

INCEPTION REPORT - short version

ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

I. General Information

A. Identification

Project reference number:

VC 2744

Project partner(s):

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova (MoJ; National Integrity Authority (NIA); Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP); Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM); National Institute of Justice (NIJ); General Prosecution Office (GPO); Civil Society Organizations

B. Reporting information

Project implementation dates: 01/06/2020-30/11/2021 Reporting period: 01/06/2020-30/09/2020

D. Executive Summary

The project's inception phase ran from 1 June 2020 to 30 September 2020. The inception phase consultation meetings with the main partners confirmed that the Action's expected outcomes remain relevant and timely.

Several adjustments to the initial workplan take into consideration the most recent developments in the technical assistance fora in the Republic of Moldova and the current needs and priorities of the beneficiary institutions. The rationale for such modifications and a detailed timeline of the activities are provided in this report and its Appendices.

The inception phase was used for the recruitment of the project team which is in place and has become operational. The field office based team is supported by the Council of Europe's Economic Crime and Cooperation Division in the headquarters which is the responsible entity for the substantive aspect of the implementation of the project.

The Action's Steering Committee endorsed the terms of reference of the Committee and the revised workplan at its 1st meeting on 14 September 2020. An official launching of the project took place via a videoconference on the same day, and it aimed to ensure the necessary political endorsement by the Moldovan counterparts to the Actions future activities as well as to reinforce the overall visibility of the intervention.

Pursuant to the revised project workplan, in the upcoming quarter the focus will be on priority actions relating to the legislative frameworks regulating the composition and functioning of the Superior Council of Magistrates and Superior Council of Prosecutors, and integrity checking of judges during appointment and promotion. In the context of COVID-19 related restrictions, the planned activities in 2020 will be implemented through desk work and virtual consultations and meetings through the Council of Europe's digital platforms.

E. Project outline

Geographic scope of the project: Republic of Moldova Location of the project:

Republic of Moldova

End beneficiaries:

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova (MoJ; National Integrity Authority (NIA); Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP); Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM); National Institute of Justice (NIJ); General Prosecution Office (GPO); Civil Society Organizations

Sources of justification:

Addressing GRECO 4th Round Evaluation Recommendations

Link to strategic co-operation document:

Council of Europe Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova 2017-2020

Duration of the project:

18 months

Budget:

€230,547.33

F. Project description

1.1. Project Impact

Support the authorities in preventing and combating corruption in Republic of Moldova.

1.2. Project Purpose

Enhanced capacities to implement GRECO recommendations.

1.3. Immediate and Intermediate Outcomes

1. Corruption prevention in respect of judges and prosecutors is improved

- 1.1. The legislative/regulatory framework regulating the composition of the Superior Council of Magistracy reviewed and advise on necessary amendments to ensure its alignment with GRECO recommendations provided (GRECO IV round evaluation R7)
- 1.2. Introduced mechanisms for integrity testing of candidates for appointment and promotion in the judiciary (GRECO IV round evaluation R9)
- 1.3. The legislative/regulatory framework regulating the composition of the Superior Council of Prosecutors reviewed and advise on necessary amendments to ensure its alignment with GRECO recommendations provided (GRECO IV round evaluation R15)
- 1.4. The legislative/regulatory framework regulating the disciplinary liability of prosecutors reviewed and advise on necessary amendments to ensure its alignment with GRECO recommendations provided (GRECO IV round evaluation R18)
- 1.5. Capacity building for judicial inspection in view of strengthening the objectivity, efficiency and transparency of the disciplinary liability of judges provided (GRECO IV round evaluation R13)
- 2. Strengthened capacities and effectiveness of the National Integrity Authority in handling declaration of assets and personal interests by judges, prosecutors and other members of the Parliament
 - 2.1. An assessment of the effectiveness of the National Integrity Authority in the processing and verification of asset declarations is conducted (GRECO IV round evaluation R4)
 - 2.2. Support provided to the National Institute of Justice in delivering of training on Professional Code of Conduct and ethics for judges and prosecutors; (GRECO IV round evaluation R11 and R17).