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**Conference room paper submitted by the Government of
Romania: Background information regarding the
non-governmental organization Expert Forum (EFOR)***

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Background information regarding the non-governmental organization Expert Forum (EFOR)

Expert Forum (EFOR) is a *think-tank* based in Bucharest, Romania, that was set up in 2011 by well-known non-governmental experts in public policy and public governance reform. The main sectors covered by the activity of the non-governmental organization in the region are: administration reform and public-sector integrity; decentralisation, regional development, public finance; justice and anticorruption reform; energy and transport.

EFOR and its experts have worked extensively in particular in areas such as judiciary and administrative reform, and on developing instruments aimed at strengthening rule of law and fight against corruption in the region.

Expert Forum was involved in evaluations of institutional reforms in public administration and participated in assessments of policy process, in collaboration with the European Commission, Council of Europe, World Bank and United Nations Development Program.

At the EU level, the president of EFOR, was a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (Transport-Energy and Rural Development sections), whereas EFOR anti-corruption experts take part in GRECO monitoring missions on anti-corruption policies and transparency. EFOR's anti-corruption expert is also the Chair of the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI), an intergovernmental regional organization. The energy and infrastructure expert of EFOR, is coordinator in the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (a network initiated and financed by the EU).

In the field of anti-corruption and reform of the judiciary, since the beginning, EFOR has actively worked to ensure effective legislative frameworks, law enforcement agencies and judiciary systems in the region.

EFOR is a trust-worthy interlocutor for the European Commission and Council of Europe in its evaluation missions on anti-corruption.

As part of the **fight against corruption**, the proceeds of crime are an important aspect that needs to be included in a strategy aiming to cut down on corruption. EFOR has been an early supporter of the need to set up in the region dedicated institutions for asset recovery and management of confiscated assets. Thus since 2014, EFOR has worked on multiple projects in the region aimed at building' capacity to prevent and fight financial and economic crime by supporting extended confiscation procedures.

EFOR works closely with law enforcement bodies at regional level. EFOR has successfully organized several high-level study tours and best practice exchanges on preventing and fighting corruption, on reforming **public administration and public budgets**. One of EFOR priorities has been the **improvement of public procurement framework** in the region.

EFOR's donors in recent years include the European Commission, European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF), National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, US State Department, CEELI Institute as well as UK, US, Netherlands, Canada etc.