

Action against Economic Crime in the Republic of North Macedonia

What is the goal?

The Action against Economic Crime in the Republic of North Macedonia (HFII - AEC-MKD) aims at strengthening anti-corruption and anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing regimes and thus seeks to increase trust in the rule of law and democracy in North Macedonia by. The Action will support the authorities in the effective implementation of the recent key recommendations of the monitoring bodies 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) and to contribute to tailored reform processes in the country.

Who benefits from the Action?

- ▶ Main beneficiaries of the Action are institutions/bodies involved in countering and preventing corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism:
Financial Intelligence Office, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, Public Prosecutor's Office – organised crime and corruption department, Financial Police, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Public Revenue Office, Securities and Exchange Commission, National Bank, Supervision Commissions of the Chamber of Bar Association and of the Chamber of Public Notaries, Customs Office, Insurance Supervision Agency, Agency for Supervision of Fully Funded Pension Insurance – MAPAS;
- ▶ Civil society organisations active in the field of anti-corruption;
- ▶ Private sector;
- ▶ Citizens of North Macedonia, who will benefit from more transparent and accountable public institutions.

How will the project work?

Action against Economic Crime in North Macedonia will be delivered by dispatching a mix of advisory and capacity building activities, tailored to specific needs of the beneficiaries, and building on the results of cooperation and assistance provided in the economic crime area in the first phase of Horizontal Facility. More concretely, the Action will focus on supporting the beneficiaries through :

- ▶ Expert opinions on legislation and policy documents;
- ▶ Support and guidance on developing or revising of policies, rules, and operational protocols and frameworks;
- ▶ Conferences, trainings and workshops on specific topics;
- ▶ Peer-to-peer exchange of good practices;
- ▶ Development of handbooks and training manuals and preparation of methodologies and document templates.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ Improved legal and operational framework on preventing and combating corruption;
- ▶ Strengthened and more efficient Asset Recovery Framework;
- ▶ Enhanced anti-money laundering and terrorist financing prevention mechanisms.

How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the Action is 775,000 EUR

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by the Council of Europe



- ▶ 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 to get more information?

- ▶ Economic Crime and Co-operation Division website: www.coe.int/econcrime
- ▶ 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>
- ▶ Iliina Garevska, Senior Project Officer, Iliina.Garevska@coe.int
- ▶ Maia Mamulashvili, Programme Coordinator, Maia.Mamulashvili@coe.int
- ▶ Marija Simić, Horizontal Facility Communication Officer, Marija.SIMIC@coe.int, +381 63 601 337
- ▶ Besnik Baka, Horizontal Facility Communication Officer, Besnik.Baka@coe.int, +355 69 217 8430

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 47 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.

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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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