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

Project Summary

Version of 30/03/23

Project title	Project on “Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime in the Eastern Partnership region”
Project area	Regional
Budget	EURO 762,500.00
Funding	European Union 80%; Council of Europe 20%
Implementation	Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, Action against Economic Crime Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
Duration	36 months (01 March 2023 – 28 February 2026)

BACKGROUND

The present project “*Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime in the Eastern Partnership region*” represents one of the six projects which constitute the third 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 and second implementation phase of the PGG programme (2015-2018 and 2019-2023), both of which have had an important contribution and impact on the anti-corruption and anti-money laundering reform processes in the region.

This third phase of the PGG programme will remain fully aligned with the EU 2020 Deliverables for the Eastern Partnership, while also delivering on the relevant targets of the post-2020 EaP priorities. The Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit (Brussels, 15 December 2021) identified as post-2020 priorities, inter alia, the development of verifiable declaration of assets by the public officials, the strengthening of the strategic, legal and institutional frameworks to prevent and combat fraud and corruption in line with European and international standards, improving public procurement quality and implementing robust and efficient financial investigation, anti-money-laundering, asset recovery and beneficial ownership frameworks.

The regional action is well placed to raise awareness about new solutions and innovations developed in other jurisdictions, assess the current practices and identify the regional typologies in order to offer policy recommendations, and provide a framework for cooperation and exchange of experiences between the countries. The primary focus of the programme will be to address gaps identified through the Council of Europe’s monitoring bodies such as GRECO and MONEYVAL, as well as other international mechanisms. However, at the regional level the focus will remain on cross cutting issues, while the bilateral

interventions will address the recommendations on a more specific manner by providing tailored assistance to each of the beneficiary countries.

NEEDS, OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES

The **overall objective** of the Regional Project is to 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 aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Developed strategic approach in assessing and managing corruption risks
- **Outcome 2:** Strengthened capacity for effective application of anti-corruption preventive measures
- **Outcome 3:** Enhanced response of the law enforcement and judiciary to corruption related offences
- **Outcome 4:** Enhanced understanding and management of sectoral money laundering and terrorism financing risks and proliferation financing
- **Outcome 5:** Enhanced legislative frameworks and cooperation in asset tracing and confiscation of proceeds of crime

Regional activities engaging all five 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:

- Members of the Judiciary and Prosecuting Offices in EaP countries
- Legislative bodies in EaP countries
- AML/CFT supervisory authorities in EaP countries
- Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs)
- Policy advice institutions at the central administrative level
- Specialised anti-corruption bodies in EaP countries
- Private sector entities responsible for the application of AML/CFT and AC measures
- Civil society and public at large

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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