

For more information

## The European Union's IPA Multi-Beneficiary 2010

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IPA 2010 "Fight against  
organised crime and  
corruption: Strengthening the  
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"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".

The European Commission is the EU's executive body

## Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors' Network

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# Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors' Network

## The background

The initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the prosecutorial cooperation and networking in the Western Balkans against organised crime was signed on 30 March 2005 in Skopje and marked the **establishment of the Prosecutors' Network**. The signatories of the Memorandum committed themselves to cooperate closely in repressing, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of organised crime, criminal groups and criminal associations. To further strengthen international judicial cooperation the Memorandum of the Prosecutors' Network has been revised in January 2010.

This project builds upon these achievements by focussing on the development of cross-border capacities for joint investigations, collection of evidence and requests for mutual legal assistance. Thereby experienced **Prosecutors from EU member states** will be seconded to each Beneficiary and included in the day-to-day work of the respective prosecutors' services to introduce international mechanisms according to European standards. To increase the exchange and cooperation among the prosecutors' services the project aims to further institutionalise the existing structure of the **Prosecutors' Network** and to foster the cooperation with other International Networks and European Institutions.

## The objectives

The overall objective of the project will be to improve and promote **cross-border and international judicial cooperation** in the Beneficiaries to investigate and prosecute cross-border crime, in particular organised crime and corruption.

The specific objective will be to **strengthen the operational capacity and capabilities of the General/State Prosecutors' Offices** in the Beneficiaries to prosecute and investigate cross-border organised crime and linked cases of economic and financial crime and corruption.

Estimated results of the project are:

- **Capacity Development of the beneficiaries' Prosecutorial offices** by ongoing advisory services through seconded Prosecutors of EU member states with regard to investigating and prosecuting cross-border cases;
- **Increased and institutionalized cross-border capacities** for joint investigations, collection of evidence and requests for mutual legal assistance;
- **Increased integration of the Beneficiaries in International Networks** and fostered cooperation with EUROJUST and the European Judicial Network.

## Project outline

The project covers the countries of the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo\*, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The project has a duration of 30 months (November 2011 till April 2014) and an overall budget of appr. 5.7 Mio EUR contributed by the European Union, represented by the European Commission DG Enlargement and the German Government, represented by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

