

# Partnership for Good Governance

## Yaxşı İdarəçilik üçün Tərəfdaşlıq



### CoE/EU Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) “Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering in Azerbaijan”

#### Project Summary

Project title	<b>Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering in Azerbaijan (SAMLA)</b>
Project area	Azerbaijan
Budget	EURO 350,000
Funding	European Union 90%; Council of Europe 10%
Implementation	Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, Action against Crime Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
Duration	12 months (starting from 1 January 2018)

#### BACKGROUND

The Azerbaijan Project “Strengthening anti-money laundering in Azerbaijan” was one of the three National Components of the CoE/EU Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) Programme “Fight against corruption and fostering good governance/ Fight against money-laundering” to be implemented in 2018. The Project was specifically tailored to respond to the needs of Azerbaijan in the area of the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. The Project looked to ensure compliance of the legal and institutional framework on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing in Azerbaijan with latest and most relevant international standards and good practices. This project was a continuation of actions against Economic Crime implemented through the “Project on Strengthening Capacities to Fight and Prevent Corruption in Azerbaijan”, implemented from 2015-2017 within the PGG framework.

#### NEEDS, OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

The **overall objective** of the PGG-AZ Project was to contribute to democracy and the rule of law through implementation of institutional reforms aimed at increased compliance with anti-money laundering/counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) standards, reflecting outstanding MONEYVAL recommendations and application of the risk-based approach by supervisory authorities. Project activities focused on the following three areas:

- **Prevention:** improving institutional capacities to fight and prevent economic crime;
- **Enforcement:** strengthening the capacities of all investigative bodies to investigate and prosecute money laundering, terrorist financing and other types of economic crime;

- **Strategic actions:** assisting with identification of future priority areas for developing a coherent AML/CFT policy and strategy.

The Project's expected results through activities agreed with national counterparts were:

- **Expected Result 1:** Improved strategic and operational capacities of the Financial Monitoring Service under the new structure aimed at independence and autonomous FIU methodology;
- **Expected Result 2:** Strengthened capacities of judges and prosecutors on ML/TF proceedings and investigative techniques;
- **Expected Result 3:** Supported implementation of AML/CFT measures as a follow up to MONEYVAL recommendations;
- **Expected Result 4:** Increased risk-based approach to supervision and inspections capacities of supervisory authorities.

Assistance activities included provision of expert advice, legal review, workshops, and trainings. The activity results were documented in technical papers, guidelines, or other **written output** which are available on the Project website.

## **COUNTERPARTS/BENEFICIARIES**

Main Counterpart: Financial Monitoring Service under the Financial Market Supervisory Authority of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan Beneficiaries:

- Anti-Corruption Directorate under the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Ministry of Justice;
- Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Ministry of Taxes;
- State Customs Committee;
- Chamber of Auditors;
- Academy of Justice;
- Professional Associations (Banks; Lawyers)
- Civil Society.

## **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

As the key actor in this thematic area and the EaP region, the Council of Europe Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Department of Information Society and Action against Crime, was in charge of implementing activities under this Project. It engaged international short-term experts in the field of AML/CFT and economic crime and local experts from EaP countries to that end.

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