

PGG II ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - YEAR 1 OF IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project reference and title:	EU-JP/2343 - PGG II : 6. Countering money-laundering and terrorism financing in Belarus
Project type:	Bilateral
Target country:	Belarus
Project planned starting date:	01/01/2019
Project effective starting date:	01/01/2019
Project duration:	36 months
National partners:	
Target groups and/or final beneficiaries:	Ministry of Taxes and Duties of the Republic of Belarus; Judiciary and law enforcement agencies in Belarus; National Bank of the Republic of Belarus; State Security Committee of the Republic of Belarus; Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus; Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus; State Control Committee; Belarusian judiciary
Date of report:	31/12/2019
Project team:	
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – OVERALL ASSESSMENT

In Belarus, the PGG Project “Countering money laundering and terrorism financing,” contributed to enhancing understanding money laundering trends, methods and techniques which is essential for policy makers and law enforcement in developing operational and investigative strategies to combat these threats. Building on this understanding, a specialised training was delivered on money laundering and terrorist financing investigations and prosecution. Overall, forty-eight financial analysts, law enforcement officers and judges benefited from two trainings, one on effective investigations and one on improving detection of trends in money laundering to help investigative processes in Belarus.

A guide on identifying money laundering common patterns was developed for the training purposes together with practical cases to illustrate the existing practices. Feedback from the participants confirmed their increased understanding of good practices in identifying typologies of ML/TF, developing investigative and operational strategies, use of special investigative techniques, financial investigations and confiscation and money-laundering detection.

The above was achieved through total of three actions. In doing so, the project delivered 1 technical paper, and organised 2 capacity-building workshops. In total 48 participants, of which 85% were men and 15% were women, benefited from the project activities. Full list of individual interventions is provided in Section VII.

II. RESULTS ASSESSMENT

Intermediate outcome 1

Comprehensive measures on prevention and detection of money laundering/terrorist financing

During the reporting period, the PGG project trained forty-eight financial analysts, law enforcement officers and judges in two inter-related topics: (i) effective investigations and (ii) improving detection of trends in money laundering to help investigative processes in Belarus. A guide on identifying money laundering common patterns was delivered for the training purposes together with practical cases to illustrate the existing practices. Feedback from the participants confirmed their increased understanding of good practices in developing typologies, investigative and operational strategies, use of special investigative measures, financial investigations and confiscation and money-laundering detection.

Output 1.1.1

Strengthened capacities of Financial Monitoring Department (Financial Intelligence Unit of Belarus) in implementing effective analytical techniques and in developing additional typologies

A workshop on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) typologies was delivered to twenty-three (23) representatives of the law enforcement and financial intelligence bodies with AML/CFT responsibilities. The workshop increased the participants’ understanding on the objectives of AML/CFT typologies, methodology and sectoral typologies. Sector specific presentations were also delivered with respect to enhancing participants’ knowledge on AML typologies, understanding preventive activities and investigative capabilities from the banking sector perspective, including measures and techniques on how to detect ML, fraud, and other financial crimes. Experts and participants dedicated time to discuss interaction between relevant state authorities, supervisory and investigative bodies and banking sector, and on the possible ways to cooperate more effectively in the identification, prevention and investigation of AML/CFT cases. In this context, the PGG provided a guide, prepared specifically for the participants outlining definitions, methodology and suggesting concrete solutions on conducting typology work. . The participants of the workshop were also provided with illustrative case studies to highlight red flags for detecting typologies in money laundering and terrorist financing cases.

Output 1.1.2

Enhanced capacities to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate money laundering and terrorist financing cases.

Effective investigations are essential to disrupting money laundering and terrorist financing. This was the focus of the workshop in Belarus, where the PGG project trained twenty-five law enforcement representatives and judges in investigative techniques, evidentiary aspects of money laundering investigations and prosecution, confiscation of proceeds of crime and international cooperation. The

participants acquired new knowledge to deal with money laundering and terrorist financing cases. Specifically, the participants increased their understanding of good practices in developing investigative and operational strategies, use of special investigative measures, financial investigations and confiscation. The workshop used hypothetical case studies as a tool to introduce various techniques for the effective money laundering investigation and prosecution.

III. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- Gender mainstreaming

Gender statistics were collected for all events conducted under the PGG Belarus Project. Of total participants of the project events, 15% were women representing criminal justice and financial intelligence sectors.

IV. COMPLEMENTARITY

During the project implementation cycle, communication with project beneficiaries exclusively went through the PGG National Coordinator (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Focal Point (State Control Committee). The State Control Committee's Financial Investigations Department swiftly facilitated organisation of the project events on the ground and ensured smooth coordination with all relevant state actors during the inception phase. The PGG Project Team liaised with international organisations working on the same and similar issues in the EaP countries (e.g. UNDP, UNODC, OECD, GIZ, U.S.D.O.J, U.S. DOS/INL, country specific twining projects) in order to ensure complementarity and avoid overlap. Communication was namely focused on exchange of information on respective activities.

V. RISK AND RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

The following risk and mitigation measure at project level was identified:

- **Project/programme delivery:** (Risk) The implementation of project activities can be jeopardised by lack of commitment and interest from the beneficiary institutions to implement international anti-money laundering standards. (Mitigation measure) Through bi-lateral stakeholder meetings during the inception phase, the Project Technical Committee meeting and continuous communication with the Project focal point, the Project ensures that the activities are tailored to the needs and adjusted on an as needed basis.

VI. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Visual identity of PGG Project follows the PGG Communications Strategy, agreed between the European Union and the Council of Europe, and is applicable to all programmatic outputs, including official communication, technical papers, activity agendas and presentations, news/media feeds, and project visibility kits (i.e. banners, folders, notepads, and pens).

A project specific Communication and Visibility Plan was developed with the objectives to:

- Improve understanding about the areas of intervention as they relate to implementation of the national and regional priorities in the fight against economic crime and highlight the results produced through the project;
- Inform about the role of the Council of Europe and the European Union in supporting the reforms and capacities to effectively combat economic crime in the country;
- Foster donor awareness of the project outcomes and ensure coordination with other EU-funded projects in Belarus.

In line with the Communication and Visibility Plan, the PGG Project carried out visibility actions for its interventions. List of key project documents and information on programmatic events and deliverables (e.g. technical papers) can be found on the [webpage](#) of the Council of Europe Economic Crime Cooperation Division and the dedicated [webpage](#) to the PGG-Belarus Project.

VII. KEY DELIVERABLES (publications, etc.)

Major reports and documentation produced with project support:

- Situation Report: Belarus (ECCD-PGGII-BE-01/2019)
- Technical Paper on “Money laundering typologies” (ECCD-PGGII-BE-02/2019)

List of activities:

- Workshop on “Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Typologies (19-20 June 2019 Minsk; Number of participants: 23 (16 men/ 7 women);
- Workshop on “Investigation, prosecution and adjudication of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing cases”, (29-30 October 2019, Minsk); Number of participants 25: 23 men/2 women)