



EU AML / CFT GLOBAL FACILITY

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Newsletter

2023 in Pictures



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2-3

Three months in review

Page 4

Delisted ! Focus on Jordan and Panama after Grey List exit

Page 5-6

Beneficial Ownership and Tax Crime: A Regional Event



Page 9

Jamaica concludes NGO sector risk assesment

Page 10

Coming up: a peak at our next activities



Where we worked

October – Mid-December 2023



Delisted!

Jordan and Panama exit FATF Grey List

In October 2023, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) announced the removal of two partner countries of the EU Global Facility from the list of high-risk third countries, known as the Grey List.

The entire EU Global Facility team warmly congratulates both Jordan and Panama and all stakeholders involved in the countries' efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. Since the launch of our technical assistance activities in 2020 in both countries, our support has been unwavering and the project is extremely pleased to see these two partner countries officially removed from the FATF list of countries under increased monitoring.

Jordan



From November 2020 to October 2023, the EU Global Facility has provided continuous technical assistance to the Kingdom of Jordan, through the delivery of

- **45 activities** online and onsite
- Reaching some **1090 participants** from a variety of institutions.
- The country also hosted **4 regional activities** co-organised by the EU Global Facility, local authorities and partners.
- Jordan was the **very first country** where the project resumed its onsite activities after COVID-19.
- The project conducted its very **first cross-functional activity** between the Law Enforcement and Justice/CSOs components there.

Panama



A long journey of collaboration took place between the EU Global Facility and Panama since the request for technical assistance was formulated by the country back in March 2021. Initially centred on Beneficial Ownership and Law Enforcement, the support has covered many topics, including national coordination, BO, virtual assets, financial investigations and tax crime, among others.

- **16 activities** online and onsite
- Reaching **1226 participants**
- **Two** regional conferences hosted

"I would like to thank the entire EU GF team for all the support and advice provided. You have been key in obtaining this achievement."

Isabel Y. Vecchio-Arófulo
Technical Secretary of the National Commission against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (CNBC) of Panama

BO and Tax Crime

In Videos

Click on the pictures to watch the full videos

For its very first collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the EU Global Facility partnered with GAFILAT and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina, to organise a regional event on 'Synergies between Beneficial Ownership Transparency, Tax Crimes and the Fight against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing'

Held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from November 7th to 9th, the event brought together 18 countries of the region (Argentina, Brasil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

"We know that anonymity is the main strength sought by money launderers and those who finance terrorism. Fighting this anonymity is essential," stated Esteban Fullin, Secretary General of the GAFILAT.

Participants explored the **utilisation and advantages of BO information for three key stakeholders: BO registries, Financial Intelligence Units, and tax authorities.** The first day, designed in a conference format, laid the groundwork for the event, with presentations from the FATF, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Global Forum, the IDB, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the Centro Interamericano de Administraciones Tributarias (CIAT). On the second day, experts delved deeper into specific topics such as the establishment and management of BO Registers, the exchange of BO information with third parties, and group discussions on the application of Automatic Exchange of Information and Exchange of Information on Request. Participants also developed an action plan to facilitate the sharing of BO information within a jurisdiction.

"Implementing effective policies of beneficial owners is possibly one of the most important measures to take into account, not only for a fiscal or financial transparency issue -that of preventing money laundering- but also because it is a fundamentally important measure to protect the legality of the economy and also the overall functioning of a country," noted Roberto de Michele, Head of Division at IDB.

The conference also served as a showcase of examples on upcoming policies and technologies that are under-utilised in Latin America, including the new OECD standard to collect and exchange information on virtual assets, the use of mandatory disclosure rules to understand and identify schemes to hide the BO or the application of machine learning and artificial intelligence to detect money laundering schemes. Participants learnt about new frameworks to allow for cooperation and sharing of information within data protection and privacy frameworks, including pilots to detect money laundering through decentralised systems with federated pattern finding, encrypted systems to identify common individuals under investigation among different countries as well as platforms to share customer due diligence data among banks to save costs for financial institutions, customers and BO registries.



In this wrap-up video, learn about the main objectives of this conference, its background and what the main organisers have to say about its importance for the Latin American region.



In Latin America, about 50% of Beneficial Ownership Registries are located with the tax authorities in Latin America. This can constitute both a challenge but also an opportunity...

Adrian Wardzynski
International Monetary Fund



6



One key question is 'how do we get access to quality information and make sure that it actually ends up in the hands of the right tax authority?'

Paul Hondius
OECD



The more possibility we have to share information between the tax administration and the FIU, the better the results will be in terms of investigation, prosecution and control of assets laundering.

Marconi Costa Melo
Brazil National Coordinator on AML/CFT



Some 80 representatives from across Latin America gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina for the regional workshop. © 2023/EU Global Facility

New partner countries

Over the last three months, the EU Global Facility has strengthened its ties with new partner countries, including in South-East Asia, with a scoping mission following an initial e-training on asset recovery, and the launch of the first online courses for Omani participants.

Indonesia

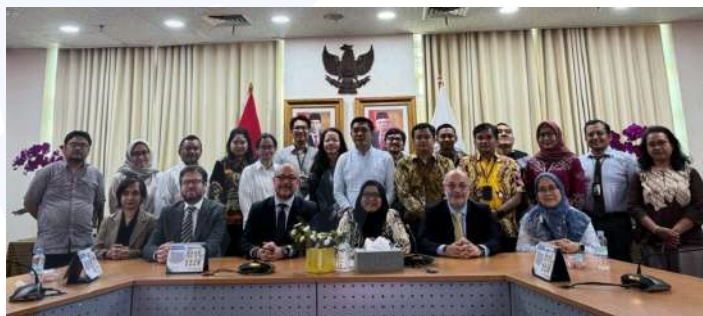
During the of November 2023, a delegation from the EU Global Facility traveled to Indonesia to meet various counterparts of the new partner state.

Aimed at better understanding the needs of the country following its request for technical assistance, the mission aimed to fine-tune our work programme through a number of meetings with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT), OJK, Central Bank of Indonesia and the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (PPATK). Talks were also organised with representatives from Civil Society Organisations of Indonesia, keen on enhancing their compliance with the FATF Recommendations pertaining to their sector.



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With the strong support of the EU Delegation to Indonesia, our delegation assessed the scope of its future engagement with the partner state. Support on **asset recovery, financial investigations and FATF Recommendation 8 for Non-Profit Organisations** were highlighted as top priorities for the country.



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We would like to extend our warmest thanks to the PPATK, who stands as a crucial local partner in our collaboration.

Did You Know ?

Indonesia is the most recent member of the FATF, having joined the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog ranks in November 2023.

Oman

On the week of November 28th, the EU Global Facility delivered the inaugural training session with Oman's Financial Intelligence Unit, delving into the vital realms of **'operational & strategic intelligence'**.

This e-training marked the start of a comprehensive 5-session programme aimed at empowering the FIU team of Oman. The entire FIU staff enthusiastically engaged in this session, marking a pivotal step in our technical assistance initiatives with Oman.

The EU Global Facility team is thrilled about the prospect of further collaboration and knowledge exchange with our new partner state!

Ukraine

For our first onsite mission to our new partner country –Ukraine– we were pleased to join partners for the 'International Forum on Financial Monitoring' held in Ternopil, Ukraine.

Our Team Leader David Hotte was invited to deliver opening remarks, alongside the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, officials from the Ukrainian Finance Ministry, MONEYVAL, Council of Europe, the OSCE and the EUACI.

"It is very important for the EU Global Facility to be here today, to show our support to our partner country. We have started delivering technical assistance on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing back in September, and we will continue to do so as per the EU mandate," David Hotte said, adding "it is crucial to work with actors from the field on those decisive issues of AML/CFT at such times."

Following the conference, a number of meetings took place between the **EU Global Facility and the Ukrainian authorities and Ukrainian NGO community, where they discussed the workplan for the future engagement on AML/CFT.**

Panels are on the agenda of these two days included:

- 1 - Ukraine's path to the EU membership
- 2 - Financial investigations in the context of combating money laundering, financing of terrorism, financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and sanctions evasion.
- 3 - Modern tools for financial monitoring
- 4 - Public-Private Partnership in the field of AML/CFT.

This fourth session witnessed the participation of experts from the EU Global Facility, who are directly involved in supporting the NPO sector in Ukraine. Earlier this week, the EU Global Facility co-organised an hybrid workshop on this topic, which witnessed the participation of some 50 CSOs representatives in Kiyev.

The Forum was organised by the State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine, in cooperation with partners.



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Study Visit – Central Asian States

Joining forces with the **EU-funded project Law Enforcements in Central Asia (LEICA)**, the EU Global Facility supported law enforcement agencies representatives from the five Central Asian states on the topic of asset recovery during a study visit to Germany. On the third week of October 2023, the two-EU funded projects brought together Law Enforcement Agencies representatives from **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.**

During five days, our Key Expert on Law Enforcement/Intelligence Liam Ennis, along with a team of short-term experts specialising in law enforcement and justice, delivered sessions on the broad topic of asset recovery. They aimed at enhancing the participants' **capacities to effectively prevent, detect, and investigate the sources and channels of financing for terrorists or terrorist groups.**

Launched in 2020, the LEICA project aims to build law enforcement capacities in Central Asia to enhance security both on a national and regional level. It partners with Central Asian countries to prevent and counter terrorist activity.

Non Profit Sectoral Risk Assessments

Jamaica

We are very happy to announce the successful completion of technical assistance to Jamaica on the topic of FATF Recommendation 8 on the non profit sector.

During a visit to Jamaica in November 2023, our project's expert held a final session, marking a milestone in the support provided to the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS) in the **development of the risk-based system of NPO regulation.**

Meetings were conducted with DCFS staff, Department of Justice staff, and with groups of NPOs previously engaged in this process in Kingston and Montego Bay.

On the agenda on this last meeting: quarterly reports, detailing work with "at-risk" NPOs, were comprehensively reviewed with senior managers and dedicated case staff while a final review of files and guidance was conducted. This review highlighted **excellent changes** such as increased clarity on whether a file relates to an "at-risk" NPO, along with advice on better record-keeping. A draft piece of legislation, aimed at capturing NPOs currently not required to register, was also reviewed.

Support to Jamaica on this topic started over two years ago, with outreach to NPOs carried out in all parts of the country

The EU Global Facility is very proud to have supported such collaborative efforts of the authorities and CSOs, wishing the best results come out of this successful endeavour in the future !

Risk and Consequence: A Publication

The EU Global Facility, along with the GIZ Illicit Flows Programme and the Global NPO Coalition, recently published a report on the two-day multistakeholder conference organised in Bonn to review a common position on the FATF revision process of Recommendation 8 on the not for profit sector and its Best Practices Paper. This collaborative effort included 127 non-profit organisations from 69 countries from Africa, Central and South-East Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and Europe.

[Click to read the full report](#)





Coming Up

A number of activities is already on the agenda of the EU Global Facility at the start of next year. Take a peak at a few of them below.

Brasil:

Following the successful launch of the publication on 'Legal Approaches to Evidentiary Challenges in ML Prosecutions and Confiscation Proceedings - A Constitutional Review', the EU GF will partner with GAFILAT to launch a Spanish version of the document.

Algeria:

The EU GF is set to organise a conference in Algiers on 18-21 December on the topic of 'Increasing the quality, quantity and diversity of Suspicious Transactions Reports to the financial sector'

Kenya:

The African nation is expected to host a number of activities from the EU Global Facility next year, including the very first regional training of our flagship training series on 'Intelligence into Evidence' in February 2024.

South-East Asia:

Preparations for the third iteration of the Regional Conference on Art Trafficking and AML/CFT will continue with partners from the region.

Malawi:

Following the scoping mission recently conducted, the new partner country will receive its first e-training on the topic of justice from the EU GF in February 2024.

Study Visit

The project will take delegations from Botswana and Malawi to Zambia in January 2024, to learn about the best practices and experience of Zambia on the implementation of FATF Recommendation 8 on the non profit sector. This comes as part of the technical assistance activities delivered on NPO Sector Risk Assessment.

BO and Tax Crime

Following the widely appraised Regional Conference on BO and Tax Crime held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in November 2023, the EU Global Facility will work on the publication of a report with GAFILAT and the Inter-American Development Bank.

FATF training

Following the great success of the training of the FATF Training Institute supported by the EU Global Facility in July for Francophone countries, the project will join forces with the FATF again, targeting participants from ESAAMLG countries, in an event slated in South Africa in January 2024.



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*Happy
Holidays*

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