



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

SPAI RSLO's

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

July – September 2007

***Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
11 October, 2007***



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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 first 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

II.1. SPAI RSLO PROGRAMATIC OBJECTIVES ENVISAGED WITHIN THE SPAI RSLO WORKPLAN, ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND RESULTS

Objective 1 – Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the **UN Convention** against corruption by the SPAI COUNTRIES

1. Updating the “compliance matrix”

- SPAI RSLO staff further developed the UN Convention matrix
- SPAI RSLO staff also updated Convention status matrix included in the Annual Report SPAI RSLO for 2006.

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. SPAI international event

- No events were conducted within this project area.

2. Programs for raising public awareness

- Every event which is (co)organized by SPAI RSLO has a panel on raising public awareness.



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3. Updating and distributing the SPAIgram

- The SPAI gram and additional updated information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO are available on internet at: www.spai-rslo.org and www.stabilitypact.org
- SPAI RSLO produced and distributed a wide range of materials and reports covering conducted activities.
- The Annual report 2006 is finalized and printed for dissemination.

4. Redesigning, maintaining and regularly updating the official WEB site of the SPAI RSLO

- During the period of July-September 2007 SPAI RSLO continued redesigning and updating the official WEB site.

Objective 3 - Sharing best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases in SPAI Countries

I. Twining type activity

- No events were conducted within this project area.

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

As a conclusion of the Strategic Planning Meeting in Sarajevo, June 21-22, 2007 which was envisaged as a preparatory discussion for the 11th Steering Group Meeting that will be held in first half of October, 2007, the RSLO Office was in permanent contact with the Senior Representatives aiming to provide substantial input and suggestions on the regional/countries needs and specific requirements, as well as on the future work of the Initiative.

According to above mentioned discussion the basic documents and rules of the Initiative were finished. Having in mind the transfer of the SPAI RSLO ownership to the region, the SPAI representatives will be urged to give feedback on all the basic documents and rules of the Initiative (since they are now the sole stakeholders) till the end of September in order to finalize discussions and adopt those documents during the Steering Group Meeting at the beginning of October 2007.

Basic documents that will be discussed and adopt within the Steering Group Meeting will be 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, SPAI Senior Representatives 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 should be identified.



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Overall, the SPAI RSLO delivered the drafts of all Basic Documents of the Initiative to the SPAI Senior Representatives to the beginning of September, due to identifying possible revisions with end of September.

The Steering Group Meeting should once again stress 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.

Objective 5 - Promoting the public – private partnerships in reducing the impact of corruption within the business environment

I. SPAI partner's event

- No events were conducted within this project area.

III. NEW TRAINING MODULES FOR 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 was organized in cooperation with 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, from Sovata. The event continued to include a dedicated section on implementing UN anti-corruption standards. This was the regional event for junior prosecutors, judges and representatives of the Ministries of Justice.

General themes for discussion were:

- 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);
- Reform of the judiciary and anti-corruption as challenges of the EU accession process.

This year Summer school was envisaged to promote knowledge and regional cooperation in the field of anti-corruption, as well as experience sharing among magistrates from SPAI member



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countries. Summer School for Junior Magistrates was characterized as being a great success given the fact that in addition to the lectures held by seasoned trainers from various anti-corruption institutions, judges and prosecutors from SPAI countries were given the opportunity to share their experience and identify problem areas that they encounter in their everyday work environment.

The training for the magistrates was designed to provide 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; EU experience regarding the international judicial cooperation on criminal matters (EUROJUST, European Judicial Network, EUROPOL, OLAF); and reform of the judiciary and anti-corruption ad challenges of the EU accession process.

All of the participants successfully passed the final written examination. The graduation ceremony was honored by the presence of Romanian Minister of Justice, Tudor Chiuariu, who personally handed in the certificates to the participants and continued the graduation ceremony with the official dinner.

For a full coverage of the first Summer school please visit www.spai-rslo.org.

2. SPAI RSLO Internship Program

- Starting with September 2006, with the financial support of the Republic of Norway, RSLO initiated the Internship program for junior public officials from SPAI member countries.

For the period May - July 2007 Ms. Ivana Nikolic, a Croatian student at an American University followed the internship program.

According to the Terms of Reference and under the coordination of the Acting Executive Secretary and Anti-corruption Expert, the Intern fulfilled the following tasks during May – July 2007 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 in Croatian language;
3. Prepared written thematic study/report on “Croatian National Anti-corruption Strategy”, with concrete data about law enforcement bodies and legislative framework in anti-corruption domain;
4. Built “UN Convention against Corruption Implementation Matrix” for SPAI countries; Analyzed Croatian legislative compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption;
5. Updated the relevant anti-corruption information on Croatia for the Anti-corruption Resource Center:
 - a. Croatian National Anti-Corruption Program 2006-



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- b. Croatian “Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for preventing and combating Corruption 2006/2008;
 - c. Croatian Criminal Code, Amendments to the Criminal Code;
 - d. Croatian Criminal Procedure Act;
 - e. Law on the Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime (2005);
 - f. Act on the Responsibility of Legal Persons for the Criminal Offences (2003);
 - g. Act on Amendments to the Courts Act (2007);
 - h. Act on Amendments to the State Attorney’s Office Act (2007);
 - i. Law on Prevention of Money Laundering (2004);
 - j. Updated Network Contact List of all country partners of SPAI-RSLO;
 - k. Prepared Contact List of Croatia institutions in charge of fighting corruption, including media, business, NGO’s and international resident organizations.
6. 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);
 7. Assisted RSLO staff in organizational and preparation activities for the “ Summer School for Junior Magistrates” in Sovata, Romania, July 07-13, 2007. Participation in the training;
 8. Other additional activities and tasks as directed by the SPAI RSLO Anti-corruption Expert (Narrative Report, Annual Report, official correspondence etc.);
 9. Prepared Report on her activities in her 3 months internship period.

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 two organizational objectives and priorities:

I. Fundraising and sustainability of the RSLO

During the Strategic Planning Meeting in Sarajevo, June 21-22 2007, the Senior representatives were kindly asked to lobby for the quick implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Cooperation in Fighting Corruption through the South Eastern European Anti-Corruption Initiative (MoU). For the period we analyse Bosnia – Herzegovina and Bulgaria have implemented already the MoU, followed by Albania and Romania.

RSLO Office also received unofficial information from the Macedonian partners that MoU will be signed soon.

On September 04, 2007, the SPAI RSLO Anti-corruption Expert had a Meeting with the Chief of Cabinet of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia in order to organize a Meeting between Mr. Dusan Petrovic, Minister of Justice and Mr. Sorin Sterie, Acting Head of SPAI



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RSLO. The Anti-corruption Expert presented all necessary information regarding SPAI RSLO and its transitional phase emphasizing the importance of signing the MoU by which Parties agree to accept joint responsibility for the SPAI and to ensure the financial sustainability of the activities of SPAI RSLO.

Regarding the same issue, the Anti-corruption Expert had a Meeting with Mr. Dusan Petrovic, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia. He presented again all necessary information regarding SPAI RSLO and its transitional phase. Meeting was held on September 11, 2007 and Anti-corruption Expert emphasized the importance of signing and implementing the MoU, as well as the necessity of regional cooperation in fighting corruption and explained the future development of Sarajevo Office.

SPAI RSLO staff organized Meeting between Dr Busek, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact and Mr. Dusan Petrovic, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia. Meeting was held on September 17, 2007 and Anti-corruption expert participated this Meeting.

During the above mentioned Meeting, Dr. Busek explained the situation in Stability Pact FOR South Eastern Europe and its future transfer to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). In this regards it is emphasized that the region is developing well and that decision making process should be on the region. Mr. Busek underlined that RCC can help improvement of judicial system in SEE region. On behalf of Stability Pact, Mr. Busek offered help regarding education of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of the Serbia, as well as help in improvement of the current situation in judicial system in Serbia. He also mentioned that the next Conference of Ministers of Justice can be held in Belgrade. Dr. Busek concluded that the Republic of Serbia did not sign MoU and underlined the importance of Serbia's signing the MoU, but its implementation too as soon as possible.

Mr. Petrovic welcomed Dr. Busek's help offered. Minister presented the essence of the Strategy of the Judicial Reform in Serbia and highlighted the importance of fighting corruption especially in judiciary and in this regards he mentioned that Serbia needs reelection of judges and new laws that regulate judiciary system. Mr. Petrovic said that above mentioned process should end till the end of 2008 and will result with independent, free of corruption, and efficient judiciary in Serbia. Dr. Busek once again asked what kind of help Serbia needs for above mentioned process and the answer was that Serbia has strength to reform judiciary system, but that Serbia needs political support. Minister concluded that he sees no obstacles for signing the MoU and that he is optimist in this regards.

2. Institution-building training program

- STRATEGIC PLANNING

During July-September period of time the vivid Strategic Planning discussion was conducted.

The RSLO staff discussed issues regarding the transitional phase of the SPAI RSLO, the way of replacement of Acting Head and the second Anti-corruption Expert, as well as the Annual



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Report, updating Office Policy Manual, the structure of the next Narrative Report, Work Plan 2008-2009, and other financial related issues.

The other Basic Documents were also discussed in order to be finalized for the Steering Group Meeting envisaged to be held on October 09-10, 2007.

The conclusions of the Strategic Planning were that the transitional phase should be conducted as smoothly as possible and that implementation of the MoU should be finalized as soon as possible in all the member countries.