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by the Council of Europe

Technical Support Instrument (TSI)
ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND
ENFORCEMENT OF EU RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ("SANCTIONS")

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Enhancing the effective implementation and enforcement of EU restrictive measures ("sanctions").
Project area	Austria, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Malta, and Slovenia; indirectly other EU Member States.
Budget	800,000 EUR
Funding	EU via the Technical Support Instrument
Implementation	Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission
Duration	24 months (23 July 2026 – 22 July 2028)

1. BACKGROUND

The Technical Support Instrument (TSI), established by the European Commission under Regulation 2021/40, 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 2026, 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. Within this context, the technical support will be provided under the conditions set in the Contribution Agreement REFORM/IM2026/005. 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 2026 six EU member states (Austria, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Malta, and Slovenia) and indirectly other EU to enhance the effective implementation and enforcement of EU restrictive measures ("sanctions").

2. PROJECT IMPACT, OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

The Project on effective implementation and enforcement of EU restrictive measures aims to contribute to increased capacity of Member States' competent authorities for the effective implementation of EU restrictive measures. The objective of this Project is to support the Austrian, Estonian, German, Latvian, Maltese and Slovenian authorities to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate EU sanctions' violations. The areas of specific focus include:

- Comprehensive scoping exercise on the enforcement of sanction violations and implementation status of enforcement provisions of Directive (EU) 2024/1226.
- Capacity-building and technical support to enhance detection and investigation of suspected sanctions' circumvention.
- Effective designation of parties that facilitate sanctions' circumvention and use of designation powers as an enforcement measure.
- Development of a compendium of national and regional sanction enforcement cases (evidentiary standards, enforcement strategies, circumvention detection methods, investigative techniques, cooperation models).
- Practical guidance on enhancing cooperation and coordination between national and regional stakeholders in enforcement action.
- Practical workshop and capacity-building training on enforcement tactical skills, techniques and tools, held regionally, with a "train the trainer" event.

The Outcomes of the Project are:

Outcome 1	Increased capacity of Member States' CAs for effective implementation of EU restrictive measures.
Outcome 2	Increased capacity of Member States' CAs for effective enforcement of restrictive measures: increased capacity to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate EU restrictive measure violations.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Project is being implemented by the Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD) of the Economic Crime and Corruption Department, Directorate General I of the Council of Europe. For the national implementation of the project, all relevant stakeholders of the concerned EU Member States will be involved including competent authorities for the implementation of sanctions, financial intelligence units, customs officials, law enforcement authorities, prosecutors, asset recovery offices, judiciary and other sanctions' relevant authorities.

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