



## CoE/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF)

### Thematic Programme “Fight against Corruption and Fostering Good Governance/Fight against money-laundering”

#### Project Summary

*Version of 17 March 2015*

Project title	Fight against Corruption and Fostering Good Governance/Fight against money-laundering
Project area	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
Budget	EURO 3,800.000
Funding	European Union 90%; Council of Europe 10%
Implementation	Economic Crime and Cooperation Unit, Action against Crime Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
Duration	36 months (starting on 1 January 2015)

#### BACKGROUND

The European Union launched the **Eastern Partnership** (EaP) on 7 May 2009 at a Summit with its Eastern Partners. The Partnership sets out an ambitious path for tighter relations between Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, through bilateral and multilateral activities. One component of the Eastern Partnership was the “Eastern Partnership – Council of Europe Facility Project on Good Governance and Fight against Corruption”, implemented from March 2011 until December 2014 ([www.coe.int/eap-corruption](http://www.coe.int/eap-corruption)).

The current **Project** “Fight against **corruption** and fostering good governance/ Fight against money-laundering”, under the CoE/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF), represents a continuation of the previous Eastern Partnership assistance. It combines a **Regional Component** (involving all six Eastern Partnership countries) with **Country Components** for Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine. Whereas Country **Components** for Azerbaijan, Belarus and Ukraine primarily focus on combating corruption, the focus of the **Country Component** for Georgia is on fighting money-laundering.

The PCF as a whole is composed of five programmatic areas agreed between the European Commission and the Council of Europe. It stems from the **Statement of Intent** signed on 1 April 2014 by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and

the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbour Policy and has been developed pursuant to the Council of Europe and EU Policy priorities in the context of the Eastern Partnership, while relying on the Council of Europe expertise in standard-setting, monitoring and cooperation. “Fight against Corruption and Fostering Good Governance/Fight against money-laundering” is one of the pillars covered by the PCF. It is focused on supporting current reforms in the field of corruption and money-laundering and further strengthens capacities in the region with regard to good governance and measures to fight corruption.

## NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED

The PCF-Project aims to address issues raised by the Council of Europe monitoring and advisory bodies in the areas of corruption and money laundering (**GRECO and MONEYVAL**). In addition to that, activities have also been developed in line with cooperation priorities as defined by CoE Programming Cooperation Documents, CoE Progress Review Reports on Action Plans, and EU Association Agendas and Agreements. The Project will focus on the following issues:

- Good governance and measures to prevent corruption, including the role of education and public awareness;
- Law enforcement and implementation of legal frameworks aimed at fighting economic crime; and
- Pilot Activities: addressing specific country needs/legal reforms.

## APPROACH

As mentioned above, the Project entails an overarching regional component covering all six EaP countries and four country components (for Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine). The **regional component** itself is a combination of regional and pilot activities. **Regional activities** engaging all six countries will allow for mobilisation of Council of Europe expertise, peer-to-peer reviews and advice, and the exchange of good practices among participating countries. **Pilot activities** will provide tailored assistance in response to individual country priorities. These activities will be identified during the Inception phase of the Project and adjusted accordingly throughout the duration of the project. In addition to the Regional Component, the four **country components** will provide further country specific assistance through agreed activities.

Activities planned for both type of components will include workshops, trainings, roundtables, assessments, and provision of expert advice. The activity results will be documented in technical papers, handbooks, and other forms of **publications and be made available** on the Project website in addition to other forms of dissemination.

The **Inception** phase of the Project will take place in the first three months of the 36 months project cycle. The first (launching) event is planned to take place at the end of the Inception phase. This phase will provide an opportunity for the development of the **workplan and calendar** for each project component, in coordination with the authorities of Eastern Partnership countries.

## OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Overall objective** of the CoE/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF): To strengthen the reform processes in the six partner countries on a national and regional level so as to bring them closer to Council of Europe and EU standards in core areas covered by the Eastern Partnership Platform

### Specific objectives:

**III.1.1.** To improve the framework and capacity to fully implement legal aspects of prevention and criminalisation of corruption, particularly in terms of implementing relevant **GRECO** recommendations;

**III.1.2.** To strengthen the capacity to **prevent** corruption in public administration, Judiciary, Prosecution, and law enforcement authorities;

**III.1.3.** To improve **legal frameworks** concerning: ethics and codes of conduct; conflicts of interest; prohibition or restriction of certain activities; declaration of assets, income, liabilities and interests, political finance, white collar crime, and immunities of high-ranking public officials;

**III.1.4.** To focus the fight against corruption on **specific areas** (i.e., education and health sector): To support the development of prevention and integrity mechanisms for the practicing professionals and to increase good governance when delivering public services as such;

**III.1.5.** To facilitate public interest disclosures (**whistleblowers**): through the normative institutional and judicial framework for the protection of whistleblowers and to strengthen capacity-building in applying these frameworks;

**III.1.6.** To develop regional capacity and **cross-border** co-operation on identified common challenge areas in the fight against corruption, where cross-border and international co-operation is necessary to combat corruption as a criminal offence, and other forms of economic crime;

**III.1.7.** To strengthen the national capacity to detect and to combat financial and **economic crimes**, particularly in terms of implementing relevant MONEYVAL recommendations;

**III.1.8.** To strengthen the capacity of financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities, as well as supervisory bodies, in identifying money laundering/terrorism financing activity and cases of non-compliance with relevant

legislation.
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## COUNTERPARTS/BENEFICIARIES

Each partner country will identify the main beneficiaries and stakeholders for the implantation of this Project. Beneficiaries and counterparts include:

- Governmental bodies at all levels, notably specialised structures within the ministries of justice, interior, and finance;
- Ministry units responsible for public administration and civil service;
- Specialised agencies/bureaux/commissions involved in prevention and fight against corruption and economic crime (i.e., anti-corruption agency);
- Financial intelligence units (FIUs);
- Judiciary and prosecutorial services; and
- Civil Society.

## IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

As the key actor in this thematic area and the EaP region, the Council of Europe, and more specifically the Department of Action against Crime, through its Economic Crime and Cooperation Unit (ECCU) will be in-charge of implementing activities under this Project. It will engage international long- and short-term experts in the field of anti-corruption and economic crime and local experts from EaP countries to that end.

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