



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

<http://assembly.coe.int>

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parliamentary Project Support Division
Division de soutien de projets parlementaires

PPSD (2018) 02
30 January 2018

Parliamentary Co-operation activities

SHORT WORK PLAN 2018

Introduction

1. The reform of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), leading to the adoption of Resolution 1822 (2011)¹, has had significant implications on its working methods and Committee structure.

2. The overall objective of the reform has been to strengthen the political relevance and effectiveness of the Assembly, making it more visible by reinforcing its interaction with national parliaments. Enhanced interaction should help the Assembly to better tailor its activities and priorities so that European-level debates find their way more easily to national parliaments.

3. To further these aims, in 2012 a Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD) was created within the Assembly secretariat, whose prime objective is, in partnership with the secretariats of general Committees and other sectors of the Assembly secretariat, to devise and promote specific co-operation projects involving parliamentarians and staff of national parliaments. Parliamentary co-operation activities are developed and implemented in areas where PACE has strong expertise and added value.

4. Through the activities proposed in the 2018 Work Plan (Appendix 1) and building on the initiatives carried out during 2017, 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.

5. The parliamentary seminars are often organised in conjunction with PACE Committee or Subcommittee 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. Peer-to-peer 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.

6. Moreover, capacity building 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 – with the ultimate goal to improve the capacity of staff members to support parliamentarians in their activities.

7. Importance has also been given to identifying issues and projects on which it will be possible to build in the medium-term. Although the plan is formulated for one year, a number of initiatives are conceived with a multi-annual horizon, on the basis of which concrete results at the national level can reasonably be expected.

8. 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.

1. Sources of financing and activities

9. Some of the proposed activities will be financed from the Assembly operational budget. These include multilateral parliamentary seminars on supervision of the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), on promoting children's rights and on diaspora policies, as well as meetings of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance. 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 2017, 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, as follows:

¹ Resolution 1822 (2011) *Reform of the Parliamentary Assembly* and Doc. 12627 (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Claude Mignon), adopted by the Assembly on 22 June 2011.

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

1.1.1. Eastern Partnership Programme for Good Governance (PGG)

10. This joint programme aims at providing assistance to the reinforcement of democratic reforms in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

11. During the period of 2015-2017, the Assembly participated in co-operation activities around four themes: (i) protecting and promoting human rights; (ii) combating threats to the rule of law; (iii) addressing the challenges of the information society; and (iv) promoting democratic governance. The PACE co-operation activities were mostly implemented at regional level, aimed at organising peer to peer seminars for Members of Parliaments of the region on the above themes as well as information / training workshops for the staff of Parliaments. A few activities were organised at national level, mainly on human and social rights related issues.

12. More specifically under the priority 'protecting and promoting human rights', projects on the role of national Parliaments on the supervision of the government activity in the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights as well as on the implementation of the European Social Charter were carried out.

13. Under the priority 'combating threats to the rule of law', PACE organised regional parliamentary seminars on mechanisms to counter corruption. As regards the priority 'addressing challenges of the information society', several inter-parliamentary co-operation activities focused on media regulation, the safety of journalists and the access to public media during electoral campaigns. Finally, under the priority 'promoting democratic governance', the Assembly undertook activities on ways and means to improve (regional) parliamentary co-operation in electoral matters.

14. In 2018, the PACE Secretariat will present new proposals for negotiations for the second part of the PGG's implementation period (2019-2021) – building on the achievements and lessons of the different projects implemented in 2015-2017.

1.1.2. South Programme (SP III)

15. PACE activities in the framework of the South Programme began in 2012. The Assembly is now involved in the implementation of the third phase of the joint programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union "Strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Mediterranean". The Secretariat of the Assembly presented a preliminary list of initiatives for cooperation with the Parliament of Morocco, the National Palestinian Council and the Parliament of Jordan in the framework of their Partnership for Democracy status. The proposal foresees regional and national seminars to be organised for members of Parliaments, and training sessions for their staff in order to ensure effective progress on the priority issues as defined in the PACE Resolutions on the Partner for Democracy status for the respective countries.

16. PACE proposals foresee regional or national seminars to be organised for members of Parliaments on issues such as 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 and the role of the Parliament in the adoption and implementation of migration policies.

17. The ultimate purpose of these initiatives is to contribute to the reinforcement of the role and structure of political parties in the Parliament, to strengthen the capacity to draft proper legislation, to evaluate the impact of newly adopted legislation, to support the creation of parliamentary bodies on human rights issues, to assist in the definition of a communication policy for the Parliament and to develop a code of deontology for the staff of the Parliaments.

1.2. Strengthening the Parliamentary capacity to implement the Council of Europe standards and policies in Ukraine (UKR)

18. The Assembly will also take part in the implementation of the new Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2020, financed by voluntary contributions. For 2018, it was agreed that PACE projects will be financed to target specific needs in increasing the awareness and capacity of parliamentarians and staff of the Verkhovna Rada in the existing Council of Europe standards and policies; law-making and legislative drafting; developing of parliamentary mechanisms for the supervision of the ECtHR judgments' execution; supporting the ratification and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and further harmonisation of national laws aiming at combating domestic violence; supporting dialogue and co-operation between representatives of the Parliament and local authorities, as well as dialogue with the civil society.

1.3. Projects submitted for Voluntary Contributions (VC)

19. Five Council of Europe-wide multilateral projects have been submitted by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Committee of Ministers for voluntary contributions, involving 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 since 2016. It is expected that other initiatives linked to the activities of various Assembly Committees receive further voluntary contributions in 2018. These projects have been included in the list of projects for 2018-2019 which require voluntary contributions, as well as access to some of the EU programmes above.

Thematic overview of activities to be organised in 2018

The following table presents the activities planned for 2018, for which funding is already confirmed under the Assembly's ordinary budget, committed from extra budgetary contributions or foreseen by voluntary contributions.

COMMITTEE*	ACTIVITY	TENTATIVE DATE	TENTATIVE VENUE	SOURCE OF FUNDING
AS/POL				
I	Implementation of the partnership for democracy with Morocco			
	<i>Parliamentary Seminar on the role of parliaments in the evaluation of public policies</i>	1 st semester	Rabat	SP III
	<i>Capacity building Seminar for the staff of Moroccan Parliament</i>	Spring	Spain (tbc)	
	<i>Capacity building Seminar for the staff of Moroccan Parliament</i>	Sept	Strasbourg	
	Implementation of the partnership for democracy with Palestinian National Council (tbc)			
	<i>Capacity building activities for staff of the Palestinian National Council</i>	Oct tbc	Strasbourg	SP III
	Development of the co-operation with the Parliament of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan			
	<i>Parliamentary seminar for Jordanian MPs</i>	1 st semester	Amman	SP III
	<i>Capacity building activities for staff of the Jordanian Parliament</i>	Oct	Strasbourg	
II	Regional conference on the role of parliaments in the Middle East and South Mediterranean			
	<i>Regional Conference on Parliamentary Democracy (place and dates tbc - in conjunction with a Sub-Comm meeting)</i>	tbc	tbc	SP III
AS/JUR				
I.	Parliamentary mechanisms and structures for the supervision of the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights			
	<i>Multilateral Parliamentary seminar for the MPs of Member States (in conjunction with a Committee meeting)</i>	1st semester	Paris (tbc)	OB
II.	Capacity building on the European Convention on Human Rights for the staff of national parliaments			
	<i>2 multilateral seminars for staff of national parliaments of Member States- creation of possible network</i>	tbc	Strasbourg	OB

AS/SOC				
I.	Empowering and protecting children through Parliamentary action			
	<i>Promotion of the European Day on the Protection of Children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse</i>	18 November	Different parliaments coordinated from Strasbourg	VC
	<i>Children's rights seminars for countries yet having to ratify the Lanzarote Convention and for follow-up of child-related PACE Resolutions, some of them in conjunction with a Sub-Committee meeting</i>	tbc	Yerevan, Baku, Lisbon (tbc)	
II.	Promoting public health through Parliamentary action			
	<i>Parliamentary seminar to promote the COE MEDICRIME Convention</i>	tbc	tbc	
AS/MIG				
I.	Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children			
	<i>Country specific and regional parliamentary seminars, promotion materials</i>			VC
II.	Developing the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies			
	<i>Multilateral parliamentary conference</i>	7 May	Geneva	VC
	<i>Regional conference on Diaspora policies</i>	8 Feb	Rabat	SP III
AS/EGA				
I.	Violence against women – Development of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence			
	<i>Regional study on Sexism, harassment and violence against women in Parliaments in Europe (joint project with IPU)</i>	January - October		VC
	<i>2 Network meetings during the part sessions (participation experts) Strasbourg or Committee meeting</i>			OB
	<i>1 external meeting of Network</i>			OB
	<i>1 working seminar on implementing the Istanbul Convention for MPs from countries undergoing GREVIO monitoring procedure</i>	2 nd semester	Geneva	
	<i>Preparation of Network Newsletter; handbook and its translation</i>			
	<i>2 national seminars on promoting signature, ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention</i>	1 st semester	Lithuania Republic of Moldova	VC

II.	Parliamentarians against racism and intolerance – Development of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance			
	<i>2 Alliance meetings during the part sessions (participation experts) Strasbourg or Committee meeting</i>			OB
	<i>2 national seminars for parliamentarians</i>			VC
	<i>Preparation of newsletters, video advocacy campaign, exhibition; translation and dissemination of Council of Europe publications and information material</i>			
ELECTIONS OBSERVATION DIVISION				
I.	Developing the parliamentary dimension of the regional co-operation in electoral matters			
	National seminar on the misuse of administrative resources		Republic of Moldova (tbc)	OB
	Regional seminar on the misuse of administrative resources for the Balkan region			OB
PACE				
I.	Seminar for the Secretaries of national delegations			
	<i>Two day information seminar</i>	29-30 June (tbc)	Strasbourg	OB
	<i>Half day information seminar</i>	Dec	Paris	OB

* The activity falls within the terms of reference of the Committee(s) indicated below

SP III – Events financed by the South Programme III (Towards a strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean) – joint programme with the EU (2018-2020)

VC – Events financed by the Voluntary Contributions

OB – Event financed by the ordinary budget of the PACE

Date	Activity	Venue	Committee*
January part-session	Joint Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – Women Free From Violence and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance on <i>Sexist hate speech</i>	Strasbourg	AS/EGA
8 February	Regional meeting on the <i>Prevention of migrants' radicalisation through integration: the role of parliaments and diaspora associations</i>	Rabat (SP III)	AS/MIG
26 and 28 February	Consultative meeting on the status of administration of parliaments for members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine	Kyiv (UKR)	PPSD
10-11 April (tbc)	Joint parliamentary seminar on <i>The Misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: a major challenge for democratic elections</i> for MPs from Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina	Tirana / Sarajevo (tbc) (SEE)	Election Observation Division
April part-session		Strasbourg	AS/EGA
7 May	Multilateral parliamentary conference on diaspora policies	Geneva (VC)	AS/MIG
June part-session	Meeting of the Parliamentary Network – Women Free From Violence	Strasbourg	
29-30 June	Seminar for secretaries of national delegations (tbc)	Strasbourg	PPSD
1 st semester	Parliamentary seminar on the role of parliaments in the evaluation of public policies	Rabat	AS/POL
1 st semester	Parliamentary seminar for Jordanian MPs	Amman	AS/POL
1 st semester	Parliamentary seminar for the MPs of member states on execution of judgments of the ECHR	Paris (tbc)	AS/JUR
1 st semester	National seminar in promoting signature, ratification and implementation of Istanbul Convention	Lithuania	AS/EGA
1 st semester	National seminar in promoting signature, ratification and implementation of Istanbul Convention	Republic of Moldova	AS/EGA
September	Capacity building seminar for the staff of Moroccan Parliament	Strasbourg	AS/POL
October part-session	Meeting of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance	Strasbourg	AS/EGA
October	Capacity building activities for the staff of the Palestinian National Council	Strasbourg	AS/POL
October	Capacity building activities for the staff of the Jordanian Parliament	Strasbourg	AS/POL
18 November	Events to promote the European Day on the Protection of Children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse		
xx December	Seminar for secretaries of national delegations	Paris	PACE

2nd semester	Working seminar on implementing the Istanbul Convention for MPs undergoing GREVIO Monitoring procedure	Geneva	AS/EGA
Activities tbc			
	Capacity building seminar for the staff of Moroccan parliament	Spain (tbc)	AS/POL
	Regional conference on parliamentary democracy		AS/POL
	Two multilateral seminars for staff of national parliaments of Member States	Strasbourg	AS/JUR
	Seminars on children's rights	Yerevan, Baku, Lisbon (tbc)	AS/SOC
	Parliamentary seminar to promote the CoE MEDICRIME Convention		
	National seminar for parliamentarians – No Hate Alliance		AS/EGA
	National seminar on the misuse of administrative resources	Republic of Moldova (tbc)	Election Observation Division
	Regional seminar on the misuse of administrative resources for the Balkan region		Election Observation Division

Note: The shaded rows show the activities organised within the framework of part-sessions

* *The activity falls within the terms of reference of the Committee(s) indicated below*

SP III – Events financed by the South Programme III (Towards a strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean) – joint programme with the EU (2018-2020)

VC – Events financed by the Voluntary Contributions

UKR – Events financed by the Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2020

SEE – Events financed by the Action Plan for Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina