



# EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

## FACT SHEET

### STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIARY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN SERBIA

Ever since positions of power have been established in society, individuals have been abusing them for personal gain. Even though many cultures consider this practice necessarily as a bad one, corruption has developed many subtle forms with many faces, and to date, there has not been a precise definition of what corruption actually is. Lately, the focus is once again put on the original meaning of the word *to corrupt*, meaning *to destroy*. Citizens across Europe, in parallel to this, often link the success of their government with the success in fighting against corruption.

Being organisations committed to human rights observance, democracy and rule of law, European Union and Council of Europe have been continuously pointing to threats posed by corruption. By establishing international legal standards and recommendations, European institutions are working hard to achieve their own ideals and principles.

In this regard, projects of technical cooperation, which are created, planned and implemented in cooperation with national authorities, aim to introduce specific standards and recommendations in the work of relevant institutions.

Thanks to joint financing of the European Union and Council of Europe, project ***Strengthening the capacities of law enforcement and judiciary in the fight against corruption in Serbia (PACS)*** was launched in 2012. Main goal of the project is to contribute to establishment of democracy and rule of law, through undertaking of institutional reforms focused on preventing and fighting corruption. More specifically, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement and judiciary in identification, investigating and prosecuting criminal offences related to corruption.

With a total budget of **€1.183.748** and **implementation period of 28 months**, the project includes:

- specialist trainings for judges
- introduction of new information tools designed to keep crime statistics
- conducting crisis analysis and making recommendations related to prevention of corruption within the sectors of judiciary and law enforcement.

In 2013 and 2014, the project rounded off a number of activities, whereas the recommendations it made, especially in the area of risk of corruption in the areas of judiciary and law enforcement, call for some deep reforms in various areas. Even though a number of these reforms have already been initiated, it is necessary to reiterate that achievement levels will largely depend on the readiness of state authorities to adequately implement these recommendations. PACS project will continue to provide expert and other kinds of assistance hoping to fully achieve its mission – strengthening rule of law and applying the principle of zero tolerance towards corruption.

Detail information about the project at [www.coe.int/pacs](http://www.coe.int/pacs).

