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Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

23CZ14: EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANCTIONS REGIME AND ENHANCED CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EU MEMBER STATES

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Effective implementation of the sanctions regime and enhanced cross-border cooperation in EU Member States (23CZ14)
Project area	Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and Spain
Budget	722,222 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, Cyprus, Czech Republic, 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 Effective implementation of the sanctions regime and enhanced cross-border cooperation in EU Member States (MS) is one of the four projects implemented under the overall 2023 Council of Europe/EU TSI programme. The objective of this Project is to support the Cypriot, Czech, Danish, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Romanian, Slovenian and Spanish authorities in implementing reforms to harmonise the implementation of EU

sanctions. The expected long-term effect (impact) of this Project is enhanced capacities of National Competent Authorities (NCAs) in beneficiary jurisdictions to apply the EU restrictive measures by effectively identifying designated entities and accessing and exchanging information.

To this aim, the project will undertake a mapping of the legal framework, national institutional setup and cooperation procedures, as well as of the organisation, powers and resources of NCAs in EU MS regarding the freezing of assets, as well as a review of their good practices and powers for freezing of assets. The project will furthermore conduct a review of beneficiary NCA's good practices and powers in terms of cross-border and national sharing and access to information, and a comparative analysis of their procedures, practices and challenges in examination of queries posed by EU business operators. Finally, the project will contribute to the development of guidelines for beneficiary NCAs to further enhance exchange of information with other NCAs and business operators, and it will organise trainings and awareness-raising workshops on effective and harmonised implementation of the EU restrictive measures.

The Outcomes of the Project are:

Outcome 1	Enhanced capacities of the relevant authorities to identify directly or indirectly designated legal persons or entities.
Outcome 2	Strengthened capacities of the relevant authorities to access and exchange information at national and international level and with business operators.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Project is being implemented by the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD) of the Action against Economic Crime Department, Directorate General I of the Council of Europe. The national coordination for the beneficiary countries is conducted by the Financial Analytical Office of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Finance of Cyprus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Financial Intelligence Unit of Hungary, Financial Crime Investigation Service of Lithuania, Sanctions Monitoring Board of Malta, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Ministry of Finance of Slovenia and the Ministry of Economy of Spain.

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