



## **Controlling Corruption through Law Enforcement and Prevention Project (CLEP)**

### **Activity Report – 2**

#### **SYNOPSIS OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITY**

##### **Implementing entity:**

Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, Action against Crime Department, Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate, DGI – Human Rights and Rule of Law

##### **Type of activity:**

Study Visit to the Irish Criminal Asset Bureau (CAB) on seizure, confiscation and assets management

##### **Programme/Project:**

Controlling Corruption through Law Enforcement and Prevention (CLEP)

##### **Country/Region:**

Republic of Moldova

##### **Date and place:**

13-14 May 2019, Dublin, Ireland

##### **Council of Europe Secretariat:**

Giulia Re & Nadejda Plamadeala

##### **Participants:**

4 men (representing Asset Recovery Office's management) and 2 staff members of the CLEP project (accompanied by an interpreter).

##### **Total number of participants:**

7

##### **Partner institutions/organisations:**

Asset Recovery Office (ARO) of the Republic of Moldova hosted by the Irish CAB

##### **Objectives:**

To exchange experience and good replicable practices on seizure, confiscation and asset management with the Irish CAB

##### **General Assessment:**

The programme of the study visit foresaw presentations from both the Irish and the Moldovan ARO. During the first day, officers from the Irish CAB illustrated how the office is organized,

stressing the interdisciplinary nature of the body (law enforcement/police, tax authorities and social protection services) as a key to success. They also showed the premises, including their equipment. The role, functions and concrete tasks of the Intelligence Office and the Legal Department were explained in details. The second Day focused on asset management. CAB's Asset Management Office (AMO) explained how the office was established within the ARO in 2017, representing a similar setting as in the Moldovan framework. Robust discussion occurred on the involvement of the AMO in seizure and confiscation pre-planning. Challenges faced and solutions applied in managing assets effectively were presented and explained. AMO officers also discussed their current working practices, the drafting process of a business plan and their interdepartmental relations. Specific cases of asset management (e.g. dangerous assets, assets requiring substantial maintenance investments, leasing of cars) were discussed. The Financial Intelligence Unit explained their work with CAB and how intelligence dissemination leads to asset tracing and recovery. Lastly, CAB presented the Analysis Unit and their work in forensic accounting and open source intelligence.

### **Results/conclusions:**

The activity directly contributed to sharing good practices in the field of seizure, confiscation and asset management. In addition, inter-agency cooperation modalities were discussed and presented. As ARO will work more on this matter in the coming months, the mechanisms set up by the Irish CAB could be taken as a model, to be adapted to the Moldovan context and institutional framework. CAB also shared their legislation and templates of policies which were fine-tuned since its establishment to improve the internal procedures. Lastly, the activity built solid links between the Irish CAB and the Moldovan ARO, which may improve their cooperation on operational cases.

Results and necessary follow-up from the activity will be discussed with the ARO in coming weeks. All materials shared by CAB has been scanned and sent to ARO for further dissemination among their officers.

### **Agenda:**

See attached.