

COOPERATION AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME Highlights – 2015



Twenty countries benefited from technical assistance and cooperation to prevent and combat corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing; including asset recovery. More than 4000 individuals from government and civil society profited from 132 tailor-made activities.

February 2016

Contents

1	SUMMARY.....	3
2	COUNCIL OF EUROPE BUDGETARY PROGRAMMES.....	4
2.1	Moldova.....	4
2.2	Slovakia.....	4
2.3	Russia Anti-Corruption Training.....	4
2.4	SEE Regional Conference on “Detecting and Investigating Corruption and Fraud through Audit Procedures”.....	5
3	COUNCIL OF EUROPE COOPERATION PROGRAMMES (EU & VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS).....	6
3.1	Kosovo*.....	6
3.2	Russia.....	7
3.3	Serbia.....	7
3.4	Turkey.....	8
3.5	Norway Grants.....	9
3.5.1	Bulgaria.....	10
3.5.2	Czech Republic.....	10
3.5.3	International Conference on "Developing trends in combating corruption, money laundering and recovering criminal assets in Europe”.....	10
3.6	South Neighbourhood Programme: Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.....	11
3.7	Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine.....	13
3.7.1	Azerbaijan.....	13
3.7.2	Georgia.....	14
3.7.3	Ukraine.....	14
4	COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.....	15
5	PIPELINE PROJECTS.....	16
5.1	Project to “Strengthen Prevention and Combating of Corruption in Kyrgyz Republic (SPCC-KY)”.....	16
5.2	Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs from Corrupt Practices at the Municipal Level in the Russian Federation (RF) - PRECOP (phase II).....	16
5.3	European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey.....	17
5.4	Council of Europe methodology on anti-money laundering countering terrorism financing (AML/CFT) national risk assessment.....	17
6	PUBLICATIONS AND VISIBILITY.....	18
7	STATISTICS.....	20

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Economic Crime and Cooperation Unit

1 SUMMARY

Twenty countries benefited from technical assistance and cooperation to prevent and combat corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing; including asset recovery. More than 4000 individuals – 1/3 of them women - from government and civil society profited from 132 tailor-made activities. International landmark events in Tirana and Prague provided *fora* for European Economic Area partners to discuss new trends in economic crime and further develop co-operation. During 2015, two new technical assistance regional programmes started under the Eastern Partnership and the South Neighborhood (MENA) regions. Five new project proposals for Bulgaria, Moldova, Kosovo*, Russia and Kyrgyzstan were finalised and are expected to start during 2016.

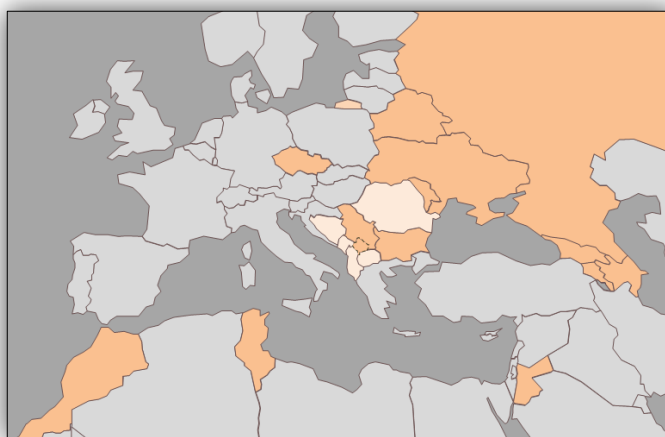
Responding to specific member-states priorities, **ECCU portfolio** has evolved, launching new projects within the Eastern Partnership Cooperation framework in Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan; and under South Neighbourhood Programme in Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.

A few **landmark events** marked the ECCU 2015 agenda, such as the Tirana Regional Conference on “Detecting and Investigating Corruption and Fraud through Audit Procedures” in May 2015, the October Prague International Conference on “Fighting economic crime” and the Kiev “ Preventing / Fighting / Acting ” anti-corruption conference in November 2015.

Communication and visibility: Among project deliverables, 22 publications in 5 languages saw light during 2015.

The **financial envelope** of disbursement and management reached €2,6 million in 2015 and is projected to grow to €5,0 million for 2016 in support of the implementation of on-going programmes.

Four projects came to end after 24-36 months of implementation and concrete results, more specifically, in Serbia, Russia, Turkey and Kosovo.



ECCU geographic focus in 2015:

■ *Operations* ■ *Monitoring*

2 COUNCIL OF EUROPE BUDGETARY PROGRAMMES

2.1 Moldova

The Council of Europe has taken several steps in 2015 to support on-going National Integrity Reforms in the Republic of Moldova. Pursuant to the request of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova, the Council of Europe provided an Expert Opinion on draft amendments to legislation regulating declarations of wealth, personal interests, conflicts of interest and gifts and the draft Law on the National Integrity Commission. The Opinion outlined recommendations for further improvement, pursuant to applicable international standards and good comparative practices. These were discussed further, in greater detail, at a meeting between the members of the legislative working group which had prepared the drafts and the Council of Europe Consultants, held in April 2015. The Council of Europe also assisted the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova to organise an expert conference on the “Reform of the National Integrity Commission” with participation of a number of local stakeholders and international experts, which equally took place in April 2015. Recommendations provided by the Council of Europe have served as a backbone for further legislative re-drafting during fall 2015.

2.2 Slovakia

At the request of the Slovak government, the Council of Europe provided a legal opinion on proposed amendments to the Criminal Code developed by Slovak authorities to implement the recommendations of the 4th round Moneyval evaluation report (2011). The opinion focused on amendments to the money laundering (ML) offence, the terrorism financing (TF) offence, and provisions regulating the confiscation of criminal proceeds. It proposed a range of recommendations to further extend and clarify the scope of both ML and TF offences in order to comply with CoE and international standards.

2.3 Russia Anti-Corruption Training



Training on “Basic anti-corruption and anti-money laundering concepts”, 26-30 October, MGIMO, Moscow, Russian Federation

Over hundred and twenty representatives of public administration, law enforcement and judiciary bodies, academia and business, attended the training on “Basic Anti-corruption and anti-money laundering concepts”, held on 26-30 October in Moscow. The seminar was organized for the fifth time, jointly, by the Council of Europe and the European Studies Institute of the Moscow State University of International Relations (MGIMO).

Russian and foreign experts advised the audience on anti-corruption and anti-money laundering standards, measuring and monitoring mechanisms, ethical values and principles in the public service, best practices and international success stories. Particular attention was paid to the discussion of the situation in the Russian Federation through the lenses of corruption risks analysis, public authorities’ and civil society action, business Ombudsman experience etc.

The evaluation report and other bilateral feedback shows increasing interest of Russian counterparts to have such training beyond the capital.



Training on “Basic anti-corruption and anti-money laundering concepts”, 26-30 October, MGIMO, Moscow, Russian Federation

2.4 SEE Regional Conference on “Detecting and Investigating Corruption and Fraud through Audit Procedures”

The regional conference (Tirana, Albania 27-28 May 2015) contributed to the work already undertaken in the anti-corruption area by focusing on legal regulations, inter-institutional cooperation and good practice in South East Europe jurisdictions. The ultimate goal was to identify problems and discuss corruption typologies linked with improper management of public funds. The conference promoted deliverables resulting from CoE-EU Joint Programmes implemented in the region with a view to facilitate reforms and develop tools and guidelines in investigating and prosecuting corruption in public procurement processes.



Regional Conference on “Detecting and Investigating Corruption and Fraud through Audit Procedures” 27-28 May 2015, Tirana, Albania

Countries’ delegations, accompanied by a team of international experts and CoE Secretariat, discussed global trends and concepts in ‘translating’ audits findings into relevant evidence, available tools in these processes, ‘red flags’ during the auditing and investigative phases, and relevant institutional models (e.g. UK SFO).

Last but not least, the practitioners’ manual, developed by PACS Serbia project, encompassing concrete typologies of the most common corruption related offences in the public procurement, was presented and distributed to the respective delegations.

3 COUNCIL OF EUROPE COOPERATION PROGRAMMES (EU & VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS)

3.1 Kosovo*

The European Union and the Council of Europe Joint Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo* (PECK) held its Closing Conference on 28 April 2015 in Pristina. The 41-months Project, co-funded by the EU and CoE and implemented by the CoE, focussed on strengthening the capacities of Kosovo* institutions to prevent and fight corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The Closing Conference presented the key findings and recommendations of the Final Assessment Reports on Kosovo's compliance with international standards in the areas of Anti-Corruption (AC) and Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT). The Conference also reflected on project outcomes, lessons learned from the assessment exercise and future follow-up. It brought together ministerial and other high-level representatives of relevant domestic institutions, international experts, representatives of key stakeholders on the part of international organisations, industry and civil society.

Ministers of Justice and Internal Affairs underlined in their opening remarks the importance of PECK project findings in the fight against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism, and reiterated commitment of Kosovo* authorities to apply the outstanding recommendations.

The Assessment Reports represent the most comprehensive evaluation of law, policy and practice in the AC and AML/CFT areas that has ever been carried out in Kosovo*. They have been prepared on the basis of GRECO and MONEYVAL assessment methodologies specifically tailored for Kosovo*, over the two successive cycles carried out from 2012 to 2014. The Reports provide concrete guidance to the authorities in their efforts to strengthen institutional capacities and improve the legislative and regulatory framework in the areas of combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. They also provide a sound baseline for streamlining international technical assistance to Kosovo* in the economic crime area.



PECK Publications:

- *Compliance with International Anti-Corruption Standards*
- *Compliance with International AML/CFT Standards*

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3.2 Russia

The EU/CoE joint project on “Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation from Corrupt Practices” (PRECOP) continued to support the strengthening of the capacities of the Federal and Regional Business Ombudsmen offices through advice, training and sharing of good anti-corruption practices from CoE member states in the following areas:

- Preventive measures against the abuse of public authority in the corporate sector;
- Measures for the protection of whistleblowers;
- Pro bono practice in the Russian Federation based on good practices from CoE member states;
- Corruption risks and protection mechanisms for entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation;
- Presentation of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.



Training on “Good practices on anti-corruption and functioning of Regional Business Ombudsmen’s Offices”, 18-19 May 2015, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation



Russian Federal Business Ombudsman Mr Boris Titov discusses future cooperation with Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland, 10 April 2015, Council of Europe, Strasbourg.

Throughout its implementation period (2013-2015), the Project has involved in its activities more than 1,500 participants. Training on “Good anti-corruption practices and functioning of Regional Business Ombudsman Offices” was provided to over 160 representatives of the Regional Business Ombudsman offices.

3.3 Serbia

The EU/CoE JP project “Strengthening the capacities of law enforcement and judiciary in the fight against corruption in Serbia” (PACS) supported the Serbian anti-corruption agenda through the provision of trainings for judges and prosecutors on ethics, integrity and controlling conflict of interest within their structures, including the publication of a training manual. This training programme will be continued by the Serbian Judicial Academy in 2016.

EU Police College Common Curriculum on Police Ethics and Integrity (2015) was presented to all Serbian police departments while a group of ten senior police officers became certified trainers in this matter. The Financial Investigation Strategy and the manual “Investigation and Prosecution of Corruption Cases Identified through Audit Reports”, as a specific tool

directly supporting Strategy's implementation, were presented and debated in Belgrade in April 2015. Series of trainings for labour inspectors in charge to supervise the Law on Protection of Whistleblowers were held in June – July 2015.

The project also provided: expert opinion/policy advice on asset declaration within law enforcement, including guidelines and analysis of corruption risks for specific professions/posts within police; discussions and policy advice on Integrity testing within police; training for law enforcement officers on procurement fraud. Overall, in 2015, PACS carried out 26 activities, including 22 trainings, involving 456 participants.



Presentation of the Financial Investigation Strategy, 22 April 2015, Belgrade, Serbia

3.4 Turkey

The EU/CoE JP project on “Strengthening the Coordination of Anti-Corruption Policies and Practices” (TYSAP) was completed in May 2015 after 29 months of implementation. It contributed to increasing efficiency of the existing institutional structure in the fight against corruption in Turkey. The project provided assistance to the Turkish authorities in implementing certain GRECO recommendations and making progress towards compliance with European standards and best practices.



TYSAP project closing conference, 13 May 2015, Ankara, Turkey

Project activities included review of legislation, capacity building, risk assessment and methodological input. Through its interventions, the project contributed towards enhancing the capacities of the key beneficiaries in modern investigation and reporting techniques, cooperation and information sharing among different inspection boards, corruption data collection and its analysis, as well as developing sector specific anti-corruption policies. Moreover, it enhanced the expertise of Prime

Ministry Inspection Board inspectors in coordinating corruption investigations and in monitoring the implementation of the 2010-2014 National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

The project succeeded in developing common standards and good practices for all the beneficiary institutions (Inspection Boards of 9 line Ministries) on corruption investigation, coordination and information sharing through the development of the Investigation Guide for Inspectors. The methodology for risk assessment and monitoring of anti-corruption strategies was improved through the development of Handbook on Conducting Risk Assessment and Designing Anti-Corruption Strategies for Different Sectors, and the

capacities to apply the methodology of beneficiary institutions were strengthened through tailored trainings. The collaboration between inspection bodies, members of academia, private sector and civil society was reinforced by the project by involving them in public roundtables, into workshops and trainings.

The Closing Conference of the project was held in Ankara on 13 May 2015. Its purpose was to present and disseminate project deliverables and to report and discuss the TYSAP project outcomes, lessons learnt and impact.

Some 250 participants in the conference included senior officials from stakeholder institutions, inspectors from beneficiary agencies, experts and representatives of civil society organisations.



TYSAP project closing conference, 13 May 2015, Ankara, Turkey

Opening speeches were made by the Undersecretary of the Ministry for EU, the Head of Prime Ministry Inspection Board, the Head of Action against Crime Department of Council of Europe, the Charge d’Affairs a.i. of the EU Delegation to Turkey and the Head of Central Finance and Contracts Unit of Undersecretariat of Treasury of Turkey. All the speakers stressed the significance of cooperation between Turkey, the EU and the CoE and highly appreciated the achievements of the project.

3.5 Norway Grants

The Council of Europe is a Donor Programme Partner (DPP) and Donor Project Partner for the Norway Grants platform, aiming at reducing economic and social disparities and at strengthening bilateral relations among 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics. In this context, ECCU provides strategic advice as well as technical input and know-how in its areas of expertise: anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, countering terrorism financing and asset recovery.

The Council of Europe partnership with Norway Grants fund was launched in 2014 with two objectives: enhance criminal asset recovery in Bulgaria; and address anti-corruption/anti-money laundering issues in the Czech Republic.

In 2015 the ECCU played an important role in programme implementation in Bulgaria (BG13 - “Schengen Cooperation and Combating Cross-border and Organised Crime, Including Trafficking and Itinerant Criminal Groups”) as a donor programme partner, and in the Czech Republic (CZ10 - Pre-defined Project “Strengthen anti-corruption and anti-money laundering systems in the Czech Republic”) as a project partner.

3.5.1 Bulgaria

The Project on Improving the Asset Recovery System in Bulgaria is aimed at enhancing the implementation and effectiveness of existing asset recovery instruments and government authorities. Despite the slowdown in the implementation of the activities due to a lengthy tendering procedure, during 2015 the project has provided: 1) An assessment of the asset recovery system, the results of which are yet to be presented in a workshop that is foreseen to take place in 2016; and 2) A feasibility study of the needs for the upgrading of the IT system of the Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture.

In December 2015 the Commission for Illegal Asset Forfeiture - CIAF (main beneficiary), following a proposal from the Programme Operator has made a request to extend the period for the implementation of the project until December 2016, which should provide sufficient time for the implementation of the full range of activities as foreseen in the work plan.

3.5.2 Czech Republic

The project supports the efforts of the Czech authorities to undertake reform in view of strengthening the anti-corruption and anti-money laundering systems.

In view of the above the project has assisted the Czech authorities through: 1) Risk assessment and provision of recommendations to strengthen measures in: "The legal and institutional framework regulating conflict of interest in the Czech Republic" and "Transparency of Beneficial Ownership Information for Corporate Entities and Trusts in the Czech Republic"; 2) Training on "Liability of Legal Persons for the Czech Republic Law Enforcement"; 3) Providing advice on strengthening the measures to protect whistleblowers, including the development of a concept paper for the functioning of a whistleblower centre in the Czech Republic; and 4) Development of a communication strategy for the Czech FIU.



Training on Liability of Legal Entities for the Czech Law Enforcement, 26 November 2015, Prague, Czech Republic

3.5.3 International Conference on "Developing trends in combating corruption, money laundering and recovering criminal assets in Europe"

In addition to the specific DPP activities, the Council of Europe was a partner in one of the most important European Economic Area and Norway Grants events in 2015, namely the Prague International Conference "Developing trends in combating corruption, money laundering and recovering criminal assets in Europe", organised in Prague in October.

This professional forum debated the major trends and challenges facing the European societies, the new international standards on anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and asset recovery, gathering 193 practitioners, experts, policymakers and other stakeholders, including civil society, from all 16 Grants beneficiary states and CoE member states.

The Conference was opened by Mr Philippe Boillat Director General, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law in Council of Europe, who stressed the need for a renewed commitment by all member States to tackling corruption and money laundering in all their forms, and further reviewed the full package of standard setting, monitoring and capacity building measures offered by CoE in support of this commitment.

Anti-corruption experts focused on identifying solutions within the areas of financing of political parties and electoral campaigns, lobbying and whistleblowing, preventing and combating corruption in the prosecution and judiciary. The anti-money laundering section looked at effective implementation of the 4th EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive.



EEA International Conference, 20 October 2015, Prague, Czech Republic

Following the event, the Czech National Television broadcasted a live talk-show featuring the Norwegian Ambassador, the Chef Prosecutor of Liechtenstein and the Head of Action against Crime Department of the Council of Europe.

3.6 South Neighbourhood Programme: Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan

The South Neighbourhood Anti-Corruption Project (SNAC2) is an integral part of South Programme II, funded by the EU and implemented by the CoE. The 3-year project started in January 2015.

In **Morocco**, the SNAC 2 Project implemented a wide range of activities aimed at building the institutional framework for the new Moroccan anti-corruption authority (INPPPLC), established pursuant to the Moroccan Constitution.

This included the creation of a new organisational chart, as well as a procedural manual on anti-corruption inquiries related to corruption allegations.



Training of trainers on basic anti-corruption concepts 19-20 October 2015, Rabat, Morocco.



Workshop to present the draft legislative text on the new Constitutional Anti-corruption Authority, 19 November 2015, Tunis, Tunisia.

Legislative reviews were provided covering the whistleblower regime, as well as ethics rules in civil service. The Project developed a **comprehensive toolkit** to address corruption risks in the public procurement sector, as well as proposals for a project management methodology to implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Capacity building activities included training of trainers in basic anti-corruption concepts as well as sharing of experience and networking through a study visit of Moroccan officials to Slovenia.

In **Tunisia**, the Project focused on facilitating the legislative transition of the anti-corruption authority (INLUCC) to a new constitutional status with an expanded mandate. To this purpose a draft legislative text was prepared based on 6 rounds of expert consultations, culminating in a public event with the participation of all relevant national stakeholders in November 2015.

A comprehensive assessment of the Tunisian anti-corruption framework based on the Council of Europe GRECO methodology was launched in May 2015. The Project also made efforts to promote relevant Council of Europe Conventions against corruption and terrorism.

In **Jordan**, the Project undertook a number of thematic assessments and reviews in priority areas mainly related to the functions of the Jordanian Anti-Corruption Commission (JACC). This included a **review of the whistleblower protection regime**, which served as the basis for subsequent training activities.



Enhancing IT capacities to fight economic crime 6-7 October 2015, Amman, Jordan

Building capacities on whistleblower protection 12-14 October 2015, Amman, Jordan



Building capacities on whistleblower protection 12-14 October 2015, Amman, Jordan

A needs assessment of the IT infrastructure of the JACC will serve as a basis for proposals on hardware and/or software procurement.

A review of the asset recovery system was also initiated with the purpose of building efficient procedures and interagency ties in this area.

The capacities of the JACC were enhanced through workshops on whistleblower protection as well as anti-corruption training techniques.

3.7 Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

The EU/CoE joint Regional Project “Fight against Corruption and Fostering Good Governance/Fight against money-laundering” (PCF-REG) for Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries was launched in 2015, along with four country projects (for Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, and Ukraine) under the overall umbrella of the 2015-2017 Eastern Partnership Programmatic Cooperation Framework.

In its first year, the Project was focused on helping EaP countries develop and strengthen existing anti-corruption preventive measures within the public sector and improve professional capacities of criminal justice sector actors through legislative expertise, development of policy tools, reference materials, and training.



Regional Conflict of Interest Workshop, 14-15 October 2015, Istanbul, Turkey

Accordingly, a “Model Law” on Conflict of Interest (with explanatory memoranda) was developed for EaP countries through joint engagement of international and national experts to help guide on-going and future legislative work in the field. Similarly, Republic of Moldova received expert advice on proposed legislative reforms in the areas of integrity testing, private interest, conflict of interest, gifts, and asset declarations.

On the enforcement side, the Project tackled the complex issue of international cooperation in case investigations exposing investigators and prosecutors from all six EaP countries to good practices and available resources when it comes to international mutual legal assistance.

3.7.1 Azerbaijan

In 2015, the Project “Strengthening capacities to Fight and Prevent Corruption in Azerbaijani Administration” was launched for Azerbaijan. Initial efforts have been placed in developing anti-corruption and ethics training and awareness raising capacities of the two leading institutions in



Ethics Train-the-Trainers Workshop, 3-4 December 2015, Baku, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan, the Civil Service Commission and the Commission for Combating Corruption, with a view toward setting up high-quality on-going education in the field for public

administration officials and beyond. Future trainers of the Civil Service Commission went through two rounds of train-the-trainers course on ethics focused on developing their skills based on the “learning by doing” methodology. Separately, the Project has begun addressing the need for specialised knowledge and skills of anti-corruption investigators, prosecutors, and financial analysts through a tailored program on criminal liability of legal entities and asset recovery.

3.7.2 Georgia

The beginning of the “Project on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing” in Georgia was marked with initiation of the country National Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Financing of Terrorisms Risk Assessment (NRA), key to recognising and addressing in a satisfactory manner existing money laundering/terrorist financing risks.

The Project is supporting the NRA process from the outset through educating and advising members of the working group of the Inter-Agency Council for the Development and Coordination of Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing in-charge of preparing the NRA on the NRA process and deliverables.

This activity will continue in 2016, as the process moves forward to next stages. Separately, the Project began a cycle of trainings on anti-money laundering / terrorist financing issues for criminal justice and law enforcement authorities through modules on corporate money laundering.



National Conference on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, 25 September 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia

3.7.3 Ukraine

In the first year, the EU/CoE Project “Fight against Corruption” – Open Advisory Facility (PCF-UA) for Ukraine has made significant contributions to on-going anti-corruption legislative reforms through expert opinions on several key pieces of legislation, including amendments to the Law on the Public Prosecution Service, Criminal Procedure Code, Criminal Code, Law on Administrative Procedures, and laws on Preventing and Combating Political Corruption.



International Conference “Preventing. Fighting. Acting.” 16 November 2015, Kyiv, Ukraine

In addition, the Project is supporting the newly created National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) build its operational capacities through a mentoring scheme and a

feasibility study of technical and legal capacities for direct electronic exchange of data/information between NABU and other State agencies.

Together with the Ukrainian Anticorruption Reform Task Force, Ministry of Justice and several other international organizations, PCF-UA organized a high-level international anti-corruption conference “Preventing, Fighting, Acting.”, which gathered 800 participants from the country and abroad.

4 COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

PACS Serbia Project ensured a good cooperation with other stakeholders present in the area of institutional reforms. Synergies were achieved in organising procurement fraud training with OSCE and US Department of Justice (October 2015), while the Cooperation Agreement signed between CoE and the European Police College (CEPOL) was materialised through the training of trainers programme held in Belgrade (March 2015).

In August 2015 the CoE partnered with the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) and the OSCE to carry out a regional AML/CFT assessor training workshop in Kyrgyzstan for representative of Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan Uzbekistan, China and India. A representative of the CoE Secretariat participated in an expert/trainer capacity delivering theoretical and practical sessions, including a mock mutual evaluation.



Training workshop for assessors and reviewers of member states of the Eurasian group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism, 17-21 August 2015, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

5 PIPELINE PROJECTS

5.1 Project to “Strengthen Prevention and Combating of Corruption in Kyrgyz Republic (SPCC-KY)”

Following an invitation to Direct Award Procedure from the EUD in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, the ECCU developed, in the course of 2015, the DoA for the project to “Strengthen Prevention and Combating of Corruption in Kyrgyz Republic (SPCC-KY)”. The overall objective of the proposed project is to contribute to the democracy and the rule of law through the implementation of anti-corruption measures and policies.

In view of preparing the project proposal, two members of the ECCU staff undertook a scoping mission to Bishkek in November 2015. In high level meetings the “Project Concept Note”, was presented and discussed with the Kyrgyz counterparts and other stakeholders. High-level buy-in (deputy heads of institutions) for the Project was ensured from all relevant Kyrgyz institutions: Office of the Prime Minister, Supreme Court, General Prosecutors Office, Ministries of Economy, Justice, Internal Affairs, State Security Service and the State Personnel Service.

Subsequently, the full project proposal was submitted to the EUD in Bishkek in November 2015. The proposed project has a budget of €555,556 and an implementing period of 21 months. Pending the approval and the signing of an agreement, the implementation would start in April 2016.

5.2 Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs from Corrupt Practices at the Municipal Level in the Russian Federation (RF) - PRECOP (phase II)

Following the successful completion of PRECOP RF project (see highlight of PRECOP RF) and its positive assessment by all stakeholders, and based on a request for assistance to address corruption issues at the municipal level made by the Federal Business Ombudsman’s Office, the ECCU developed in 2015 a Project Concept Note for a follow-up project entitled “Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs from Corruption at the Municipal Level in the Russian Federation – PRECOP (phase II).

The three years project would have a budget of €2.5 million and would aim to:

- Strengthen capacities of the Federal and Regional Business Ombudsmen in order to facilitate the prevention of corrupt practices affecting the business sector in the Russian Federation;
- Strengthen corruption prevention measures at regional/municipal level.

PRECOP II will focus on addressing corruption at the municipal level in selected geographic regions of the Russian Federation, given that the practices at the municipal level represent one of the biggest obstacles for small and medium-size enterprises.

The Concept Project Note was presented and endorsed by the Steering Committee on the Cooperation Priorities between the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation. Following this endorsement and the inclusion of the project in the cooperation priorities for 2016-2018, the project concept note was presented to potential donors in meetings that took place in Moscow in December 2015.

A fully fledged project proposal will be available by the end of February 2016. In the meantime ECCU in coordination with the ODGprog and the CoE Programme Office in Moscow are looking to identify funding sources for the implementation of this project.

5.3 European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey

The European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey as well as Kosovo* is developed by the Council of Europe and the European Commission as a new method for co-operation between the two Organisations.

Under the Horizontal Facility, ECCU prepared four Tri-Annual Plans of Action (2016-2018) aimed at providing assistance and support in the areas of fight against corruption, money laundering, organised crime and economic crime for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' and Montenegro. The proposed interventions, which total up to €3 million, were designed based on recommendations emanating from Council of Europe monitoring and opinion advisory bodies (GRECO and MONEYVAL) and prioritised according to the needs within the enlargement negotiations of the European Union.

The proposed Tri-Annual Plans of Action were discussed with the EU and EUD representatives and three technical needs assessment visits were completed in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro in November and December 2015. Currently, the framework contract is awaiting the signature between EU and the Council of Europe to start the implementation in spring 2016.

5.4 Council of Europe methodology on anti-money laundering countering terrorism financing (AML/CFT) national risk assessment

In July 2015 the ECCU received a technical assistance request from Bulgarian Financial Intelligence Unit to support them in the preparation of an AML/CFT risk assessment methodology. The request was made in context of the implementation of FATF Recommendation 1 and of the provisions of the 4th EU Directive, which obliges countries to undertake such an exercise in order to identify, understand and mitigate the specific risks and vulnerabilities.

As a result, together with the Bulgarian authorities, ECCU will develop during 2016 a Council of Europe NRA methodology which will be subsequently applied also to other member states upon request.

ECCU is currently reviewing modalities for cooperation and is seeking to co-fund approximately 10 % of the total cost of the intervention (€255 000). The main funding of €230 000 will be a contribution from the Bulgarian counterparts originally allocated from EU Security Funds to the Bulgarian government.

6 PUBLICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

During 2015, the Economic Crime and Cooperation Unit issued 22 publications in both Print and [On-line](#) versions. The publications, prepared in five languages, targeted both broad and also specialised audiences in member-countries.

The training manual “**Basic anti-corruption concepts**” was published in English, French, Serbian and Russian, providing an overview to large professional audiences and students, and has been used for training in Russia and Serbia.

Several specialised publications, intended for selected professional groups, were launched through PACS project in **Belgrade**:

- Risk analysis of corruption within law enforcement (Serbian/English);
- Risk analysis of corruption within judiciary (Serbian/English);
- Risk analysis on obstacles to efficient criminal investigation and proceedings (Serbian);
- Handbook: reporting on corruption and investigative journalism (Serbian, English);
- Handbook: ethics, integrity and corruption prevention in the judiciary (Serbian);
- Handbook: investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption and economic crime cases (Serbian).

Two landmark assessment reports, containing the first comprehensive analysis of the status of Kosovo’s anti-corruption and anti-money laundering framework vis-à-vis applicable international standards, were presented through PECK1 project in **Pristina**:

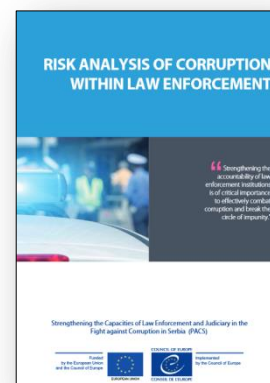
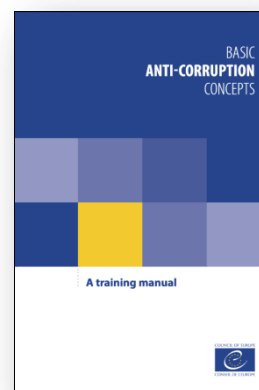
- Compliance with International Anti-Corruption Standards (English, Albanian, Serbian);
- Compliance with International AML/CFT Standards (English, Albanian, Serbian).

Two more analytical studies were launched through PRECOP project in **Moscow**:

- Whistleblower protection in the Russian Federation (English, Russian);
- Preventing misuse of public authority in the corporate sector (English, Russian).

Finally, the outcomes of the previous three-year SNAC1 project addressing corruption and money laundering in Tunisia and Morocco were presented in **Strasbourg**:

- Promotion of Good Governance: fight against corruption and money laundering (English).



The visibility of Council of Europe action was ensured constantly through combined means of web publications, visual materials and media outreach.

Web publications covered all activities and were made available on the [ECCU website](#), the dedicated project websites and on partner institution websites. The key activities were equally reported on the [DGI website](#) and social media and on CoE field offices websites. A constant effort was made to provide the information in the languages most accessible to beneficiaries.



Ivan Koedjikov providing an interview in the Czech evening news. EEA International Conference, 20 October 2015, Prague, Czech Republic

Visual material: CoE flags and stationery, roll-ups of the Council of Europe and of specific programmes, leaflets and other materials were produced and used throughout project activities to ensure the largest possible reach as well as a clear recognition of the Organisation's role and contribution.

Press releases, communications, addresses to media and interviews strengthened the impact on targeted audiences and ensured a multiplier effect.

The visibility of the Council of Europe activities was confirmed by numerous reports in local and international media covering multiple events.



Model ECCU Roll-up



Project Roll-up: Azerbaijan



Project Leaflet: Ukraine

7 STATISTICS

In 2015 ECCU organised and co-organised 132 activities involving 4171 beneficiaries. As compared to 2014, there was a 50% increase in the number of activities and a 36% increase in number of beneficiaries. Similarly, a positive evolution of the gender balance was registered.

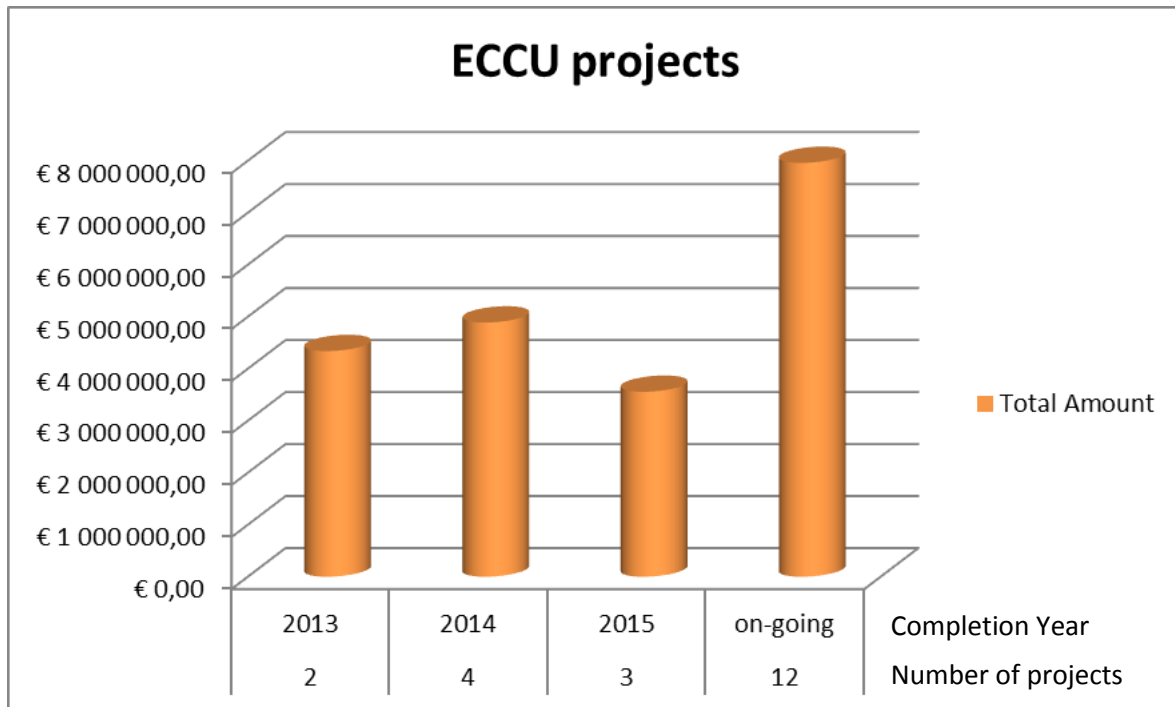
Table1. ECCU statistical indicators 2015

Projects	Human resources						Number of Activities	Participants	Gender ratio
	Staff		LTC	STC		Service Providers			
	HQ	Field		Int	Local				
PCF-Regional	2		1	3			5	101	M:68% F:32%
PCF-Azerbaijan	1	2		3			4	73	M:83% F:17%
PCF-Georgia		1		3			4	144	M:71% F:29%
PCF-Ukraine	1	1		6			8	961	M:59% F:41%
PRECOP-Russia	2	2		28	25	24	29	250	M:63% F:37%
SNAC2- Morocco	3			9		4	9	177	M:79% F:21%
SNAC2-Tunisia		0,5		3	1	5	10	277	M:73% F:27%
SNAC2-Jordan		0,25		10		3	6	100	M:62% F:38%
TYSAP-Turkey	2	2		4	4	4	9	665	M:80% F:20%
PACS-Serbia	1		4	10	11	4	27	508	M:48% F:52%
PECK-Kosovo*		1	2	9			3	99	M:59% F:41%
Norway Grants							8	500	M:66% F:34%
Ordinary Budget	1	0,25	0	8	0	10	10	316	M:50% F:50%
Total	14	15	1	96	41	54	132	4171	M:64% F:36%

Table2. Year-on-year evolution of ECCU statistical indicators

Key Indicators	2013	2014	2015
Activities	133	88	132
Beneficiaries	3110	3058	4171
Gender ratio	M:58% F:42%	M:69% F:31%	M:64% F:36%

Table 3. Technical assistance/cooperation projects in anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and asset recovery (2013-2015)



ECCU 2015

The Economic Crime and Cooperation Unit at the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe is responsible for designing and implementing technical assistance and co-operation programmes aimed at facilitating and supporting anti-corruption, good governance and anti-money laundering reforms in the Council of Europe member states, as well as in some non-member states.

www.coe.int/corruption

22 publications
in 5 languages



www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.