

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

Project Summary: Kazakhstan (CA TAEC KZ)

Project title	Promoting Transparency and Action against economic crime
Project area	Kazakhstan
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: KAZAKHSTAN

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 Kazakhstan.

Area 1: Business integrity and compliance in the private sector

Kazakhstan has undertaken a number of high-level policy and co-ordination initiatives in the field of promoting business integrity, in particular through the Anti-Corruption Charter of Entrepreneurs. As a high level document, the Charter sets out a comprehensive framework which should be fully implemented, taking into account the recommendations of the international community and the measures foreseen in it. This includes development of corruption measurement and risk

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assessment tools, as well as mechanisms to evaluate compliance programmes. There is a clear need to prioritise the promotion of business integrity in the context of the existing system of protection of the rights of entrepreneurs, where the Ombudsman and the Association of Entrepreneurs have already achieved good results. New provisions of anti-corruption legislation, setting out requirements for private sector integrity, have also extended whistle-blower responsibilities to the private sector. This means that whistle-blower channels and protection mechanisms would need to be effectively set up, taking into account the specificities of the private sector.

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

While a large part of the regulatory and strategic framework in the fields of anti-corruption, AML/CFT and asset recovery in Kazakhstan has been formally put in place, there are still a number of areas where effectiveness needs to be enhanced. These concern in particular: the effective implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy; the development and implementation of the asset declarations regime; the implementation of anticorruption norms at the level of government agencies; further enhancement and specialisation of the training programmes of law enforcement training institutions; risk identification and risk management at the national level as well as at the level of financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs), which require awareness raising and outreach; as well as the reinforcement of capacities of the FIU through tailored specialised training.

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.
<p>Immediate outcomes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Business integrity and transparency is strengthened, administrative barriers and abuses of entrepreneurs' rights are reduced. 2: Mechanisms and capacities of authorities to prevent corruption are improved. 3: Capacities of law enforcement authorities to tackle corruption, money laundering and economic crime are enhanced. 4: National systems to combat money laundering and terrorism financing are strengthened.

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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