

2021-2023

**ACTION PLAN FOR 2021-2023 DERIVING FROM THE STRATEGY FOR JUDICIAL AND  
LEGAL REFORMS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA<sup>1</sup>**

**Objective 1. Establishing democracy and strengthening the rule of law through transitional justice**

**Strategic directions:** Restoring rights of persons affected by the mass and regular violations of human rights based on the summary of the Report of the Fact-Finding Commission and institutional reforms

**Action 1.** Performance by the Fact-Finding Commission of its activities, submitting a report and providing an advisory opinion to the Government and the National Assembly

**Outcome of Action 1:** The cases of the mass and regular violations of human rights occurred in Armenia during 1991-2018 are studied, the causes of such violations are identified, the scope of the persons having committed the above-mentioned violations and of those affected thereby is clarified, the information submitted by the victims are documented

**Action 2.** Undertake measures aimed at restoring rights of persons affected by the violations, based on the summary of the Report of the Fact-Finding Commission

**Action 2.** The rights of persons affected by the mass and regular violations of human rights occurred in Armenia during 1991-2018 are restored

**Action 3.** Undertake institutional reforms aimed at ruling out the recurrence of violations based on the summary of the Report of the Fact-Finding Commission

**Outcome of Action 3.** The institutional reforms pertaining to mass and regular violations of human rights are implemented

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages			Verification measure	Expected outcome	Source of funding
			2021	2022	2023			
Performance by the Fact-Finding Commission of its activities, submitting a report and providing an advisory opinion to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia	Fact-Finding Commission	Summary of the Report of the Fact-Finding Commission is of primary importance for the effective application of the toolkit for transitional justice. Currently, the Government of the Republic of Armenia	The Fact-Finding Commission performs activities aimed at acquiring and summarising relevant information	The Report and Advisory Opinion of the Fact-Finding Commission are submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the National	-	The Report of the Fact-Finding Commission is submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the National Assembly of the Republic of	The Report of the Fact-Finding Commission is submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, and the collected	Funds not prohibited by law

<sup>1</sup> The Action Plan for 2021-2023 may be amended depending on the outcomes of implementation of the actions provided for by the Action Plan for 2019-2020

		is not fully provided with the information to be confirmed thereby.		Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.		Armenia.	information is sufficient for submitting an advisory opinion to the National Assembly and the Government of the Republic of Armenia regarding the forms, extent of and the need for restoring the rights of persons affected by such offences.	
Undertake measures aimed at restoring rights of persons affected by the violations, based on the summary of the Report of the Fact-Finding Commission	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	Persons affected by systemic offenses for years, and sometimes for decades, are not provided with effective means for restoration of their rights. Within the framework of this Strategy, one of the main goals of applying the toolkit for transitional justice is providing a solution to the mentioned issue.	-	-	The effective legislative grounds and practical mechanisms for restoring the rights of persons affected by violations have been elaborated, discussed with the interested bodies, civil society and beneficiaries, approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and submitted to the National Assembly	The legislative grounds and practical mechanisms for restoring the rights of persons affected by violations have been elaborated, discussed with the interested bodies, civil society and beneficiaries, submitted to the National Assembly	The legislative grounds and practical mechanisms for restoring the rights of persons affected by violations have been elaborated, discussed with the interested bodies, civil society and beneficiaries, submitted to the National Assembly and are considered to be an effective measure	Funds not prohibited by law
Undertake institutional reforms aimed at ruling out the recurrence of violations based on the summary of	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of	Although the reforms implemented until now have had positive dynamics,	-	-	The draft institutional reforms have been	The draft reforms elaborated based on the	The draft reforms developed based on the summary of the Report of the	Funds not prohibited by law

the Report of the Fact-Finding Commission	Armenia	they have not led to systemic and profound changes. In order to exclude the mistakes made previously, it is necessary to implement institutional reforms, which will not be partial, temporary and will be based on the analysis of reliable and complete information.			elaborated based on the summary of the Report of the Fact-Finding Commission, they have been discussed with the interested bodies and civil society, approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia after which they have been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	summary of the Report of the Fact-Finding Commission, have been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	Fact-Finding Commission have been elaborated, discussed with the interested bodies, civil society, after which they have been submitted to the National Assembly and include provisions aimed at making institutional and comprehensive changes	
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**Objective 2. Implementing constitutional reforms**

**Strategic directions:** Elaborating draft constitutional reforms by the Commission for Constitutional Reforms, initiating constitutional referendum

**Action 1.** Elaborating draft constitutional reforms by the Commission for Constitutional Reforms

**Outcome of Action 1.** The Commission for Constitutional Reforms has elaborated the draft constitutional reforms, which refer to at least the following conceptual issues: the direct operation of the Constitution, the role of the international treaties in our legal system, in case of accession to supranational institutions — the specifics of applicability of the normative legal acts adopted by such supranational institution, the scope of the powers vested in the bodies provided for by the Constitution, the procedure for election of the deputies of the National Assembly and formation of the parliamentary majority, and the number of deputies, issues concerning formation of other bodies subordinate to the Government, the Prime-Minister and the ministries and the powers thereof as provided for by the Constitution, separation and balancing of powers between the bodies provided for by the Constitution, the role and powers of the Supreme Judicial Council

**Action 2.** Public discussion of the draft constitutional reforms and initiating constitutional referendum

**Outcome of Action 2.** Public discussion of the draft constitutional reforms has been organised and the process of organising constitutional referendum has been initiated

Actions	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages			Verification measures	Expected outcome	Source of funding
			2021	2022	2023			
Elaborating draft constitutional reforms by the Commission for Constitutional Reforms	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Commission for Constitutional Reforms (upon consent).	The Constitution has a number of omissions which, conditioned by subjective or objective factors, undermine the principle of the rule of law, the affirmation and consolidation whereof the initiation of amendments to the Constitution was namely aimed at.	The Commission for Constitutional Reforms has started the elaboration of the draft constitutional reforms	The Commission for Constitutional Reforms continues elaborating the draft constitutional reforms	The Commission for Constitutional Reforms has completed the elaboration of the draft constitutional reforms	The draft constitutional reforms are elaborated, they have been discussed with the interested bodies, and its public discussion has been organised	The Commission for Constitutional Reforms has elaborated the draft constitutional reforms, which refer to at least the following conceptual issues: the direct operation of the Constitution, the role of the international treaties in our legal system, in case of accession to supranational institutions — the specifics of applicability of the normative legal acts adopted by such supranational institution, the scope of powers vested in the bodies provided for by the Constitution, the procedure for election of the deputies of the National Assembly and formation of the parliamentary majority, as well as the number of deputies, issues concerning formation of other bodies subordinate	Funds not prohibited by law

							to the Government, the Prime-Minister and the ministries and the powers thereof as provided for by the Constitution, separation and balancing of powers between the bodies provided for by the Constitution, the role and powers of the Supreme Judicial Council	
Public discussion of the draft constitutional reforms and initiating constitutional referendum	Ministry of Justice	-			The draft constitutional reforms have been discussed with all interested bodies, civil society, and the process of organising constitutional referendum has been initiated			

**Objective 3. Improving the mechanisms for the public accountability of the judiciary**

**Strategic directions:**

- Improve the procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases
- Publishing reports and statistics on the activities of the judicial system

**Action 1.** Improving the procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases

**Outcome of Action 1.** The procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases is improved and takes into account the workload of a judge and complexity of a case, besides there are no judges having an exclusive authority for examining specific category of cases

**Action 2.** Introduce a mechanism for publishing reports and statistics summarising the activities of courts acting in the publicly accessible online mode

**Outcome of Action 2.** The mechanism for publishing reports and statistics summarising the activities of courts acting in the publicly accessible online mode is introduced

Actions	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages			Verification measures	Expected outcome	Source of funding
			2021	2022	2023			
Improving the procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Supreme Judicial Council (upon consent)	Under the conditions of the current procedure, the procedure for distribution of cases does not take into account the workload of a judge and complexity of a case, which poses disproportionately greater burden on some judges. In addition, within the framework of judicial oversight over operational intelligence activities, certain judges having an exclusive authority for performing the mentioned function are appointed, as a result of which the logic and purpose for random distribution of cases are violated. Currently, distribution of cases by sectoral specialisation is an urgent issue, especially among judges with specialisation in civil law. The current	The plan aimed at improving the procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases has been elaborated based on the discussions with the interested bodies and the organisation providing relevant software support	The draft amendments and practical mechanisms aimed at improving the procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases have been elaborated, discussed with the interested bodies, approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and submitted to the National Assembly		The draft amendments and practical mechanisms aimed at improving the procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases have been elaborated, discussed with the interested bodies, approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and submitted to the National Assembly	The procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases is improved and takes into account the workload of a judge and complexity of a case, as well as there are no judges having an exclusive authority for examining specific category of cases	Funds not prohibited by law

		model of general distribution does not ensure effective examination of cases. Thus, there is need for fundamental reform in the procedure for electronic inscription and distribution of judicial cases.						
Introduce a mechanism for publishing reports and statistics providing summary of the activities of courts acting in the publicly accessible online mode	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Supreme Judicial Council (upon consent).	Currently there is limited access to the information and statistics on the activities of the judicial system. The statistical data are available at <a href="http://www.court.am">www.court.am</a> , but the information base of the website is not updated in time, and the statistical information is not generated automatically and is not summarised in a user-friendly format. Whereas, publishing reports and statistics summarising the activities of courts in the publicly accessible online mode is essential from the point of view of transparency and accountability of the activities of the judiciary.	The legislative grounds and software for the mechanism for publishing reports and statistics providing summary of the activities of courts acting in the publicly accessible online mode has been elaborated	The mechanism for publishing reports and statistics providing summary of the activities of courts acting in the publicly accessible online mode is introduced		The mechanism for publishing reports and statistics providing summary of the activities of courts acting in the publicly accessible online mode is introduced	The mechanism for publishing reports and statistics providing summary of the activities of courts acting in the publicly accessible online mode is introduced and contributes to enhancing public confidence in courts	

**Objective 4. Providing a unified platform of services provided by state and local self-government bodies**

**Strategic direction:** Establishing a unified office functioning under the "one-stop shop" principle

**Action 1.** Establish a unified centre for providing some state services by applying the “one-stop shop” principle

**Outcome of Action 1.** The unified office functioning under the "one-stop shop" principle is established, the movement of citizens between administrative districts, transportation costs, as well as the corruption risks related to the services provided have been reduced

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages			Verification measure	Expected outcome	Source of funding
			2021	2022	2023			
Establishment of a unified centre of some state services provided by state and local self-government bodies by applying the “one-stop shop” principle	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	Decentralisation of the state services most demanded by citizens makes the administration difficult,, it takes a lot of unjustified time and money resources from citizens, as well as creates corruption risks due to the nature of the communication between the decision-maker and the applicant as a result of consideration of the application.	The roadmap for establishing a unified centre for providing some state services has been elaborated with the indication of the necessary material resources, facility conditions and technical means.	Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on establishing a unified centre for providing some state services has been adopted	At least one centre for providing some state services has been established	At least one centre for providing some state services has been established	The unified office functioning under the "one-stop shop" principle is established, the movement of citizens between administrative districts, transportation costs, as well as the corruption risks related to the services provided have been reduced	Funds not prohibited by law

**Objective 5. Increasing the effectiveness of activities of courts**

**Strategic directions:**

- Reduction of the workload of judges and ensuring reasonable time limits for court examination
- Building capacities of judges and their staff

**Action 1.** Increasing the number of judges and assistants to judges

**Outcome of Action 1.** The number of judges and assistants to judges has increased, time limits for court examination have been reduced

**Action 2.** Continuous building of the capacities of judges



**Outcome of Action 2.** Capacities of judges in relevant fields have been improved

**Action 3.** Provide courts with the facility conditions necessary for their effective operation

**Outcome of Action 3.** The courts are provided with the facility conditions necessary for their effective operation

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages			Verification measure	Expected outcome	Source of funding
			2021	2022	2023			
Increasing the number of judges and assistants to judges	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Supreme Judicial Council (upon consent)	In recent years, the number of judicial cases has been increasing in Armenia, while the number of judges remains almost unchanged, and mechanisms for the settlement of disputes through extra-judicial procedure are not yet fully developed for contributing to the reduction of the overloading of courts.	The draft legal act aimed at increasing the number of judges and assistants to judges has been elaborated	The draft legal act aimed at increasing the number of judges and assistants to judges has been discussed with the interested bodies, civil society and broader public, has been approved by the Government and submitted to the National Assembly		The draft legal act aimed at increasing the number of judges and assistants to judges has been discussed with the interested bodies, civil society and broader public, has been approved by the Government and submitted to the National Assembly	The number of judges has increased, time limits for court examination have been reduced	Funds not prohibited by law
Continue carrying out trainings for judges in the following fields: (a) investigation of cases of corruption, economic crimes and crimes committed by officials, (b) importance is attached to the development of the skills of judges to work with evidence on electronic media parallel to the introduction of electronic	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Justice Academy of the Republic of Armenia (upon consent)	Currently, in the judicial system of the Republic of Armenia there is a practice of literal interpretation of law without right-based evaluation of the law, as well as there are issues related to the interpretation and application of the rules of ethics of judges, as well as	Trainings for judges continue based on the programmes developed	Trainings for judges continue based on the programmes developed	Trainings for judges continue based on the programmes developed	Trainings for judges are conducted.	Capacities of judges in relevant fields have been improved	Funds not prohibited by law

<p>justice tools,</p> <p>(c) professional rules of conduct and ethics,</p> <p>(d) case-law of the European Court of Human Rights on particular articles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.</p>		<p>interpretation and application of the case-law of the ECtHR. Moreover, launch of the active stage of fight against corruption also implies necessity of developing the skills to examine cases of corruption and crimes committed by officials. And introducing e-justice tools implies improvement of the skills to work with electronic evidence.</p>						
<p>Provide courts with the facility conditions necessary for their effective operation</p>	<p>Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia</p>	<p>Issues of insufficient space for courts or administrative buildings of the seats thereof or improper segregation from the seats of other state bodies, as well as ensuring access of persons with disabilities to courts still exist in the Republic of Armenia. There are some buildings of courts which lack necessary minimum conditions — courtrooms, opportunities to create open and closed zones, etc.</p>	<p>The courts are being provided with the facility conditions necessary for their effective operation, according to the priorities and schedules prescribed.</p>	<p>The courts are being provided with the facility conditions necessary for their effective operation, according to the priorities and schedules prescribed.</p>	<p>The courts are being provided with the facility conditions necessary for their effective operation, according to the priorities and schedules prescribed.</p>	<p>Statement of information on the assessment of needs of improving the facility conditions necessary for the effective operation of courts and on defining priorities and schedules, as well as documents on the construction works started.</p>	<p>The courts are provided with the facility conditions necessary for their effective operation.</p>	<p>Funds not prohibited by law</p>

**Objective 6. Increasing the effectiveness of forensic examinations**

**Strategic direction:** Uniting subdivisions involved in the state bodies providing expert services

**Action 1.** Unite the state forensic examination institutions functioning in the Republic of Armenia under one unified centre; provide that centre with equipment necessary for increasing the effectiveness of its activities

**Outcome of Action 1.** The state forensic examination institutions functioning in the Republic of Armenia have been united under one unified centre; that centre has been provided with equipment necessary for increasing the effectiveness of its activities, time limits for issuing an expert opinion have been reduced

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages			Verification measure	Expected outcome	Source of funding
			2021	2022	2023			
Unite the state forensic examination institutions functioning in the Republic of Armenia under one unified centre; provide that centre with equipment necessary for increasing the effectiveness of its activities.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia	The time period for issuing an expert opinion is often extended due to the workload of the state forensic examination centres, the effectiveness of the organisation of expert examinations is impaired due to the disproportionate distribution of the workload, the Expertise Centre of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia — state expertise centre being overloaded most, often fails to ensure conducting of the necessary expert examination due to the lack of technical equipment which undermines justice.	The programme for uniting state forensic examination institutions under one unified centre has been developed, the list of the equipment necessary for the expertise centre for its effective operation has been drawn up, the priorities and schedules for the provision have been defined.	The unified centre started to operate and has been provided with the technical basis necessary for its effective operation according to the priorities and the schedule prescribed.	-	Roadmap for uniting the expertise centres, statement of information on the assessment of needs of the technical means necessary for the effective operation of the unified centre and on defining priorities and schedules, as well as documents on the already provided support.	The state forensic examination institutions functioning in the Republic of Armenia have been united under one unified centre; that centre has been provided with equipment necessary for increasing the effectiveness of its activities, time limits for issuing an expert opinion have been reduced.	Funds not prohibited by law
Building capacities of the Personal Data Protection	Ministry of Justice of the	As a result of the monitoring carried	A training programme for	The Personal Data		The Personal Data Protection	Measures of developing	Funds not prohibited by

Agency, providing technical and software support	Republic of Armenia	out by the EC expert with regard to elaborating a strategy for institutional reforms for the Personal Data Protection Body of the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the Joint EU and the COE Programme “On promoting the right to the protection of personal data”, both the necessity of ensuring independence of the authorised body and the lack of human, material and financial resources have been emphasised.	the employees of the Personal Data Protection Agency has been elaborated, development of the capacities of employees of the Personal Data Protection Agency has been carried out	Protection Agency has been provided with the technical and software support necessary for effective performance of the tasks set before it		Agency has been provided with the technical and software support necessary for effective performance of the tasks set before it	capacities has been carried out for the employees of the Personal Data Protection Agency, the Personal Data Protection Agency has been provided with the technical and software support necessary for effective performance of the tasks set before it	law
Signing and ratifying the Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	The Protocol provides for a number of essential and substantive changes by reflecting the tendencies for development of European Law in the sector of protection of personal data. The Convention updated by signing and ratifying the Protocol will become the part of the Legislation of the Republic of Armenia on Personal Data Protection making the Republic	Public discussions on signing and ratifying the Protocol have been conducted	The Protocol has been signed	The Protocol has been submitted for ratification	The protocol has been signed and submitted for ratification	The Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data is signed and ratified	Funds not prohibited by law

		of Armenia participant in the developments of the sector.						
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**Objective 7. Increasing the effectiveness of civil justice**

- Strategic direction:**
- Defining cases of compulsory reconciliation in the civil procedure and improving the procedure for appointment of a conciliator
  - Solving the issues recorded upon the results of inventory of the issues having arisen in law enforcement practice of the civil procedure

**Action 1.** Making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia and the Law “On conciliation”

**Outcome of Action 1:** Providing for a legal possibility to make the assigning of a free conciliation by the court with regard to family, labour, banking, etc. disputes, as well as improving the process of appointing a conciliator.

**Action 2.** Specifying the issues having arisen during the application of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia and making amendments for the purpose of their solution

**Outcome of Action 2:** solving issues arisen as a result of application of new institutes and regulations in practice

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages		Verification measure	Outcome	Source of funding
			2021	2022			
Making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia and the Law “On conciliation”.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Supreme Judicial Council (upon consent).	In the legal solutions for assigning a free conciliation prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia, consider the legal possibility of making compulsory the assigning of a free conciliation by the court with regard to disputes on certain legal relations (family, labour, banking, etc.).  Moreover, according to the current regulations, the licensed conciliator shall be appointed from	Draft Laws “On making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” and “On making amendments to the Law “On conciliation”” have been elaborated; the drafts have been circulated and sent to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as	The draft Laws “On making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” and “On making amendments to the Law “On conciliation”” have been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Laws “On making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” and “On making amendments to the Law “On conciliation”” are elaborated and have been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Laws “On making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” and “On making amendments to the Law “On conciliation”” have been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, and the procedure for assigning a conciliation by the court has been improved thereby.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law.

		among the list of conciliators of the relevant sector, in alphabetical order of surnames, in accordance with the level of specialisation and workload of the licensed conciliator. Whereas, the criteria and procedure for determining the level of specialisation and workload of a conciliator are missing.	prescribed.				
Specifying the issues having arisen during the application of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia and making amendments for the purpose of their solution.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Armenia (upon consent).	By the adoption of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia of 9 February 2018, civil justice was reformed and a number of new institutions were introduced, which were aimed at reducing the workload of the court and increasing the effectiveness of the case examination.  However, the new regulations have also given rise to different issues.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been elaborated; the draft has been circulated and sent to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” is elaborated and has been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, and the issues having arisen during the application of the Code have been inventoried and resolved thereby.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law
Elaborate draft laws aimed at making amendments to the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia and other legal acts.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	(1) Discuss and review the regulations pertaining to the contract law with regard to all types of contracts.  (2) Discuss and review the norms pertaining to non-contractual obligations	The draft Laws have been elaborated, circulated and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	The draft Laws have been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Laws are elaborated and have been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	The legislation complies with the current trends of the development of civil and legal relations.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law

		(3) Discuss and review the regulations pertaining to the institute of intellectual property					
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**Objective 8. Increasing the effectiveness of administrative justice**

**Strategic direction:**

- Review of the principles of administrative procedure, evidence, rules for distribution of the burden of proof, scope of classification of claims, appealing against additional decisions of the Administrative Court and judgments of the Administrative Court, limits of appeal and cassation.

**Action 1. Making amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia**

**Outcome of Action 1:** Review and regulation of the principles of administrative procedure, evidence, rules for distribution of the burden of proof, scope of classification of claims, appealing against additional decisions of the Administrative Court and judgments of the Administrative Court, limits of appeal and cassation.

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages		Verification measure	Outcome	Source of funding
			1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of 2022			
Making amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Supreme Judicial Council (upon consent).	Since the adoption of the Administrative Procedure [Code] of the Republic of Armenia till now, the application of a number of institutions of the administrative procedure in practice have given rise to different issues: Moreover, by the adoption of the new Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia, for example, appeal and cassation proceedings have been reviewed and a number of procedural innovations have been made, which are aimed at increasing the effectiveness of justice.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been elaborated; the draft has been circulated and sent to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been elaborated and submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Administrative Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, and a number of institutions of the administrative procedure have been improved thereby.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law

		As a result, the administrative procedure regulations are not in line with the new procedural developments, as a result of which the Administrative Court was burdened with heavy workload.					
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**Objective 9. Increasing the effectiveness of the bankruptcy system**

**Strategic directions:**

- Improving the procedures for acquiring a profession of bankruptcy administrators, introducing a toolkit for increasing the effectiveness of liability and activities
- Establishing sustainable mechanisms contributing to financial rehabilitation
- Enhancing the role of judges (court) in bankruptcy proceedings
- Raising public awareness about the bankruptcy system
- Elaborating a universal bankruptcy legislation

**Action 1.** Make relevant amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy”, by reviewing the requirements for a bankruptcy administrator and the procedure for appointment thereof

**Outcome of Action 1:** The level of professionalism of judges has increased, their capacities and skills have been developed, fair distribution of bankruptcy cases among bankruptcy administrators is guaranteed, the independence of administrators has been strengthened and the responsibility thereof has been increased.

**Action 2.** Make relevant amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy”, by establishing a toolkit promoting the application of the Financial Rehabilitation Plan, in particular, flexible mechanisms for remuneration and awards of bankruptcy administrators in case of approving the financial rehabilitation plans, tools for ensuring state aid in the financial rehabilitation of companies.

**Outcome of Action 2:** The regulations pertaining to the financial rehabilitation have been improved, the attractiveness of the toolkit for financial rehabilitation has increased, the applicability of the financial rehabilitation institution has increased.

**Action 3.** Elaborate forms of financial rehabilitation plans, organise relevant courses for bankruptcy administrators, judges and interested bodies.

**Outcome of Action 3:** The attractiveness of the toolkit for financial rehabilitation has increased, the applicability of the financial rehabilitation institution has increased.

**Action 4.** Develop the technical capacities of the Bankruptcy Court, replenish the technical means of the court, increase the level of technical competence of the court staff



**Outcome of Action 4.** The effectiveness of the Bankruptcy Court has increased, the workload has reduced.

**Action 5.** Make amendments to the Constitutional Law “Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia”, by increasing the number of judges of the Bankruptcy Court

**Outcome of Action 5.** The effectiveness of the Bankruptcy Court has increased, the workload has reduced.

**Action 6.** Implement measures of public awareness of bankruptcy processes (through billboards, television advertisements and programmes, press).

**Outcome of Action 6.** The transparency and accountability of the bankruptcy system has increased, the participants of the system are able to assess the compliance of their activities with the legislation or assess the effectiveness thereof.

**Action 7.** Elaborating the draft Bankruptcy Code

**Outcome of Action 7:** All procedural and material aspects related to the bankruptcy proceedings are regulated by one comprehensive legislative act.

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages		Verification measure	Outcome	Source of funding
			1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of 2021			
Make relevant amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy”, by reviewing the requirements for a bankruptcy administrator and the procedure for appointment thereof	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	A requirement of having higher education in the relevant profession and undergoing a training prior to qualification (for example, academic degree in law, accounting, management or economics) is not provided for bankruptcy administrators, there are no criteria for election and appointment of administrators	The draft Law providing for amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy” has been elaborated, circulated and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	The draft Law providing for amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy” has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law providing for amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy” has been elaborated and submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	Only highly qualified candidates participate in bankruptcy cases.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law
Make relevant amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy”, by establishing a toolkit promoting the application of the Financial Rehabilitation Plan, in particular, flexible mechanisms for remuneration and awards	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	The practice analysis shows less effectiveness of the financial rehabilitation institution; in practice, most companies in the process of bankruptcy immediately proceed to liquidation process.	The draft Law providing for amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy” has been elaborated, circulated and submitted to the Office of the	The draft Law providing for amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy” has been approved by the Government of the Republic of	The draft Law providing for amendments to the Law “On bankruptcy” has been elaborated and submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of	The effectiveness of the financial recovery institute has increased.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law

of bankruptcy administrators in case of approving the financial rehabilitation plans, tools for ensuring state aid in the financial rehabilitation of companies.			Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	Armenia.	Armenia.		
Elaborate forms of financial rehabilitation plans, organise relevant courses for bankruptcy administrators, judges and interested persons.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia Supreme Judicial Council (upon consent) Academy of Justice (upon consent) Self-Regulatory Organisation of Bankruptcy Administrators (upon consent)	The practice analysis shows less effectiveness of the financial rehabilitation institution; in practice, most companies in the process of bankruptcy immediately proceed to liquidation process.	Draw up a schedule for implementing the activities and developing training programmes, involving relevant specialists.	Conducting studies based on the directions predetermined, developing (modernising), discussing, summarising training programmes, preparing and approving forms.	The relevant forms have been elaborated and circulated, as well as trainings have been organised.	The effectiveness of the financial rehabilitation institution has increased.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law
Develop the technical capacities of the Bankruptcy Court, replenish the technical means of the court, increase the level of technical competence of the court staff	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	The technical equipment of the Bankruptcy Court is not sufficient for ensuring its effective operation.	Assessment of the needs for technical equipment necessary to the courts for their effective operation has been carried out.	The Bankruptcy Court started to be provided with the facility conditions necessary for its effective operation, according to the priorities and schedules prescribed.	Statement of information on the assessment of needs of improving the facility conditions necessary for the effective operation of courts and on defining priorities and schedules, as well as documents on the construction works started.	The Bankruptcy Court is provided with the conditions necessary for its effective operation.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law

<p>Make amendments to the Constitutional Law “Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia”, by increasing the number of judges of the Bankruptcy Court</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia</p>	<p>The establishment of the new Bankruptcy Court has not been accompanied by a review of the number of judges examining bankruptcy cases and the workload of the court affects the time limits for examining cases and effectiveness of the procedure.</p>	<p>The draft Law providing amendments to the Constitutional Law “Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been elaborated, circulated and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.</p>	<p>The draft Law providing amendments to the Constitutional Law “Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia” has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>	<p>The draft Law providing amendments to the Constitutional Law “Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia” is elaborated and has been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.</p>	<p>The workload of the Bankruptcy Court has reduced, the effectiveness of examination of cases has increased.</p>	<p>State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law</p>
<p>Implement measures of public awareness of bankruptcy processes (through billboards, television advertisements and programmes, press).</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia</p>	<p>Lack of awareness of bankruptcy proceedings reduces the transparency and accountability of the system, the participants of the system are not able to assess the compliance of their activities with the legislation or assess the effectiveness thereof. In this regard, the results of the study conducted in the bankruptcy sector show that organisations and natural persons are informed about the bankruptcy process when they are personally involved in bankruptcy proceedings.</p>	<p>The plan for public awareness and the plan schedule for its implementation have been drawn up.</p>	<p>The awareness measures are implemented according to the schedule and the plan.</p>	<p>The awareness measures are implemented according to the schedule and the plan (ongoing)</p>	<p>The public awareness of bankruptcy processes has been raised.</p>	<p>State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law</p>

Elaborate a draft Bankruptcy Code	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	There is no systematic, comprehensive and universal bankruptcy legislation (in the form of a Code) for regulating all procedural and material aspects of bankruptcy proceedings by a single document.	The draft Bankruptcy Code has been elaborated, circulated and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	The draft Bankruptcy Code has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Bankruptcy Code has been elaborated and submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	A single legislative act of all procedural and material aspects related to the bankruptcy proceedings has been adopted.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law
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### Objective 10. Developing alternative methods of dispute settlement

#### Strategic directions:

- Establishing arbitration centres
- Developing other alternative methods of dispute settlement
- Raising the level of relevant legal education and public awareness

#### Action 1. Initiate and/or support the establishment of an institutional arbitration body

**Outcome of Action 1.** There are professional arbitration institutions in Armenia.

**Action 2.** (1) Implement measures of public awareness of bankruptcy processes (through billboards, television advertisements and programmes, press);  
(2) develop and introduce relevant educational programmes or modernise the current educational programmes

**Outcome of Action 2.** The level of the legal education of the field has increased, the educational programmes have been modernised, the market has been armed with professionals.

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages		Verification measure	Outcome	Source of funding
			1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 2022			
Initiate and/or support the establishment of an institutional arbitration body	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	Several arbitration institutions operate in Armenia, the majority of the cases examined whereby are instituted on the basis of claims filed by financial organisations.	The directions, financial resources of the establishment of the centre have been predetermined, relevant	The centre has been established, the rules and other acts of the centre have been approved, the arbitrators have been trained, the	A professional arbitration centre has been introduced and operates.	Arbitration has been developed, rating of Armenia has increased at least at regional level	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law

		Moreover, the arbitration institutions in the Republic of Armenia mostly operate at the local level and may, only in exceptional cases, examine cases of international nature.	specialists have been involved.	centre examines cases.			
(1) implement measures of public awareness of the alternative methods of dispute settlement (through billboards, television advertisements and programmes, press); (2) develop and introduce relevant educational programmes or modernise the current educational programmes	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia  Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia	The lack of awareness of the alternative methods of dispute settlement has a negative impact on the effectiveness of the application thereof. At the same time, there is a lack of specialists in the field.	The plan for public awareness and the plan schedule for its implementation have been drawn up, educational programmes have been developed.	The awareness measures are implemented according to the schedule and the plan, educational programmes have been introduced.	The awareness measures are implemented according to the schedule and the plan (ongoing), the instruction is carried out according to the educational programmes (ongoing).	Public awareness has been raised, the sector has been replenished by quality specialists.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law

**Objective 11. Increasing the effectiveness of the notary system**

**Strategic directions:**

- Improving the institute of notary writ of execution
- Review of the procedure for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability
- Increasing the effectiveness of notarial actions

**Action 1.** Making amendments to the Law “On notary” and other legislative acts, by increasing the effectiveness of the institution of notary writ of execution.

**Outcome of Action 1.** Increasing the effectiveness of application of notary writ of execution

**Action 2.** Making amendments to the Law “On notary”, by improving the procedures for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability.

**Outcome of the Action 2.** Review the proceedings for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability

**Action 3.** Making amendments to the Law “On notary”, by ensuring the effective protection of the interests of both notaries and the parties, decreasing the probability of judicial disputes and providing the opportunity of using additional evidence in case of judicial disputes.

**Outcome of Action 3.** The effective protection of the interests of both notaries and the parties will be ensured, decrease the probability of judicial disputes and provide the opportunity of using additional evidence in case of judicial disputes.

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages		Verification measure	Outcome	Source of funding
			1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of 2022			
Make amendments to the Law “On notary” and other legislative acts, by increasing the effectiveness of the institution of notary writ of execution.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Notary Chamber of the Republic of Armenia (upon consent).	The wide application of the institution of notary writ of execution is considered to be an effective measure to reduce the workload of civil courts taking into consideration the fact that the overloading of civil cases in the courts of first instance is first of all conditioned by the cases on a claim for levying money in execution. However, it is not yet possible to widely apply the institution of notary writ of execution in practice due to the fact that the toolkit necessary for its application is not elaborated and adopted. Moreover, it is necessary to expand the grounds for applying a notary writ of execution.	The drafts have been elaborated, the drafts have been circulated and sent to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	The drafts have been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The drafts have been elaborated and submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	The efficiency of the application of the notary writ of execution has been raised.	State Budget  or other funds not prohibited by law
Make amendments to the Law “On notary”, by improving the procedures for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Notary Chamber of the Republic of Armenia (upon consent).	For increasing the effectiveness of the notary system, it is necessary to review the procedures for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability, as the grounds and procedures for subjecting a notary to	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Law “On notary”” has been elaborated; the draft has been circulated and sent to the Office of the Prime	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Law “On notary”” has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Law “On notary”” has been elaborated and submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of	The procedure for subjecting a notary disciplinary liability has been improved.	State Budget  or other funds not prohibited by law

		disciplinary liability prescribed by law are not clear.	Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.		Armenia.		
Make amendments to the Law “On notary”, by ensuring the effective protection of the interests of both notaries and the parties, decreasing the probability of judicial disputes and providing the opportunity of using additional evidence in case of judicial disputes.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, Notary Chamber of the Republic of Armenia (upon consent).	For increasing the effectiveness of the notarial actions it is necessary to consider the notarial actions in which the parties are personally present, providing for a possibility of video recording by mutual agreement of the parties.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Law “On notary”” has been elaborated; the draft has been circulated and sent to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Law “On notary”” has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law “On making amendments to the Law “On notary”” has been elaborated and submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	The notarial actions in which the parties are personally present, providing for a possibility of video recording by mutual agreement of the parties have been ensured.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law

## Objective 12. Reforms of the compulsory enforcement system

### Strategic directions:

- Systemic review of the legislation of the compulsory enforcement sector
- Improving the technical equipment of the Compulsory Enforcement Service

**Action 1.** Elaborate the draft Law “On enforcement proceedings”.

### Outcome of Action 1.

- (1) there are comprehensive legal regulations on enforcement proceedings and enforcement actions, taking into account all the specifics of the acts subject to compulsory enforcement;
- (2) enforcement expenses are differentiated;
- (3) the grounds and procedure for suspension of enforcement proceedings exist;
- (4) time limits for enforcement proceedings have been reduced.

**Action 2.** Improving the technical equipment of the Compulsory Enforcement Service.

**Outcome of Action 2.** The technical equipment of the Compulsory Enforcement Service has been improved, the application of electronic tools has expanded.

Action	Responsible body	Baseline situation	Target as per stages		Verification measure	Outcome	Source of funding
			2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 2022			
Elaborate the draft Law “On enforcement proceedings.	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia	<p>(1) all the specifics related to the enforcement of the subject to compulsory enforcement are not clarified, relations in connection with the compulsory enforcement of each of them are not subjected to institutional regulation;</p> <p>(2) determination of the amount of enforcement costs subject to levy in execution is restricted only to the size of the value of the property or of the amount being levied in execution;</p> <p>(3) differentiated grounds for suspension of enforcement proceedings exist;</p> <p>(4) there is a necessity of reducing the time limits for enforcement actions.</p>	The draft Law “On enforcement proceedings has been elaborated, circulated and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia as prescribed.	The draft Law “On enforcement proceedings has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law “On enforcement proceedings” has been elaborated and submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.	The draft Law “On enforcement proceedings” has been submitted to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and includes relevant regulations aimed at ensuring the outcomes of the measure.	State Budget or other funds not prohibited by law
Improving the technical equipment of the	Ministry of Justice of the	Necessity of improving the system of electronic	The priorities for technical	The current systems have	Tools (systems) complying with the	The technical equipment of the	State Budget



Compulsory Enforcement Service.	Republic of Armenia	notifications, tools for electronic document circulation and electronic auction.	assistance have been established and the schedule for providing the assistance has been approved, relevant technical tasks have been developed and approved.	been improved based on the established priorities, schedule and technical tasks, new systems have been introduced and operate.	established technical tasks have been introduced and operate.	Compulsory Enforcement Service has been improved, the application of electronic tools has expanded.	or other funds not prohibited by law
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