

Press Release

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Launch of the "Project against corruption in Albania"

Strasbourg, 16.12.2009 – The Council of Europe and the European Union have just launched in Tirana a three-year joint project to assist the Albanian Government in implementing the new Strategy for Preventing and Combating Corruption and for Transparent Governance.

The first meeting of the Project Steering Group took place this week in the presence of Genc Pollo, Minister of State for Reforms and Relations with the Parliament, and Helmut Lohan, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation in Tirana.

With a budget of 2,130,000 Euros, co-financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe, the project is one of 24 priority projects of the Albanian government under the 2008 Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA).

This project aims at improving the implementation of anti-corruption policies and strategies in accordance with the recommendations of the Council of Europe and Albania's commitments under the European Partnership. Special focus will be placed on strengthening capacities for the prevention of corruption in the education sector and improvement of integrity, transparency and accountability in the education system.

The project will provide direct assistance to the Department of Internal Administrative Control and Anti-Corruption, the High Inspectorate of Declaration and Audit of Assets, the Department of Prevention of Money Laundering in the Ministry of Finance, the Training Institute of Public Administration, the School of Magistrates, the Police Academy and the Institute for Curricula Development and Training of the Ministry of Education.

The project will also provide support for development of policies to lift the immunities and privileges of elected persons in cases of alleged corruption, increase transparency and accountability in the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns, and improve the regulatory and administrative setting for the management of confiscated proceeds from crime.

More information about the project will be available at www.coe.int/paca

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