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Eastern Partnership-Council of Europe Facility Project on “Good Governance and Fight against Corruption”

Overview of activities (June – November 2012)

Expected Result 1: *Eastern Partnership countries have defined and are committed to apply policy and prevention measures to enhance good governance and fight against corruption*

Regional Risk Assessment: “Typologies of underlying causes of corruption”

The aim of this multi-action regional activity is to assess corruption risks and identify weaknesses and causes of corruption in integrity systems of the Eastern Partnership countries by addressing a specific sector in each beneficiary country. It consists of a regional workshop on methodology and of country visits to assess corruption risks in the following sectors:

Armenia:	Asset declarations (21-23 November 2012)
Azerbaijan:	Ethics in the civil service (23-25 April 2012)
Belarus:	Compliance with the Council of Europe Criminal and Civil Law Conventions on Corruptions (tbc)
Georgia:	Health sector (January 2013)
Moldova:	Integrity of local governments (August-September 2012)
Ukraine:	Asset declarations (25-27 September 2012)

The results of the risk assessments will be part of a regional study on typologies of underlying causes of corruption to be presented at a Regional Conference in Chisinau at the beginning of 2013.

The regional **workshop** on methodology was held in Strasbourg on 19 June 2012 and brought together national experts from anti-corruption policy units. It was a combination of discussions of theoretical methods and concepts of corruption risk assessment and group work on practical exercises. The aim of this workshop was to strengthen the capacities of national experts to assess corruption and analyse its causes, identify weaknesses in countermeasures and translate the assessment results into actions. Guidance on the **methodology** of risk assessment and practical exercises were translated into Russian and disseminated to the Project's National Anti-corruption Focal Points to ensure impact of the workshop in national anti-corruption policy units.

Risk assessment: Integrity of local governments of the Republic of Moldova (Telenești and Căușeni District Councils, August-September 2012)

This risk assessment was carried out in close co-operation with the local NGO Institute of Urban Development (IUD) in two selected District Councils through a participatory approach. The exercise consisted of preparatory stage (small surveys among civil servants and NGOs based on two questionnaires developed by IUD) and participatory workshops (21 and 24 September 2012) to analyse the results of the surveys, assess corruption risks and identify areas most vulnerable to corruption. As a result of this exercise **diagnostic/assessment reports** have been prepared for each District containing a detailed analysis of areas most vulnerable to corruption. The risk assessment was followed by a Pilot Activity under which **local policies** addressing the identified corruption risks were developed for each District. These policies are currently being publicly discussed by the District Councils' commissions and examined by experts of the National Anti-corruption Centre (CNA – formerly “CCCEC”) and another Moldovan NGO – Resource Centre for Human Rights (CReDO).

Risk Assessment: Income and asset declaration system of Ukraine (Kyiv, 25-27 September 2012)

The aim of this activity was to assess corruption risks and potential weaknesses in the income and asset declaration system of Ukraine, by focusing mostly on financial supervision of public officials, and identify needs for action (regulatory, institutional, training, etc.). The assessment was carried out through a desk review of the relevant legislation and interviews with various stakeholders (Kyiv, 25-27 September 2012), including representatives of civil society and international organisations. As a result of this exercise, an **assessment report** was prepared containing an analysis of the system and recommendations for its further improvement. The Ministry of Justice is currently incorporating these recommendations into legislative amendments on income and asset declarations.

Expected Result 2: Eastern Partnership countries are provided with the tools for effective law enforcement and implementation of legal frameworks when fighting economic crime**Regional Activity: Analysis and typologies on laundering the proceeds of corruption in transition economies**

This is another multi-action regional activity which consists of regional workshops and country missions aimed at analysing and researching patterns on laundering the proceeds of corruption in the Eastern Partnership region and preparing a regional typology study on this subject.

The 1st Regional workshop was held in Strasbourg on 3 July 2012 and brought together experts and analysts from the Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) of the six Eastern Partnership countries. The Head of the FIU/Operations of Lichtenstein provided input on the rationale and methodology of the activity, and a representative of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) presented related work and research carried out by his organisation. The participants reviewed and adopted the **methodology** and the **questionnaire** on collecting and analysing the information. The FIUs were requested to complete the questionnaire by 28 September 2012 in order to allow for the country missions to start in October 2012.

The first **country meeting** with the representatives of the Azerbaijani FIU and Prosecutor General's Office was held in Baku on 18 October 2012 with the aim to discuss in detail the cases reported in the questionnaire and to obtain further information.

The findings of this activity will be included in the regional typology study to be presented at a Regional Conference in June/July 2013.

Expected result 3: Eastern Partnership countries efficiently apply and implement European and international standards on good governance and the fight against corruption when addressing their specific needs

Pilot Activities, i.e. country specific activities tailored to the reform priorities and needs of each country.

Pilot Activity: Anti-corruption policies for local governments of the Republic of Moldova

This activity is a follow up to the risk assessment carried out in the two District Councils under the Project's regional risk assessment activity. On 4 and 5 October 2012, one-day participatory workshops were held in Căușeni and Telenești District Councils allowing approximately 30 representatives of the District Councils, CNA and civil society to actively participate in the process of developing **local policies** aimed at addressing the corruption risks identified during the risk assessment exercise. These policies are currently being publicly discussed by the District Councils' commissions and examined by experts of the CNA and another Moldovan NGO – Resource Centre for Human Rights (CReDO). Furthermore, based on the two policies, a **Model Integrity Plan** for Moldovan local governments will be drafted as an Annex to the current National Decentralization Strategy allowing other local authorities to adopt and implement it in their districts.

Pilot Activity: Ethics in public service of Azerbaijan

On 16-17 October 2012, the Project organised two one-day interactive trainings of trainers on ethics in public service in co-operation with the Civil Service Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CSC). The trainings consisted of presentations, group work and discussion of ethical dilemmas faced by public officials. Approximately 50 participants, namely ethics commissioners, representatives of the CSC and staff of human resources departments of central and local government agencies took part in active group work. The Project used the training materials developed by another EU/CoE Joint Project on Ethics for the Prevention of Corruption in Turkey (TYEC) and tailored the trainings to the specific needs of Azerbaijan as identified during the risk assessment visit to Baku (23-25 April 2012) on ethical weaknesses in the delivery of public service.

Expected Result 1

Regional Risk Assessment: Typologies of underlying causes of corruption

Risk assessments will be conducted in Armenia, Belarus and Georgia in the period of November 2012 to January 2013. The results of the risk assessments will be part of a regional study on typologies of underlying causes of corruption to be presented at a Regional Conference in Chisinau at the beginning of 2013.

Expected Result 2

Regional Activity: Analysis and typologies on laundering the proceeds of corruption in transition economies

The Project will interview relevant stakeholders in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in the period of November 2012 to April 2013. The information collected through these country visits will be aggregated and fed into a draft regional study. The representatives of the six beneficiary FIUs will review this draft study together at a regional workshop in 2013. The final **regional typology** study will be presented to a wider public at a Regional Conference in June/July 2013.

Regional Training: Implementing standards concerning criminal and civil liability for legal persons (Kyiv, March 2013)

The training will bring together law enforcement and prevention experts from the Eastern Partnership countries. It will review actual cases and good practices of making legal persons legally accountable for corruption offences committed by their representatives. The Project will prepare a training manual to allow participants to reinforce their newly acquired skills as well as to support further vocational trainings.

Regional Training: Political party and electoral campaign financing (Chisinau, April 2013)

The 3rd Evaluation Round by the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) has entailed numerous changes to the laws on political finance in the Eastern Partnership region. The effective application of those new laws depends on the skills of experts responsible for supervising and auditing political party and electoral campaign financing. This training aims at building the respective capacity. The Project will prepare a training manual to allow participants to reinforce their newly acquired skills as well as to support further vocational trainings.

Expected Result 3

Pilot Activities in Belarus

Training of civil servants on anti-corruption work (Minsk, 1st quarter of 2013, tbc)

A four-day training aimed at deepening the understanding of civil servants of the following aspects: definitions, causes and consequences of corruption; measuring corruption; international standards; criminalisation; ethics; selected anti-corruption tools. The training will bring together representatives of different public agencies that can carry on the expertise either as trainers or as professionals in their anti-corruption work. The modalities and timing of this activity are still subject to confirmation by the Belarusian authorities.

Roundtable on the Anti-corruption Strategy 2013 (Minsk, 1st quarter of 2013, tbc)

This activity will provide international expertise for drafting a new anti-corruption strategy and will bring together all stakeholders, including civil society, at a roundtable to solicit ideas and contributions and to secure support for the new strategy. The modalities and timing of this activity are still subject to confirmation by the Belarusian authorities.

Pilot Activities in Armenia

Draft National Anti-corruption Strategy 2013 (Yerevan, December 2012)

This activity will provide international expertise on the draft anti-corruption strategy 2013 and will bring together all stakeholders, including civil society, at a roundtable to review the draft strategy.

Pilot Activity in Armenia (3.1): Expertise and workshop on good practices in registry of legal entities (Yerevan, February 2013)

The system of registry of legal entities will be reviewed to allow for better service according to clearly defined procedures, thus reducing corruption risks. The Project will organise a workshop to identify areas for reform and to come up with concrete recommendations for improvements.

The modalities and timing of the above-mentioned activities are subject to further coordination and confirmation by the Armenian authorities.

Pilot Activities in Georgia

Expertise on a red flag system in procurement (Tbilisi, May 2013)

The Project will provide an expertise of the red flag system in procurement and organise a workshop on good practices and the use of red flag indicators in the Georgian procurement system.

Expertise on anti-corruption policies for local governments (Tbilisi and other locations, June 2013)

The Project will support the development of anti-corruption policies in selected local communities through participatory workshops.

Pilot Activity in Ukraine

Roundtable on liability of legal persons (Kyiv, 1st quarter of 2013)

Ukraine has been trying for some time to adopt legislation on liability of legal persons for corruption offences committed by the management of legal persons. The aim of this Roundtable is to raise awareness among legislators of the possible normative and financial benefits of such liability and thus to facilitate adoption of the respective draft law.

Co-operation

The Project established very good working relations with all National Anti-corruption **Focal Points** and effectively co-operates with all participating beneficiary institutions.

Feedback received from participants in the regional activities and their lively participation shows that the Project fulfils a real need for exchange of good practices and for reflecting on national approaches in the light of other regional examples. At the same time, the comparison of practices introduces competitive element motivating further reforms.

Civil society involvement; European expertise

Civil society participation in all activities of the Project has been strong: representatives actively participated in almost all regional and Pilot Activities implemented so far. At the same time, most of the independent Council of Europe experts involved in the implementation of the activities are also members of international or local civil society organisations. Furthermore, the Project has been cooperating with non-governmental organisations in two activities. The Project plans to continue this inclusion of civil society in all future activities wherever possible.

The Project has so far used for past activities or secured for some of the future activities experts from a variety of **European** countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom).