



P R O J E C T

“OLAF – FACING THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS. THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD AND MISUSE OF EUROPEAN FUNDS”

The project (1 September 2009 - 31 May 2010) is financed by the Hercule II Programme (2007-13) and is worked out by Club – Journalists against Corruption (Club JAC) in partnership with the Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Interior. Partners are also offices of Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

This project has applied in practice the knowledge and capacity of Club JAC accumulated through the project “Mastering the experience of OLAF communications network and the new European models of partnership with the judicial power”.

Within the project were made two films for successful practices of OLAF. On the one hand, the films contribute to the popularization of OLAF activity as institution – its work for protection of the EC financial interests, the role of international cooperation, etc. On the other hand, they illustrate the fight against corruption through specific good practices and results of successfully resolved cases in four European countries – Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

An important accent in the project is the organization of wide media campaign for the role of audio-visual communication in the fight against fraud and misuse of European funds. The organization of two seminars was envisaged for presenting the films and discussion on the work and experience of OLAF with the participation of prosecutors, judges, police officers, representatives of ministries and journalists.

On 29-30 January 2010 in the Court Palace in Sofia was organized the first international training seminar on the project. The main discussion topic in the program was “The fight against cigarette smuggling and illegal production. The experience of Germany and the Czech Republic”.

During the seminar was the premiere of the film “OLAF – facing the European citizens, the Class and Boomerang Operations”, shot within the framework of the project and shown on the BNT on 30 January 2010.

The experience of special offices and court organs in Italy and Slovakia will be presented at International press conference and seminar “OLAF – facing the European citizens”. The event will be held **on 3 May (Monday) at 9.30 am in the Conference hall of the Court Palace** and is organized by Club – Journalists against Corruption within the framework of the project. The documentary film “OLAF – facing the European citizens” made by journalist Reneta Nikolova and cameramen Kaloyan Bozhilov and Dimitar Skobelev will be shown. The shooting of the unique for Bulgaria film was made in three countries – Italy, Slovakia and Belgium and the crew made shots from helicopters, cutters and airplane presenting the experience of the special Italian finance police Guardia di Finanza, the Special Prosecutor’s Office and court in Slovakia and the significance of OLAF’s coordinating role for international cooperation.

Alessandro Buttice, head of Unit A3 “Direct Expenditures and External Aid” and Freddy Dezeure, head of Unit “External Audit” to EU Directorate General “Information Society and Media” will come especially for the premiere from Brussels. Representatives of Italian finance police, the Prosecutor’s Office of Slovakia, the German Customs Investigations Service and the Czech Republic Customs will also participate in the seminar.

The film will be shown in Brussels in the EC Berlaymont Building on 8 May Europe Open Day.

The materials of the media campaign on the project **“OLAF – facing the European citizens. The role and significance of international cooperation in the fight against fraud and misuse of EU funds”** will be given to the information networks of the partners from Europe and can be used in various international events.

The activities on the project will contribute to the realization of the main targets of the Hercule II programme – to facilitate, encourage and develop cooperation between the various partners in combating fraud and corruption.