



European Union priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2018-2019

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Based on our shared values of
Human Rights, Democracy and
the Rule of Law

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Geographic cooperation areas

- The EU will pursue its cooperation with the CoE, notably in the candidate countries and potential candidates.
- Political dialogue will guide the identification of our priority areas, highlighted in the yearly Enlargement Package.

European Union Neighbourhood region

- The EU will cooperate with the CoE in the Eastern Partnership countries and in relevant Southern partners under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

Other countries

- Cooperation with the CoE will also cover Russia and Central Asian countries.
- In countries neighbouring the CoE, cooperation will continue on the basis of joint EU-CoE needs assessment and the established framework for cooperation.

Thematic cooperation areas

Human Rights

- Strengthening the respect of European Human Rights standards and supporting and protecting human rights defenders, freedom of expression and of assembly.
- Continuing working for the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data.
- Advocating for the abolition of death penalty in all circumstances and strengthening cooperation on combatting torture, ill-treatment and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments.
- Fighting against discrimination and promoting respect for the human rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups (Roma, children, LGBTI, women) and promote social rights).

Democracy

- Pursuing dialogue on democratisation processes.
- Promoting intercultural dialogue and interreligious dialogue.
- Cooperating on strengthening institutional frameworks for local and regional governance.

Rule of Law

- Focusing on the capacity-building and implementation of standards in order to ensure and strength the independence, quality and efficiency of judicial systems.
- Strengthening judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters.
- Cooperating in the prevention of terrorism in the context of the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and its additional protocol.
- Fighting against organised crime, cybercrime, corruption and sport manipulation.
- Enhancing data protection legislation, regulations and policies in line with international and European data protection standards.

Cross-cutting issues

- Continuing mainstreaming cooperation with civil society, the PACE and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and to support the political dialogue pursued by the Secretary General with the CoE member states.
- Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in all areas of action.
- Cooperating on youth and children
- Continuing dialogue on migration, with a particular attention to addressing the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations.
- Ensuring full respect for international standards of human rights while addressing security concerns.
- Maintaining complementarity and coordination with the EU agencies or bodies while cooperating with the CoE.
- Increasing the visibility of the EU support to the CoE.

