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## Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

### 23AT07: REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES – ENHANCING QUALITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND COOPERATION, PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORIST FINANCING

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Regional and local authorities – Enhancing quality of public administration and cooperation, preventing of money laundering and terrorism financing (23AT07)
Project area	Austria
Budget	666.667,00 EUR
Funding	European Commission DGREFORM (90%) and Council of Europe (10%)
Implementation	Economic Crime and Cooperation Division
Duration	24 months (1 September 2023 – 31 August 2025)

#### 1. BACKGROUND

The Technical Support Instrument (TSI) is the EU programme that provides tailor-made technical expertise to EU Member States to design and implement reforms. The support is demand-driven and does not require co-financing from Member States. The TSI is the successor programme of the Structural Reform Support Programme (2017-2020) and builds on its experience in building capacity in Member States.

In 2023, the European Commission Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) continued its cooperation with the Council of Europe to support Member States in effectuating structural reforms in governance and public administration and the financial sector. The technical support will be provided under the conditions set in the Framework Contribution Agreement REFORM/IM2023/009. As part of this envelope and in order to contribute to reforms in EU countries, the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division of the Council of Europe will be supporting as of September 2023 twelve EU member states (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and Spain) in implementing anti-money laundering/countering terrorist financing (AML/CFT) reforms, as well as in implementing the EU sanctions regime.

#### 2. PROJECT IMPACT, OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

The Project on “Regional and local authorities – Enhancing quality of public administration and cooperation, preventing of money laundering and terrorism financing” is one of the four projects implemented under the overall 2023 Council of Europe/EU TSI programme.

The general objective of this Project is to support Austria in its efforts to implement reforms and strengthen its institutional and administrative capacity, including at regional and local

levels, which could encourage investment, increase competitiveness, and assist in achieving sustainable economic and social convergence, resilience and recovery.

The expected long-term effect of this Project (impact) is enhanced AML/CFT regime in Austria through strengthening the risk-based AML/CFT supervision in Austrian Länder (states) regarding the sectors exposed to higher money laundering and terrorism financing risks in line with EU and international (FATF) requirements.

To this aim, the project will undertake a review of the existing legislative and administrative framework for the risk-based AML/CFT supervision of selected higher risk sectors of obliged entities under the Trade Act 1994 within the remit of regional and local competent authorities in Austrian Länder (states) and will provide advice for developing an Action Plan to strengthen the risk-based AML/CFT supervision and related inter-institutional cooperation and exchange of information and experience at domestic and EU level with other EU supervisors of those entities. The project will furthermore support the development of a uniform Manual for Risk-Based AML/CFT Supervision for the competent supervisory authorities and data gathering guidelines for the purposes of conducting supervision of traders, real estate agents, insurance brokers and company service providers operating under the Trade Act 1994 and falling within the remit of the AML/CFT legislation. The project will also contribute to the development of a framework for coordination and structured exchange of information between the AML/CFT supervisors in Austrian Länder (states) and a mechanism for monitoring progress and impact of the AML/CFT supervision. Finally, the project will organise a number of trainings and awareness-raising workshops on AML/CFT requirements for higher-risk sectors under the Trade Act 1994 and on risk-based AML/CFT supervision for the competent supervisory authorities from Austrian Länder (states).

**The Outcome** of the Project is:

<b>Outcome</b>	Strengthened framework for the AML/CFT risk-based supervision implemented by the competent regional and local AML/CFT supervisory authorities regarding sectors exposed to higher money laundering and terrorism financing risks
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### 3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Project is being implemented by the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD) of the Action against Crime Department, Directorate General I of the Council of Europe. The national coordination is conducted by Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Wirtschaft - BMAW (Federal Ministry of Labour and Economics), for the nine Austrian Länder (states), including Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna.

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