Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation from Corrupt Practices

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3 November 2015
• Established in **1949** in Strasbourg, France
• Objective: protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law
• Membership: **47 member states**, 28 of which are members of the European Union.
• Common legal space for over **820 million citizens** based on more than 200 European Conventions elaborated by the Council Of Europe
Council of Europe and the Russian Federation

✓ 20th Anniversary of Russia’s membership in the Council of Europe (1996 - 2016)

✓ The Russian Federation signed and ratified more than 50 Conventions, including:
  • Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, that was signed and ratified by Russia
  • Civil Law Convention on Corruption, that was signed but hasn’t been yet ratified
The Council of Europe Programme Office in the Russian Federation has for objective implementing programmes of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe.

PRECOP RF is one of the current five major assistance projects of the Council of Europe in the Russian Federation.

The overall number of cooperation project is around 30 in different fields of CoE activities.
Joint EU/CoE project on “Protection of the Rights of Entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation from Corrupt Practices” - PRECOP RF

- Project Purpose: "Strengthened mechanisms to protect the rights of entrepreneurs from corrupt practices"
  - 1,300,000 Euro
  - 36 Months (1 January 2013 - 31 December 2015)
  - European Union Funding: 86.81%; Council of Europe Funding: 13.19%
  - Contribution “in kind” by the Ombudsman’s Office
Federal Ombudsman for the Rights of Entrepreneurs

- Unique body in Europe
- All subjects of the Russian Federation adopted the necessary legal framework and Regional Business Ombudspersons could be appointed
- Possible example for other countries
Promoting international standards and practices

- The project has delivered a specially tailored Training Handbook and fourteen Technical Papers - legal and technical opinions on legislation and policies aimed at preventing corruption.

- Trained more than 160 representatives of Regional Business Ombudsman offices on “Good anti-corruption practices and functioning of Regional Business Ombudsman Offices”
✓ Over 600 representatives of the Federal and Regional Business Ombudsman Offices, Business Associations, Legal Associations, and representatives of various government agencies in the Russian Federation participated in project activities.

✓ Over 30 Regional Business Ombudsmen who participated in Study visits to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

✓ 85% of Russian regions covered by the project.
Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for cooperation between Regional Business Ombudsmen (RBO) and with pro-bono lawyers supporting the Regional Business Ombudsmen were signed.

Facilitated the establishment of the “Inter-regional Centre Business against Corruption”
A follow up project with a focus on addressing corruption at the Municipal Level is in the making.
Thank you for your attention!

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