

PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP COUNTRIES

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The 2017-2018 G20 Anti-Corruption Implementation Plan recognizes that, through provision of technical assistance¹, G20 countries can assist other countries in becoming States Party to, and effectively implementing, relevant international instruments such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

1. National anti-corruption programmes/tools that could be shared with other countries:

Informational events organized by Trade Representations of the Russian Federation in foreign countries for Russian and foreign business-community on issues of combating corruption and prevention of bribery of public officials in international business transactions.

Trade Representations of the Russian Federation on the regular basis and in accordance with approved in 2013 plans for each trade representation organize informational events for the business-community on principles of international and Russian anticorruption legislation. Nowadays this work has been boosted in order to fulfill the Recommendations of the OECD Working group on bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions in the sphere of raising the awareness of the business-community on issues of prevention of bribery of foreign officials and encouraging companies for further development and approval of programs and measures of inner control, ethics and compliance. These informational events are performed for representatives of Russian companies doing business abroad as well as for foreign companies cooperating with them or doing business in Russia. Frequently beside these companies participation of representatives of business unions, business associations, international organizations and scientific experts in the sphere of combating corruption and bribery is provided as well. Information about most significant events is available on official websites of Trade Representations of the Russian Federation in foreign countries.

Web link (if available): Official websites of Trade Representations of the Russian Federation in foreign countries.

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE ²:



Capacity building

2. Existing anti-corruption technical assistance programmes

N/A

3. Recent technical assistance provided

On April 25-27, 2017 the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation hosted 3-days' training for focal points participating in the review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The training was organized in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The overall objective of this training was to develop the participants' capacity to participate in the UNCAC Review Mechanism. More specifically, the training sought to:

- Equip participants with the requisite substantive expertise in UNCAC provisions to undergo and perform reviews;
- Train the participants in the methodology for country reviews;
- Enable participants to become familiar with the comprehensive self-assessment checklist and related guidance boxes;
- Build capacity of participants to reproduce the training at the national level;
- Assist Focal points in completing the self-assessment checklist.

More than 30 experts from 22 countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Laos, Mauritania, Federated States of Micronesia, Myanmar, Palestine, Russia, Slovenia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uruguay and Vietnam) took part in the training.

The training was conducted by representatives of the UNODC. It included plenary presentations which enabled experts to engage in discussions with a view to exchanging information and clarifying key concepts. The training also included interactive exercises and practical applications based on mock scenarios to provide concrete learning opportunities for participants. The working languages were English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

During the workshop the participants discussed how to complete the list of control questions for self-assessment within the 2nd round of the Mechanism for the review of implementation of the Convention; shared experience of participation of member states in the 1st and 2nd rounds of the procedure. The participants also familiarized themselves with the review methodology.

Moreover, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation on a regular basis concludes agreements with competent bodies of foreign countries with the purpose to strengthen cooperation in combating crime, including corruption. The agreements provide for experience and information sharing on the issues of mutual interest.

Thus, in 2016, the following agreements were signed:

Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Cambodia (Gorki, Moscow Region, May 17, 2016);

Memorandum of Cooperation between the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation and the Public Prosecution Office of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Moscow, July 27, 2016);

Memorandum of Priority Cooperation Guidelines between the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation and the Office of the Attorney General of the Kingdom of Thailand for 2016-2020 (Bangkok, August 3, 2016);

Cooperation Program between the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Finland for 2016-2017.

According to previously signed cooperation programs the following events were held:

- Russian-Armenian round table "Organization and Implementation of Prosecutor's Supervision over Investigation into Criminal Cases Related to Corruption, Corruption Offences Prevention, Including in Bodies of Public Prosecution, Anticorruption Law Analysis" (Moscow, February 25, 2016);
- Russian-Bulgarian workshop "Participation of Prosecutors in Court Examination of Criminal Cases, Including those Related to Corruption and Terrorist Offences" (Moscow, April 26, 2016);
- Russian-Romanian workshop "Prosecution Service's Activity in Combating Corruption" (Bucharest, May 19, 2016);
- Russian-Greek round table "Problems Related to Return of Assets and Creation of National Contact Points on Combating Crime" (Moscow, June, 21, 2016);
- Russian-Serbian workshop "Anticorruption Activity of Prosecution Services of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Serbia" (Belgrade, September 22, 2016).

On May 25-27, 2016 International Anticorruption Academy (IACA) conducted sponsored by the Russian Federation tailor-made training for compliance professionals from Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Member States, which was designed to build a common knowledge base and strengthen regional capacities to effectively combat corruption.

Topics included corruption in the EAEU, the shadow economy and corruption, governance and anti-corruption, public procurement and model laws, and public-private partnerships (collective action), as well as case studies and a study visit to the UNODC for an overview of international legal instruments against corruption. The 27 participants came from the public/private sectors and civil society.

Sponsored by the Russian Federation IACA's second tailor-made training designed for professionals from EAEU Member States will run from 2 to 4 October 2017.

4. Challenges and gaps in providing technical assistance

N/A

5. Current anti-corruption priorities

- improvement of legal basis and organizational mechanisms for prevention and detection of conflicts of interests in respect of officials responsible for conflict of interests settlement;
- improvement of mechanisms of control of expenses and forfeiture of assets to the State;
- enhancement of efficiency of combating corruption in federal executive bodies and public bodies of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation, development of activity of divisions of federal public bodies and bodies of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation responsible for prevention of corruption and other offences, as well as of commissions for coordination of anticorruption activity in the constituent territories of the Russian Federation;
- enhancement of efficiency of combating corruption in public procurements;
- stronger influence of ethical and moral standards on compliance by public and municipal officials with anticorruption prohibitions, limitation and requirements;
- extension of use of international cooperation mechanisms for detection, arrest and return from foreign jurisdictions of assets obtained as a result of corruption offences;
- enhancement of efficiency of information and propaganda and educational measures for creation of anticorruption atmosphere in the society;
- involvement of the business-community in work for combating corruption and prevention of bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions.

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- 1 *Technical assistance should be understood in line with UNCAC provisions, and cover relevant programs aimed at strengthening capacities in the prevention and fight against corruption as well as both public and private sectors' integrity*
 - 2 *For further information on each of these forms of technical assistance please refer to <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/ImplementationReviewGroup/20-24June2016/V1603598e.pdf>*
 - 3 *Institutional framework under which the program is undertaken (e.g, agency responsible for implementing the program, other agencies involved, legal framework, etc).*