



HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Action against Economic Crime in Albania

As part of the European Union and Council of Europe cooperation framework “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey” (Horizontal Facility), the Council of Europe will implement the “Action against Economic Crime”, in close partnership with the General Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering, the Central Election Commission, Specialised structures within the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Finance; Judicial and Prosecutorial Services; Supervisory bodies and Specialised agencies or commissions involved in the prevention and fight against corruption and economic crime.

The Action interventions and activities have been designed in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders based on recent key recommendations of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) and Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) with the aim to improve their implementation and to support tailored reform processes in the country. The Action will work with a wide range of beneficiaries, including civil society and the private sector, to achieve its objectives and to produce tangible and sustainable results and deliverables.

The Action will run for 36 months starting from 24 May 2016. The total budget for the Action is €1,000,000 and is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The objectives of the Action

The overall objective of the Action is to contribute to democracy and the rule of law through prevention and control of economic crimes in accordance with European and other international standards.

The Action aims at accomplishing the following **specific objectives**:

- ✓ Political Party Funding legislation and institutional framework is reviewed;
- ✓ Asset declaration system is improved;
- ✓ AML/CFT legislative and strategic framework is reviewed;
- ✓ Capacities of law enforcement authorities, prosecution and judiciary to fight ML and TF are enhanced;
- ✓ Inter-agency cooperation is streamlined and improved.

Accordingly, the outcomes of the project will be achieved through realisation of the following **expected results**:

- ✓ The legal framework for regulating political party funding is enhanced;
- ✓ Capacities of authorities responsible for oversight of political party funding are strengthened;
- ✓ HIDAACI’s ability and capacity to implement an online asset declaration system, perform effective verifications of asset declarations and publish declarations are improved;
- ✓ An updated National Risk Assessment on AML/CFT is available;

- ✓ Capacities and awareness of all relevant AML/CFT key players on NRA and its recommendations are enhanced;
- ✓ AML/CFT legislation and strategies are reviewed and amended based on new international standards;
- ✓ Procedural framework for investigating/prosecuting and adjudicating proceeds-generating crimes, including ML is reviewed;
- ✓ Capacities and skills of the LEA/prosecution and judiciary in investigating/prosecuting and adjudicating ML cases, especially on third party ML cases are enhanced;
- ✓ The procedures and capacities of authorities to identify, seize, confiscate and subsequently manage and dispose of criminal proceeds and property are enhanced;
- ✓ Inter-institutional cooperation between LEA involved in the field of financial investigations and proliferation financing is improved;
- ✓ Inter-institutional cooperation between supervisors in the AML/CFT field is improved.

Background information





On 11 April 2016, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, and the European Union's Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, announced a new co-operation initiative of the two organisations aimed at supporting South-East Europe and Turkey in their efforts to comply with European standards.

The initiative is called the European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey (Horizontal Facility). It is a three-year programme (May 2016 – May 2019), focusing on three themes: ensuring justice, fighting economic crime as well as combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups. It has a budget of €25 million, of which €20 million has been provided by the European Union and €5 million by the Council of Europe.

Through the Horizontal Facility, the European Union and the Council of Europe will assist beneficiaries in South-East Europe and Turkey to comply with Council of Europe standards and the European Union acquis, through a complementary two-fold approach of technical co-operation and the provision of expertise.

The Horizontal Facility relies on the Council of Europe's unique working methods, whereby tailor-made technical co-operation activities are based on conclusions and recommendations of the Council of Europe's monitoring bodies, which highlight areas where improvements are needed in legislation and policies of the beneficiaries to comply with the Organisation's standards.

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organization. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 500 million citizens – in a fairer, safer world. To make things happen, EU countries set up bodies to run the EU and adopt its legislation. The main ones are the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe), the Council of the European Union (representing national governments) and the European Commission (representing the common EU interest).

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