



## Project Summary

### Project on “Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation from Corrupt Practices” (PRECOP RF)

*Version of October 2013*

Project title	2312/Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation from Corrupt Practices (PRECOP RF)
Project area	Russian Federation
Budget	1,300.000.Euro (EU Funding 86.81%; CoE Funding of 13.19%)
Funding	European Union / Council of Europe
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	36 Months (starting date - 1 January 2013)

## 1 Background and Justification

Through the joint project on the “Protection of the Entrepreneurs Rights in the Russian Federation from Corrupt Practices” - **PRECOP RF** - the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE) in direct cooperation with the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for the Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation aims to facilitate the implementation of mechanisms to prevent corrupt practices affecting the business sector in the Russian Federation. Specifically, the project will strengthen the capacity of the Business Ombudsman institutions and other authorities involved in protecting the rights of entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation from corrupt practices.

The project will provide technical assistance and make available tools in addressing prevention of corruption for the institution of the Federal Ombudsman for the Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in their initiatives to protect the business community from corrupt practices.

The project will address the following:

- Provide for institutional and legislative analysis;
- Capacity building/training; and
- Outreach and awareness raising.

The Office of the Federal Ombudsman for the Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs is the main beneficiary and counterpart for the project; as such the office will play an important role in the coordination of the local institutions and in ensuring their full participation and contribution to the successful implementation of the activities foreseen in the project. The project will take into account the needs of the regional business ombudsmen through the organization of activities that specifically

target these institutions. Furthermore the project will target with its activities representatives of business and legal associations which provide pro-bono support to the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for the Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs at the central and regional levels.

## 2 Objectives and expected results

The overall objective of the project is to facilitate the prevention of corrupt practices affecting the business sector in the Russian Federation. This will be achieved through a combination of actions which are described in more details below.

The expected results of the project are:

Project purpose	Strengthened mechanisms to protect the rights of entrepreneurs from corrupt practices
Expected Result 1	Institutions of regional and public Ombudsmen are informed about international standards and practices of comparable institutions (including in the context of competencies of the Ombudsman for the Protection of Entrepreneurs' Rights under the President of the Russian Federation)
Expected Result 2	Overview of good practices in Council of Europe (CoE) member-states and proposals for protecting whistle-blowers in the area of corruption are available
Expected Result 3	Proposals are available to strengthen measures to prevent the misuse of public authorities in corporate conflicts, eliminating competition and forced takeovers
Expected Result 4	Practice of pro bono legal assistance in the protection of the rights of entrepreneurs is expanded
Expected Result 5	Proposals are available on resolving systemic problems of entrepreneurship for the Experts' Council under the Ombudsman for the Protection of Entrepreneurs' Rights under the President of the Russian Federation
Expected Result 6	Awareness of the business community is raised with regard to the risks of infringement of entrepreneurial rights and possible methods for their protection
Expected Result 7	European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case law relevant to entrepreneurs rights and related corrupt practices is made available and disseminated
Contracting Authority	Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation
Implementation	Economic Crime Cooperation Unit, Department of Action against Crime, DG I-Human Right and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

### 3 Proposed Implementation Arrangements

The implementation of the Programme will be based on a contribution agreement between the Delegation of the European Union in Russia and the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe has recruited a Senior Project Officer and Project Assistant which are based in the Council of Europe Programme Office in Moscow. This team will work directly with the beneficiaries and will be supervised by the Project Manager based in Strasbourg at the Economic Crime and Cooperation Unit. In addition based on the activity needs and intervention profiles the Council of Europe will engage a number of international and local consultants/experts, service providers and suppliers, so as to ensure the proper implementation of the project.

The counterpart authorities and more specifically the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for the Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs will designate a National Project Coordinator who will be responsible, in co-operation with the Project team in Moscow and in Strasbourg for the coordination of project activities. S/he will function as the main counterpart responsible for the coordination of project activities on behalf of the institutions in the Russian Federation and will ensure the information flow and cooperation with all relevant institutions.

Overall project management supervision will be ensured by the Economic Crime Cooperation Unit at the Action against Crime Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), of the Council of Europe. A workplan of activities detailing all project actions, timing, and to certain extent over the nature of engagement of long and short term experts will be adopted during the first Steering Committee meeting. In view of this, the CoE will undertake necessary measures to guarantee their independence and exclusion from conflicts of interest.

### 4 Contact

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