EUD – TAIEX contribution in fighting corruption in WB countries – RM experience

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector

❑ TAIEX instrument plays an important role in the institutions building, supporting policy and strategy development in the country, improvement by learning from the best /most suitable experiences

❑ Long history and tradition in the country (RM and WB)

❑ Corruption weakens the state, **hampers socio-economic development** and **reduces the quality of life** of everyone;

❑ Fight against corruption is **fundamental for a well-functioning democracy, the rule of law and prosperous economy;**

❑ What is necessary - to take a <u>number of legal, institutional and practical measures</u>, as well as to ensure close cooperation not only between the relevant law enforcement and judicial authorities, but also engagement of the media, the private sector and the citizens at large.

❑ As one wise man once said – *corruption is like a snow ball. If you don't stop it, it will increase and bring ever more harm to the society and to each citizen.*

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector

❑ **State Commission for Prevention of Corruption** (SCPC)– specialized and independent institution for prevention and repression of corruption, working on cases concerning suspicion of corruption initiated by requests from citizens, institutions, anonymous complaints, cases formed by own initiative, reports from relevant institutions (State Audit Office reports) and information from media.

❑ SCPC has an initial role, collects relevant information from other institutions to justify the suspicions in cases

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector

- ❑ State commission for prevention of corruption is one of the **regular user** of the TAIEX support
- ❑ Country/Progress Report, other strategic documents (government 3-6-9 plan for urgent reform) and priorities defined with the NIPAC annual plan- NPAA (National programmer for the adoption of the acquis); anticorruption NGOs etc are good starting point to prepare/initiate TAIEX applications; (TRM; reports etc)
- ❑ **EUD plays important role** in the process of the identification of the TAIEX needs (TAIEX Coordinator, involvement of the PM)
- ❑ **Consultations/exchange with the colleagues in DG NEAR** (TAIEX unit/ geographical unit) is an important step at the beginning
- ❑ **High level of complementarity** and synergy with the other assistance is ensured, especially with the twinning project and TA projects in the same filed), MCP (Coe/HF projects recently)

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector

❑ There are **lot of challenges** in the anti-corruption sector in the country and in the **WB regional context** which needs a lot of attention and regular approach/ joint efforts are needed

❑ In complementarity with other assistance, **TAIEX/Twinning address many of the shortcomings identified by EC in the country**

❑ TAIEX is a great tool for short term assistance- this field requires **trust among the cooperation institutions**

❑ Such trust is easier to build among peer institutions (than with private consultants)

❑ **TAIEX short term TA for initiating long-term processes & sector reforms**

❑ **Long list of TAIEX interventions: Risk management; development of the legislation; strategy for anticorruption and action plan; policy for whistleblowers protection; financing of the political parties; public procurement, asset management etc;**

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

❑ **EM: analyzes of the anti-corruption legislation** (2012)

- ❖ Following the recommendations of the EU progress reports, GRECO and anti-corruption NGOs indicated a number of flaws in country's anticorruption legislation, in particular related to the **conflict of interest** and **financing of political parties and election campaigns issues,** as well as **functioning of the relevant institutions**

- ❖ EUD suggested 2 or 3 expert missions to tackle separate issues:

  - ❖ **Whistle-blower protection;**

  - ❖ introduction of **integrity mechanisms** in the public administration;

  - ❖ **review of anti-corruption legislation** in view of identifying weaknesses in inter-institutional cooperation/coordination and repression of corruption, and upgrading the legislation based on existing

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

❑ **International Workshop on: <u>Whistleblowing protection</u> - legal framework, practice and challenges (2012)**

❖ Follow up of SV on whistle-blowing in UK

❖ British consultancy Crowne Agents - who was assisting the Government to introduce <u>whistleblowing concept in public administration.</u>

❖ Other participants : Ministry of Public Administration, Civil servants Agency, administrative appeals commissions, administrative courts, relevant law enforcement bodies, state audit office, local self-administrative bodies, and non-governmental experts, as well as experts from OSCE Skopje Office, UNDP and US Embassy as large donors involved in this area.

❖ This event was good starting point for the **service IPA 2012 project- support the public campaign and whistleblowing**

❖ *IPA 2012 project (ongoing) -Strengthening the national capacities for fight against organised crime corruption*

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

❑ **SV: concepts and methodologies for collecting and processing of anti-corruption data** (2012)

❖ SCPC has been facing poor collection and processing of data, **lack of analysis on the nature of corruption**, **weak cooperation with other institutions**, **poor anti-corruption awareness raising/ training**. This study visit provided the SCPC with useful insight into how to improve performance on all four aforementioned accounts and lead to practical improvements of SCPC work.

❖ Some improvements have been made, **but still a lot of attention is needed**

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

❑ **SV abuses during the election process (2013)**

❖ SV to Lithuania which, had **reformed its party and campaign funding regulations.** Lithuanian experiences from their reform was very valuable for the relevant national authorities involved in reforming their respective party and campaign financing laws.

❖ The application was prepared in full coordination with the EUD.

❑ **International Workshop on: party and campaign financing (2013)**

❖ The idea of the international high-level workshop on party and election financing came out of joint discussions between the EUD, the OSCE and the SCPC.

❖ The timing of the event coincided with the ongoing reform efforts in the country to improve its party and election financing legislation (part of HLAD), final GRECO compliance report regarding the III round of evaluation (party and election financing). This workshop brought together established **experts from GRECO, ODIHR HQ and the Venice Commission etc**

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

❑**Workshop on monitoring and evaluation of anti-corruption Strategies and Action Plans** (Feb 2016)

❖ Resulted from the **State Program for Prevention and Repression of Corruption** and reduction of the occurrence of conflict of interests 2016-2019, adopted by SCPC in December 2015

❖ Workshop was attended by representatives of institutions involved in the process of adoption and monitoring of the State Program for Prevention and Repression of Corruption 2016-2019, representatives of the NGO sector and international experts.

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

❑**SV on Implementation of integrity policy in Spain** (Sep 2016) Barcelona, Anti-fraud office, Public Security institute, Ethics commission of the police of Catalonia

 ❖Topics covered: trainings on managing risks; education in ethics ; Public opinion research-cooperation with the public institutions, private sector NGOs.; regulation- providing opinion;

 consultation -assessment of the integrity plans;

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

❑ **SV- Improvement in financial management and control,** with a particular focus on **anticorruption risk assessment** June, 2016, The Hague, Netherlands.

❖ main topics : implementation of financial management and control, scanning, analysis and writing of risks, including risks of corruption, **risk management,** monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the **risk strategy.**

❖ Meetings with anti-corruption bodies, Dutch anti-corruption NGOs

❖ Public Internal Financial Control and the Law on Prevention of Corruption

❖ SCPC in accordance with the Law on Public Internal Financial Control, adopted the **internal strategy for risk management,** including the **Register of risks,** as well as **procedures.**

❖ In line with the modern reform activities, the SCPC in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finance has been developed a **Methodology for assessing the risk of corruption. (IPA 2012 projects)**

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

- ❑ **EM- Methodology for conducting discretionary powers analysis (2016)**
  - ❖ the analysis of discretionary powers is a comprehensive and long-lasting
  - ❖ **Result: preparation of a draft Methodology for conducting the analysis of the discretionary powers of the holders of public functions.** It was further used to implement a whole process supported by the OSCE Mission in Skopje - Conduct an analysis of discretionary powers
- ❑ **WS-"Assessing the Risk of Corruption in the Institutions of the Public Sector -** Determining the Risk of Corruption and other Unethical Risks and Planning solutions and measures to overcome them" - March 2017, Skopje,
  - ❖ open discussion on assessment the risks of corruption in governance, the establishment of specific institutional structures, systems and processes that may be susceptible to corruption.

EUD – TAIEX experience anti-corruption sector – areas of interventions

❑ **SV was realized in the country with an implemented system for electronic reporting of property status** by the elected and appointed persons as well as an electronic register of elected and appointed persons (2017)

❖ SCPC in cooperation with the German Federal Administration (July 2014 - October 2016) realized the IPA Twinning Project "Support for Efficient Prevention and Fight against Corruption". Within this project, **an electronic register for the property of elected and appointed persons** was prepared, and **a software solution for electronic reporting** of the property situation as well as changes in the assets status was prepared.

❖ purpose of the study visit was to familiarize with the practical solutions in a country that for a long period has implemented a system **for electronic reporting of assets and changes in the assets**, in order to successfully introduce and apply the electronic system in the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption.

EUD – TAIEX experience –general approach

❑ **Multi-country Workshop on Corruption Prevention, Conflict of Interest and Whistleblowing (Nov 2017)**

  ❖ conclusion of the TAIEX anti-corruption workshop, organised in Trieste in June 2017 in the framework of the Berlin Process- way forward and on possible deliverables, **matching both the Wester Balkan countries and EU expectations.**

  ❖ extend the knowledge of corruption prevention and whistle-blower protection methods, and to enhance their understanding of the concept of conflict of interest. It will help ensuring a **strong commitment of all parties to push forward the expected reforms.**

  ❖ The workshop focused on **practical and operation issues such as the analysis, in breakout session**s, of cases in the above-mentioned fields and it will encompass the active participation of all beneficiary countries.

  ❖ **Various speakers from Italy, Spain and Slovenia** shared their experience

EUD – TAIEX experience –general approach

❑ **Multi-country Workshop transparency and Public Procurement- Tirana, January 2018**

❑ The purpose of this workshop was based on the conclusions of TAIEX Anti-Corruption Workshop held at the margins of the Berlin Summit organized in Trieste in June 2017, the **concept of transparency in public procurement** procedures has been considered as extremely important. As well as the previous workshop held in Skopje, this workshop was intended to provide **certain guidelines for meeting the recommendations of the enlargement package in time before the next progress report on the Western Balkan** countries in the spring of 2018.

   This workshop was focused on practical issues such as analyzes and sessions in which **specific cases of corruption in the management of EU funds were presented,** including the active participation of the representatives of the countries participating in this workshop.

❑ Experts from **Romania and UK** contributed significantly regarding corruption in public procurement; transparency -procedures

EUD – TAIEX lessons learned and recommendation for improvement

❑**Specific approach** in processing TAIEX applications:

 (initial check by NIPAC office, pre-consultation & quality check by EUD; encoding by the NIPAC office);

❑**Involvement of the EUD**: support the process of identification of topics; drafting the agenda of the events (if requested); identification of hosting MS country/STEs, participate in opening of the MC events/single beneficiary; PM take part in some of the sessions; EM/ WS

❑ **Stimulate the new/potential TAIEX users**, assist them to develop TAIEX application;

❑**Promote the instrument-info session organized together with NIPAC office (and TAIEX HQ** if possible) for TAIEX beneficiaries (novelties/challenges/ best practices are exchange)

EUD – TAIEX lessons learned and recommendation for improvement

❑ **Number of the participants** of the SV is limited to max three, sometime is a problem - due to the nature of subject and when more institutions are involved exceptions could be allowed to this rule

❑ **Commitment from the BC** is very important, especially when EM/SV is organized (well-prepared event, agenda, participant list)

❑ **Introduction of a mechanism for monitoring and follow-up** of the TAIEX activities/results

❑ Report from SV shared with EUD;

❑ Providing the **appropriate experts in the field**; Reports of the EM-improved the quality of reports;

❑ **Strong regional cooperation/approach in the field of anti-corruption is essential**

❑ All actors to be involved; Involvement the CSO/ private sector in the events

Thank You!

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