



## **ACTION AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME IN ALBANIA (AEC-ALBANIA)**

### **CONFERENCE ON “ELECTORAL REFORM: ENHANCING THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR REGULATING POLITICAL PARTY AND ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUNDING”**

VENUE: HOTEL PLAZA “JERONIM DE RADA ROOM”, TIRANA, ALBANIA, 6 FEBRUARY 2018

#### **PROGRAMME BACKGROUND OF AEC ALBANIA**

The European Union and Council of Europe’s Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (hereafter referred to as “Horizontal Facility”) builds on the two organisations policy priorities in the context of the Western Balkans and Turkey and on the CoE expertise in standard-setting, monitoring and cooperation methodologies. It aims to improve implementation of key recommendations of relevant Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies in the areas indicated in the Statement of Intent signed on 1 April 2014 by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the European Union Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy.

In the field of fight against economic crime, three country specific interventions have been designed within the Horizontal Facility Programme and more specifically: Albania, Montenegro and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. Those actions will aim to improve implementation of key recommendations of the CoE’s Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), and to further strengthen institutional capacities regarding each country’s national reform priorities and other policy level required reforms that emanate from their enlargement agreement process.

#### **Programme’s Specific Objectives (SO) in Albania (AEC-Albania):**

- SO 1: Review Political Party Funding legislation and institutional framework
- SO 2: Improve the asset declarations system
- SO 3: Review AML/CFT legislative and strategic framework
- SO 4: Enhance capacities of law enforcement authorities, prosecution and judiciary to fight ML/TF
- SO 5: Improve and streamline inter-agency cooperation

The Action against Economic Crime in Albania is implemented by the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division-DG I with an allocated budget of € 1,000,000 and an implementation period of 36 months.

#### **CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES**

The Conference on “Electoral reform: enhancing the legal and institutional framework for regulating political party and election campaign funding” is a follow up activity to the assistance provided to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform and Central Election Commission under SO1. The purpose of this Conference is to:

- Present and discuss the Technical Paper “Recommendations on regulation of Albanian political party and election campaign finance and their implementation: situation as of January 2018”;
- Discuss the new voting technologies and their advantages and disadvantages, including the electronic voting systems and the potential use of these systems in prevention of vote buying and ensuring of electoral transparency;
- Evaluate the results of the cooperation and the support that the Council of Europe has provided to the CEC in view of strengthening its oversight capacities;
- Present and discuss the findings from the monitoring activities on election campaign finances carried out by CSOs that were granted by the Project.

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

The Conference will be attended by representatives of the following: Co-chairs and members of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform, Central Election Commission, Institute of Authorised Chartered Experts (IEKA), Media, CSOs, international partners, EU Delegation to Albania, EU Twinning Project on Anticorruption, OSCE, NDI and Council of Europe experts.



**Conference On “Electoral Reform: Enhancing the Legal and Institutional Framework for Regulating Political Party and Election Campaign Funding”**

Venue: Hotel Plaza “Jeronim De Rada Room”,  
Tirana, Albania,  
6 February 2018

**Agenda**

TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2018	
9:30 - 10:15	<p>Opening remarks :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deputy Head of the Council of Office in Tirana</li> <li>- Head of Political Section, European Union Delegation to Albania</li> <li>- Co-chair of the Ad- Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform</li> <li>- Co-chair of the Ad- Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform</li> <li>- Central Election Commission Chair</li> </ul>
10:15 - 11:15	<p>Regulation of political party and election campaign finance – overview of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the Technical Paper “Recommendations on regulation of Albanian political party and election campaign finance and their implementation: situation as of January 2018” - Council of Europe expert</li> <li>- Exchange of views with participants on Recommendations/Options for reform in light of international good practice and positions of Albanian stakeholders</li> </ul>
11:15 - 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 - 12:30	<p>New voting technologies advantages and disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on “new voting technologies, advantages and disadvantages - Council of Europe expert</li> <li>- Discussion with participants</li> </ul>
12:30 - 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 14:15	<p>Presentation of the results of the cooperation and support provided to the CEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Head of the Legal Department, CEC</li> <li>- Discussion with participants.</li> </ul>
14:15 - 14:30	<p>Presentation on Effective Control of Political Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resident Director, National Democratic Institute</li> </ul>
14:30-14:45	<p>The misuse of state resources for purposes of election campaigns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive Director, Albanian Institute of Political Studies</li> </ul>
14:45 - 15:30	<p>Presentation of the findings and lessons learned from the monitoring activities on election campaign finances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive Director, Mjaft Movement,</li> <li>- Executive Director Albanian Institute of Science;</li> <li>- Executive Director of the Centre for Public Information Issues;</li> <li>- Executive Director , Coalition for Free and Fair Elections</li> <li>- Albanian Institute for Election System Development</li> </ul>
15:30 - 16:00	<p>Concluding remarks of the conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Co-chairs of the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform</li> </ul>