

Reference date: 17-Aug-21

	Project title:	Strengthening enforcement in the Western Balkans						
	Reference number:							
Name of legal entity	Country	Overall contract value (EUR)	Proportion carried out by legal entity (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of consortium members, if any
Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC)	Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia	Total budget: 1901624.40 by :	Proportion to be carried out by CILC: 100%	2 (Eva Erren and Joke Pisters)	NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Matra 'overheid tot overhead' 2020-2024.	1-09-2020 - 1-09-2024	There are no consortium members involved.
Detailed description of project				Type and scope of services provided				
<p>The global objective of the project is to strengthen the Rule of Law in the pre-accession countries of the Western Balkans by strengthening their capacities to ensure an efficient and effective enforcement of civil judgments and other enforceable titles, which is a part of the acquis communautaire in the area of Chapter 23 'Judiciary and Fundamental Rights'.</p> <p>The specific objective of the proposed project is to strengthen the private enforcement agents (PEA) systems in Albania, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia in dealing with cross-border enforcement and make them more accountable by strengthening relevant mechanisms for monitoring and control.</p> <p>The theory of change is that by enhancing the mechanisms for and skills of people entrusted with monitoring and control, as well as the capacities of private enforcement agents to deal with cross-border enforcement, the enforcement systems as part of the judicial chain will become more transparent and professional. This will then also lead to more trust of creditors, debtors and the general public in the judicial chain and enforcement systems in particular.</p>				<p>The two main challenges the Western Balkans enforcement systems are faced with are: (1) ineffective systems of monitoring and control; and (2) insufficient degree of cross-border enforcement both in the region and with countries outside the region.</p> <p>Concerning the first challenge, the intervention strategy will focus on both the development of instruments for monitoring and control, as well as the application of these instruments. As such, the intervention strategy will be directed not only at the target group itself, but also their national bodies, ministries of justice departments entrusted with controlling enforcement agents' work and offices, as well as other independent structures dealing with disciplinary cases against enforcement agents. By involving representatives of all these institutions, their counterparts in the Netherlands and experts from the European professional body, it is guaranteed that more efficient mechanisms for monitoring and control will be fully in line with internationally recognized principles and will find their way into national systems for monitoring and control of private enforcement agents.</p> <p>For the challenge of insufficient cross-border enforcement, the intervention logic will mainly focus on providing knowledge and skills to enforcement agents to implement cross-border enforcement. It will do so by developing and organizing courses on international aspects of enforcement and train a regional group of trainers, selected by the national professional organizations and Ministries of Justice, who will be tasked with the development of these courses and conducting them in the region. Training packages will be created in such a way that they will be made available for national institutions responsible for the initial and in-service training of private enforcement agents. The certified group of regional trainers will be requested to stay available in the future to conduct regional and national trainings on international aspects of enforcement law.</p>				

In addition, the project will support the promotion of the 2019 Judgement Convention, a new international instrument for a uniform and global framework for the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments developed by the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). Advocating the use of this new instrument among professionals and explaining its importance to political decision-makers will not only support the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH, it will also encourage the beneficiaries in the Western Balkans to ratify the Judgment Convention; thereby adding an important new tool facilitating cross-border enforcement.

CILC provides 1 experts:

Jos Uitdehaag

CILC staff for this project consists of:

Eva Erren

Joke Pisters