Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)
Laura Sanz-Levia, Deputy Executive Secretary
GRECO’s objective:

- Established in 1999 to monitor compliance with the CoE AC standards, currently 48 members (incl. 46 CoE + USA + Kazakhstan)
- Identify deficiencies and prompt reforms
- Promote and share good practice
GRECO’s membership: 48 members
GRECO assesses:

- national regulatory and institutional frameworks;
- implementation.

GRECO’s working method:

- dynamic process of mutual evaluation and peer pressure; horizontal in nature; equality of rights and obligations of members
- impact assessment (compliance) mechanism
In brief:

Shortcomings in anti-corruption legislation and practice are identified and policy makers are advised on remedial action.

The implementation by members of GRECO's recommendations is verified on an ongoing basis.
GRECO’s Evaluation procedure

Evaluation rounds thematic and horizontal in nature. All MS evaluated within an Evaluation Round

✓ 1st evaluation round (2000): independence, specialisation and means of national bodies engaged in the prevention and fight against corruption; immunities
✓ 2nd evaluation round (2003): identification, seizure and confiscation of corruption proceeds; prevention and detection of corruption in public administration; prevention of legal persons (corporations, etc) from being used as shields for corruption
✓ 3rd evaluation round (2007): corruption incriminations and transparency of party funding
✓ 4th evaluation round (2012): prevention of corruption in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors
✓ 5th evaluation round (2017): preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies

○ 6th evaluation round (currently transitioning – to be launched in 2025): corruption prevention at sub-national level
Criteria for theme(s) to be selected under Evaluation Round:

- Promote the core values of the Council of Europe (rule of law, democracy, human rights);
- Have a legal basis with standards available within the Council of Europe;
- Have a legal and organisational basis in the member states themselves that GRECO can examine and which the members can present and document;
- Be relevant to all the member states;
- Be of public interest;
- Be substantial enough to carry a full Round;
- Be complementary to GRECO’s previous evaluation Rounds;
- That expertise could be made available within GRECO on the issue selected;
- Provide the prospect of impact from GRECO’s work.
GRECO’s Compliance procedure

18+18 months to fulfil recommendations
- Recommendations implemented satisfactorily
- Recommendations partly implemented
- Recommendations not implemented

NON-COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE (staged approach: more frequent reporting – technical nature + escalating political pressure)
GRECO’s Ad-hoc procedure (Rule 34)

In exceptional circumstances – strict application

1. GRECO/Executive Secretary receives reliable information from Head of delegation of GRECO member or from a Council of Europe body on
   - institutional reform, legislative initiative or procedural change resulting in serious violation of CoE AC standard which has been subject to an evaluation round

2. GRECO, or President with consent of the Bureau, makes info request to member

3. Rapporteurs appointed and Ad hoc report prepared (may entail on-site visit) and adopted by GRECO plenary
Results and benefits from GRECO monitoring, GRECO’s recommendations increasingly effective and influential

- Ownership and legitimacy of process (non punitive)
- Tangible progress in both prevention and repression of corruption; legislative, policy and institutional reforms
- Give pace and momentum anti-corruption fight, support national governments as well as claims from civil society
- GRECO as a forum to exchange experience, technical nature of work, forum of practitioners
- GRECO as an anti-corruption watchdog
Thank you!

GRECO website: www.coe.int/greco/

GRECO mailbox address: webmaster.greco@coe.int