

ACTION AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIME IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY (REGIONAL)

What is the goal?

The Regional Action against Economic Crime (*HFII-AEC-REG*) aims to foster a uniform approach to the implementation of relevant standards of the Council of Europe monitoring bodies: GRECO and MONEYVAL, by the Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and Turkey. It will support cooperation and coordination efforts on cross-border aspects of the fight against economic crime in the Western Balkans and Turkey. More specifically, the action aims at addressing identified shortcomings by focusing on three key areas: (1) corruption risks in public procurement, (2) transparency of Beneficial Ownership and (3) countering terrorist financing in the Non-Profit Organisations (NPO) sector.

Who benefits from the project?

The action is working closely with various beneficiaries and counterparts in governmental bodies at all levels, specialised agencies and supervisory bodies involved in the prevention and fight against economic crime in the Western Balkans and Turkey, including:

- ▶ Governments and Ministries (Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Finance);
- ▶ Specialised Agencies: Anti-corruption bodies and Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs)
- ▶ Judicial and Prosecutorial Services
- ▶ Supervisory & Regulatory authorities: NPO supervisors; Financial & Private sector supervisors and inspectors
- ▶ Custom and Borders Authorities
- ▶ Citizens, civil society organisations and private sector.

How will the project work?

The action will provide a mix of advisory and capacity building interventions primarily at regional level but also at local level through pilot activities tailored to specific needs of the Beneficiaries. In this process the action is supporting the authorities in several directions, including:

- ▶ strengthening of regulatory and operational frameworks;
- ▶ exchanging of experience, good practices and peer-to-peer advice;
- ▶ capacity building and skills development;
- ▶ fostering regional and inter-agency cooperation and cross-border exchange of data.

What do we expect to achieve?

The action is assisting the authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey to achieve key results including:

- ▶ enhanced public procurement and execution of public contracts;
- ▶ exchange of good practices on 'Transparency of Beneficial Ownership';
- ▶ countering terrorist financing in the Non-Profit Organisations sector.

How much will it cost?

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



Implemented
by the Council of Europe

- ▶ The total budget of the action is 675,000 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 Regional 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 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.

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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