

A critical pillar in all EU cooperation agreements with third countries is that of legal approximation, that is the harmonisation of national legislation to the EU *acquis communautaire*. Such harmonisation is both extensive and highly technical requiring targeted and carefully sequenced interventions in various levels and domains of public administration. European Profiles has played a leading role in this process, assisting governments in several transition countries for more than a decade. Among other, we have worked or continue to work with the governments of Azerbaijan, FYROM, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Albania, Tunisia, Ukraine, Poland and the Russian Federation in support of their efforts to align their legislation and national systems with the EU *acquis communautaire*.

Building on the accumulated experience and best practice in Europe and elsewhere, we assist government institutions in the **design and development of benchmark tools and legislative planning programmes**, which serve as guiding paths for the further development of the approximation policy. European Profiles' approach places primary emphasis on the deep understanding of the national context and its utilisation in the overall harmonisation process as well as on direct and hands-on advice to our clients.

We start from an in-depth review and **comparative analysis** of existing legislation, which is supported by **targeted impact assessments** to serve the ground for the elaboration of critical policy concepts and associated action plans for implementation. We work closely with our institutional partners in, first optimising the institutional set up, then addressing improvements to the legal and regulatory framework and finally assisting in its progressive approximation to the EU legislation.

Our clients value our reputation and commitment to the principle that regulatory and legal approximation is a long-term process, which should result to solutions best-responding to the current needs of the local economic, social and political paradigm.