



ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

REPORT

ON THE MEETING OF RSLO WITH THE SPAI SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES

- Venue** Sarajevo, SPAI RSLO's Headquarters
- Date** 2-4 October 2004
- Organizers** SPAI RSLO in cooperation with ABA CEELI – RIBA
- Participants** SPAI Senior representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Serbia
- Objectives**
- to identify the areas of national and regional priority where RSLO may be involved;
 - to develop the strategic plan for the senior representatives and SPAI RSLO during the next two years;
 - to ensure the full coordination and exchange of information between the SPAI senior representatives and RSLO.

I. CURRENT STATUS AND PRIORITIES

Each senior representative shared the latest information about the current status and priorities in implementing the national strategies.

Albania

Although not present within the meeting the Albanian Senior representative communicated a list of current priorities/concerns in relation with the SPAI framework:

- **public awareness and education.** It is proposed that in coming months some activities to be carried out with the objective of a constant awareness campaign on anticorruption issues.
- taking into account that the 9th December is the first anniversary of the **International Anticorruption Day**, these activities, followed by the main activity on the above-mentioned date, could be carried out within the first week of December 2005.
- moreover, laying down the bases on future activities (probably at the beginning of 2006) for the organization of an **artistical activity**, in cooperation with the art and culture association and relevant state institutions, with a topic on corruption and the role of the art, which will be followed by a specific budget and awards on the work carried out will constitute a meaningful public awareness activity. Such activity could serve as a starting point for an **Integrity Award Winners** regional activity.



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Bosnia and Herzegovina

Among the major current concerns the Senior representative stressed the focus of the authorities in creating a **specialized anticorruption body** with attributions mainly in prevention areas.

Apart from the request for assistance in this regard, the following additional areas were mentioned:

- the role of the **investigative journalists** in a broader concept of **awareness raising and education campaign**;
- the **reform of the public administration** with focus on preventive measures as the **rotation principle**;
- implementation of the **Brussels Declaration**.

Furthermore, it was announced that **BiH signed recently the UN Convention against Corruption**.

Croatia

The Senior representative highlighted the **Strategy for the reform of the judiciary** as a main precondition for starting negotiations with EU within the JHA Chapter. Within this Strategy the problem of corruption represents a main concern and priority of the Government.

It was stressed that **the necessary legislation was elaborated and it is now in force**. The assistance is required in implementing the legislative framework with focus on **corruption within judiciary and public administration**.

The Second Anticorruption Strategy is currently being drafted. The main difference between the first strategy (covering 2001 – 2004) and the current one is the focus on the implementation.

Areas where RSLO involvement would be welcomed:

- sharing best practices in conflict of interests;
- role of the citizens in preventing corruption – supervision role of the public regarding the activities of the governmental authorities;
- prevention of corruption within the public administration – eg rotation of the personnel.

Macedonia

Macedonian representative stressed that the **legal framework for fight against corruption is almost completely encircled**: amendments on the Constitution related to special investigation measures were adopted, the Criminal Code, the Law on Criminal Procedure, the Law on Prevention Corruption, the new Law on Public Prosecution and the Law on witness protection were adopted. The Law on political parties and the law on Financing Political Parties are in the same line.



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In direction of reducing possibilities for corruption are also forthcoming amendments on **election legislation** that reports about financing political campaigns to be delivered to the State Election Commission and published on web side.

Adopted **Law on Intercepting Communications** (in Parliament procedure), the **Law on Free Approach to Information of Public Nature** (in final stage in Parliament procedure) and the Law on Conflict of Interests (in work), as well as implementation of provisions of all these laws, provide higher level of efficiency of politics of criminal pursue, organization and methods of activities, and mutual cooperation between prevention and repression corruption bodies.

Republic of Macedonia needs to focus on the **implementation of abovementioned laws**. For that reason there is a need for organizing **seminars and workshops on practical aspects of the implementation of the new provisions**, specialized training of the **Judges and Public Prosecutors** and **strengthening of the administration** in all involved bodies.

Moldova

The Senior representative provided updates about the current status of implementation of the National strategy:

- The **10 measures approved in Brussels** were incorporated as national priorities within the strategy and Action Plan. This was done after a public consultation process coordinated by the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption;
- In cooperation with the Council of Europe several activities were organized focused on: **financing political parties and electoral campaigns** (a law is now in the drafting phase), the **delimitation of competence of law-enforcement institutions engaged in preventing and fighting corruption**;
- The Center is conducting a survey regarding „The **public perception and attitude about corruption**, as well as the work of the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption and other institutions engaged in fighting corruption.

The following **types of activities** were identified as possible to be implemented in cooperation with SPAI RSLO:

- Analytical trainings;
- Trainings on prevention;
- Financial support for the activities of prevention of corruption:
 - o Dissemination;
 - o Education;
- Trainings on management of financial resources in law-enforcements;
- Help in making the social inquiry on the public perception and attitude about corruption;
- Financial support for buying and implementing the computer program I 2;
- Assistance in development of data basis, including special data basis;



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- Trainings for officers;
- Financial and methodical support for the development of official website of the Centre for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption;
- Trainings on strategic and current planning;
- Assistance in development, including the legal framework, foreign affairs, cooperation with other similar institutions from other states and international specialized organizations;
- Knowledge exchange about procedures of selecting and employing new personnel.

Montenegro

The following proposals were made regarding activities to be implemented in cooperation with RSLO:

- Regional Conference on the **Role of Supreme Auditing Institutions in the Fight against Corruption**;
- Thematic Seminar/Specialized Training on the **Use of Special Investigative Means**;
- Regional Seminar on **Corporate Liability** (civil, administrative and criminal)
- **Research of Corruption** – commissioning studies on level of corruption within vulnerable areas as e.g. Judiciary.

Romania

The Senior representative provided updated information about the implementation of the **GRECO recommendations and 10 Measures adopted in Brussels**. A written report will be sent to the SPAI Resource Center.

The following areas of joint interest were stressed:

- The organization of specialized “**twinning type**” trainings;
- **Secondment of the junior staff** to attend the RSLO internship program;
- Implementation of **small projects for the NGOs**.

Serbia

The Senior representative pointed out the importance of developing activities to promote the **education** and the **reform of the public administration**.

Also, it was mentioned the importance of developing instruments for measuring the **implementation status of the national strategies** and their **compliance with the international standards**.



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II. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2006 AND 2007

The RSLO team briefly presented the current state of play in implementing the Strategic documents of SPAI and the plans for the near future.

The **Executive Secretary** offered an overview regarding the process of creating and developing the Regional Office and the targets to be achieved in the next 2 years. The stress was put on the **regional ownership principle** and the objective of creating a **self sustainable Regional Center for Excellence**.

The **Administrative assistant** presented the general rules applicable in relation with RSLO regarding the **financial management and organizational aspects**. The Senior representatives were briefed about the mandatory rules for requesting support, accounting and reporting.

The **Anticorruption expert** introduced the main features of the Plan and opened the floor for each item to be discussed by the Senior representatives.

Among the outcomes of the discussions the following ideas may be recorded:

Annual award

All Senior representatives supported the idea of the annual award but expressed reserves regarding the quick procedure approach. They asked the Regional Secretariat to produce an outline before the Steering Group Meeting and to discuss further, in Ohrid, the general rules applicable.

Many of them raised the question about the number of awards and many of them were in favor of having 8 of them (one per each country). Also, as the discussion developed it was raised the question of criteria that will ensure the selection of the best candidate.

Plan for 2006 - 2007

Very good inputs were received regarding the plan and also, a general agreement was reached on the 3 levels approach suggested by RSLO: SPAI, NATIONAL and RSLO.

It was also agreed that during the Steering Group Meeting Agenda each level to be discussed and approved separately. Based on this the agenda was redrafted by RSLO.

SPAI level activities/projects

- SPAI SG MTG
- SPAI Chairman
- SPAI annual award
- SPAI Resource Center
- Cooperation with SPAI partners



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National Level activities/projects

- priorities in implementing the Brussels Declaration
- national/regional events planned together with RSLO

Presentation of the RSLO activities/projects

- national and regional events
- twinning type activities
- regional tour
- internship program
- summer school

Also, the Senior representatives welcomed the proposal made by RSLO to have only one Steering Group Meeting per year and to increase the number of meetings focused on the programmatic priorities. RSLO suggested replacing the SG MTG from the first part of the year with the Regional tour, official visits of the Chairman and working meetings with the Senior representatives.

Internship program

RSLO representatives informed the senior representative that, with the support of the Brussels Office of the Special Coordinator, the Regional Secretariat is currently very close to obtain necessary funds for implementing a one year project. Also, it was mentioned that there are two options for such internships - an internship paid by a donor or an internship paid by the SPAI countries. Only Romanian representative expressed their openness to consider the second option.

III. ENSURING FULL COORDINATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE SPAI SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES AND RSLO

In preparation of the forthcoming Steering Group Meeting and in order to improve the communication between and among SPAI senior representatives and RSLO the following **proposals** were accepted:

- **RSLO** will develop the **first draft workplan until October 17;**
- **Each senior representative** will review the new workplan and submit their **proposals until October 19;**
- Together with the proposals each senior representative will send their **contribution to the work plan – national component** by:
 - selecting **3 to 5 measures from the Brussels Declaration** as national priorities;
 - identifying proposals for **2 national events** and **1 regional** event to be coorganised with RSLO.
- RSLO will include in the document the proposals received from the Senior representatives and resend it back for a **final internal check and approval on October 24.**



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- On **October 25** the workplan will be **sent out officialy** to all SPAI partners for comments and suggestions;
- Each **Senior representative** will submit **until October 25** the progress report for the Steering Group Meeting. The report will be developed according to the template distributed by RSLO;
- As agreed by the Senior representatives, RSLO will produce the **Progress report based on 5 SPAI pillars**;
- In order to have a permanent contact with each country, the Senior representative will identify and designate **an additional expert as contact point with RSLO**. The contact point will be in charge with permanently reviewing the content of the **SPAI Resource Center** available on internet at www.spai-rslo.org and submitiing extra necessary contributions.