

## Gateway to the Dutch justice sector

The Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC) is a not-for-profit project organisation driven by the mission to develop and implement capacity building projects supporting the rule of law and international legal cooperation in countries in transition and countries within and around the European Union. To achieve this, it provides public technical cooperation on behalf of the Netherlands by facilitating peer-to-peer exchange. CILC implements projects as the mandated body for the Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Security and the Netherlands justice institutions. CILC is the gateway to the many (inter) national and European legal institutions in The Hague – the International City of Peace and Justice.

### Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC)

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## Together for Accountability

Supporting the Special Public Prosecutor Office of Macedonia in strengthening its operational and international judicial cooperation capacities



Public Prosecutor's Office for Prosecuting Criminal Offences Related to and Arising from the Content of the Illegally Intercepted Communication

OPENBAAR MINISTERIE

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## Background

In the fall of 2015, the Office of the Special Public Prosecutor (SPPO) was established to initiate criminal proceedings on allegations of abuse of public office which was revealed by the political opposition's disclosure of wiretapped phone conversations of state officials.

The Special Public Prosecutor Office faces immense pressure to fulfil its mandate, given the turbulent political context and the nature of alleged crimes.

*The project has been designed with this reality in mind and seeks to help strengthen the capacities of involved (semi-) governmental institution in Macedonia – in order to align with EU standards in criminal prosecution and principles of the rule of law.*

Given the magnitude and the importance of its tasks, the SPPO's effective performance is critical both to resolve the internal crisis as well as to entrench Macedonia in its Europeanisation path.

## Objectives

The three-year project (2017-2020) with a total budget of 649.990 Euro is designed to help strengthen the rule of law in Macedonia, establishing accountability and building trust in the Macedonian justice system in the midst of the biggest crisis of impunity since Macedonia's independence.

*The project aims at supporting the SPPO in its investigation and prosecution mandates through:*

- 1. The development of its operational capacities to effectively run investigations and prosecute;*
- 2. The enhancement of its capacities in international judicial cooperation.*

## Expected results

- ◆ Strategic and operational capacities of SPPO in investigating and service provision capacities of SPPO have been increased, as evidenced by increased number of successful investigations.
- ◆ Strategic and operational collaboration between SPPO and international partners has been increased and improved, as evidenced by an intensified strategic and operational cooperation and increased number of investigations and prosecutions with an international dimension.

## Toolbox

- Peer-to-peer
- Coaching
- Targeted training
- Exchange of best practices

## Partnership

Financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs under its Matra cooperation program, the project is implemented by the Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC) with the support of the Netherlands Public Prosecution Service (*Openbaar Ministerie*).



Kingdom of the Netherlands

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