

Central Asia Rule of Law Programme Promoting Transparency and Action against economic crime (CA TAEC)

Project Summary: Kyrgyzstan (CA TAEC KY)

Project title	Promoting Transparency and Action against economic crime
Project area	Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
Implemented by	Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, Action against Crime Department, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
Duration	48 months (starting from January 2020)

SUMMARY

The Joint Programme Agreement for the “Central Asia Rule of Law Programme” was signed in November 2019 between the Council of Europe and the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Programme aims at reinforcing the human rights, rule of law and democracy in the countries of Central Asia in accordance with European and other applicable international standards.

The Programme started in January 2020 with a duration of 48 months. It will cover all five countries of the region – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – and will be in line with the Council of Europe Policy for Neighbourhood Regions.

The project on “Promoting transparency and action against economic crime” (CA TAEC) will focus on strengthening authorities’ capacities in the region to fight and prevent economic crime and corruption, based on regional priorities, as well as priority areas of the countries concerned. These will be addressed through a **regional component** and **five country-specific components**.

COUNTRY: KYRGYZSTAN

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The project looks to achieve its overall objective stated above by enhancing:

- a) Business integrity and compliance in the private sector; and
- b) Anti-corruption, AML and asset recovery systems in Kyrgyzstan.

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Area 1: Business integrity and compliance in the private sector

Kyrgyzstan has not yet undertaken systemic measures as a matter of state policy in the field of promoting business integrity and protection of entrepreneurs' rights. Legislation in this area exists since 2001 but it has largely remained out-dated, with only marginal improvements in 2015. A range of interventions were identified as needed in order to address the lack of systemic action. These measures would involve the development of tools to measure corruption in the private sector, development and implementation of policy proposals for the protection of entrepreneurs' rights, promotion of compliance practices and mechanisms and supporting the reduction of administrative barriers in high-risk corruption areas.

Area 2: Anti-corruption, AML/CFT and asset recovery

In the anti-corruption, AML/CFT and asset recovery fields, a number of strategic gaps remain, which may be addressed. These gaps include, respectively: a continued enhancement of capacities in the area of corruption proofing of legislation; the implementation of the whistleblowers legislation; the effectiveness of ethics and disciplinary commissions and anti-corruption officers in state bodies; the implementation of the conflict of interest and asset declaration regimes. In the law enforcement field, capacities to conduct financial investigations and recover criminal proceeds remain low. In the AML/CFT area, capacity-building efforts are needed for all stakeholders concerned, including supervisors, in particular regarding risk-based supervision methods.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

<p>Intermediate outcomes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance business integrity and compliance in the private sector, reducing administrative barriers and ensuring the protection of rights of entrepreneurs in countries of Central Asia. 2. To enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and asset recovery systems in the countries of Central Asia.
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Immediate outcomes	<p>1: Business integrity and transparency is strengthened, administrative barriers and abuses of entrepreneurs' rights are reduced.</p> <p>2: Mechanisms and capacities of authorities to prevent corruption are improved.</p> <p>3: Capacities of law enforcement authorities to tackle corruption, money laundering and economic crime are enhanced.</p> <p>4: National systems to combat money laundering and terrorism financing are strengthened.</p>
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IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Council of Europe and more specifically the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD) of the Action against Crime Department will be responsible for the implementation of the Project through a delegation agreement under indirect management by the European Union Office in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

For the purpose of implementing activities under this project, international and national consultants of appropriate expertise and background will be engaged pursuant to Council of Europe procurement rules.

Project activities will include assessments, provision of expert advice/opinions, conferences, roundtables and seminars, workshops, training courses and researches. Information on the activities and project outputs will be made available through the project website.

CONTACTS

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