

TRAINING ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE MONITORS

TIRANA, ALBANIA, 25 FEBRUARY 2021

(delivered through online Kudo platform)

Programme Background

The Action against Economic Crime in Albania (AEC-AL) is part of the European Union/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (also referred to as: Horizontal Facility phase II or HF II), a co-operation initiative of the European Union and Council of Europe for South East Europe. AEC-AL aims at enhancing the rule of law and governance by strengthening economic crime prevention and enforcement tools. It builds upon the results achieved in the implementation of Phase I of the Horizontal Facility (2016-2019) by continuing its support to effective implementation of key recommendations of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL). The Action aims to achieve this by further strengthening institutional capacities to counter and prevent corruption; money laundering; and the financing of terrorism in accordance with European standards. The action is supporting the authorities in several directions including support for the strengthening of legislation and institutional framework to increase the transparency of political party and election campaign funding.

With the support of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and British Embassy in Tirana, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) is implementing the "Promoting Political Finance Reform" project which aims to support effective regulation of political finance in Albania. Through this project, NDI is providing assistance to the Central Election Commission (CEC) on effective party finance regulation in line with best international practices, assisting CEC in drafting secondary legislation encompassing political finance and abuse of state resources; conducting regulatory training for staff and campaign monitors and supporting CEC engagement on legislative reform related to political finance regulation. NDI is also providing capacity development assistance to academic institutions in Albania, such as public universities in Tirana, to enhance curricula by integrating political finance themes, conduct research, support civil society's engagement in election reform, generate public discussion on political finance and assist young journalists in expanding their knowledge on the topic.

Objectives of the training

The Training on is a joint activity between AEC-Albania and the National Democratic Institute. The purpose of the training is:

- To increase the awareness of monitors on the newly adopted legal framework;
- To provide guidance on the monitoring methodology and the use of reporting templates;
- To provide good monitoring practices from other countries in the region.

Participants

This Training is a technical activity and will be attended by representatives of the following: Central Election Commission (CEC), Monitors appointed by the CEC, National Democratic Institution experts and Council of Europe experts.

Joint activity between Action against Economic Crime in Albania (AEC-Albania) the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Central Election Commission

Agenda

THURSDAY, 25 February 2021	
14:30 – 14:45	<p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Ilirjan Celibashi, State Election Commissioner, CEC - Ms Ana Kadovic Kovacevic, National Democratic Institute Country Director - Mr Olsi Dekovi, Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tirana
14:45– 15:00	<p>Introduction and presentation of the objectives of the training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Liljana Kaci, Senior Project Officer, AEC-AL and Mr Vildan Plepi, Program Director, NDI
15:00 – 15:20	<p>Presentation of the legal framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Viktor Gumi, NDI expert
15:20-15:30	<p>Questions and Answers session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitors, Mr Viktor Gumi (NDI) <p>Moderator: Mr Vildan Plepi, NDI</p>
15:30-15:50	<p>Focus on monitoring techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Milica Kovacevic, NDI expert
15:50-16:20	<p>Abuse/ misuse of state resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Quentin Reed, CoE expert
16:20-16:30	<p>Break</p>
16:30-16:45	<p>Questions and answers session & Case study on abuse of state resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitors <p>Mr Quentin Reed, (CoE expert), Mr Viktor Gumi and Ms Milica Kovacevic (NDI)</p>
16:45- 17:00	<p>Presentation of the structure/ content of the reporting templates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Barbara Jouan Stonestreet (NDI expert)
17:00-17:15	<p>Questions and answers session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitors, Ms Milica Kovacevic and Ms Barbara Jouan Stonestreet (NDI)
17:15- 17:45	<p>Case study (on monitoring techniques)</p> <p>Ms Milica Kovacevic and Ms Barbara Jouan Stonestreet (NDI) and Mr Quentin Reed (CoE)</p>
17:45-18:00	<p>Outstanding questions/ issues and wrapping up (CoE and NDI)</p>