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Answer given by Ms Minzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.1.2025)

The amount of EUR 140 million corresponds to the overall allocation of Horizon Europe¹ funds to support more than 400 projects in the Western Balkans in the first three years of the programme, from 2021 to 2023. It was awarded on the basis of open and competitive calls for proposals.

Legal Entities from the Western Balkans supported by Horizon Europe (412 by now) can be found on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal via the Horizon Europe Dashboard (Country Profiles)².

The Commission is bound to ensure that no individuals or entities will receive EU funding if they are involved in criminal or unethical practices, terrorist financing, terrorist offences or offences related to terrorist activities, or other activities incompatible with EU values. This check takes place by collecting, counterchecking, and assessing the facts in case of allegations or suspicions concerning the above mentioned practices, offences and activities.

Regarding the higher education institutions referred to in the Honourable Member's question: the Commission is currently conducting such check following allegations in the press concerning Gaziantep Islam Science and Technology University. Such check is done in cooperation with the national agency in charge of implementing Erasmus+ in Türkiye. Should these facts be confirmed, a course of action will be decided accordingly, with a view to protecting EU values and budget. Measures that potentially can be applied include the suspension of payments of EU funds and the recovery of funds already paid. Concerning the Faculty of Islamic Sciences-Skopje, the Commission is not aware of any allegation of practices incompatible with EU values.

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

² https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs_digit_dashboard_mt/public/sense/app/1213b8cd-3ebe-4730-b0f5-fa4e326df2e2/sheet/0c8af38b-b73c-4da2-ba41-73ea34ab7ac4/state/analysis