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Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

25BG25 – Enhancing the anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework in Bulgaria

Project Summary

Project title	Enhancing the anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework in Bulgaria (25BG25)
Project area	Bulgaria
Budget	344 827 EUR
Funding	European Commission SG REFORM (90%) and Council of Europe (10%)
Implementation	Economic Crime and Cooperation Division
Duration	12 months (16 October 2025 – 15 October 2026)

1. BACKGROUND

The Technical Support Instrument (TSI) is the European Union (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 2025, the European Commission's Reform and Investment Task Force (SG 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/IM2025/006. As part of this envelope and in order to contribute to reforms in EU Member States, the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division of the Council of Europe will be supporting as of July 2025 nine EU Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain) in implementing anti-money laundering/countering terrorist financing (AML/CFT) reforms, as well as in supporting effective investigation and prosecution of economic and financial crimes.

2. PROJECT IMPACT, OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

The general objective of the Project is to support Bulgaria in its efforts to implement reforms, 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 capacities of competent Bulgarian authorities to effectively investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) cases.

More specifically, through a series of outputs – including legal reviews, comparative analyses of good practices, peer-to-peer exchanges with EU counterparts, and targeted awareness-raising workshops – the project will support the operationalisation of recent legislative reforms, particularly those related to terrorist financing offences (FATF Recommendation 5) and the conduct of parallel financial investigations. In addition, expert reviews and inter-agency discussions will enhance the coordination and effectiveness of investigative procedures, while the development of a practitioner's manual and a strategic training plan will ensure sustainable knowledge transfer and capacity-building for law enforcement, financial intelligence, and prosecution authorities. Finally, tailored training activities on advanced parallel financial investigations in terrorist cases, and the use of circumstantial evidence will further strengthen Bulgaria's ability to effectively process ML/TF cases and related confiscations, thereby contributing to the long-term impact of improved investigation and prosecution outcomes.

This project is complementing a previous TSI for Bulgaria (23BG03) implemented in 2023-2025 with main beneficiary the Bulgarian FIU (FID-SANS), to further support Bulgaria in enhancing its AML/CFT framework and addressing MONEYVAL's recommendations and FATF's standards.

The Outcomes of the Project are:

Outcome 1	Enhanced legal and operational framework for investigating and prosecuting ML/TF cases, in line with MONEYVAL recommendations and FATF standards.
Outcome 2	Strengthened capacities of Bulgarian law enforcement, FIU and prosecutors to effectively process ML/TF cases and related asset recovery and confiscation (including parallel financial investigations in TF cases and use of circumstantial evidence).

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Project is being implemented by the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD) within the Economic Crime and Corruption Department, Directorate General I Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe. The national coordination for the beneficiary country is conducted by the Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria.

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