



With the financial support from the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the
European Union
European Commission - Directorate-General Home Affairs

PROJECT

IMPROVING THE INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY RESPONSE FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING IN BULGARIA AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE

The project is funded by DG Home Affairs, Prevention of and Fight Against Crime Programme of the European Union. It focuses on developing the technical skills and operational capacity of Bulgarian Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Law Enforcement Authorities and regulatory personnel responsible for anti-money laundering measures, particularly, by providing training on how to raise the standard of inspections carried out at reporting entities (Res) and promoting dialogue between regulators and REs in order to improve the quality of financial intelligence. This will improve the anti-money laundering (AML) regime in Bulgaria and, as a result, enhance the capacity of the law enforcement and regulatory authorities, jointly with the regulated sector, to fight crime, preserve the integrity of the financial system and keep the borders safe.

Project objectives:

1. To improve the professional competencies, skills and operational capacities of the staff of FIUs and AML institutions.
2. To build up the analytical, coordinating and monitoring capacities of the FIUs, law enforcement, and prosecution responsible for the control of money laundering in Bulgaria.
3. To aid the development and implementation of methods of unified collection and interpretation of data on money laundering, ensuring comparability of money laundering statistics between Member States.
4. To facilitate networking for a follow-up transnational project with co-beneficiaries from Southeast Europe candidate countries and Member States.
5. To raise awareness of the efforts against money laundering and increase public support to prevent and control economic crime in Bulgaria.

Project activities:

Activities are grouped into four work packages: research, analysis and assessment; training; publications and visibility; regional networking:

1. Review of the system of data collection and analysis; impact assessment of anti-money laundering policies in Bulgaria.
2. Research of EU best practices & preparation of methodology for an annual national report on money laundering, following EU standards.

3. Training modules (in-class and online) for law enforcement authorities and financial intelligence units in Bulgaria, including a training-of-trainers session.

4. Publications (research reports, training materials, conference proceedings).

5. International conference with public officials from EU, Bulgaria, and Southeast Europe countries on regional cooperation in anti-money laundering measures.

The project will run for 24 months, start date October 5, 2012.