

**Information meeting for ENP countries EU programmes
2014-2020, Brussels, 3 December 2013
Schuman room, Berlaymont Building**

Presentation of the Hercule III Program 2014-2020
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“Hercule”



Objectives

- General objective:
 - Protect the financial interests of the Union
- Specific objective:
 - Prevent and combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union
- Five operational objectives:

Operational objectives

- *to improve the prevention and investigation of fraud and other illegal activities beyond its currently reached levels by enhancing transnational and multi-disciplinary cooperation;*
- *to increase the protection of the financial interests of the Union against fraud, facilitating the exchange of information, experiences and best practices, including staff exchanges;*
- *to strengthen the fight against fraud and other illegal activities providing technical and operational support to national investigation, and in particular customs and law enforcement, authorities;*
- *to limit the exposure of the financial interests of the Union to fraud, corruption and other illegal activities;*
- *to enhance the degree of development of the specific legal and judicial protection of the financial interests of the Union against fraud by promoting comparative law analysis.*



Eligible actions

- Technical assistance (70%):
 - grants for the purchase of technical equipment to support investigations and to combat smuggling of tobacco and cigarettes;
 - Purchase of (access to) databases for intelligence support;
 - Development of IT-tools for monitoring traffic of goods and vehicles.
- Training (25%):
 - Organisation of Conferences, seminars, training, studies to contribute to the fight against fraud;
 - Organisation of digital forensics training sessions.
- Other activities (5%):
 - Any activity not covered above with relevance to the fight against fraud and corruption against the Union's financial interests.



Examples of activities

- Technical assistance:
 - Grants for x-rays scanners used at the borders to detect illegal consignments of cigarettes and tobacco;
 - Grants for equipment enabling law enforcement agencies to strengthen their investigative capacities;
 - Grants for the purchase and training of sniffer dogs or rats;
 - Procurement of access to databases with information on companies; trade flows; shipments; container traffic, etc.
- Conferences:
 - Events allowing law enforcement staff to exchange information and best practices (grants and procurement);
 - Digital forensics trainings (procurement);
 - Comparative law studies (grants).

Eligibility criteria – Modalities of participation

- Grants:
 - Co-funding up to 80% of the action (and 90% in exceptional and duly justified cases);
 - Beneficiaries:
 - National or regional administrations in the EU Member States;
 - NPO's, Universities, located in the Member States.
- Procurement: Relevant procurement directives applicable.
- Attendance of Conferences, Training:
 - Representatives from organisations and administrations located in third countries that are active in the fight against fraud and corruption.



Contact

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