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**CoE/EU Partnership for Good Governance Programme (PGG II)
REGIONAL Project on “Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime”**

Project Summary

Project title	Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime
Project area	Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
Budget	800,000 EURO
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 on 01 January 2019)

BACKGROUND

The present project “Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime” represents 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 (EaP) countries to counter economic crime. It is based on the results achieved during the first implementation phase of the PGG programme (2015-2018), as well as from Council of Europe Eastern Partnership Facility (2011-2014).

The Eastern Partnership countries re-iterated with their commitment to strengthening democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Brussels on 24 November 2017. The six EaP countries endorsed a set of 20 Deliverables that set out a work plan to be achieved by the year 2020 in four priority areas, on the basis of already existing commitments on both EU's and Partner Countries' side. Promoting democratic consolidation and governance through justice reform and reinforcement of the rule of law on the basis of the EaP deliverables is thus at the centre of the EU's cooperation with its Eastern Partners.

The PGG Programme, including regional and bilateral actions, is designed to assist the six EaP countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – in continuing their efforts to strengthen their institutions and governance systems. “Strengthening measure to prevent and combat economic crime” is one of the components within the overall PGG framework for 2019-2021, and consists of a regional and five bi-lateral (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine) projects focussing on measures to prevent and combat corruption, money-laundering and terrorist financing.

NEEDS, OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES

The **overall objective** of the Regional Project is Strengthen capacities of Eastern Partnership countries to fight and prevent economic crime. It will focus on areas that present shared challenges to the EaP countries and will contribute to advancing the understanding and adoption of new tools and mechanisms to effectively tackle corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing, in keeping with the targets under the EU 2020 Deliverables.

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

- **Outcome 1:** Effective measures on prevention of corruption;
- **Outcome 2:** Strengthened institutional and legal capacities to combat corruption;
- **Outcome 3:** Effective measures on prevention and detection of money laundering and terrorist financing; and
- **Outcome 4:** Enhanced (cross border) cooperation and regulatory framework on seizure, confiscation of proceeds from crime.

Regional activities engaging all six countries allows for mobilisation of Council of Europe expertise, peer-to-peer reviews and advice, and the exchange of good practices among participating countries. Assistance activities include assessment, workshops, trainings, and development of guides related to specific output of the project. The activity results are documented in technical papers, guides, and other forms of publications and made available on the Project website in addition to other forms of dissemination.

COUNTERPARTS/BENEFICIARIES

Each partner country identifies the main beneficiaries and stakeholders for the implantation of this Project. Beneficiaries and counterparts include:

- Criminal Justice Sector
- Specialised anti-corruption bodies in EaP countries
- Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs)
- AML/CFT Supervisory authorities in EaP countries
- Policy Advise institutions at the central administration level
- Members of Parliament and high-ranking officials.

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.

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