



EaP Partnership Platform 1 - Session 2 JUSTICE REFORM

**Overview: Contributions of
Stakeholders in Structured
Consultation**

Justice confirmed as a priority

- *Supporting justice reform is a **priority theme***
 - For EU Member States
 - For Eastern Partnership countries
 - Also for EaP citizens
- *Clear link to **economic performance***
- *A pillar ... or a foundation?*

State of play

- *Overall, progress has been disappointing*
- ***New approaches and new tools are needed***
- ***Political will is the absolute pre-requisite***
- *Results mixed = argument for **differentiation***

Better conditionality

- *Widespread support for « **more for more** »*
- *Many EU MS also support « less for less »*
- ***Conditions to be stricter and « smarter »***
- *Decisive and quick reaction when **back-sliding***

Principles

- *Reforms to be based on **European Standards***
- *Active involvement of **Council of Europe** (VC)*
- *Need to cover **prosecution** services*
- ***Independence and accountability** of the judiciary to be an explicit objective*
- *High quality **strategy** based on first rate **diagnostic***
- *Need to **measure** the real results/impacts of reforms*

Ideas (involvement)

- *Increased role for **civil society***
- *Active role of **EU experts** in reform process (lessons from Albania and Ukraine)*
- *More **EU rule of law experts** on the ground*
- ***Peer to peer exchanges (EaP/EU)** for judges and prosecutors, beyond twinning projects.*

Ideas (content)

- *Critical role of **High Councils for the Judiciary***
- *Focus on legal framework in line with **European Standards** (but ...)*
- *Exchanging **best practices**/success stories (also with Western Balkans)*
- *Benefits of **e-justice** (but ...)*

Ideas (monitoring/evaluation)

- *Tailor-made and **targeted deliverables***
- ***Better metrics** to measure impact (surveys, Dashboard, Eurostat)*
- *Better (possibly 3rd party) assessments of the state of play*