



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 7 February 2013

Opening event of the EU-funded project:

***“Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance for
macroeconomic analysis and policy formulation***

[EU InfoCentre]

Speech by
H.E. Mr Aivo ORAV
Head of EU Delegation

Respected Deputy Prime Minister Stavreski,

Dear Ambassador Ottman,

Dear Mr. Verheyen,

Your excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be with you today to mark the official opening of the EU-funded twinning project ***"Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance for macroeconomic analysis and policy formulation"***.

The project will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and the partner institutions of Finland and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Member States will provide advice and will exchange know-how with the Ministry of Finance, in the area of economic analysis, budget planning, forecasting skills, in order to design more coherent medium and long-term macroeconomic and fiscal framework.

The assistance focuses on practices and policies which have been very much in the spotlight in most countries, here, in the region and in the EU.

The ongoing economic downturn has led to reforms in the EU and the Eurozone itself, and shown the need for more intensive economic governance mechanisms, that safeguards sustainable macroeconomic stability and economic development.

It has also become even more apparent that good quality of information provided to economic policy makers is necessary for successful decision-making processes.

As part of the EU commitment to support the candidate and potential candidate countries on their road to the EU, this assistance to the Ministry of Finance will contribute to the design of fiscal and economic policies for **sustainable allocation of resources**, while balancing priorities of stimulating growth, employment, improving the quality of education, investment in infrastructure for economic development, expansion of private sector and improving the competitiveness of the economy.

Those activities will eventually contribute to fulfilling the Economic Criteria and Chapter 17 of the *Acquis*, being required as part of the accession process.

I would like to wish all parties involved in this project a successful implementation in the coming two years.

Thank you.