

Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime**Period of implementation:** 01.01.2019 - 31.08.2022**EaP countries:**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

EU contribution: € 651 200**Total budget:** € 814 000**Implementing organisation(s):**

Council of Europe

Project website: <http://partnership->**Project description:**

The European Union-Council of Europe regional project focuses on addressing key aspects in the fight against corruption, money-laundering and financing of terrorism from a broader regional perspective, as well as addresses sectors and issues in line with the EU 2020 Deliverables for the Eastern Partnership countries. It aims to tackle the level of independence of specialised bodies, effectiveness of systems and mechanisms to prevent and address corruption and Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, addressed in a transversal manner.

The regional approach will ensure that countries reach a level of uniformity and fosters international cooperation which will significantly contribute to enhancing the quality of the formal requests for International Cooperation in Criminal Matters. The regional project provides a platform to strengthen the cooperation between the Eastern Partnership countries on investigation of economic crimes and serve as a network of practitioners for sharing of good practices between the participating countries.

In addition to benefiting from Council of Europe assistance the countries also learn from the good practices of the other countries, lessons learned in the process of addressing corruption, money-laundering/terrorist financing as well as lessons learned during the monitoring and evaluation rounds.

Expected results:

- Effective mechanisms and frameworks for asset declarations.
- Strengthened controlling mechanisms on conflict of interest and improved political funding for oversight regimes.
- Improved independence and efficiency of specialised anti-corruption bodies or structures.
- Increased efficiency of operational and human resource capacities of specialised anti-corruption bodies.
- Improved frameworks and operational tools for financial investigations and strengthened capacities of Financial Intelligence Units.
- Enhanced regulatory framework or/and operational regimes on beneficial ownership.
- Introduction of legal frameworks for registries of beneficial ownership.
- Reviewed regulatory and institutional framework for seizure, confiscation, management and disposal of proceeds from crime.
- Strengthened international (cross border) cooperation in Asset Recovery between EaP countries.

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