



RAI Secretariat's

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

April – June 2008

Sarajevo, BiH

July 15, 2008



Structure of the report

- I. INTRODUCTION***
- II. RAI SECRETARIAT's PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES***
- III. FUNDRAISING and FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY of RAI SECRETARIAT***
- IV. TRAINING ACTIVITIES***
- V. MULTILATERAL EVENTS ATTENDED by RAI REPRESENTATIVES***



**RAI Secretariat's
NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

April - June 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

Following a period of transformation in the leadership and ownership of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative, as well as the change inside the Stability Pact and the launch of the Regional Co-operation Council in Sarajevo, RAI Secretariat started the implementation of the new Work Plan for 2008 – 2009 by conducting activities in several key areas:

- providing Secretariat services for the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative;
- executing and implementing RAI specific decisions, policies and strategies;
- assessing the individual country needs and priorities on the anti-corruption field and enhancing the regional cooperation in the fight against corruption;
- assisting the member countries in the process of adopting and implementing the international standards related to the fight against corruption;
- consolidating the relations with partner organizations.

The current report is analyzing the main activities conducted by RAI Secretariat in the second quarter of 2008.

II. RAI SECRETARIAT'S PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

During the observed period of 3 months RAI SECRETARIAT carried out activities on the following programmatic objectives, envisaged within the Work plan for 2008 – 2009:

Objective I – Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption by the RAI countries

INCLUDING A TRAINING MODULE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE THIRD EDITION OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR JUNIOR MAGISTRATES

In June 2008, RAI Secretariat organized for a third consecutive year the Summer School for Junior Magistrates from South – Eastern European countries. It is a forum, where young judges and prosecutors from the region meet, share experience on anti-corruption issues and gain knowledge from honorable lecturers from relevant national bodies, international organizations and civil society.

The first training module of the event was dedicated to “International Standards in Anti-corruption – the Implementation of Relevant Conventions of United Nations and Council of Europe”. The international instrument on focus was UNCAC and especially



chapter IV – “International Cooperation” and chapter V – “Asset Recovery” underlining the fundamental role of this convention to the unified fight against corruption.

As UNODC undertakes the Secretariat service for the Conference of State Parties to UNCAC and is in charge with the implementation of this convention, RAI Secretariat made efforts to secure participation of an expert from UNODC headquarters in Vienna. Finally, it was decided and Mr. Demosthenes Chryssikos – UNODC expert, Division for Treaty Affairs, Corruption and Economic Crime Section – took part in the event presenting UNCAC and particularly the up-mentioned two chapters of the convention.

UNCAC has been already signed and ratified by all RAI member countries. The next challenge is the implementation of the Convention to which the junior magistrates could contribute, as they are expected in the near future to lead the fight against corruption in their countries.

Objective 2 - Supporting the process of developing and implementing Regional and National Anticorruption Programs for Raising Public Awareness

Based on its experience in this area, RAI Secretariat reformulated this programmatic objective included in the Work plan for 2008 – 2009. Having in mind that RAI Secretariat has no resource to finance the expensive public awareness campaigns, as well as that, it is impossible to persuade donors for their support in that regard, national resources for public awareness should be identified and ensured by member countries. RAI Secretariat will focus more on supporting existing initiatives and involving the national counterparts in developing further activities as video clips, posters, banners etc.

As a major pillar in its raising public awareness activity, RAI Secretariat maintained and regularly updated its official web site. The web site is set to serve as comprehensive Resource Center for all the people, who show interest in the fight against corruption. It contains information about relevant events, publications, anti-corruption country resources and library, etc. In the second quarter of 2008, the staff of RAI Secretariat further proceeded to work on the new web site of the Initiative, which can be found on www.rai-see.org. A new design, content and conception are envisaged in order to match the changes within the Initiative and the Secretariat and to respond to certain anti-corruption needs in South – Eastern Europe. Each RAI member country has a separate web page providing relevant anti-corruption information about the country. Projects like Anti-corruption Consultancy Rooster, On-line News Center and Forum will be implemented in the new web site as well.

On April 21-22, 2008, in Podgorica, Montenegro, the Head of the Office and the Anti-corruption Expert took part in a Conference on “Implementation of Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption”. In parallel, as an effort to bring the Convention to the awareness of the society, the Secretariat supported the publishing of 500 copies of a brochure consisting of the Civil Law Convention on Corruption and the Explanatory Report both in English and Montenegrin languages. The brochure was also disseminated among the participants in the Summer School for Junior Magistrates from South – Eastern Europe (SEE).



Objective 3 - Assessment of the regional anti-corruption needs and specific requirements

The activities undertaken by the RAI Secretariat have been always based on precise assessment of the member states' concrete needs and requirements. This philosophy was implemented in the preparation for the Work Plan for 2008 – 2009, which was established after comprehensive inputs made by SEE countries.

As a further step in following this principle, RAI Secretariat plans to organize a Preliminary Meeting to the Steering Group Meeting envisaged to take place in the end of October, in Moldova. All the Senior Representatives will be invited to Sarajevo in the first half of September to attend the event. The main goal of the Preliminary Meeting will be to identify the current needs of the member states on the anti-corruption field one year after the adoption of the Work Plan, as well as to collect and summarize additional information about new trends and developments in the recent months in the area of the fight against corruption. The meeting will be also focused on further strengthening the role of the Senior Representatives and their pro-active involvement in supporting RAI activities. The staff of the Secretariat intends to raise discussions on concrete proposals in this aspect. The Senior Representatives will have a month and a half to the next Steering Group Meeting for submission and approval of the proposals on behalf of the national governments, which will provide the authorization needed and will enable them to reach concrete decisions during the Steering Group Meeting in Moldova.

The on-line Resource Center contains sections with information on internal reports on the implementation of the respective anti-corruption strategies and monitoring reports made by structures like European Commission, GRECO, World Bank and SIGMA, as an integrated part in the web page of each RAI member country. Collecting all the relevant information on anti-corruption makes easier the process of analyzing the data and the assessment of the real needs of the countries.

III. FUNDRAISING and FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY of RAI SECRETARIAT

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on April 13, 2007 in Zagreb, Croatia, and its implementation secured the financial sustainability of RAI Secretariat. Albania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Romania and Moldova already made their annual contribution of 24 000 Euro for 2008, thus financing the operational and programmatic budget of RAI Secretariat. The financial sustainability of the Secretariat, as the member states took full responsibility and covered entirely its operational budget, ensured the normal functioning of the office, which gives the opportunity for the staff to undertake some fundraising activities and concentrate on making efforts for attracting additional donors for support of its programmatic objectives.

In the period April – June 2008, RAI Secretariat's staff held several meetings with Mr. Virgil Constantin Ivan Cucu – Head of the Justice and Home Affairs Unit to the newly established Regional Cooperation Council, discussing the future cooperation and partnership between RAI, as one of the main initiatives under the former Stability Pact for South – Eastern Europe and RCC, as a successor to the Stability Pact.

On June 5 – 6, 2008, RAI Secretariat was visited by Ms. Michelle Barrett – USAID Regional Program Officer, who supported from the very beginning the existence and the



functioning of the Secretariat. The main topics discussed were the current activities of the office, as well as its readiness to continue to operate normally after the transition starting from the beginning of September, when all costs for RAI Secretariat's operational and programmatic activities will be fully covered only by funds provided by the member countries. In regard to RCC's role serving as a political shelter to all the existing former Stability Pact initiatives, Mr. Cucu took part in some of the discussions.

Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov – Anti-corruption Expert in RAI Secretariat attended the 7th General Meeting of Anti-corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) on June 25 – 27, 2008, in Tbilisi, Georgia, organized by the OECD, in cooperation with the OSCE and ABA ROLI. As a particular part of the meeting, he participated in a Consultation Session on “Role of Donors and International Organizations in the Fight against Corruption”. The purpose of this session was to allow bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies and international organizations to share information about their priorities for anti-corruption work in the ACN region. The relevant stakeholders on the anti-corruption field shared ideas about ongoing or planned initiatives and projects, trying to identify areas of common interest, which might provoke donors' complementary involvement and joint efforts.

IV. TRAINING ACTIVITIES

I. Summer School for Junior Magistrates from South - Eastern Europe

“International Standards and Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption”

RAI Secretariat, in cooperation with the hosting Montenegrin Directorate for Anti-corruption Initiative, co-organized the annual Summer School for Junior Magistrates from SEE on June 9 – 15, in Kotor, Montenegro. The event was organized for a third consecutive time and was dedicated to the “International Standards and Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption”. It consisted of four main training modules:

1. International standards in anti-corruption - the implementation of relevant conventions of United Nations and Council of Europe.
2. Anti-corruption policies and preventive measures - available tools and best practices.
3. EU experience regarding the international judicial cooperation in criminal matters stressing on the activity of structures like OLAF, EUROPOL, INTERPOL and EUROJUST.
4. Reform of the judiciary and anti-corruption, as challenges of the EU accession process.

The Summer School for Junior Magistrates was opened by Mr. Miras Radovic – Minister of Justice of Montenegro. The junior magistrates spent one week in academic environment in the beautiful Bay of Kotor gaining from the knowledge and experience of honorable lecturers from relevant state anti-corruption bodies, international organizations and civil society. The young prosecutors and judges were given the opportunity to exchange ideas and good practices on the anti-corruption field, to comment the weak and the strong points of their daily work, thus building bridges between the people in South – Eastern Europe.

The framework of the Summer School included presentations by experts from UNODC, Council of Europe, Slovenian Anti-corruption Commission, Vienna University of



Economics and Business, EULEX mission in Kosovo, Bulgarian Prosecutor's Office and Romanian Ministry of Justice. During the special outdoor session, the junior magistrates visited the Basic Court and the municipality of Kotor, holding meetings with Mr. Branko Vuckovic – president of the court and Mrs. Marija Maja Ćatović – president of the municipality.

The event was closed with a certificate ceremony lead by Mrs. Vesna Ratkovic – RAI Chairperson and Director of the hosting Directorate for Anti-corruption Initiative and Mr. Edmond Dunga – Head of RAI Secretariat, following the final written evaluation of the attendants.

2. Twinning Type Activities

“Co-operation and Exchange of Best Practices in the Fight against Corruption”

Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat and the Albanian High Inspectorate for Declaration and Audit of Assets (HIDAA) co-organized on May 25 – 28, 2008, in Tirana, Albania, a twinning type activity between the up-mentioned High Inspectorate and the newly established National Integrity Agency (NIA) in Romania. The twinning was initiated by RAI Secretariat following a request by the Romanian agency, which is set to act as an independently operating institution, with administrative control, specialized in verifying the assets got during the practice of a public function, conflicts of interest and incompatibilities. RAI Secretariat supported the funding for covering the traveling and accommodation costs of NIA representatives. The Romanian delegation included Mr. Alexandru Catalin Macovei – President of the Agency, Mr. Ilie Ene – General Director and the Integrity Inspectors – Ms. Ana – Luisa Badiu, Ms. Ioana Barabas – Pricop and Mr. Silviu Soroceanu. They were warmly welcome by Mrs. Fatmira Laska – HIDAA General Inspector and the whole team of the Inspectorate.

The main goal of this activity was to provide initial support for NIA, to allow the Romanian representatives to gain from the experience and the knowledge of their Albanian colleagues and to establish the basis for future partnership between the two homologue bodies.

The beginning of the twinning was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between HIDAA and NIA, thus drawing the route for the future exchange of ideas, knowledge and best practices, as well as setting a certain frames for co-operation in the field of declaration and audit of assets and in the fight against corruption in general.

During the days of the event the scope of HIDAA activities was fully introduced to the Romanian delegation. The random selection for persons to pass a full audit was presented in the presence of local media representatives. As a part of the presentation of the HIDAA organization and functioning, NIA inspectors visited all the premises of the Inspectorate. Lecturers from HIDAA staff delivered presentations on the main topics related to their daily work including:

1. Status, powers, legal and organizational framework of HIDAA;
2. Declaration of assets and private interests – types and forms of declarations, categories of declarants;
3. Case studies on prevention of conflict of interest and incompatibilities;
4. Auditing process – procedures and types of audit;
5. Administrative and criminal procedures;



6. Sanctions – administrative, criminal and disciplinary ones;
7. Cooperation and exchange of information with other bodies;
8. Training capacities, assistance and support to the public institutions and officials.

On behalf of RAI Secretariat the event was attended by Mr. Edmond Dunga – Head of the Office and Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov – Anti-corruption Expert.

It is envisaged this twinning type activity to have a second leg in Bucharest in the early autumn of 2008, when the Albanian side will make a return visit to NIA. It is possible the second leg of the twinning activity to be combined with back-to-back visits to Bucharest of the homologue Montenegrin and Serbian agencies in relation to the signing of a Memorandum for the establishment of Association of the Agencies dealing with Conflict of Interest and Declaration of Assets.

V. MULTILATERAL EVENTS ATTENDED by RAI REPRESENTATIVES

I. Conference on “Implementation of the Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption” – April 21 – 22, 2008, Podgorica, Montenegro

Mr. Edmond Dunga – Head of the Office and Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov – Anti-corruption Expert took part in the Conference on the “Implementation of the Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption” that took place on April 21-22, 2008, in Podgorica, Montenegro. The event was organized by the Montenegrin Directorate for Anti-corruption Initiative and Council of Europe. It was envisaged as a national promotion of the Civil Law Convention on Corruption in the Montenegrin society focusing on the mechanisms, applied by this only international instrument aiming at utilizing civil law remedies in the overall strategy to suppress corruption, such as requiring compensation to victims who suffered damage as a result of corruption, providing for the State’s civil liability and responsibility for negligent omissions of supervisory bodies that resulted in corrupt acts of public officials, for the nullity of contracts and clauses providing for corruption, for the protection of employees – whistleblowers, etc.

The Conference was attended by representatives of the police, state courts, ministries and other administrative bodies, civil society. The leading speaker of the event was Mr. Bostjan Penko – Council of Europe expert, who presented the Civil Law Convention on Corruption article by article.

The representatives of RAI Secretariat presented to the participants two practical issues during the second day of the Conference. Mr. Edmond Dunga delivered a presentation on the implementation of the Convention in Albania with a brief remark about its status in France and Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov made an overview of the relevant experience regarding Bulgaria.

In parallel, as an effort to bring the Convention to the awareness of the society, the Secretariat supported the publishing of 500 copies of a brochure consisting of the Civil Law Convention on Corruption and the Explanatory Report both in English and Montenegrin languages. It was disseminated during the Conference.

2. 7th General Meeting of the Anti-corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, June 25 – 27, 2008, Tbilisi, Georgia



The 7th General Meeting of the Anti-corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on June 25 – 27, 2008. Mr. Stanislav Aleksandrov attended the event on the behalf of RAI Secretariat. The staff of the Secretariat supported the organization of the meeting by using its contacts in the region and providing some quality participants to the event representing the relevant national authorities in South – Eastern Europe, as well as the NGO sector.

The meeting was organized by the OECD, in cooperation with the OSCE and the ABA ROLI and hosted by the Government of Georgia. It provided a unique regional multi-stakeholder forum for the transition economies, with flexible structure and high-level political attendance, which allowed for an open discussion between national governments, civil society, donors and international organizations and gave valuable networking opportunities.

The participants in the 7th ACN General Meeting made a review progress achieved by its members in fighting corruption and provided a forum for the ACN members to exchange experiences and good practices on the key priority areas of fighting corruption in the region, such as:

1. International anti-corruption conventions and monitoring mechanisms: prioritises for the ACN region;
2. Role of business in preventing and fighting corruption;
3. Investigation and prosecution of complex and high level corruption cases;
4. Prevention of corruption: management of conflict of interest and asset declarations for public officials;
5. Ways to mobilise societal support to anti-corruption political agenda.