



OVERCOMING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY GAPS TO COUNTER CORRUPTION AND ORGANIZED CRIME



Corruption and organized crime continue to be key problems in Bulgaria with negative effect on long-term social security and economic well-being. They exacerbate inequalities within the country and increase disparities to peer-countries. Besides the negative distributional effects on markets and society, they drain scarce public resources, defrauding valuable public services and goods, such as security, education, and healthcare. Countering corruption and organized crime remains among the top priorities for Bulgaria, as well as for its international partners.

A decade after Bulgaria's accession to the European Union, the country still suffers from high levels of corruption and organized crime. The European Union continues to monitor Bulgaria's progress in these two areas through the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM). The Bulgarian public largely perceives the CVM as a key instrument for progress. Although Bulgaria has made continuous progress in the fight against corruption and organized crime,

the public opinion remains negative and critical. According to a 2017 Eurobarometer survey, 88% of the Bulgarian respondents see corruption as a very important problem, while 96% point organized crime as an important problem.

The project is directly targeting judiciary reforms and priorities entailed from the EC Reports on the Progress under the CVM. Closing the existing gaps in Bulgaria's institutional capacity to counter corruption and organized crime will promote Bulgaria's socio-economic development and will reduce internal regional disparities.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SWISS SUPPORT

The project aims to assist the government in reinvigorating its anti-corruption policies and increasing its capacity to counter the threat of organized crime, in particular complex economic crime. Specific objectives of the project are to:

- Assess the enforcement of anti-corruption measures and suggest which policies and measures are most effective in curbing corruption practices;
- Improve the capacity of law enforcement and control agencies to investigate and prosecute corruption cases and other complex economic crimes.

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The outcomes of the project include:

- Improved capacity for assessment of anti-corruption measures by developing standardized tools and methodology (MACPI toolkit; policy briefs);
- Improved implementation of anti-corruption measures in selected vulnerable institutions;
- Improved capacity of law enforcement and

control agencies to investigate and prosecute corruption cases and complex economic crimes (practical guide on investigation of criminal assets developed jointly with experts from Basel Institute on Governance);

- Enhanced governance capacity and work efficiency of the institutions involved in the fight against tax evasion and money-laundering;
- Improved awareness on the financial aspects and new challenges in THB among relevant stakeholders.

ACTIVITIES

In order to reach the project objectives, the following implementation activities are being carried out:

- Elaboration of the policy Brief “Anti-Corruption Measures in Law Enforcement Institutions”;
- Development of a toolkit for monitoring anti-corruption policies implementation (MACPI);
- Conducting a survey of Citizens and civil servants as a tool to monitor implementation and enforcement of anti-corruption measures;
- Elaboration of the manual “Using the Monitoring Anti-Corruption Policies implementation (MACPI) toolkit”;
- Workshop on “Anti-corruption measures in law enforcement institutions and agencies”;
- 4 round tables on anti-corruption measures;
- 2 exchange visits (one in Switzerland, one in Bulgaria);
- Press conference Anti-Corruption in Procurement;
- Producing “Countering Money-Laundering in Bulgaria: Institutional Governance Aspects” policy brief;
- Round table on identifying gaps in anti-money laundering policy-making conducted together with Basel Institute on Governance;
- Specialized training for relevant stakeholders on financial investigation of money laundering organized together with Basel Institute on Governance;
- 2 publications and 1 seminar on financial aspects and challenges of THB;
- Several high level meetings and round tables to present and discuss the findings of the project.

KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

FOCUS AREA

Anti-corruption/
Law enforcement institutions

COUNTRY

Bulgaria

GOALS

To assist the law enforcement institutions in their anti-corruption policies and to increase their capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption cases;

EXPECTED RESULTS

Improved capacity of law enforcement institutions for assessment and implementation of anti-corruption measures;
Improved capacity of law enforcement institutions to fight economic crimes;

TARGET GROUP

- Law enforcement and control agencies (Police, Customs Agency, Public Procurement Office etc.)

EXECUTING AGENCY

Center for the Study of Democracy

PARTNERS

- Swiss Federal Tax Authority
- Basel Institute on Governance, Switzerland

BUDGET

CHF 613'363
(Swiss contribution CHF 552'027)

DURATION

2014-2018

CONTACTS

Center for the Study of Democracy
Ruslan Stefanov
5 Zhendov St., Sofia 1113
Phone: +359 2 971 30 00
Email: ruslan.stefanov@online.bg

SWISS PARTNER

Basel Institute on Governance
Gretta Fenner
Director
Steinenring 60, 4051 Basel
Phone: +41 61 205 55 11
Email: gretta.fenner@baselgovernance.org

For further details on the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme, please visit:
<http://www.swiss-contribution.bg/>

