

Pericles 2020

Short general description: exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting.

Objectives:

General objective: to prevent and combat counterfeiting and related fraud thus enhancing the competitiveness of the Union's economy and securing the sustainability of public finances.

Specific objective: to protect the euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the measures undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities in their efforts to develop between themselves and with the European Commission a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practices, also where appropriate including third countries and international organisations.

Supported activities (actions):

The Programme takes into account the transnational and multidisciplinary aspects of the fight against counterfeiting and promotes best practices adapted to the national specificities of each Member State.

The Programme provides financial support for the following actions:

(a) Exchange and dissemination of information, in particular through organising workshops, meetings and seminars including training, targeted placements and exchanges of staff of competent national authorities and other similar actions.

The exchange of information will inter alia be targeted at: methodologies for monitoring and analysing the economic and financial impact of counterfeiting; operation of databases and early warning systems; use of detection tools with computer back-up; enquiry and investigation methods; scientific assistance (in particular scientific databases and technology watch/monitoring of new developments); protection of the euro outside the Union; research activities; provision of specific operational expertise.

(b) Technical, scientific and operational assistance, as appears necessary as part of the Programme including in particular: any appropriate measure which establishes teaching resources at Union level (handbook of Union legislation, information bulletins, practical manuals, glossaries and lexicons, databases, especially in the area of scientific assistance or technology watch) or computer support applications (such as software); relevant studies with a multidisciplinary and transnational dimension; development of technical support instruments and methods to facilitate detection actions at Union level; financial support for cooperation in operations involving at least two states when such support is not available from other programmes of European institutions and bodies.

(c) Grants to finance the purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting authorities for protecting the euro against counterfeiting.

Support is provided under grants, where EU funding will be made available to cover up to 75% of the eligible costs (90% in exceptional and duly justified cases).

Eligibility:

Bodies eligible for funding under the Programme are the competent national authorities, as defined in Article 2(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001.

Participation (including ENP):

The Programme shall target participation of the following groups: staff of agencies engaged in detecting and combating counterfeiting (in particular police forces and financial administrations, depending on their specific functions at national level); intelligence personnel; representatives of the national central banks, the mints, commercial banks and other financial intermediaries (particularly as regards the obligations of financial institutions); judicial officers and, specialist lawyers and members of the judiciary in this field; any other group of specialists concerned (such as chambers of commerce and industry or comparable structures capable of providing access to small and medium-sized enterprises, retailers and cash-in-transit companies).

Modalities of participation:

The Programme is implemented by annual financing decisions, which set out the priorities for the actions to be funded. The financing decisions also contain information on the number of Calls for Proposals to be made in a given year. Grants are awarded to eligible bodies located in the EU, following Calls for Proposals. Procurement is organized following the procurement rules of the EU. Participants from ENP may attend Conferences, seminars and training funded under the Pericles programme.

Contact point:

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Examples of activities where ENP countries can be involved:

Participants from ENP countries often participate in actions (such as seminars and staff exchange) organized in the EU or in third countries. Since 2014 they will be able to possibly benefit of equipment to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting authorities through applications presented by Competent Authorities in the Member States.