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CoE/EU Partnership for Good Governance (PGG II) Project on “Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery in Azerbaijan”

Project Summary

Project title	Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery in Azerbaijan
Project area	Azerbaijan
Budget	EURO 750,000
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 Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery in Azerbaijan*” 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 is specifically tailored to respond to the needs of Azerbaijan in the area of the fight against money laundering, terrorist financing and asset recovery. This project represents a continuation of actions to strengthen capacities to fight and prevent corruption (2015-2017) and to strengthen anti-money laundering (2018), implemented in the country within the first phase of the PGG programme. 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-Azerbaijan Action Plan, and Council of Europe Action Plan for Azerbaijan 2018-2021.

NEEDS, OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES

The **overall objective** of the Azerbaijan Project is to contribute to democracy and the rule of law through implementation of institutional reforms aimed at enhancing capacities of Azerbaijani authorities to prevent and combat money laundering and terrorism financing, and recover proceeds from crime in line with European and international standards.

Project activities will focus on the following three areas:

- **Prevention:** improving institutional capacities to fight and prevent economic crime;

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

- **Enforcement:** strengthening the capacities of the law enforcement and judiciary to investigate and prosecute money laundering, terrorist financing and other types of economic crime, as well as to seize, confiscate and recover proceeds from crime;
- **Strategic actions:** assisting with identification of future priority areas for developing a coherent anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing policy and successful implementation of national risk assessment.

The Project expects to achieve the following outcomes through activities agreed with national counterparts:

- **Outcome 1:** Increased strategic and operational capacities of Azerbaijani institutions to combat and prevent money laundering and terrorism financing;
- **Outcome 2:** A legal and institutional framework for recovering proceeds from crime is introduced.

Assistance activities will include provision of research, expert advice, legal reviews, workshops, trainings, and roundtables. The activity results will be documented in technical papers, guidelines, or other written output which will be available on the Project website.

COUNTERPARTS/BENEFICIARIES

Main Counterparts: Anti-Corruption Directorate under the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Financial Monitoring Service.

Azerbaijan Beneficiaries:

- Ministry of Justice;
- Commission on Combatting Corruption;
- Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Ministry of Taxes;
- Financial Market Supervisory Authority;
- Financial Monitoring Service (FIU of Azerbaijan);
- State Security Service;
- State Customs Committee;
- Chamber of Auditors;
- Professional Associations (banks, lawyers);
- 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.

CONTACT

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