



For immediate release

Regional training targets South/South East Asian CSOs compliance with FATF Rec 8

Brussels, 5 February 2021 – A regional e-training for civil society representatives from South and South-East Asian states on the FATF Recommendation 8 on Non-Profit Organisations (NPO) concluded on February 5th, 2021, after five fruitful days.

The training was conducted by the EU Global Facility on AML/CFT (EU GF-AML/CFT), in cooperation with the European Centre for Not-for-profit Law (ECNL) with the support of the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) representatives from **Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Honk Kong, Thailand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Nepal and Cambodia** partook in the training, which aimed to provide a better understanding of the challenges related to the implementation of the FATF Recommendation 8 on NPOs, and to exchange best practices.

Recommendation 8, which was reformed in 2016, still remains one of the most difficult Financial Action Task Force recommendations to be complied by states around the globe, with **only five jurisdictions currently having the highest compliance rating worldwide**.

“CSOs deliver intrinsic and highly valued support to societies and people around the world. Their thorough understanding of the FATF Recommendation 8 requirements is therefore of paramount importance,” stated David Hotte, Team Leader of the EU GF-AML/CFT, adding *“I was delighted to see the dedication of the CSO representatives in contributing to the common goals of combatting terrorism financing.”*

He drew particular attention to the **participation of representatives from Myanmar**: *“I am particularly grateful to civil activists from Myanmar who, despite the ongoing situation, were willing and managed to participate in the training whenever internet was available in the country.”*

Sessions focused on combatting terrorism financing in the NPO sector, FATF requirements standards as well as engagement strategies. In addition, the event sought to foster networking between CSOs in the region, in line with the work of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF, as a crucial tool to improve CSOs’ effective compliance with the recommendation.

On the training, Vanja Skoric, Programme Director at the ECNL, noted: *“This was a two-way learning experience for both participants and the speakers/trainers. Throughout the discussions, colleagues from different countries shared experiences, concerns and issues they wish to know in more depth, while engaging in fruitful dialogues on how to address government overregulation of the NPO sector, and how the evaluation process could reflect genuine sector perspectives and act as transformative policy initiator.”*

The presentations were delivered by trainers from the ECNL, ICNL, Greenacre Group, and by Deputy Director of Asia Technical Assistance and Training Department at the Asia Pacific Group on Money



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Laundering. The event also witnessed the attendance of representatives from the European Commission, EU Delegations and other EU-funded projects pertaining to AML/CFT matters implemented by the EF and the GIZ in the region.

About the EU GF-AML/CFT: Established in 2017 by the European Commission, the EU Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism aims to support third countries in their efforts to prevent money laundering and cut off access to funding for individual terrorists and terrorist organisations. Financed by the Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), the project is implemented by Expertise France, in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ and the Northern Ireland Cooperation Oversea - NI-CO.



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