



## EU Support for Rule of Law

### About the project

The objective of the project is to strengthen the rule of law in the Republic of North Macedonia. The project is expected to have a direct impact on the relevant institutions working in the field of justice, law enforcement, fight against corruption and promotion of fundamental and human rights.

### Project activities and beneficiaries

To meet the set objectives, various types of activities are foreseen in order to: provide strategic advisory support to the judicial system to strengthen the capacities in the justice sector in a wide range of areas, further development of ICT and judicial training, improve the efficiency of the justice sector, and provide support in the implementation of the legislation related to judges and public prosecutors; improve investigation, administrative and technical capacities in law enforcement agencies, strengthen intelligence-led policing and improve the capacity for analysing the criminal environment; provide strategic support for the operations of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, as well as methodological support for implementation of its mandate, improve prevention of corruption in public procurement; improve capacities of the main human rights bodies and strengthen their mandates, enhance child rights policy and child protection system, enhance prevention of gender-based discrimination, raise awareness of human rights and institutions protecting them, improve the probation system and its application.

The beneficiaries of the project are the following authorities: Judicial Council, Court Budget Council, Council of Public Prosecutors, Public Prosecution Office, Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, the Bar Association, Academy for Judges and Prosecutors, Ministry of Justice, ICT Council for the Judiciary, State Attorney's Office, Directorate for Execution of Sanctions, Ministry of Interior and the Public Security Bureau, Financial Intelligence Unit within the Ministry of Finance, Agency for Management of Confiscated Assets, Asset Recovery Office, Financial Police Office, Public Procurement Bureau, Public Revenue Office and the Customs Administration, State Audit Office, Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Good Governance Policies, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, Ombudsman's Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Commission for Protection from Discrimination, the National Coordinative Body for monitoring the state of play in non-discrimination and equal opportunities. The indirect beneficiaries of the project are citizens of North Macedonia.

The project implementation is oriented on practical trainings, specific on-the-job trainings and coaching for defined target groups, taking into account the crosscutting of activities in the project.

It is divided into four specific objectives (components) which are interconnected. Components are further defined by the results and activities that the project aims to achieve.



<b>Country</b>	Republic of North Macedonia
<b>Implementation partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agency for European Integration and Economic Development (AEI), Austria (lead)</li><li>• Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Republic of Croatia</li><li>• The Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), Austria</li><li>• Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights (LBI-GMR), Austria</li></ul>
<b>Project duration</b>	60 months – January 2021 – January 2026



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## COMPONENT 1 – JUDICIARY

**To improve the capacities of justice institutions to deliver justice in a transparent and accountable manner**

Component 1 of this project aims to provide support to the judicial sector in terms of advisory support, management support, assistance in further development of ICT management systems and trainings to judges and prosecutors.

Key activities include: providing strategic advisory support to the actors in the judicial system, including support for the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy and human resources management for the judicial and prosecution system, analysis and improvement of the justice chain and enforcement process in order to increase efficiency, supporting the ICT Council for the Judiciary for the implementation of the ICT Strategy, supporting the functioning of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, supporting the Ministry of Justice in further institutional strengthening for management and monitoring of the justice reforms.



## COMPONENT 2 – LAW ENFORCEMENT

**To strengthen the capacities to effectively implement modern investigation techniques in fighting organized crime and corruption**

The aim of Component 2 is to assist and train law enforcement bodies in investigating crime, with emphasis on complex criminal cases that require the cooperation of various stakeholders by providing real case scenarios, trainings.

Key activities include: supervision of operational workshops for real case investigations and possible adaption, setting up an area of competence for combating online drug-related crimes in the darknet and related to parcel services, establishment of a “precursor” centre of excellence in the fight against narcotic and explosive substance, support to anti-corruption investigations and prevention measures, support to the National Coordination Centre for organised crime control and its role as an effective coordinator and standard-setter among law enforcement bodies, support to the first national cybercrime strategy and action plan, analysis of strengths and weaknesses in the field of special investigative measures with focus on surveillance, identification of potential gaps in the ICT systems of Agency for Management of Confiscated Property and Asset Recovery Office.



## COMPONENT 3 - ANTI-CORRUPTION

**To improve the prevention and fight against corruption**

The main goal of Component 3 is to provide strategic and methodological support to the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption and contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency in implementation of its mandate and operations.

Key activities include: improving the control and verification of assets declarations submitted by elected and appointed public officials and members of Parliament, developing and delivering Master of Arts from the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) in combating corruption and building integrity, supporting the enforcement of the law on lobbying and restrictions on gifts, assessment of legal provisions in the area of lobbying and gifts, development of a new web application for the register of gifts, developing a new e-register for lobbyists, assessment of existing e-procurement system, processes and control measures, developing terms of reference for an e-tracker system similar to Slovenian e-Supervisor and assist with preparations for procurement and/or funding requests for the system.



## COMPONENT 4 – HUMAN RIGHTS AND ALTERNATIVE SANCTIONS

**To enhance the protection of fundamental rights and strengthen the uptake of alternative means to detention**

In Component 4, the overall approach is a strive for a change of organisational and institutional culture that is grounded in a Human Rights-Based Approach. The project activities will increase the awareness of fundamental rights as a sound and practical basis for effective rule of law, increase knowledge and skills about how to apply them and how international standards and experience can help in doing so.

Key activities include: drafting recommendations on legal and structural adaptations to improve the human rights protection system, fostering regular exchanges among human rights bodies, supporting the Ombudsman Office and the Commission for the Prevention and Protection against Discrimination through organizational, functional and mandate-related capacity-building and raising awareness on their roles, increasing the impact of recommendations of human rights bodies, strengthening the capacities for applying a Human Rights Based Approach by the public administration, targeted training on the prevention of discrimination and gender-based violence, developing recommendations on how to overcome underreporting of gender-based discrimination, strengthening the child protection system by establishing a comprehensive instrument for monitoring the implementation of child rights and supporting the preparation of a National Action Plan for Child Rights, and supporting the probation system and the use of alternative sanctions through capacity building and awareness raising measures.



**PROJECT:** EU Support for Rule of Law in the Republic of North Macedonia

### PROJECT TEAM

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