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**CoE/EU Partnership for Good Governance Programme (PGG II)
Project on “Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in
Armenia”**

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Project on “Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia”
Project area	Armenia
Budget	EURO 850,000
Funding	European Union 90%; Council of Europe 10%
Implementation	Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, Action against Crime Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
Duration	36 months (starting from 01 January 2019)

BACKGROUND

The project on “*Strengthening institutional capacities to fight and prevent corruption in Armenia*” is one of the six projects which constitute the second phase of the EU/CoE Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) programme interventions to support Eastern Partnership countries¹ to counter economic crime. The project aims to provide tailored assistance responding to the country’s anti-corruption reforms agenda, while addressing issues raised by the Council of Europe monitoring bodies in the areas of corruption and money laundering. It has been designed to contribute to the EU 2020 targets set out in priority area “Strengthening the rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms,”² and is aligned with the cooperation priorities identified in the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, and Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2019-2022.

NEEDS, OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES

The **overall objective** of the project is to increase efficiency of anti-corruption and asset recovery while preventing and combating corruption. The project aims to do so by supporting the Armenian authorities in strengthening legislative and institutional frameworks for anti-corruption and asset recovery, and developing capacities and tools to prevent and suppress economic crimes. Project expected results and specific activities have been set pursuant to country needs and an agreed approach in providing assistance in this field. The Project focuses on the following areas:

¹ Eastern Partnership countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

² European Commission (2017) [Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020: Focusing on key priorities and tangible results](#). Accessed on: 21 January 2019

- **Strategic actions:** assisting with identification of future priority areas and development of legislative proposals;
- **Prevention:** effective tools to prevent corruption in respect of public officials;
- **Enforcement:** capacity building of criminal justice institutions to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate corruption, money laundering and other types of economic crime.

In line with the above, the Project expects to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Strengthened legislative and institutional frameworks for combatting corruption through independent and efficient anti-corruption bodies;
- **Outcome 2:** Enhanced systems of asset declaration, conflict of interest and illicit enrichment for all levels of public officials;
- **Outcome 3:** Increased effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption-related crimes and offenses;
- **Outcome 4:** Further developed institutional asset recovery mechanisms.

Assistance activities in each field include assessments, provision of expert advice, workshops, trainings, and roundtables. The activity results are documented in technical papers, handbooks, or other written output which are available on the Project website.

COUNTERPARTS/BENEFICIARIES

Project counterparts/beneficiaries:

- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Interior
- Office of General Prosecutor
- Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials
- Commission for the Prevention of Corruption
- Civil Service Council
- Special Investigation Service of Armenia
- Investigative Committee of Armenia
- Civil society.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

As the key actor in this thematic area and the EaP region, the Council of Europe, and more specifically the Department of Action against Crime, through its Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD) is in-charge of implementing activities under this Project. For the purpose of implementation of various specific activities, it engages international long and short-term experts with proven experience in the field of fighting against economic crimes and local experts from EaP countries so as to ensure high quality and relevance of the assistance delivered to the beneficiary institutions.

CONTACTS

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Project website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/corruption/projects/pgg-ii-armenia>