

# Strengthening Asset Recovery Efforts in the OSCE Region

Fighting transnational organized crime  
and corruption by targeting  
criminals' illicit profits



# Strengthening Asset Recovery Efforts in the OSCE Region

## Fighting transnational organized crime and corruption by targeting the illicit profits of criminals

This extra-budgetary project aims to support OSCE participating States in tracing, seizing, confiscating and re-using illegally acquired assets as part of the OSCE's efforts to fight against transnational organized crime and corruption. The 2022-2025 project is implemented by the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

### Background

Transnational organized crime and corruption jeopardize socio-economic development, overall security and the rule of law in the OSCE area and beyond. Driven by the promise of financial gain, organized crime groups feed on corruption to infiltrate and undermine legitimate economies and state institutions. A proven way of disrupting and dismantling these groups is asset recovery. This process of tracing, seizing and confiscating illicit money and assets strips organized crime groups of their power and effectively breaks the cycle of crime and corruption.

This project builds on the results of a previous OSCE extra-budgetary project titled: Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in asset seizure, confiscation, management and re-use. This project was im-

plemented from 2019 to 2023 by the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. It supported Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia with enhancing their asset recovery efforts.

The 2022-2025 project supports these participating States with their asset recovery efforts and expands the scope of support to include Moldova and Ukraine.

### Project Overview

The project addresses the involved participating States' shortcomings and needs related to the asset recovery cycle. This includes:

- 1 Asset identification, tracing, seizure and confiscation;
- 2 Asset management;
- 3 Asset re-use.

### Beneficiaries:

The primary beneficiaries of the project include law enforcement and judiciary practitioners, such as members of relevant police units, judges and prosecutors. The project also works with asset management offices and civil society organizations to promote the effective management of

confiscated assets and their re-use for social purposes, such as legitimate shops, restaurants, and community spaces. The project places a special emphasis on fostering cross-border efforts through regional co-operation and exchanging good practices and lessons learned.

### Expected Results:

1 Enhanced capacities of criminal justice practitioners to systematically identify criminal assets and apply asset seizure and confiscation measures **BY** providing capacity-building and policy support in specific asset recovery aspects, tailored to national needs. The project will pay special attention to enhancing the capacities of judges.

2 Improved informal cross-border exchange of information on organized crime cases **BY** providing operational support to the only existing informal network of asset management agencies the Balkan Asset Management Interagency Network and to the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors.

3 Promoted and replicated social re-use of assets **BY** supporting concrete projects of re-using confiscated assets for social purposes.

### Partners:

The project is implemented in close co-operation with the OSCE field operations, as well as governmental and non-profit entities in the beneficiary and other participating States to ensure ownership and sustainability of the results.

### Donors:

The project is financially supported by Austria, Germany, Italy and the United States of America.



### SDG Contribution:

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

