



TOPICS:
AML/CFT

SOURCE

European Banking Authority

EBA: Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Supervision of Banks is Improving

- This report presents a **comprehensive review of the actions taken by national competent authorities (NCAs)** across the EU and EEA **to enhance their anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) supervision** of banks between 2018 and 2024.
- The findings show **marked progress**. Most NCAs have adopted risk-based AML/CFT supervisory strategies and plans aligned with EBA guidelines. Many created dedicated units and strengthened their supervisory manuals to ensure consistency and intrusiveness in supervisory practices. However, a minority of NCAs still lack fully compliant strategies or have only partially implemented EBA recommendations.
- Use of **supervisory tools** has become more strategic, with increased emphasis on targeted inspections and analytical assessments. While off-site supervision remains common, efforts to enhance intrusiveness and diversity of tools are evident.
- **Cooperation** has significantly improved. Domestically, NCAs have formalised arrangements with financial intelligence units (FIUs), tax authorities, and other supervisory bodies. Yet, practical usage of these channels remains inconsistent. Coordination with prudential supervisors has improved but varies in depth across Member States. Internationally, NCAs have made progress in using AML/CFT colleges and forming bilateral ties, though engagement with third countries remains a challenge.
- NCAs faced **several obstacles**: staffing shortages, budget constraints, overlapping external assessments (e.g., by FATF, IMF), and increased complexity from new EU sanctions and regulatory reforms. These factors delayed implementation in some jurisdictions.

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