

Legal Aspects of Georgia's EU Integration

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Abstract

Following Georgia's application for EU membership in March 2022, it was finally granted candidate status on the basis of European Council conclusions of December 14 and 15, 2023.¹

The relationships between the two are predominantly governed by the Association Agreement² (AA) concluded between the EU and Georgia. The AA is an outcome of the EU's European neighbourhood policy (ENP), an important part of the EU's foreign policy, of which Georgia is one of 16 partner countries.³ While the AA has historically framed the contours of EU-Georgia cooperation, the recent advancement of Georgia's status marks the commencement of a significantly more dynamic phase of interaction. Consequently, in future the scope of engagement will further extend beyond the domains outlined by the AA, the Treaty Establishing Energy Community,⁴ or the Common Aviation Area Agreement.⁵ Moreover, Georgia will have to broaden its horizon and look much further than it had to in case of the existing bilateral and multilateral agreements with the EU, embracing a more comprehensive approach to its integration efforts.

The paper serves as the written statement of the speech delivered by the representative of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia at the International Scientific Conference convened by the collaborative efforts of Lazarski University and the European Integration Research Center at Georgian National University SEU. The author is steadfast in the belief that discussions conducted during the conference contribute significantly to deepening Georgia's integration with the EU, and foster stronger connections between academia and the policymaking sector.

Keywords: EU, Georgia, legal approximation, EU Law, Association Agreement, candidacy.

Introduction

Since we happen to live amidst very turbulent geopolitical realities, it is at the same time a little bit frightening and exciting that we have the opportunity to observe significant legal transformations in the light of global changes.

The aim of this paper is to analyze the process of Georgia's legal harmonization with the European Union through various instruments of approximation currently employed by the country. It explores different issues interesting from the perspective of EU-Georgia relations, particularly through the lens of Georgia's efforts in legal convergence matters.

¹ European Council meeting (14 and 15 December 2023) – Conclusions, EUCO 20/23, Brussels, 15 December 2023 <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/68967/europeanCouncilConclusions-14-15-12-2023-en.pdf> p. 5. [L.s. 01.03.2024].

² Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02014A0830%2802%29-20231115> (consolidated text of 15/11/2023) [L.s. 01.03.2024].

³ EU Parliament report on EU-GEO AA implementation, European implementation assessment (update) by the European Parliamentary Research Service, Brussels © European Union, 2022, p. 1.

⁴ Treaty establishing Energy Community, <https://www.energy-community.org/legal/treaty.html> [L.s. 01.03.2024].

⁵ An official website of the European Union, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02012A1120%2801%29-20210528> [L.s. 01.03.2024].

The paper is primarily concentrated on the following topics:

- Institutional mechanisms envisaged by the AA;
- Other national executive mechanisms for integration;
- The role of the Ministry of Justice in ensuring legal compliance with EU law;
- The E-Platform – a recently launched electronic database for legal approximation;

The Treaty on European Union delineates the conditions⁶ and principles⁷ that any applicant country wishing to become a member state of the European Union must conform to. If necessary, Brussels implements the pre-accession strategy through the association, so that the interested countries are economically and politically ready to join the Union.⁸ To successfully reach this goal, the states are required to fulfill the so-called *Copenhagen Criteria* established in 1993 by the European Council, which necessitate the presence of (1) stable political institutions and the guarantee of human rights and the rule of law; (2) economic stability and the existence of a robust market that could cope with economic integration with the EU; and (3) an acceptance of the Community Acquis, the body of EU law that has developed since the beginning of European integration in the 1950s.⁹ In 1995, the Madrid European Council highlighted the necessity to “create the conditions for the gradual, harmonious integration of [the applicant] states, particularly through the development of the market economy, the adjustment of their administrative structures and the creation of a stable economic and monetary environment.”¹⁰

Undoubtedly, the role of state institutions in the dynamic and comprehensive process of approximation with the Union is of crucial importance. Therefore, administrative agencies and line ministries must demonstrate exceptional diligence and consideration in order to systematically address and gradually eliminate principal discrepancies with EU norms and values, thereby facilitating legal alignment.

1. EU’s window of Opportunities and Enlargement Perspectives

The nature of the relationship between the widening of the membership and its deepening has been debated in the face of every enlargement. It is argued that the larger, the more diverse, and the less cohesive the EU becomes, so then its decision-making becomes more difficult and, therefore, policy development more problematic.¹¹

Georgia was initially planning to declare its desire for EU integration in 2024. However, on March 3rd, 2022, it advanced its timeline by submitting its application for membership ahead of the scheduled date. The application was tabled in the context of Russia’s brutal war of aggression against Ukraine. Georgia’s pursuit towards the EU has been positively assessed by the Commission’s Opinion on Georgia’s application for membership of the European Union. In its introductory remarks, the Opinion stated that “since its independence, Georgia has clearly expressed its European aspirations. This European ambition is included in the Georgian Constitution and is supported by the people of Georgia and across the political spectrum. This has been a driver for a number of key reforms founded on

⁶ Article 49, The Treaty on European Union.

⁷ Article 6(1), The Treaty on European Union.

⁸ Oppermann, T., Classen, C.D., Nettesheim, “European law”, 8th edition, GIZ, Tbilisi, 2021, p. 917.

⁹ Copenhagen Criteria, Quick Reference,

<https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095637775> [L.s. 01.03.2024].

¹⁰ Madrid European Council 15 and 16 December 1995 Presidency Conclusions, III: A. Europe Open To The World, Enjoying Stability, Security, Freedom And Solidarity, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/summits/mad1_en.htm [L.s. 01.03.2024].

¹¹ Tatham, A.F., “Enlargement of the European Union,” Kluwer Law International, 2009, p. 3.

European values and standards. Georgia's commitment to progress on its European path was underlined by the Government's initial intention to submit an application in 2024."¹²

The Commission's Opinion further emphasized that Georgia has gradually approximated substantial elements of the Acquis across many chapters, and with a solid foundation established for further alignment, Georgia has an overall positive track record of implementation.¹³

The European Union law will continue to remain at the heart of European integration and the continuing formulation of EU identity. Its adoption, implementation and enforcement as a yardstick for Europeanization will remain a somewhat imprecise science yet, in the absence of a better alternative, the Union institutions and the Member States are extremely unlikely to jettison it, as a candidate's failure to comply with the *acquis* is the effective stick to the carrot of EU membership.¹⁴

Now the crisis stemming from the current extreme geopolitical reality has unveiled an urgent opportunity for the so-called Associated Trio – Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. Therefore, this presents an “open window” that the already candidate states have to thoroughly address and seize.

The accession process has been by and large a meritocratic one. For all countries of the region, political criteria of compliance with liberal democratic norms have been the core and sine qua non conditions for opening accession negotiations.¹⁵ We have to consider that the forthcoming potential enlargement will have no less importance for the future of the EU itself. Thus, seizing the presented opportunities and navigating the related challenges by the candidates are of crucial importance as they will shape the Union's trajectory in the years to come.

2. Institutional Framework of Association Agreement

The political construction of Europe is a unique experience. Its success has been dependent on the ability to combine coherence with respect for diversity and efficiency with democratic legitimacy.¹⁶ Considering the unique characteristics and peculiarities of each country, the EU establishes the rights, obligations, and institutional framework mainly through agreements, as exemplified by the AA, in the case of Georgia.

The EU monitors and evaluates the implementation and proper application of the AA following its provisions. The chapters of the institutional framework of the document outline the establishment and operation of bodies designed to facilitate institutional cooperation between the parties and ensure precise implementation of the Acquis. Consequently, the fundamental structure of the relationships envisioned by the AA is managed by the following institutions: Association Council, Association Committee, Sub-committees, Parliamentary Association Committee, and the Civil Society Platform.¹⁷

The Association Council is in fact the main political instrument for the implementation of the AA. It monitors the application of the AA and supervises its proper fulfillment.

¹² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, 17 June 2022, p. 2. https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a95905d5-9783-4a1b-ae2-1740a79eda49_en?filename=Georgia%20opinion%20and%20Annex.pdf [L.s. 01.03.2024].

¹³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, 17 June 2022, p. 16-17, https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a95905d5-9783-4a1b-ae2-1740a79eda49_en?filename=Georgia%20opinion%20and%20Annex.pdf [L.s. 01.03.2024].

¹⁴ Tatham, A.F., “Enlargement of the European Union,” Kluwer Law International, 2009, p. 490.

¹⁵ Schimmelfennig, F., “Enlargement and the Promotion of Liberal Norms in Eastern Europe”, in Roy J., and Domínguez R. (editors), “Towards the Completion of Europe Analysis and Perspectives of the New European Union Enlargement”, p. 32. https://aei.pitt.edu/32452/1/EU_enlarg%2Dbook%2Dtext%2Bcover.pdf [L.s. 03.03.2024].

¹⁶ Extract from Rodrigues, M.J., “The Open Method of Coordination as a New Governance Tool” in Telò, M (editor), “L'evoluzione della governance europea”, special issue of “Europa/Europe”, Rome, N 2-3, 2001, p. 4. https://mariajoarodrigues.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Open_Method_of_Coordination-2.pdf [L.s. 03.03.2024].

¹⁷ Articles 403-413, AA.

The Association Council meets at the ministerial level, comprising the members of the Commission and Council of the EU, and high-ranking government officials from Georgia. Accordingly, the Georgian representatives are chaired by the Prime Minister, while the EU delegation is headed by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The Council has the authority to enact binding decisions, as well as to update or make amendments to the annexes of the AA.

The Association Committee assists the Association Council in its functions and duties and usually meets with the Deputy Ministers on the Georgian part, and the heads of the Directorate Generals of the relevant field, on the EU side. The Association Committee may be granted the authority to enact binding decisions, as well as any powers delegated to it by the Association Council.

Sub-committees are not the strongest political mechanisms, yet they are one of the most effective instruments of the EU-Georgia communication system due to their flexible nature. They are also convened annually, alternately in Tbilisi and Brussels and address very technical and detailed issues on legal approximation of each piece of legislation envisaged by the AA. Their main objective is to provide the EU with updated information on recent reforms and achievements. During the sub-committee meetings, the civil servants and EU officials discuss the proper transposition and implementation of EU law in the Georgian legal system.

Apart from that, sub-committees are sometimes granted the authority to render binding decisions in specific fields. For instance, the EU-Georgia Sanitary and Phytosanitary Sub-committee¹⁸ updates the Annex XI-B of the AA and modifies the list of the EU Acquis that Georgia has an obligation to gradually approximate its sanitary and phytosanitary, animal welfare and other legislative measures pursuant to Article 55(1) of the AA, while Geographical Indications Sub-Committee amends the XVII-C and XVII-D Annexes of the AA.¹⁹

One of the most important meetings that are held in the mentioned format is the Sub-committee on Justice, Freedom and Security (JFS), coordinated and organized by the Ministry of Justice, which addresses such acute and significant issues as: Judicial and Penitentiary system reforms, Cooperation in civil and criminal matters, Fight against terrorism, drugs, trafficking, money laundering, etc. Another one is the Economic and Other Sectoral Cooperation Sub-committee, where the Ministry of Justice updates the EU on company law issues, in particular, focusing on the “Law of Georgia on Entrepreneurs.”

Parliamentary Association Committee is a forum for the exchange of opinions between the members of the EU and Georgian Parliaments. It is authorized to make recommendations to the Association Council and its meetings are presided by a representative of the European Parliament and the Parliament of Georgia respectively.

The institutional, general, and final provisions of the AA provide for the establishment of a Civil Society Platform, tasked with promoting regular meetings of representatives from the civil societies of both parties, "in order to keep them informed of, and gather input for, the implementation of this Agreement."²⁰ Thus, the Platform complements the political bodies existing within the framework of the AA. The Platform gives civil society organizations from both sides the opportunity to monitor the implementation of the AA by submitting its recommendations to the relevant authorities.²¹ The Civil

¹⁸ Decision No. 1/2023, EU-Georgia Sanitary and Phytosanitary Sub-committee, (06/03/2023; 480610000.03.030.016715) <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/download/5751116/0/1> [L.s. 03.03.2024].

¹⁹ Decision No. 1/2023, EU-Georgia Geographical Indications Subcommittee (15/11/2023; 480610000.03.030.016760) <https://www.matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/6068874?publication=0> [L.s. 03.03.2024].

²⁰ Art 412(1), AA

²¹European Economic and Social Committee website, presentation, Sections and other bodies, The EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/sections-other-bodies/other/eu-georgia-civil-society-platform> [L.s. 04.03.2024].

Society Platform establishes its own rules of procedure and is, in essence, the practical mechanism to meet and exchange the views of civil sectors and increase their participation in the integration process.

3. Strategic Policy Documents

Apart from the central legislative framework that regulates the main aspects of the relationships with the EU, Georgia employs strategic documents as the foundational tools for planning, decision-making, and governance in the process of legal approximation.

In order to fulfill the obligations envisaged by the AA, to accurately set the vision and goals, the EU and Georgia periodically agree on the Association Agenda. This document helps to articulate ultimate outcomes and sets specific benchmarks for the future. It ensures that policy initiatives are aligned with the government's overall objectives and strategic priorities and promotes coordination among various state agencies by providing a common set of goals. This helps in ensuring that the efforts of various parts of the government are aligned and synergistic.

The latest Association Agenda was adopted for the period of 2021-2027.²² Considering the magnitude of objectives to be attained and the requisite resources needed, it provides for the short-term (usually for the period of 3-4 years) and medium-term (7 years) priorities that are to be met in the next few years.

The principal priorities remain largely consistent with those outlined in the preceding Agenda. Now special emphasis is placed on judicial and anti-corruption reforms, as well as on enhancing citizens' access to public information, strengthening the local self-government, and implementation of public administration reform. In February 2023, the Public Administration Reform (PAR) strategy for the period 2023-2026, along with its Action Plan, was adopted. This development marks a significant milestone on Georgia's European path.

To ensure effective implementation of the Agenda, the government annually develops a multi-sectoral policy document - the National Action Plan for the Integration of Georgia into the EU. These Action Plans specify distinct activities to be executed, which are assigned to competent line ministries and other state agencies. For instance, according to the 2023 National Action Plan, there were approximately 50 activities within the electronic monitoring system designated to the Ministry of Justice.

4. Other National Executive Mechanisms in the Process of Approximation

Approximation with the EU for candidate countries involves alignment of the national regulations and standards with those of the EU *Acquis*. This process is multifaceted and quite complex, reflecting the wide range of policies and rules that govern the EU's legal, economic and other areas of cooperation. We have already discussed the main institutional framework set by the AA and strategic documents determining principal directions towards EU integration. Nevertheless, these policies will not be fully implemented and harmonization be properly obtained unless supported by a robust system of cooperation and uniform approaches endorsed by the pertinent state institutions.

Therefore, it is consequential that all the relevant bodies and stakeholders involved in the process of approximation launch the necessary mechanisms for cooperation and have needed resources in place. These are the major state institutions involved in the process of approximation:

The Parliament - As the main legislative body, the Parliament actively participates in the process of integration by the adoption of the legislation, as well as in the political dialogue with the European Union through the Parliamentary Association Committee. In addition to that, the relevant committees

²² RECOMMENDATION No 1/2022 OF THE EU-GEORGIA ASSOCIATION COUNCIL on the EU-Georgia Association Agenda <https://mfa.gov.ge/pfiles/files/2021-2027-EU-Georgia-Association-Agenda-EN.pdf> [L.s. 03.03.2024].

of the Parliament along with its legal department carry out compliance checks of national legislative acts with the EU *Acquis*.

Commission of Georgia on EU Integration - The commission serves as a central coordinating body, presided over by the Prime Minister. Its members hold positions at the ministerial level. Through the active exchange of information and close consultations with each other, the commission ensures unified and consistent approaches within the government. Functioning directly under the Prime Minister, it effectively facilitates the acceleration of the approximation process at the political level and ensures the expedited fulfillment of priorities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs – operates as a pivotal coordinating body within the integration process. It guarantees effective communication between national entities and international counterparts. This is further enhanced by its continuous and active engagement with EU institutions as well. Additionally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for preparing regular reports for the EU detailing the progress in the implementation of the EU *Acquis*.

Other line ministries – engage in the transposition of EU legal acts relevant to their respective areas of competence. In the light of the agreements with the EU, together with the Association Agenda and National Action Plan, it is incumbent upon each administrative agency to guarantee the proper fulfillment of obligations and the precise transposition of legislation within designated timeframes.

Ministry of Justice - participates in the legislative process concerning matters falling under the competencies of the Ministry of Justice. Apart from that, via its EU law department, it carries out compliance assessments with EU legal acts at the governmental level, provides legal opinions, and offers expertise on legal approximation issues.

5. Fostering Legal Cooperation: The Inception of the EU Law Department

Following the signing of the AA, in order to address emerging opportunities for European integration, within all state agencies of Georgia, separate structural entities specifically dedicated to European integration issues - such as divisions, departments, or units - have been formed.

In order to support legal approximation and tackle the complexities of aligning with EU law, the Ministry of Justice established the EU Law Department (EULD) in 2014. Being in charge of developing methodologies for legal approximation and verifying that proposed national legislation is in line with European standards, The EULD plays a critical role in overall conformity with EU legislation.

The role and responsibilities of the EULD are set to be further enhanced in the forthcoming phases of integration. Presently, its scope primarily encompasses:

- Facilitating the coordination of activities across the Ministry's structural subdivisions to meet EU integration obligations;
- Conducting studies and analyses of EU law, including judgments from the European Court of Justice;
- Developing methodologies to ensure a seamless approximation process;
- Offering legal opinions regarding the conformity of draft Georgian legislation with EU law, and submitting proposals to the Ministry's Legal Drafting Department for the drafting of new normative acts or amendments to existing ones as required.²³

The EULD served a crucial function within the Ministry of Justice's system, overseeing the completion of the Questionnaire delivered by the EU Commission subsequent to Georgia's application for EU membership in 2022.

²³ Art 6, Order No. 244 of the Minister of Justice of Georgia, September 20, 2017 (20/09/2017; 010240020.22.027.016744) <https://www.matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3757102?publication=0> [L.s. 03.03.2024].

The initial segment of the Questionnaire contained 369 questions, 31 of which were allocated to the Ministry of Justice, while the second part comprised 2,300 questions, with 92 assigned to the Ministry of Justice.

6. EULD's role in awareness-raising throughout the process of EU integration

The EULD plays a significant role in promoting awareness regarding the EU integration process. Beyond its primary responsibilities which are mostly expressed in providing legal expertise and ensuring compliance of national legislation with the EU *Acquis*, the department is very actively engaged in educational and awareness-raising activities focused on legal approximation matters.

To this end, the department organizes annual Moot Court competitions in EU law for law school students across Georgia, engaging approximately 200 participants each year.

Furthermore, the EULD holds informative sessions periodically at regional universities to disseminate more detailed information about legal alignment and EU integration processes.

A notable initiative led by the department is the development of an electronic platform (which will be explored in more detail subsequently), along with practical training sessions on utilizing this system, aimed at civil servants from all relevant agencies.

Additionally, the EULD has launched a training module titled "The main aspects of European integration for civil servants." The module equips representatives from various agencies that are involved in the process of EU integration with essential knowledge of EU law and practical advice on legal approximation challenges.

It is also noteworthy that department staff actively contribute to the educational programs of different universities' law schools, specializing in teaching EU law.

7. Legal Approximation Manual

A notable contribution to legal approximation efforts is the manual "Guidelines for Approximation of Georgian Legislation with EU Law," created by the EULD with input from EU experts.

This manual offers an in-depth look at the core principles, policies, and legal sources underpinning EU law while recommending preferred methodologies for alignment. Furthermore, it delves into the AA and transposition techniques of the *Acquis* and discusses the challenges and *lessons learned* throughout the approximation process. Designed to function as a practical guide, the manual assists civil servants in the transposition of EU provisions by offering the drafting principles and detailing the specific characteristics of legal approximation with regard to different types of EU acts. Moreover, within its diverse sections, the guideline systematically identifies practices that either facilitate or hinder the approximation process.

The manual has been recently updated in order to mirror the current state of play of the EU-Georgia relations, especially after Georgia was granted candidate status.

8. Table of Compliance

Another principal instrument for legal approximation is the Table of Compliance (ToC). This tool is regarded as one of the most accurate and functional mechanisms for assessing the compatibility of national legislation with EU law. The format and structure of the ToC have been adopted by the Organic Law of Georgia on Normative Acts in 2018. According to the amendments to the organic law, if there

is an EU legal act, the obligation of approximation to which is proceeding from the agreements with the EU, the normative act should be attached by a table of compliance with it.²⁴

The ToC effectively provides, on one side, details regarding the title and form of the EU legal act and its specific provisions, and on the other side, it outlines information concerning the corresponding national legal act into which EU law has been transposed, along with its respective norms. Furthermore, it includes a section for the compliance status related to each provision and offers the opportunity for commentary pertinent to the transposition process.

The significance of the ToC is twofold: on the one hand, it enables the determination of the degree of compliance with EU law for public authorities, which will be useful during the self-assessment process; on the other hand, it can serve as the practical mechanism to demonstrate compliance to the EU during the screening phase in case of opening of the negotiations.

The EULD is presently developing a guideline for completing the ToC. This guideline is intended to foster best practices among the relevant agencies and establish uniform approaches between the authorities engaged in the legal approximation process.

9. E-Platform: A Database for Legal Approximation

A pivotal advancement in Georgia's EU integration efforts is the launch of an Electronic Platform by the Ministry of Justice. With the support of the EU, software developed by the Ministry of Justice functions as a comprehensive database, encompassing all relevant EU *Acquis* and the corresponding Georgian legislation.

Technically, the E-Platform integrates as a distinct module within the aa-monitoring system, which is the digital framework for the planning and monitoring of the Association Agreement. Its primary aim is to meticulously record, plan, and monitor the fulfillment of EU obligations, distinguishing itself from the aa-monitoring system by specifically serving as a database for legal approximation. The system endeavors to ensure the accuracy of legal alignment and showcase the bigger picture of coordination of the EU integration efforts.

The Platform is visually structured into two main sections. The Ministry of Justice is tasked with submitting data related to the EU *Acquis* in the first section, while other competent authorities and state agencies handle the section dedicated to national legislation.

Therefore, the first section includes EU *Acquis* that Georgia is obligated to align with, stemming from bilateral or multilateral agreements with the EU (AA, Common Aviation Agreement, Energy Community Treaty, decisions of the EU-Georgia sub-committees and so on) along with transposition deadlines specified therein. The second section, focused on national legislation, provides details about the normative acts where EU legislation has been transposed, identifies responsible and partner agencies, outlines deadlines for the adoption and entry into force of Georgian legal acts, and includes electronic links to the official journal (Legislative Herald of Georgia). In this part of the system, responsible agencies are also required to submit an explanatory note and a Table of Compliance with EU law alongside the data on the national legal act.

The concept of establishing the legal approximation platform was inspired by the insights gained during the study visits and experiences shared by various candidate and member states of the EU. For example, Croatia, who is the latest country to come aboard the EU, employed similar approaches through its IT system, comprising two distinct modules: one for coordinating the transposition of the *Acquis*, managing infringement procedure and handling litigation; and the other - for the coordination and adoption of national positions for EU level meetings. Serbia served as another pertinent example with

²⁴ Art. 17 and Annex No. 1, Organic Law of Georgia on Normative Acts, (22/10/2009, 010.240.010.05.001.003.647) <https://www.matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/90052?publication=19> [L.s. 03.03.2024].

its Integrated Monitoring System (IMS), which is part of the Monitoring of Centralized Programmes, financed by the EU's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). Similarly, some member states, such as the Czech Republic, also administer electronic databases that serve as platforms for the implementation of EU law. During the process of incorporating EU law into Czech legislation, a substantial volume of diverse information is processed with the support of this database. This includes internal working documents of both analytical and comparative nature, which underpin decision-making among the respective departments. Some data on the system provided by the European Commission to support the implementation process are designated exclusively for the internal use of ministries and other central state administrative bodies. The experiences of these countries and the practical tools shared by them have significantly contributed to the creation and development of the Georgian Legal Approximation Database.

10. Statistical information on the E-Platform

A notable feature of the Platform is its capability to process and present statistical data.

The database graphically displays attached information and analyzes statistical data based on five criteria: year of adoption, deadlines, the field of legislation, compliance status, and the competent agencies. This functionality allows for a more nuanced analysis of the legal approximation process, facilitating the identification of gaps and enabling the resolution of issues in a timely manner.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, with all the mechanisms and approaches discussed above, the approximation policy of Georgia endeavors to ensure that actions, procedures, and regulations on the legislative and executive levels are in accordance with EU legislation and standards.

The process of legal approximation with the EU demands a comprehensive approach, involving legislative alignment, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, all of which are critical for a candidate country's successful integration into the Union.

Therefore, sharing best practices and addressing challenges encountered during the comprehensive process of approximation is expected to significantly impact Georgia's path toward European integration. These efforts aid various stakeholders of the integration process in identifying challenges and offering potential solutions to procedural drawbacks and legal complexities.

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