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# Countering Corruption and Economic Crime

## Project Summary

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| Project title | Countering corruption and economic crime - VC 4465 |
| Project area | Kosovo* |
| Budget | 250.000 Euros |
| Funding | Council of Europe |
| Implementation | Council of Europe's Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, DG I |
| Duration | 12 Months (1 January-31 December 2026) |

## I. BACKGROUND

In the past several years Kosovo* has made some progress in the implementation of international standards through an improved legal and operational framework on the prevention and combating of corruption and money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). In this respect the Assembly enacted a comprehensive regulatory package including the Law on Crypto Assets, Law on Beneficial Ownership, Law on Special Prosecution Office and Law on International Targeted Financial Sanctions, whereas the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism is pending following the decision of the Constitutional Court. Notwithstanding these measures the competent institutions in charge of prevention and enforcement are still struggling to apply adopted rules in practice and are also facing challenges related to emerging technology-enabled risks and economic crimes associated with the use of crypto-assets, decentralised finance and artificial intelligence. Some of the reasons for this include insufficient specialisation, inadequate resources, weak internal and external institutional co-operation, and limited operational capacity to address them.

In view of this context and building upon the Council of Europe's solid institutional relations with the authorities in Kosovo*, the proposed Action aims to enhance the effectiveness of measures against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism.

## II. ACTIONS OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The Action builds on the longstanding support provided under the EU/Council of Europe Joint Project against Economic Crime (PECK) and will focus on closing existing immediate gaps in Kosovo* by improving prevention and suppression mechanisms in AC and AML/CFT areas and strengthening the competencies of local officials on the most priority areas. Support will cover

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

guidance, capacity-building (training and specialisation) and development of targeted support to measures against corruption and economic crime.

In view of this, the overall objective of the action is to enhance frameworks and measures to effectively counter corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing.

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| Intermediate outcome | An improved regulatory framework and institutional capacity to prevent and combat corruption are applied |
| 1.1 Immediate Outcome | Capacities of competent authorities to understand, assess and mitigate corruption risks are enhanced. |
| 1.2 Immediate Outcome | The corruption prevention mechanism in the context of decision-making is enhanced. |
| Intermediate outcome | Relevant professionals use relevant tools to prevent, detect and combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing |
| 2.1 Immediate Outcome | Operational capacities of responsible authorities to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate money laundering and financing of terrorism cases are enhanced |
| 2.2 Immediate Outcome | AML/CFT and targeted financial sanctions regulatory and institutional frameworks are strengthened in line with relevant evolving international standards and practice |
| 2.3 Immediate Outcome | AML/CFT risk-based supervision and compliance of high-risk financial and non-financial sectors are improved |

## III. COUNTERPARTS/BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiary institutions in Kosovo* for the implementation of the project are the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, the Central Bank (CBK) and the State Prosecution.

In addition, and in relation to thematic areas, other institutions will benefit from the project input through participation in activities including the financial sector and the industry (other non-financial AML/CFT reporting entities) as well as the civil society organisations active in relevant areas.

## IV. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Council of Europe’s Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD) is in charge of implementing the activities under the Action. For this purpose, the Action engages international experts with demonstrated experience in the field of fighting against corruption and economic crime in order to ensure that the project delivers high-quality assistance to the beneficiaries.

## V. CONTACT

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| Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD)<br>Economic Crime and Corruption Department<br>Security, Integrity and Rule of Law Directorate<br>DG I - Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law<br>Council of Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex<br><br>Head of Unit<br>Mr Edmond DUNGA<br>Phone: +33 (0)3 90 21 59 49<br>Email: Edmond.DUNGA [at] coe.int<br><br>Project Assistant<br>Ms Chiara GABBIANO<br>Phone: +33 (0)3 90 21 50 53<br>Email: Chiara.GABBIANO[at] coe.int | Council of Europe Office in Pristina<br>Bedri Pejani street, no.17-18<br>10000 Pristina,<br>Kosovo*<br>Tel: +383 (38) 407 750<br><br>Senior Project Officer<br>Ms Vlora MARMULLAKAJ<br>Phone: +383 38 407 750 ext. 105<br>Email: Vlora.MARMULLAKAJ [at] coe.int<br><br>Project Linguistic Assistant<br>Mr Shpend MIFTARI<br>Phone: +383 38 407 750 ext. 110<br>Email: Shpend.MIFTARI [at] coe.int<br><br>Council of Europe Office in Pristina<br>Bedri Pejani street, no.17/18<br>10000 Pristina, Kosovo*<br>Phone: +383 38 407 750 or 751<br>Fax: +383 38 407 752<br>Email: coe.pristina [at] coe.int |