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Project

“Strengthening the corruption prevention and analysis functions of the National Anticorruption Centre” Minutes of the Project Board Meeting

Date: 18 January 2018, 14:00-15:30

Venue: National Anticorruption Center, (198, Stefan cel Mare), Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Agenda:

1. Welcoming speech and introductory remarks:
Vitalie Verebceanu, National Project Coordinator, Director of the Corruption Prevention Directorate
Stefan Liller, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova
2. Presentation of the Project Final Report (August 2015 – January 2018)
Disposal and transfer of Project assets
Olga Crivoliubic, NAC Project Manager, UNDP Moldova
3. Q&A, Discussion

Participants:

Present Project Board Members:

- **Stefan Liller**, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova
- **Vitalie Verebceanu**, National Project Coordinator, Director of the Corruption Prevention Directorate
- **Olga Bitca**, Member, Anticorruption Alliance
- **Eduard Varzar**, Deputy Anticorruption Prosecutor
- **Andrei Brighidin**, Director for Development, Monitoring and Evaluation, East Europe Foundation
- **Giulia Re**, delegated on behalf of the Council of Europe Office in Moldova

Project Management:

- **Olga Crivoliubic**, NAC Project Manager, UNDP Moldova
- **Cristina Turcu**, NAC Project Associate, UNDP Moldova

Participants:

- **Alla Skvortova**, Cluster Lead, UNDP Moldova
- **Pawel Wojtunik**, EU High Level Policy Advisor
- **Igoris Krzeckovski**, EU High Level Policy Advisor in Moldova
- **Marcel Tabarcea**, Head of the Integrity Ensuring Division, NAC
- **Olga Tiju**, Head of the Institutional Evaluation Section, NAC
- **Anastasia Mihalceanu**, Head of the Civic Interaction Service, NAC
- **Olga Pojiltov**, Anticorruption Policies Service, NAC
- **Otilia Nicolai**, Director of the Criminal Asset Recovery Agency, NAC

Absent Project Board Members:

- **Sergiu Ostaf**, Chairperson of the National Participation Council
- **Eugeniu Vițu**, Senior Consultant, National Integrity Commission
- **Margarita Galustean**, Legal Officer, Council of Europe Moldova – represented by Giulia Re
- **Representative of the Ministry of Education** (the former representative Nicolae Ghenciu resigned after the Ministerial reform and a new representative was not appointed)

Quorum was established and the meeting proceeded with the planned agenda.

1. Welcoming speech and introductory remarks

Ms. Olga Crivoliubic opened the meeting and thanked everyone for the attendance.

Mr. Vitalie Verebceanu thanked UNDP for the timely, comprehensive and sound support provided to the NAC by the Project. He stressed that it was the first Project offering such important support for corruption prevention efforts and assistance was in particular important for advancing crucial reforms in the anticorruption sector and it contributed to a greater visibility of NAC as a key actor in preventing corruption. In particular, he highlighted the support offered in the design and implementation of the anticorruption awareness campaign focused on integrity standards, support in a series of corruption risk assessments, the developed software for anticorruption proofing of legislation and for the integrity evaluation process. He also thanked the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for support and praised the Project management team for professionalism and dedication.

Mr. Stefan Liller welcomed the members of the Board and participants to the meeting and said that during the 2,5 years of Project implementation, relations of confidence have been built among the involved implementing partners. He stressed that the Project ensured a strong sustainability of its results, as the elaborated with the Project's support and adopted policy and normative documents will regulate the anti-corruption efforts in Moldova well beyond the Project cycle, while the NAC staff has now stronger capacities to effectively implement the responsibilities aiming at preventing corruption. He pointed out that the Project meaningfully contributed to integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into the national development agenda. He further underlined such important results achieved with the Project support as participatory elaboration and adoption of an innovative National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy 2017-2020 (NIAS); establishment of the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency that aligns Moldova with the UNCAC provisions; automatization of the most important operational processes in the NAC, such as anticorruption proofing of legislation and e-register for institutional integrity evaluation; assessment of corruption risks in four key sectors: public procurement, private sector, state and municipal enterprises and Chisinau municipality; raised public awareness on corruption and on the integrity standards and engagement of the civil society, youth and journalists in corruption prevention activities. Mr. Liller also stated that UNDP will continue working on anti-corruption agenda within other UNDP Projects and will make efforts to obtain further support for targeted and specific intervention in the field of anticorruption. He thanked the Norwegian Government and the Project stakeholders for the offered support and cooperation.

2. Presentation of the Project Final Report (August 2015 – January 2018)

Ms. Olga Crivoliubic presented the results achieved per outputs during the Project implementation in August 2015 – January 2018, as well as lessons learned after the Project implementation. The Project Final Report was sent by Email to the Board members in advance and presented in the hard copy during the meeting (also attached to the Minutes).

3. Discussions

The Project Final Report presentation was followed by inputs of the meeting participants.

Mr. Brighidin thanked the Project team on behalf of the East European Foundation for the comprehensive report reflecting the important results achieved and mentioned in particular that the organization would benefit from the data provided by the Impact Monitoring Survey for National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy 2017-2020 in their further activity, in that way also ensuring the Project sustainability.

Ms. Olga Pojiltov stressed the importance of the Project support in ensuring the involvement of different stakeholders, including public institutions and CSOs in the process of drafting important anticorruption policy documents, in particular, of the NIAS. She assured that this practice will be preserved during the implementation process and will ensure impactful results after the Project closure.

Ms. Otilia Nicolai thanked NAC Project Manager, Olga Crivoliubic, for her flexibility and ability to face challenges. She mentioned that the project started in a difficult period of political instability, but managed to achieve important results. She stressed that the visible results to be achieved by the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency established with the Project's support would be registered after the Project closure, as another example of the project's sustainability.

Mr. Vitalie Verebceanu added that the Project sustainability would be ensured also by the products and analysis developed with the Project's support, in particular the corruption proofing of legislation software and the software/e-register for Institutional integrity evaluation that are already use by the NAC in the everyday work.

Ms. Olga Bitca appreciated the important results achieved with the Project support. She also mentioned that there is still room for further improvement, bringing as an example the need to better integrate human rights approach into the NAC activity. She recommended that the whistleblower system currently in the phase of the formal approval to be centered around human rights and integrity. She stressed the importance of the achieved partnership between NAC and the Ombudsperson institution and that the further support for this issue is needed. Ms. Bitca expressed the hope that NAC would communicate more with the Anticorruption Alliance and the NGOs Council on the mentioned subject. She also confirmed that all activities implemented with the Project support contributed to Moldova passing the UNCAC evaluation on the prevention and asset recovery chapters. She expressed the opinion that the Criminal Asset Recovery Agency has to remain within NAC and that civil society puts much hope in this institution. She also mentioned that CSOs have to work more on combating corruption in education and public health together with NAC.

Mr. Vitalie Verebceanu replied that NAC is open to cooperate with the CSOs on the said issues. He also mentioned that the developed draft Law on the whistleblower system is currently being consulted with the relevant stakeholders and is to be approved in 2018. He informed that NAC will collaborate with the Institute for Criminal Reforms and UNDP in a project on strengthening capacities in the protection of whistleblowers. The issue is taken very seriously by NAC, as the Action Plan for implementing the EU – Moldova Association Agreement and the UNCAC include provisions on the whistleblower's protection. As for the Criminal Asset Recovery Agency, NAC appreciates the CSOs' efforts to keep it within NAC with the functions mentioned in the Law approved by the Parliament on March 30, 2017.

Ms. Alla Skvortova stated that she is extremely pleased by the results achieved by the Project and by the positive opinions about the Project expressed at this and previous meetings. This confirms that the project was relevant, effective and sustainable. She mentioned that it was a very complexed Project which was not limited to the NAC capacity building, but also included intense outreach and communication with the general public, civil society, journalists and youth. The Project success was also due to the dedication and professionalism of the NAC colleagues. She stressed that innovative approach was practiced throughout the Project implementation for many activities. For example, the implemented awareness raising campaign unlike most other anticorruption campaigns had a constructive message thus educating general public and civil servants. Ms. Skvortova also said that investing in people ensured the Project sustainability and UNDP is keen to see that this investment generates real changes on the medium term. She mentioned that UNDP in partnership with NAC developed a new follow-up Project concept which was shared with development partners for the resource mobilization. She also expressed the hope that the key development partners, such as the EU Delegation, the Council of Europe, USAID, as well as civil society, would continue their efforts in working with NAC and reaching stronger results.

At the end of the meeting, **Ms. Crivoliubic** mentioned that according to the UNDP procedures, Project assets and non-assets will be transferred to the National Anticorruption Center (NAC) as being the National Implementing Partner. A list of the items to be transferred was presented and the Board members approved the transfer. **Ms. Crivoliubic** thanked the NAC counterparts for cooperation, openness and dedication during the Project implementation.

Decisions

1. The Project Final Report for August 2015 – January 2018 was approved by the Board members.
2. Transfer of the Project assets and non-assets to NAC was approved by the Board members.
3. The Project will be operationally closed on 31 January 2018.

Signatures of the Project Board members:

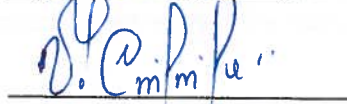
Stefan Liller

Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova



Vitalie Verebceanu

Director of the Corruption Prevention Directorate



Olga Bitca

Member, Anticorruption Alliance



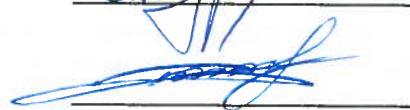
Eduard VARZAR

Deputy Anticorruption Prosecutor



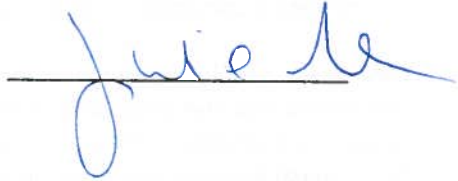
Andrei Brighidin,

Director for Development, Monitoring and Evaluation,
East Europe Foundation



Giulia Re

Council of Europe Office in Moldova



Secretariat: NAC Project Associate

Cristina Turcu

