



**STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)  
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)**

***SPAI RSLO's***

***NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT***

***April – June 2007***

***Sarajevo, BiH***

***July 15, 2007***



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# STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

## REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

### **SPAI RSLO's NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

**April – June 2007**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative - Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (SPAI RSLO) continued the implementation of the Work Plan adopted in 2005 by conducting activities in four key areas:

- developing the institutional capacities of the Regional Secretariat;
- providing Secretariat services for the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative;
- conducting trainings for the SPAI member countries;
- consolidating the relations with partner organizations.

The current report is analyzing the main activities conducted by the SPAI RSLO in the second quarter of 2007, highlighting - objective by objective - the activities carried out and the results achieved both in programmatic and organizational development areas.

#### **II. SPAI RSLO's PROGRAMATIC ACTIVITIES**

##### **2.1. SPAI RSLO PROGRAMATIC OBJECTIVES ENVISAGED WITHIN THE SPAI RSLO WORKPLAN, ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND RESULTS**

<b>Objective 1</b> – Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the <b>UN Convention</b> against corruption by the SPAI COUNTRIES
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##### **I. SPAI regional and national events**

- **Regional Conference on implementing the UN Convention against Corruption – Chapter 2 – Preventive measures**, Tirana, Albania, April 03–04, 2007. This Conference was organized by SPAI RSLO in cooperation with OSCE. Conference in Tirana was a Regional event for policy makers, representatives of the agencies with competences in preventing corruption and civil society.

The participants were from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, as well as from Council of Europe and UNMIK.



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- **Regional Conference on curbing Corruption in SEE**, Romania, Bucharest, May 03–04, 2007. The participants of this regional event were the members of Parliaments, Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Interior, Ministries of Defense, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Military Security Intelligence Agencies, Anti-corruption Agencies, Directorates of Counter Organized Crime, and Prosecutor Offices from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia (including Kosovo).

This conference focused on countering corruption, the greatest threat to stability and sustainable development in the Western Balkans. This conference, organized in cooperation with Marshall Center, strengthened the existing anti-corruption regional institutional framework by providing a platform for the sharing and disseminating of counter corruption best practices and lessons learned with respect to:

- The Role of Law Enforcement;
- Impact of Corruption Prevention Measures;
- Raising Awareness, Promoting Transparency, and Building the Partnership with Civil Society.

#### **2. Updating the “Compliance Matrix”**

- SPAI RSLO further developed the Compliance Matrix and address the Chapter on law enforcement;
- SPAI RSLO also updated:
  - SPAI Country Status Related to International Anti-Corruption Instruments (Convention status matrix) included in the Annual Report SPAI RSLO for 2006.
  - UN Convention Implementation Matrix

#### **Objective 2 - Supporting the process of developing and implementing Regional and National Anti-corruption Programs for Raising Public Awareness**

Based on its experience in this area, SPAI RSLO reformulated this programmatic objective within the Plan for 2006–2007. RSLO will focus more on supporting existing initiatives and involving the national counterparts in developing further activities as video clips, posters, banners etc.

#### **1. Programs for raising public awareness**

- In the scope of the Regional Conference on implementing the UN Convention against Corruption – Chapter 2 – Preventive measures, Tirana, Albania, April 03–04, 2007, the Working group session was organized, where the awareness campaigns were presented from the countries of the region, ranging from ones with general approach and finishing with dedicated and focused ones on: conflict of interest, hot lines, corruption in judiciary, customs corruption etc.



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- As one of the main objectives of the Regional Conference on curbing Corruption in SEE, Bucharest, Romania, May 03–04, 2007, a platform for sharing and disseminating of counter corruption best practices and lessons learned with respect to Raising Awareness, Promoting Transparency, and Building the Partnership with Civil Society was provided.
- Every event which is (co)organized by SPAI RSLO had/s a panel on raising public awareness.

#### **2. Updating and distributing the SPAIgram**

- Flash SPAIgram was finalized, printed and disseminated.
- SPAI RSLO also produced and distributed a wide range of materials and reports covering conducted activities.
- The Annual report 2006 was finalized and printed for dissemination.

#### **3. Redesigning, maintaining and regularly updating the official WEB site of the SPAI RSLO**

During April, 2007 SPAI RSLO continued redesigning and updating the official WEB site and the following actions were performed:

- The official WEB site of the SPAI RSLO was redesigned and released in May 2007
- The existing data have been transferred into the new design and new content was added, such as homepage news, texts of relevant conventions, publications, library, event, project and other contents
- Process of translation of the website into the regional languages has been launched

The SPAIgram and additional updated information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO are available on internet at: [www.spai-rslo.org](http://www.spai-rslo.org) and [www.stabilitypact.org](http://www.stabilitypact.org).

#### **Objective 4 - Assessment of the regional anti-corruption needs and specific requirements**

##### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**Strategic Planning Meeting in Sarajevo**, June 21-22, 2007 was envisaged as a preparatory discussion for the 11<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting that will be held in the first half of October, 2007.

The main purpose of the gathering was to give the opportunity to the SPAI Senior Representatives to get themselves familiar with the new developments within SPAI RSLO



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framework, as well as to provide substantial input and suggestions on the future work of the Initiative.

The participants were given an overview of the most important change in the SPAI RSLO structure - the fact that Stability Pact will be substituted by Regional Co-operation Council (RCC), which will provide the political umbrella to the Initiative in the future.

Following the transfer of the SPAI RSLO ownership to the region, the SPAI representatives were urged to give feedback on all basic documents and rules of the Initiative, since they are now the sole stakeholders. Within the session on the new structure of the Initiative, issues such as Terms of Reference for the New Chairman, New Regional Office, and Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding were discussed in order to enable a smooth transfer of the ownership to the SPAI countries and identify possible problem areas.

Further, each SPAI Senior Representative shared the latest information about the current status in anti-corruption activities and national priorities, after which the types of activities in which SPAI RSLO could provide assistance were identified.

Overall, it was concluded that SPAI RSLO should deliver the drafts of all basic documents of the Initiative to the SPAI Senior Representatives till the beginning of September, due to identifying possible revisions with the end of September chosen as a deadline. Proposals for hosting of the next Steering Group meeting were given by the Montenegrin and Romanian participants.

The meeting once again stressed the importance of the fact that SPAI countries have to raise the level of management of anti-corruption efforts on their own. One of the major steps towards that goal is certainly the transfer of the ownership and decision making process of the Initiative to the region.

### **III. NEW TRAINING MODULES FOR TRAINING JUNIOR EXPERTS**

SPAI RSLO developed specific module trainings dedicated to junior experts, aiming to provide magistrates and public officials with basic knowledge on anti-corruption standards. Currently trainings for young experts are delivered by RSLO during the Summer Schools and the Internship Program.

#### **I. Summer School for Junior Magistrates from SEE Countries – European Standards in Justice and Home Affairs. Focus area: International and Regional Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption and Organized Crime**

- Second Summer School for Junior Magistrates from SEE, Romania, Sovata, July 07–13, 2007 will be organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Romania, and with the support of SPOC Secretariat, SEEPAG, and USAID, within the Training center of the National Institute for Magistracy, in Sovata. SPAI RSLO was engaged in the organizational and programmatic aspects of the event during June 2007. The event will continue to include a dedicated section on implementing UN anti-corruption standards.



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This will be the regional event for junior prosecutors, judges and representatives of the Ministries of Justice.

This year Summer school will envisage promoting knowledge and regional cooperation in the field of anti-corruption, as well as experiencing sharing among magistrates from SPAI member countries. Summer School for Junior Magistrates, in addition to the lectures held by seasoned trainers from various anti-corruption institutions, will give judges and prosecutors from SPAI countries the opportunity for sharing experience with their counterparts and identify problem areas that they encounter in their everyday work environment.

The training for the magistrates will be designed to provide general information and raise issues regarding international standards in anti-corruption; the implementation of the relevant UN, CoE and OECD conventions; anti-corruption policies and preventive measures - available tools and best practices; EU experience regarding the international judicial cooperation in criminal matters (EUROJUST, European Judicial Network, EUROPOL, OLAF); and reform of the judiciary and anti-corruption challenges of the EU accession process.

*For full coverage of the first Summer school please visit [www.spai-rslo.org](http://www.spai-rslo.org).*

#### **2. SPAI RSLO Internship Program**

- Starting with September 2006, RSLO - with financial support of the Republic of Norway - initiated the Internship program for junior public officials from SPAI member countries. The first country that sent a junior official to RSLO was Moldova.

The third Intern, Ms. Ivana Nikolic, represented the Republic of Croatia, in the internship period May - July 2007.

According to the Terms of Reference and under the coordination of the Acting Head and Anti-corruption Expert, the Intern fulfilled the following tasks in the first half of her internship period:

1. Updated the Data base of SPAI Contacts/Countries;
2. Involved in the preparation, updating and redesigning of the official SPAI-RSLO WEB site - updating the Office Web Library (national anti-corruption strategies, legislation etc.); writing articles for the news section, translated the web site into Croatian language;
3. Built "UN Convention against Corruption Implementation Matrix" for SPAI countries; Analyzed Croatian legislative compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption;
4. Preparatory and organizational assistance for the Strategic Planning Meeting, Sarajevo, June 21-22, 2007 (meeting leadership preparation, questionnaire, review of meeting materials, Agenda, taking meeting minutes, assistance in meeting report writing and proposal documents for SPAI RSLO 2008-2009 Work Plan);
5. Other additional activities and tasks as directed by the SPAI RSLO Anti-corruption Expert (Narrative Report, Annual Report, official correspondence etc.);



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#### IV. SPAI RSLO's ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Taking into consideration the progress achieved by RSLO from its establishment regarding the SPAI Secretariat function and depositary of the Anti-corruption resource center, the SPAI Steering Group approved, within the Work Plan for 2006 and 2007, the following capacity development objectives:

##### I. Fundraising and sustainability of the RSLO

- **Memorandum of Understanding concerning Cooperation in Fighting Corruption through the South Eastern European Anti-Corruption Initiative (MoU)**, to fully transfer to the region the leadership and ownership of the anti-corruption initiative and ensure its financial sustainability.

SPAI RSLO in cooperation with the SPAI Chairman, Stability Pact Working Table III and in close consultations with the SPAI Senior Representatives drafted the MoU that was disseminated for the final review by the SPAI Senior Representatives and Stability Pact National Coordinators until January 31, 2006. Based on these inputs SPAI RSLO officially initiated the signature procedure by the relevant national authorities. MoU was opened for signature and ratification by the SPAI Member countries during the SEECP JHA Meeting in Zagreb on April 13, 2007. The MoU regulates the steps that are to be taken by the region in order to ensure the sustainability of the SPAI Regional Secretariat in Sarajevo and leadership on the Anti-corruption Initiative. Only two countries did not sign MoU, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Macedonia.

Republic of Montenegro already implemented the MoU and transferred the envisaged amount of money (24 000 euro) to the SPAI RSLO Bank account in June 2007.

- ***SPAI RSLO Strategic Planning Working Session***, conducted June 23, 2007 in Sarajevo.

During this Meeting, participants discussed issues regarding the transitional phase of the SPAI RSLO, and the updating of all the internal procedures and all the basic documents.

- No cost extension for period 01 July- 31 August 2007 has been approved.

##### II. Institution-building training program

###### **Training visit to SCSP office in Brussels, June 4-6, 2007**

SPAI RSLO Administrative Assistant, Ms. Dajana Stajic paid an official visit to Stability Pact Headquarters in Brussels. Since, starting from September 2007, the RSLO will switch from the current financial sources to the regional ownership and financing of the operational and programmatic costs mainly through SPAI countries, the main purpose of this visit was to get more familiar with EU standards and to adjust the current office procedures in terms of



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financial and other office rules to Stability Pact's rule. The program of the official visit included consultancies with financial and the human resources department (purchase orders, tenders, procurement policies, office procedures), presentation of the administrative procedures, attending the staff meeting etc. The envisaged result of the visit will be the new set of modified rules and procedures compiled for the RSLO office starting with September 01, 2007, that should be accepted by SPAI countries as the main future donor.

#### **V. EVENTS OF THE SPAI PARTNERS**

SPAI RSLO's representatives Mr. Sorin Sterie, Acting Head of SPAI RSLO, Mr. Goran Vujovic, Anti-corruption Expert, and Ms. Dajana Stajic, Administrative Assistant, attended the Meeting of Ministers of Justice and Ministers of Interior of the SEECP that took place in Zagreb, Croatia 12-13 April, 2007. This event was organized by the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Foreign affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

The general conclusion of the Conference, important for SPAI, is that a major step towards improving efficacy and regional ownership of anti-corruption activities in South Eastern Europe was made on April 13, 2007 when representatives of SEE signed the SPAI MoU. By signing this document the SPAI countries commit to fund the Regional Secretariat of the Anti-Corruption Initiative (SPAI-RSLO), based in Sarajevo, and to improve its governance mechanisms by establishing a Regional Chair-in-Office of the Initiative. The MoU will consolidate the capacity of the SPAI-RSLO to act as the South East European Anti-Corruption Resource Centre and to serve as a focal point for regional anti-corruption cooperation through the facilitation of best practices and the dissemination of lessons learnt. MoU also represent the success of national and regional efforts to fight corruption as a priority to achieve the objective of EU and Euro Atlantic membership.