



EGMONT GROUP'S ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM

ABSTRACT

The Egmont Group acknowledges that additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) are a valuable supplement to the contributions coming from the member FIUs. The organization welcomes and utilizes AVCs, which may include donor-supported funding or in-kind contributions. The purpose of AVCs is to foster the leadership and excellence of FIUs and to promote their operational independence and autonomy by offering training and technical assistance, capacity building, promoting personnel exchanges, developing operational and strategic collaboration, and maintaining and granting access to a secure channel for information exchange between FIUs.

Egmont Group's Additional Voluntary Contributions Program

INTRODUCTION

The Egmont Group is a global organization of more than 160 Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) that provides a platform for the secure exchange of expertise and financial intelligence to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Egmont Group accepts Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)¹ as a supplement to the annual funding received from Egmont Group members. These donations empower the Egmont Group to further deliver against its mission and strategic goals.

The Egmont Group has received AVCs from governments and international organizations. These donations have helped fund training courses, meet personnel needs, and much more. This page provides more information on the AVC program, detailing how it works and how potential donors can get involved.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE EGMONT GROUP'S AVC PROGRAM

The Egmont Group promotes and enhances cooperation between FIUs around the globe. FIUs are dedicated to the global fight against money laundering, predicate offences and terrorist financing.

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CRITERIA FOR THE EGMONT GROUP AVC PROGRAM

The Egmont Group welcomes AVCs from a variety of governments and international organizations, whether or not their mandate is directly related to combating money laundering and terrorism financing. The Egmont Group will consider one-time or multi-year AVCs that:

- Contribute to a sustainable development of the Egmont Group and to the advancement of its mission and its strategic priorities;
- Promote and enhance anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) around the globe; and

¹ See the Egmont Group *Charter*, Section 7.2.A. on Additional Voluntary Contributions. The *Charter* distinguishes these contributions from annual membership contributions.

- Foster the development of effective FIUs that are an engine of AML/CFT excellence and leadership.

The Egmont Group welcomes general and programmatic (“*earmarked*”) AVCs in the form of monetary assets or other property (whether corporeal or incorporeal, tangible or intangible, movable or immovable), as well as human resources (e.g. secondments) that are consistent with the criteria listed above.

The Egmont Group does not accept AVCs from private sector organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations/Non-Profit Organizations, private legal persons or individuals.

EGMONT GROUP’S GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES FOR ADMINISTERING ITS AVC PROGRAM

The Egmont Group will strive to utilize effectively the AVCs received from donors. The following principles will be followed by the organization when administering its AVC program:

Safeguarding programmatic approach²

The Egmont Group follows a programmatic approach for achieving its strategic mission. The organization welcomes AVCs for the general benefit of the organization or for a specific purpose. Earmarked thematic AVCs are welcomed as long as they do not impose undue restrictions on this organization.

Ensuring transparency in the management of AVCs

The Egmont Group follows transparent practices in the management of AVCs, both with regard to sources of funds and their use. The organization accepts contributions that originate from legal sources and that have been obtained by the donor through legal and ethical means (this includes funds from officially confiscated proceeds of crime).

Providing donor recognition

The Egmont Group provides recognition to donors by using their logos on AVC-funded programs/projects unless co-branding is impractical. In the latter case, the Egmont Group will find different ways to acknowledge the funding from the donors.

Maintaining streamlined processes for managing the AVCs

The Egmont Group follows efficient and transparent practices in the acceptance and management of AVCs that provide for effective stewardship of donations. The entire procedure for consideration and acceptance of AVCs usually takes between four (4) and eight (8) weeks. The Egmont Group works with a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year and welcomes applications anytime during this interval.

Safeguarding AVCs and routine reporting to donors

The Egmont Group is committed to preventing waste, fraud and abuse of the AVCs it receives. The organization is accountable to donors and maintains consistent and ethical relations with all donors.

² Donors may request that certain funds, e.g. for travel cost reimbursement, are used for eligible jurisdictions only.

The Egmont Group provides donors with written progress reports, financial reports and annual independently audited accounts.

Avoiding conflicts of interest

The Egmont Group is committed to the highest ethical standards and to ensuring that the work of the organization is conducted with integrity and without bias. The Egmont Group promotes the respect of its autonomy and the autonomy and operational independence of member FIUs in its relationship with donors.

Ensuring well-established internal controls

The Egmont Group has in place well-established internal control systems, reflected in financial and administrative policies and procedures approved by the Heads of the member FIUs, which provide reasonable assurance of full accountability for the AVCs received from donors.

Auditing AVC accounts

A yearly independent external audit ensures that the Egmont Group financial statements are presented in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The published financial statements give a true and fair view of the Egmont Group's operations and financial position.

Specific considerations for financial AVCs

The Egmont Group will make every reasonable effort to optimize the use of funds and look for cost savings. Although they form part of the overall Egmont Group budget, financial AVCs are accounted for separately and transparently for the donors.

RECENT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS – WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

The Egmont Centre of FIU Excellence and Leadership (ECOFEL) has been established as a result of generous voluntary contributions from the governments of the United Kingdom and Switzerland. The Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DfID) contributed GBP 200,000 in 2016 to support the Egmont Group's efforts to establish ECOFEL. Further to that preliminary contribution, DfID also provided substantial seed funding totaling GBP 4,038,000.

The achievement in this regard is the formation and set-up of a unique global program to support FIUs' capacity building and overall professionalization over the course of three years. ECOFEL fills a practical knowledge gap in a strategic and efficient manner with the aim of introducing new concepts and tools as they relate to convening power, innovative thinking, global FIU leadership and sharpening traditional AML/CFT analytical tools.

DfID made an additional GBP 1,500,000 contribution starting from 2019 through March 2021 to support a specific work stream within ECOFEL, relating to the fourth biggest profitable crime globally - illicit wildlife trade.

The contribution from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) totaling CHF 2,000,000 starting from 2018 through November 2022 complements the DfID seed funding assuring that ECOFEL is indeed global in reach, inclusive, balanced, innovative and supportive of member and candidate FIUs.

OTHER EGMONT GROUP PROGRAMMATIC AVCs

- FIU of Canada (FINTRAC-CANAFE) – Provided seed funding to the Egmont Group to help establish the Egmont Group Secretariat in Toronto in 2007.
- FIU of the United States of America (FinCEN) – Hosts and maintains the Egmont Secure Web (ESW) to support communication between the Egmont Group members, observer organizations and the Egmont Group Secretariat for AML/CFT purposes. The ESW is vital in facilitating the sharing of unclassified information between FIUs. It is an internal network that Egmont Group member FIUs use to communicate with each other by exchanging valuable financial intelligence and expertise.
- FIU of Saudi Arabia (SAFIU) – Has committed to annual donations for a period of 10 years starting in 2014. Also, SAFIU seconded an experienced Senior Officer to the Egmont Group Secretariat (from July 2014 to July 2017).
- FIU of Liechtenstein (EFFI) – Contributed to the Technical Assistance and Training Working Group Activities Fund for the development and delivery of the Egmont Corporate Vehicle and Financial Products Course. The aim of the course is to raise FIUs' knowledge of the international financial sector and corporate area and provide FIUs with a greater understanding of how to conduct advanced tactical analysis involving corporate vehicles and financial products. FIU of Liechtenstein also provided funding to support the publication of the Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) paper. The paper is a compilation of sanitized cases, which describe the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, undertaken by Egmont Group member FIUs.
- FIU of Taiwan (AMLD) – Has seconded experienced Senior Officers to the Egmont Group Secretariat (since September 2015) and funds multiple deliveries of the Egmont Group's Global Strategic Analysis Course. The aim of the course is to enhance an understanding among FIUs of the skills, practices and standards required to prepare quality strategic analysis and advise FIU analysts on the availability and usefulness of a range of supportive tools.
- U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) – Funded the development and delivery of the FIU Information System Maturity Model (FISMM) and Securing an FIU (SEC-FIU) Pilot Training Course. FISMM is an evaluation tool that assists FIUs in determining the maturity of their information systems. SEC-FIU assists FIUs in conducting a security risk assessment and identifying corresponding controls that will inform the development of internal security policies and procedures.

- FIU of Monaco (SICCFIN) – Contributed funds to hire a consultant for the Egmont Information Exchange Working Group Project on FIUs' Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies/Prosecutors.
- FIU Russian Federation (ROSFINMONITORING) – seconds an experienced Senior Officer to the Egmont Group Secretariat since December 2017.

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

For further information regarding the Egmont Group's Additional Voluntary Contributions Program please contact:

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