

Hercule III Programme (2014-2020) Project

ECO for PIF - Early Correcting Operations for Preventing Irregularities and Fraud through administrative measures and active learning

Objective

ECO for PIF – the Abruzzo Region is the coordinator - is a project financed by the EU Programme [HERCULE III \(2014-2020\)](#), and has the general objective to enhance the level of protection of the EU financial interests with a combined action at both administrative and training level. The project intends to ensure capillary cooperation in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Italy, with a potential benefit extending to the Adriatic-Ionian Region as a whole.

ECO for PIF stems from the long-term experience of the [IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013](#) and aims to capitalise the *best practices* on preventive actions and to reduce the error rate in financial reporting of EU funds by the member States.

The project is divided into actions:

- Problem/need assessment;
- 4 classroom events (conferences/seminars);
- 5 on-line seminars;
- an on-line community aiming at networking the stakeholders from the involved area;
- evaluation phase.

Expected results

The project intends to reach out for a large target audience by activating the [Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion](#) network involving 33 member regions (the Abruzzo Region holds the Vice-Presidency), which geographically corresponds to the area covered by the [EUSAIR](#) strategy and the related [AI-NURECC](#) initiative (Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities).

Such a synergy ensures an extremely qualified target for the actions of prevention and early correcting operations envisaged by the project.

Associate partners

For the purpose of providing specific technical guidance, the Abruzzo Region has involved some Italian institutions as Associates such as the Anti-fraud Unit of Guardia di Finanza to Italy's Presidency of the Council of Ministers – European Policies Department, the Italian Court of Auditors and the Anti-corruption Authority.

On the technical-scientific side, the collaboration with the universities of Shkoder (Albania) and Banja Luka (Bosnia-Herzegovina), as well as the Master Degree course on Anti-corruption of the University of Roma Tor Vergata (Italy) ensures that qualified training is delivered to the stakeholders from the Western Balkan countries and the Adriatic-Ionian regions, in order to help address the critical issues on the protection of the EU financial interests from both a technical-administrative and operative viewpoint.

Total budget

The project total budget is 125,274.53 Euros.

Duration

The project has a duration of 15 months, from 1 March 2019 to 31 May 2020.

The project is extended by 6 months, until 30 November 2020, due to the Covid emergency situation.