Parliamentary visits to an immigration detention centre and/or an open centre for migrants/alternative to detention in a member State (3 visits)</i>	Tbc	Greece Turkey Serbia (tbc)	<b>OB</b>
<b>AS/EGA</b>				
<b>I.</b>	<b>Violence against women – Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence</b>			
	<i>Follow-up to the IPU-PACE regional study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in Parliaments in Europe (organisation of a visibility event and publication of a handbook on best practices and mechanisms)</i>	tbc		<b>VC</b>
	<i>2 Network meetings during the part sessions (participation of experts) in Strasbourg</i>			<b>OB / VC</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Parliamentarians against racism and intolerance – Activities of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance</b>			
	<i>2 Alliance meetings during the part sessions (participation experts) in Strasbourg and publication of visibility/information material</i>			<b>OB / VC</b>

<sup>i</sup> **Norway VC** – Voluntary Contribution of Norway to the Action Plan “furthering co-operation with Morocco and Tunisia”

<sup>ii</sup> **SP IV** - South Programme IV – joint programme financed by the EU and the CoE and implemented by the CoE (2020 – 2023) for the South Mediterranean and Middle Est Region

<sup>iii</sup> **SP III** - South Programme III (“Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean”) – joint programme financed by the EU and the CoE and implemented by the CoE (2018-2020)

<sup>iv</sup> **HF II** – Horizontal Facility Phase II (joint programme financed by the EU and the CoE and implemented by the CoE (2018-2019) for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia)

<sup>v</sup> **AP Georgia** – Action Plan for Georgia (2019 -2020)

<sup>vi</sup> **OB** – PACE Operational Budget (Cooperation activities)

<sup>vii</sup> **UKR** – Action Plan for Ukraine (2018 – 2020)