Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Good economic governance
Why good governance matters

Good governance of the public and private sectors leads to a maximization of economic benefits in a globalized economy and accelerates economic transition. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) works to enhance security and stability in the OSCE region by, among other things, promoting international co-operation on economic issues, strengthening good governance and assisting participating States in combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

“... good governance at all levels is fundamental to economic growth, political stability, and security. Good public and corporate governance, rule of law and strong institutions are essential foundations for a sound economy, which can enable our States to reduce poverty and inequality, to increase social integration and opportunities for all, to attract investment and to protect the environment”.

Dublin Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (2012)

Good governance implies the creation of a national framework of economic policies, institutions and legislation, in which businesses can thrive and the confidence of investors grows. The OSCE provides a platform for dialogue on political and security issues, for setting consensually based, politically binding norms and principles and for promoting their implementation. It has a distinctive capacity to support co-operation among participating States in acquiring models and mechanisms to combat and prevent corruption.

Fiscal insecurity, reduced state income and impeded provision of public services

Impeded economic growth, trade and transport

Threats of corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing

Reduced attractiveness of the investment climate and hindered business development

Undermined citizens’ trust in government, political leaders and parties, government institutions and the rule of law

social unrest, confrontation, conflict and political destabilization

loss in economic growth

increase in organized crime, money laundering and terrorism-related activities
What we do

Based on its mandate, the OSCE actively supports participating States in implementing their good governance and anti-corruption commitments and translating these into national policies.

OCEEA activities include:

Regional capacity building and training activities

The OCEEA actively supports OSCE participating States in improving their national legislative and regulatory frameworks, thereby contributing to better economic governance and sound financial and resource management as well as more transparency at all levels of government.

1. To support the development and implementation of more effective anti-corruption policies and mechanisms, the OCEEA provides tailor-made capacity building activities and training programmes for government officials, the private sector and civil society. Topics include corruption prevention measures, such as:
   - Designing codes of conduct and ethics;
   - Carrying out regulatory reform;
   - Preventing conflicts of interest through implementing and enforcing asset and private interest disclosure mechanisms for public sector officials;
   - Improving national anti-corruption regulatory frameworks;
   - Introducing fair and transparent public procurement procedures.

2. In the area of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) the OCEEA supports participating States in:
   - Exchanging information to more effectively identify, trace, and suppress money laundering and the financing of terrorism;
   - Promoting stolen asset recovery initiatives and strengthening international co-operation and financial investigative techniques;
   - Assisting in the conduct of national risk assessments, by which countries identify the threat of money laundering activity in their jurisdiction, examine the vulnerability of the country in its ability to prevent and intercept specific types of illicit financial activity, and its resulting impact.

Our mandate

In 2003 with the adoption of the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension at the Ministerial Council in Maastricht, participating States committed to cooperating on economic, good governance and sustainable development issues. The 2012 Dublin Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and the 2014 Basel Ministerial Council Decision on Prevention of Corruption showed strong political commitment and enhanced the mandate of the OSCE and field operations to promote good governance and prevent and combat corruption.

Support for the implementation of international commitments

The OCEEA supports participating States in implementing their commitments under the relevant international instruments and standards to combat corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, in particular those related to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the OECD’s Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations.
What we do

(continued)

Providing tools and guidance

The OCEEA develops publications in order to grant policy makers and practitioners access to reference materials on available legal tools, the latest legislative and policy trends, pertinent measures and best practices in this sphere.

Handbook on Combating Corruption

Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings

OSCE Handbook on Data Collection in support of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessment

These publications are available on the OSCE website at http://www.osce.org/publications/good-governance

Who we work with

The OCEEA promotes an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach that engages relevant government entities (including prosecuting authorities, law enforcement and specialized anti-corruption agencies, Ministries of Finance and Justice, and Financial Intelligence Units), representatives of civil society, NGOs, private sector, and academia.

Given the cross-dimensional nature of the activities, the OCEEA also works closely with other OSCE institutions, thematic units and network of Field Operations, as well as with international and regional partner organizations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the OECD Anti-Corruption Network (ACN) for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the World Bank-UNODC Stolen Assets Recovery (StAR) Initiative, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG), the Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, among others.