

1. Background

The Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE) Centre and the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat are conducting a comprehensive overview and analysis of search, seizure and confiscation of illegally obtained assets in the region. The project will focus on asset seizure and on final court judgements in cases of corruption with particular focus on adherence to human rights. This activity is part of the Project "Combating corruption in the Western Balkans and strengthening regional cooperation in the field of asset recovery" , which is being implemented with support from the British Government and from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The overall project aims at analysing the effectiveness and efficiency of decisions rendered by the judiciary of the Western Balkan jurisdictions in relation to seizure and confiscation of assets, as well as identifying and promoting best practices from other RAI jurisdiction.

2. Purpose and objective

The purpose of the conference is to present to a selected audience the findings of the Study prepared by the AIRE Centre and the RAI Secretariat concerning the effectiveness of the criminal justice systems in the region in relation to the seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crime. The objective of the event is to establish a common dialogue about the identified challenges and to determine future actions at the regional level which address the recommendations resulting from the above mentioned analysis. In addition, best European practices on asset recovery will be presented.

The main outcome of the event will be an action plan for increasing the effectiveness of asset recovery in the Western Balkans.

3. Participants

Participants of the Conference are representatives of respective judicial and prosecutorial bodies, judicial academies and asset recovery institutions from the region. In addition, representatives of UK Government and Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) will participate at the event.

Draft agenda

Wednesday 28 March 2018	
09:00-09:30	<p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Biljana Braithwaite, AIRE Centre • Mr. Vladan Joksimovic, RAI Secretariat • TBC, Embassy of the UK to Bosnia and Herzegovina. • TBC, OSCE
09:30-11:00	<p>Round table discussion: findings and recommendations on the effectiveness of decision on seizure and confiscation of assets in the Western Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview by Local experts <p style="text-align: center;">Interventions by national institutions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderation: Mr. Pedro Gomes Pereira</p>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:30	<p>Best practices in Seizing and confiscating the proceeds of crime: Mr. Gianluca Esposito, Council of Europe</p> <p>TBC, representative from the UK</p> <p>TBC, representative from Italy</p> <p>TBC, representative from Croatia</p> <p>TBC, representative from Romania</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderation: TBC, OSCE</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<p>Round table discussion: Towards an action plan for the effective seizure and confiscation of assets in the Western Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderation: AIRE, RAI
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-16:30	Conclusion and closure of event