

ACTION AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME IN ALBANIA

What is the goal?

The Action against Economic Crime in Albania (AEC-AL) aims to contribute to strengthening anti-corruption and anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing regimes in accordance with European and other international standards, and thus increase the trust in the rule of law and democracy in Albania. More specifically, the Action will support the authorities in the effective implementation of recent key recommendations of the monitoring bodies of the Council of Europe such as the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) and Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) as well as contribute to tailored reform processes in the country.

Who benefits from the project?

The Action will work closely with various beneficiaries and counterparts in governmental bodies at all levels, specialised agencies and supervisory bodies including:

- ▶ Parliament of Albania
- ▶ Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Finance; Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Office
- ▶ the High Inspectorate on Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interest (HIDAACI)
- ▶ Judicial and Prosecutorial Services
- ▶ General Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering
- ▶ Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority
- ▶ Bank of Albania
- ▶ Albanian citizens, civil society organisations and private sector

How will the project work?

Assistance provided through the Action will be delivered by dispatching a mix of advisory and capacity building interventions, tailored to the specific needs of beneficiaries and building on the results achieved in the implementation of Horizontal Facility Phase I (2016-2019). More concretely the Action will focus on supporting the authorities in several directions including:

- ▶ strengthening of legislation and regulatory frameworks;
- ▶ institutional capacity building;
- ▶ enhanced inter-agency and international cooperation.

What do we expect to achieve?

The Action is expected to achieve key results in supporting the authorities in several directions including:

- ▶ improved legislation and institutional framework to prevent and combat corruption, money laundering and countering terrorist financing;
- ▶ strengthened asset recovery and management practices;
- ▶ effective mechanisms to prevent and suppress money laundering and terrorist financing are in place;
- ▶ boosted inter-institutional cooperation and coordination in combating economic crime.



How much will it cost?

- ▶ the total budget of the Action is 800.000 EUR;
- ▶ the budget allocated to the overall Horizontal Facility programme amounts to ca. 41 Million EUR (85% funded by the European Union, 15% by the Council of Europe).

How do we get more information?

- ▶ Economic Crime and Cooperation Division website: www.coe.int/econcrime and Action against Economic Crime specific website: www.coe.int/HF-II-AEC
- ▶ Horizontal Facility website: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility/home>
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About Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey

The “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022” is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe that enables the Beneficiaries to meet their reform agendas in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy and to comply with the European standards, including where relevant within the framework of the EU enlargement process. This three-year programme covers actions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, as well as Kosovo* and it is implemented by the Council of Europe from May 2019.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.*

The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all 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.

www.coe.int

The Member States of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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