



ASSET RECOVERY INTER-AGENCY NETWORKS

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Modern asset confiscation work requires comprehensive cross-border cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) with foreign jurisdictions to facilitate the tracing, restraint and confiscation of assets and property. However, language barriers, differing legal and regulatory systems, and disparate operational procedures cause delays to, and even the failure of, asset confiscation attempts.

In 2004, Europol established a European network of prosecutors and investigators working in asset confiscation, the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN), to facilitate asset recovery between EU Member States. CARIN now has about 40 members and provides a practical means for members to exchange information, appropriate points of contact and procedural guidance.

GPML began supporting the creation of CARIN-style networks in other regions of the world in 2009, with the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa (ARINSA) as its first endeavour. This network now has 10 members in Southern and Eastern Africa and has observer status with CARIN. In 2010, the Financial Action Task Force of South America (GAFISUD) established the Assets Recovery Network of GAFISUD (RRAG) to provide similar services to its members in Latin America.

Target audience

Any region in which asset confiscation laws and enforcement structures are in place and enforceable is a suitable candidate for the development of a regional asset recovery inter-agency network. A local partner—whether a law enforcement agency or a regional body—to provide simple secretariat services is also needed. The existence of IT infrastructure to support an Internet-based information sharing platform is recommended.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Members of CARIN-style networks provide practical assistance in MLA and asset confiscation to each other and to associated regional networks. Members find that incoming MLA requests are more focused and easier to process, and that MLA requests made within the network are handled more rapidly and with better outcomes. Members report that increased cooperation and information sharing has directly supported increased asset confiscation. Regional asset recovery inter-agency networks also serve as catalysts for training and capacity-building for prosecutors and investigators dealing with asset recovery issues within the region.

Programme content

GPML will conduct a study within a specified region to assess whether—based on legal frameworks, institutional structures, political will and information sharing capacities—a CARIN-style network is supportable and sustainable. If so, a preliminary high-level meeting will be convened to bring together the heads of law enforcement and prosecution agencies, as well as senior investigation managers. The mandate and terms of the proposed regional asset recovery inter-agency network will be agreed and the network of professionals launched. Subsequent annual meetings will be sponsored to gather the heads of prosecution asset forfeiture units and specialist financial investigators who form the core of the network.

Duration

It is intended that each regional network should become self-sufficient. GPML support for each network would last for 4-5 years.

ABOUT GPML

The Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism (GPML) assists Member States in implementing the various anti-money laundering and counter-finance of terrorism (AML/CFT) provisions contained in the 1988 United Nations Drug Convention, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and relevant United Nations resolutions, such as Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), as well as other international AML/CFT requirements.

GPML's primary goal is to assist Member States via their legal, financial, law enforcement and judicial authorities in developing effective and comprehensive domestic AML/CFT legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as the institutional infrastructures and practitioner skills needed to implement them. GPML is further committed to promoting national coordination and regional and international cooperation on issues concerning money-laundering and terrorism financing.

GPML fulfills its mandate principally through technical cooperation and capacity-building for requesting Member States, the provision of in-depth training to national administrations and private sector actors dealing with AML/CFT issues, and the development and sharing of AML/CFT information resources, good practices and databases.

GPML has initiated specific products to assist Member States. These deliverables aim to raise awareness of the risks of money-laundering and terrorism financing, build institutional capacities and provide key technical assistance and training—based on current good practice and operational expertise—at the national and regional level. A series of GPML Facts Sheets provide information on the key products offered by GPML.

