

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

VACANCY – international short-term expert Component 2 – enhance investigation capacities. in the project EU Support for Rule of Law

Component 2: Stronger capacity to effectively implement modern investigative techniques for organised crime and terrorism control.

Activity 2.5.1: Survey for assets recovery and freezing and seizure management under EU standards

Name of expert	Experienced operational officer in ARO of EU member state.
Organisation/Institution:	Expert for the area asset recovery and/or financial intelligence gathering and/or financial investigation in an EU member state.
Place of work:	ARO Office; Agency for management of confiscated assets; Unit for financial crime and Unit for financial investigation, Customs financial crime unit, FIU and Financial Police. Public Prosecution Office.
Mission dates:	21.06.2021 till 25.06.2021
Working days:	4 ½ days for expert mission foreseen
Working time:	8 hours per day

Employer: Agency for European Integration and Economic Development GmbH

Location: Skopje, North Macedonia

Type: short term engagement

Expected start: 21.06.2021

Expected duration: 5 days in June 2021

BACKGROUND

The International short-term expert in the field financial crime, asset recovery and asset management in Component 2 (enhance of investigation capacities) will work as part of the implementation team for the European Union grant-funded project “EU Support for Rule of Law” in North Macedonia. The project is being implemented by an experienced international partnership led by the Agency for European Integration and Economic Development GmbH and three Co-Applicants - the Ministry of Justice and Administration of the

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Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Austria and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights.

The Overall Objective of the project is to strengthen the rule of law in North Macedonia. The project has four specific objectives: 1. To improve the capacities of justice institutions to deliver justice in transparent and accountable manner, 2. To strengthen the capacities to effectively implement modern investigation techniques in fighting organized crime, 3. To improve the prevention and fight against corruption, and 4. To enhance the protection of fundamental rights.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Activity 2.5.1 Survey

The current situation in Northern Macedonia will be identified through a survey, which will clarify the status quo in the areas of financial investigation, asset recovery, seizure and confiscation, the objectives and the kind of support required as well as the institutional and legal framework in the Republic of Northern Macedonia. The analysis of the legal framework, organisational set up and operational workflow will shed some light on what improvements have to be made to meet EU standards. Legal background, structure, operational competencies, and existing networks for cooperation inside the country will be compared.

The expert will concentrate his/her activities on:

Based on the findings during the inception phase the legal developments in the field of asset recovery and assessment management are currently depending on the adoption of the prepared draft law. In the meantime, exist a need to further develop and streamline the IT infrastructure of all involved law enforcement agencies. While national IT STE will be engaged for this particular task will the assigned experts, coming from an ARO office of an EU member state evaluate the current operational workflow. This mission – part 1 – will be carried out before the IT assessment is taking place, to take possible current loopholes and/or shortcomings into consideration. In addition will the tasked experts draft clear recommendations to the minimum staff and office requirements for the Asset Recovery Office in the Public Prosecution. Furthermore, to analysis the current workflow between the Financial Crime and Financial Investigation unit in the MoI. Aim will be to streamline the work and prepare the ground for a new Standard Operating Procedure for both units. Visits and information gathering to the Asset Management Agency and Customs, Financial crime unit have also be included in the STE mission. Also subject of the STE mission will inquiries by FIU and Financial Police. After the IT assessment is available a second expert mission will focus than on interaction in the Public Prosecution Office and the courts. The second expert mission will be performed with the aim to identify the whole target group for specialized trainings at a later stage.

Planned results from the mission:

STE report including with clear recommendation for the further development of the asset recovery and asset management process in North Macedonia. Identification of information flow in the area of Financial Intelligence collecting and financial investigation, particularly related to the Hawala system.

REQUIREMENTS

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- Experienced operational officer in ARO office of EU member state.
- Several years of working experience.
- Operational coaching experience.
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Flexibility, strong adaptation skills and capability of team work in a potentially stressful environment under tight deadlines

ADVANTAGES:

- Previous involvement in EU support projects in the Western Balkan region.
- Experience of working with law enforcement institutions in North Macedonia in general
- Working with one of the beneficiary institutions previously

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications must be sent to dragan.kovacevic@aei.at (link sends e-mail) by XX.XX. 2021, indicating "International Short-term expert" for ARO – strategic function - in the subject and including a Europass format CV in English language. Applications sent after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be taken into consideration. Only short-listed candidates will be invited for a personal interview.