



EDITION 7 - DECEMBER 2022

www.global-amlcft.eu | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | info@global-amlcft.eu



Natalie Pauwels

Head of Unit, European Commission's
Service for Foreign Policy Instruments
Stability and Peace – Global and
Transregional Threats

"It is a pleasure to start the year with our partners from the EU Global Facility on AML/CFT, a flagship action that encapsulates the philosophy of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments by putting policy into practice.

Money laundering and terrorist financing pose a serious threat to the integrity of the EU economy and financial system. They distort markets and may affect the security of EU citizens and those of partner countries.

Money laundering cannot be underestimated and the loopholes that criminals can exploit need to be closed. Europol has highlighted that the scale and complexity of money laundering activities in the EU have been previously underestimated. Serious and

organised crime groups in the EU rely heavily on the ability to launder vast amounts of criminal profits.

While there can never be zero risk of terrorism, it is possible to shrink the space terrorists have to prepare and carry out their crimes. As terrorist tactics change, **we also need to adapt our responses to prevent and counter the threat they pose to society.**

The EU is supporting Member States' efforts on many fronts, from helping protect the public spaces where people gather, to cutting off terrorists' access to dangerous bomb-making materials and to their sources of finance.

To successfully tackle the threat of terrorism, we must be fully invested in combating terrorist financing as a key pillar of this fight.

What is the EU doing ?

Internally, the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing is a priority for the Commission...

[Read the interview on page 6](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2-3

2022 wrapped up: facts and figures

Page 7-8

Latin America

Regional conference on Beneficial Ownership, scoping mission and ties with GAFILAT

Page 11

Jordan: Regional Conference on Virtual Assets and AML/CFT

Page 12

Illicit trafficking of cultural property webinar



Page 13

Coming up: our big events of early 2023

2022 in brief



EU AML/CFT
GLOBAL FACILITY

The EU Global Facility
operated across

4

continents

73

Countries were involved
in events and activities
implemented by the project

94

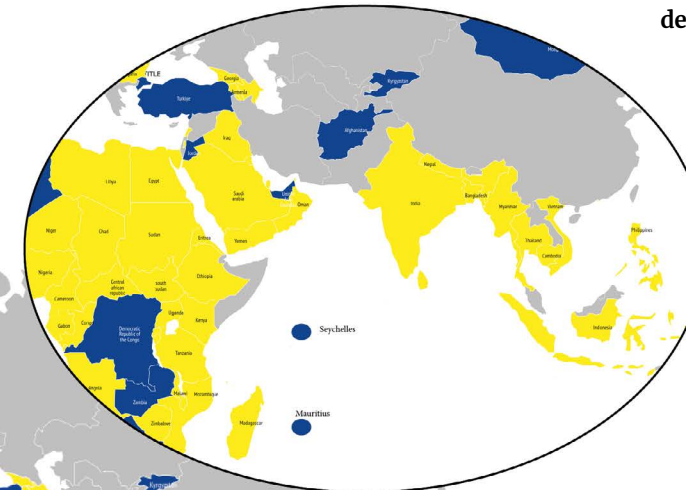
Activities were conducted by
the EU GF over the last year

2

Countries that received technical
assistance from the project, among
other providers were officially
delisted by the FATF: Mauritius and
Botswana

13

Countries were involved in
bilateral technical assistance
delivered by the EU GF: Algeria,
the DRC, Jamaica, Jordan,
Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius,
Morocco, Panama, Turkiye,
the UAE, the Seychelles, South
Africa and Zambia.



94

Short term experts have been
mobilised by the EU Global
Facility since its inception,
coming from

16

Regional events and
conferences were organised
in Bahrain, Belgium, Baltic/
Eastern Europe (online),
Egypt, Georgia, Italy, Jordan,
Mauritius (x3), Morocco
(online), Romania, South
Africa, the UAE (online),
Zambia

Bilateral technical
assistance activities

Countries reached
by regional
activities

29

countries

37,5%

of short term experts hired by the project were
women

And for 2023 ...

7

newly engaged countries: Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Mozambique,
Seychelles, South Africa, Uruguay.

9

countries under continuous assistance: Algeria, Botswana, DRC, Jamaica,
Jordan, Morocco, Panama, the UAE, Turkiye.

9

countries where technical assistance might be envisioned: Barbados, Cambodia,
Ecuador, Irak, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad-and-Tobago, Ukraine and Vietnam.



EU AML/CFT
GLOBAL FACILITY

Where we worked

October – (Mid) December 2022

Panama

Onsite regional conference on BO with GAFILAT (Cfr p.6-7)
Two workshops on IO5 & IO7 (Cfr p.8)
Exchange sessions on asset recovery

Online

Webinar on BO and complexity

Malta

Onsite thematic workshop on BOR as competent authorities

Kazakhstan

Regional workshop for Central Asian states on asset recovery with LEICA

Kyrgyzstan

E-training of prosecutors & FIU on asset recovery
Series of activities on Correspondent Banking

Turkiye

Onsite training on law enforcement

Jordan

Regional conference on Virtual Assets with MENFATF (Cfr p.10)
Onsite thematic meeting on Constitutional Law; workshop on Virtual Assets Risk Assessment; conference on lawyers & accountants supervision

The UAE

Onsite training on Justice/Law Enforcement

Tunisia

Regional conference on Rec 8 joint with CEPOL (Cfr p.9)

DRC

E-training on asset recovery
Kick off of TACC

Seychelles

Scoping exercise on BO
Onsite training on DNFBPs & Strategic Approach
Onsite and e-workshops on Rec 8
Onsite workshop on Judicial Manual

Mozambique

One scoping mission

Lesotho

E-training on Rec 8

Zambia

E-working meeting on Rec 8
E-preparatory workshop on Rec 8 compliance
Onsite workshop on Rec 8

South Africa

E-training on financial investigations
E-workshop on Rec 8 RA
Onsite workshop on Rec 8

Uruguay

One scoping mission

Jamaica

Working meeting with authorities/regulators on Rec 8
Series of activities on gaming assessment of laws and regulations, operations and supervision, IO3

Latin America

Regional webinar on Art trafficking and AML/CFT (Cfr p.11)

Argentina

E-training of regulators on Rec 8
E-training of NPOs on Rec 8
Participation in GAFILAT Plenary (Cfr p.8)

continued from p.1...

The adoption of the relevant directives has considerably strengthened the EU regulatory framework over the last years. The EU is also working on an **ambitious package of legislative proposals to strengthen the EU's anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing rules**. The package also includes the proposal for the creation of a new EU authority to fight money laundering. This package is part of the Commission's commitment to protect EU citizens and the its financial system from money laundering and terrorist financing.

Money laundering and terrorist financing are global phenomena that require strong international cooperation. That is why we are also supporting partner countries that wish to reinforce their anti-money laundering and terrorist financing frameworks, providing them with tailored made and demand driven capacity building programmes drawing on some of the best experts in Europe and the world.

The EU Global Facility on AML/CFT has proven to be a very successful vehicle to support partner countries to address strategic deficiencies nationally as well as regionally. It has also contributed to enriching discussions and policy developments in key areas, such as beneficial ownership, virtual assets and judicial cooperation, trafficking of cultural goods and CFT AML related risks, and working with not-for-profit organisations.



The EU Global Facility is an initiative of impressive pace and scale...

Over **250 activities** involving **more than 20 countries** and over **6,500 participants**, and mobilising around **100 experts**: these are just some of the numbers that speak of the impressive pace and scale of this initiative.

Beyond the numbers, we can look to the recognition of the partners across the globe for **a project that delivers the right expertise** and accompanies efforts to comply with international and EU standards, and **the appreciation expressed by numerous EU Delegations** for the guidance and policy support provided in this challenging policy area.

I am confident that 2023 will be yet another successful year for the EU Global Facility and for the partners benefitting from its support.

My best wishes for this new year.

Natalie Pauwels

Since the start



250
activities



6,500
participants



20
partner
countries

Latin America

Representatives from 18 countries of the GAFILAT region convened to Panama in November 2022, to attend the regional conference on Beneficial Ownership co-organised by the EU GF, the GAFILAT Secretariat and the National Commission against Money Laundering, Financing of Terrorism and Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction of Panama (CNBC).



Opened by Viceminister of Finance in Charge Manuel Sánchez, the conference titled **“Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Frameworks and risk-assessment of corporate vehicles in the GAFILAT Region”**, welcomed 60 high-level experts on Beneficial Ownership (BO) from across the GAFILAT region, while hundreds joined the event online.

Delivering his welcoming remarks from his office, Executive Director of GAFILAT, Esteban Fullin, stated: *“making Beneficial Ownership information available is key to having a successful AML/CFT system, GAFILAT is committed to mitigating any possible misuse of corporate vehicles to allow money launderers and criminal organisations to profit their illicit gains. Having the chance to share experiences and discuss good practices on how to tackle this issue is key to implement an effective system.”*

EU Ambassador to Panama, Izabela Matusz, emphasised the importance of BO Registers and transparent AML/CFT systems, saying: *“every country needs a transparent, reliable and sustainable financial system. In this way, it will defend itself against the influence of organised crime on its institutions and can protect the interests of the state and the nation.”*

The regional event aimed to allow participants to exchange and further their expertise on FATF standards on availability and accessibility of beneficial ownership information, the assessment of money laundering and terrorism financing risks associated with the misuse of legal persons and arrangements in the GAFILAT region, the design and implementation of mitigation measures as well as emerging trends and specific topics related to the ever increasing importance of beneficial ownership transparency throughout jurisdictions across the world.

“We are especially happy to see such a high level of attendance in this first regional conference the EU Global Facility is organising in Latin America,” said EU GF Team Leader David Hotte, thanking the GAFILAT and Panamanian authorities for their support. *“Panama has been a trusted partner country of the project for a while now. As of today, we have delivered some 10 activities in the country since our first mission back in October 2021.”*

Support to partner countries’ Beneficial Ownership frameworks is a key pillar of the EU GF’s work around the globe. So far, the EU Global Facility has assisted more than 11 jurisdictions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe on BO at a bilateral level while reaching almost 70 countries through regional conferences.

“... making Beneficial Ownership information available is key to having a successful AML/CFT system”

Esteban Fullin
GAFILAT Executive Director

Video Gallery



Interviews of key speakers, experts and officials (click to watch)



Event wrap-up

Topics tackled

- Evolution of the FATF standards on BO availability and accessibility.
- Experiences sharing in the assessment of ML/TF risks associated with legal persons and arrangements (LP/LA) in the GAFILAT region, implementation of mechanisms promoting sufficient transparency of LP/LA.
- Identification of LP/LA which are likely to be at the risk of ML/TF abuse.
- Risk assessment, design and implementation of effective mitigation measures, multi-pronged approach and multi-stakeholder engagement
- Effective mechanisms ensuring that accurate and up-to-date basic and BO information is available to competent authorities in a timely fashion.
- Anticipation of trends and new factors that will be determining in the field.

60

high-level
experts
representing

18

Latin and Central
American
countries

1st

joint event with
GAFILAT



Participants in the regional conference pose for a group picture in Panama City on 7 November 2022.
© 2022/EU Global Facility/Andrei David Nagy

Also in Latin America...



Over the last three months, the EU Global Facility has greatly expanded its geographical scope, with a notable enlargement towards Latin America. Started in October 2021 with a scoping mission in Panama, this expansion marks a remarkable milestone in the project's development, with highly promising initial endeavours in Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay and Paraguay.

GAFILAT The EU Global Facility's relationship with the GAFILAT Secretariat witnessed a **highly positive evolution** over the past three months, culminating with the co-organisation of the regional conference on BO outlined in page 6.

What started as initial contacts have concretised into full-fledged partnerships with the GAFILAT, whose Secretary General Esteban Fullin greatly commended the *"highly technical approach and all encompassing methodology"* of the EU GF.

In July and December 2022, the EU GF was invited to attend the GAFILAT Plenaries in Ecuador and Argentina respectively, which led to fruitful exchanges with member states.

Requests for technical assistance were received from three additional Latin American and Central American countries, namely Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Argentina Since it formulated a request for technical assistance on AML/CFT in August 2022, Argentina has benefited from several activities from the EU GF. Focused on the topics on **Beneficial Ownership, FATF Recommendation 8, supervision of financial and DNFBPs and support to the FIU**, the EU Global Facility's engagement and cooperation with Argentina will also cover issues such as **improving effectiveness of financial investigation and criminal justice system, beneficial ownership and virtual assets**.

As of December 2022, Argentinian stakeholders have received two e-trainings on FATF Recommendation 8, targeted at both NPO regulators and NPOs representatives. These aimed at raising their awareness and knowledge of the requirements of FATF Recommendation 8.

These online sessions will also serve to prepare NPO contribution to the NPO Sectoral Risk Review to be conducted by the authorities/regulators of Argentina with the support provided by the EU Global Facility.

Panama In addition to the Regional Conference on BO above-mentioned, Panama hosted a number of EU GF events and activities over the last three months.

Namely, the EU GF organised:

- A training on **"Public and Private sector Beneficial Ownership"** which witnessed the attendance of more than 500 stakeholders of the BO disclosure cycle in Panama, including supervisors and competent authorities (e.g., UAF, DGI, Public Registry, Supervision Authorities), the SSNF, Resident agents and other DNFBPs.
- A training on the topic of **"Tax crime committed abroad and the importance of international cooperation in combating those crimes"** which was hailed by presiding magistrate María Eugenia López Arias as *"a proof that Panama, with the support of strategic partners like the EU GF, is sparing no effort in designing and implementing this strategy and in obtaining a product made to measure for the needs of our country, taking into account all the angles that are generated by the inter-institutional participation required by the effective war against ML/TF and weapons of mass destruction."*

Joint Regional Conference on Rec 8 in Tunis

In October 2022, the EU Global Facility joined forces with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), with the support of the United Nations Programme on Countering Terrorist Financing (UNOCT).

Held under the title “Countering Financing Terrorism and Risk Assessment of the NPO Sector”, the regional workshop was the result of a fruitful collaboration between the EU Global Facility, CEPOL and UNOCT, with the active involvement of our partner, the Global NPO Coalition on FATF.

The three-day event was targeted at the representatives of Law Enforcement Agencies and Civil Society Organisations from the MENA region, in addition to representatives from Argentina, Türkiye and the Republic of Moldova.

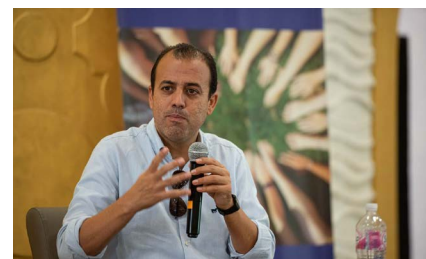
"The co-organised nature of this event, as well as the audience representing various players engaged in the implementation of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Rec 8, embody the approach followed by the EU GF to ensure dialogue and coordination between parties. These are pre-requisites for the effective implementation of the requirements

of said Recommendation," said EU GF Team Leader David Hotte in his opening remarks.

For her part, expert Sangeeta Goswami stressed the importance of *"engaging in multi-stakeholder dialogue processes like this Tunis workshop, in order for not-like minded stakeholders –NPOs and Law Enforcement Agencies from six different countries – to sit together and exchange."*



"Each of these parties has its own mandate, often working in its own silo but the goal for everyone is the same: to avoid abuse of their own



sector for TF purposes and uphold their financial integrity."

The workshop is part of a series of activities organised by the EU Global Facility on the topic of Recommendation 8, which seeks to support partner states in complying with its standards.

As expressed by EU GF Key Expert on Justice and Civil Society Mamuka Jgenti, *"Rec 8 remains one of the FATF recommendations with the lowest number of complying jurisdiction across the world. Synergies and common efforts like those we see here are utterly needed to ensure better results are achieved when it comes to the implementation of Recommendation 8."*



Participants in the regional workshop pose for a group picture in Tunis in October 2022 ©2022/EU GF/Rajiv Raman

Middle East

21 MENA countries convene to Jordan for Virtual Assets Conference

More than 120 participants from the 21 countries of the MENA region on 12 December 2022 convened to Amman to participate in the Regional Conference on “Dealing with Virtual Assets and AML/CFT”.

Co-organised by the EU GF and the Jordanian National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing Committee (NAMLCFTFC), with the participation of the MENAFATF, the three-day event hosted by Jordan marks the first high-level event in the field of virtual assets (VAs) in the region.

His Excellency Dr. Adel Al Sharkas, Governor of CBJ and Chairman of the AML/CTF National Committee, emphasised the importance of this conference at the regional level, as the challenges and opportunities are similar and shared among the countries of the region. *“It is essential to draw on the experiences that will be shared at this conference, which will provide an opportunity to build on countries' strengths, build capacity and upgrade the competencies of national agencies, and update them on the latest developments in international standards issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) associated with activities related to VAs and VA service providers, and risk analysis”.*

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Alexis Le Cour Grandmaison, French Ambassador to Jordan, underlined the need to put in place an adequate legal framework to identify criminal assets, including virtual assets, as early as possible in the investigation in order to maximise the possibilities of effecting a seizure. He also referred to the decisive action of the French Asset Recovery Agency (AGRASC) *“whose recoveries have doubled between 2020 and 2021 to reach 4,80 million euros. It is important that this activity benefits the public community”.*

“ This is a recognition of the importance of sharing best practices, especially on such an innovative topic...”

The event, which witnessed the intervention of more than 20 experts from the Americas, Europe and the Arab world, seeks to tackle the causes and existence of AMLCFT risks, and promote cooperation and compliance with the global standards and cooperation in the field of VAs. Ultimately, it seeks to guide respective countries, their competent authorities, and the private sector, on shaping the strategic direction of dealing with VAs, Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs), and understanding requirements of this direction, i.e. banning or regulating VAs.



Financiación del terrorismo, crimen organizado y tráfico ilícito de bienes culturales

12 de diciembre de 2022 | online



Financiado por
la Unión Europea



EL PACCTO
EUROPA ↔ LATINOAMÉRICA
PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA CONTRA EL CRIMEN TRANSNACIONAL ORGANIZADO

16:00 Bruselas | 09:00 Centroamérica | 10:00 Ecuador | 12:00 Paraguay | 12:00 Argentina

As terrorist organisations continue to innovate and diversify their sources of financing, the illicit trafficking of cultural property has become an increasingly popular method within these groups. This crime, which has a very particular modus operandi, often coexists with other crimes such as arms trafficking and human trafficking.

In this context, the EL PACCTO project and the EU Global Facility joined forces to discuss and reflect on the phenomena of terrorist financing, organised crime and the illicit trafficking of cultural property, during a webinar that brought together 12 experts from Argentina, Spain, Panama and Peru. They presented a number of issues to an audience of over 100 people, comprised of representatives from Eurojust, Europol, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and academia, among others.

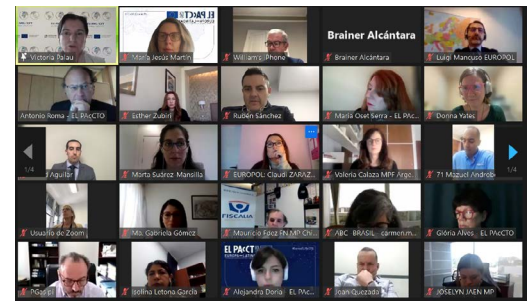
Following an introduction delivered by lawyer Marta Suárez Mansilla, University professors Ana Vico and Donna Yates, the three experts outlined the following key characteristics of the illicit market in cultural goods:

- The main characteristic of the illicit trade in cultural property is that **the profit is made by moving from the illegal field to the legal one. That is why it is important to focus on the process of importing cultural property.**
- **The cooperation of traders who are not involved in this illicit market and who are also victims of all the illegal networks is very important. This illegal market must be tackled from within through a unified regulation.**
- **Looting is a tricky phenomenon as it involves human commitment and a lot of experience.** That is why the activity is often carried out on a smaller scale and with small objects such as gold and silver coins. They can be easily hidden and melted down if there is no buyer.

Coordination between institutions to combat a complex crime

Illicit trafficking in cultural property is fought through intelligence and information, with investigations and subsequent prosecution, but customs is often the first agency to identify the criminal activity. For this reason, Panama's customs director insisted on the **need for coordination between institutions**, and for the importance of dealing with the issue from a **multidisciplinary point of view**.

From the police point of view, experts from the Guardia Civil, the Spanish National Police and Europol presented successful operations such as **Operation Pandora** and **Operation Harmakhis** against the illicit trafficking of cultural property. For their part, Europol experts highlighted the **importance of the online market**, which has grown in recent years.



©2022/EU Global Facility

International experience and harmonisation of legislation

At the EU level, Eurojust intervenes at the request of judicial and prosecutorial authorities, seeking international coordination between jurisdictions in cases with a transnational dimension. Meanwhile, the United Nations focuses on new trafficking routes such as the use of the Cocaine Route that links the Sahel with Latin America to traffic cultural goods. Therefore, **Latin America has become increasingly at risk, with critical points such as Panama, Ecuador and Colombia.**

Together with the representative of the Council of Europe, the UN experts emphasised the need to harmonise legislation on this type of crime to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of offenders. In addition, the Council of Europe presented the Nicosia Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, which has so far been signed by seven countries.

Coming Up



2023 promises to be a very fruitful year for the EU Global Facility, with four regional events already scheduled for the first three months of the year. From Latin America to Asia, Africa and Europe, the project continues to innnovate in its technical asssttance delivery

Jamaica:

Prosecutors will be invited to a follow-up e-training on asset recovery in January.

Algeria:

A delegation of experts will conduct a mission to support the revision of Algeria's AML/CFT legislation.

A scoping will also be done on DNFBPs and strategic approach.

Turkiye:

Two onsite training will be held early 2023, on Rec 8 and on "Turning Intelligence into Evidence".

Morocco:

An activity on virtual assets & DNFBPs is slated, focusing on lawyers/notaries, accountants, gaming/casinos, strategic approach, and dealers in precious metals or precious stones.

South Africa:

An exercise on BO will be conducted in late January.

Seychelles:

An e-training targeted at judiciary representatives will focus on the FATF FSRB in February.

Regional Conference on Rec 8

As part of a series of conferences on FATF Recommendation 8, the project is planning to hold a joint regional conference targeted at South and South East Asian countries. This will be organised in close coordination with the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

GAFILAT/CFATF workshop

For the first time since its inception, the EU GF project will organise an event with both the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the GAFILAT Secretariat, which will be centered on Rec 8. This shall take place in Buenos Aires in March 2023.

Judicial Cooperation in MENA

As a follow up of the Bahrain conference held in March 2022, the EU GF is working on the organisation of a second regional conference on the topic of judicial cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa region. It shall take place in Morocco in the coming months.



Happy Holidays

from the

EU AML/CFT
GLOBAL FACILITY

 [@globalamlcft](https://twitter.com/globalamlcft)

 [Linked in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/globalamlcft)



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the EU GF-AML/CFT and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.