



**STABILITY PACT**  
FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTICORRUPTION INITIATIVE  
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

**FINAL REPORT**

**ON IMPLEMENTING THE  
SPAI RSLO WORK PLAN FOR 2004 – 2005**

STABILITY PACT  
ANTICORRUPTION  
INITIATIVE

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## FINAL REPORT

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**FINAL REPORT**

**I. SPAI RSLO's ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

**SPAI RSLO is the executive implementing body** of the SPAI with the mission to become **Anti-corruption Center of Excellence** for the countries of the South Eastern Europe. The main tasks of the office are to **complement** international and national anticorruption efforts, **facilitate** and **promote** the implementation of activities in partnership with the existing and/or new programs/initiatives that are engaged in the process of fighting corruption and **avoid duplication** and **overlapping** of efforts.

SPAI RSLO activity in 2004 – 2005 covered various aspects that usually new organizations have to face with in the incipient phases. Numerous challenges had to be met from the efforts to **set up the office** – both as legal entity and operational unit, **staff changes, to identification of the mission and objectives** to be achieved. All these challenges were increased by **the high expectations and pressure** for results and impact in short time from the donor community and main stakeholders of the organization.

In less than two months, the Office was able to organize the **7th SPAI Steering Group Meeting** during which the Workplan for 2004 - 2005 was approved. From that moment, SPAI RSLO focused its efforts on implementation by developing and implementing specific activities in cooperation with the SPAI senior representatives and partner organizations. These activities included over **60 workshops, conferences, bilateral meetings, press conferences, on site visits** and many other events that were attended by more than **3000 participants/experts** from SEE countries.

Within the timeframe, analyzed RSLO managed to become **fully operational, developed partnerships with international organisations** (Council of Europe, OECD, UNODC, OSCE, USAID, ABA CEELI, TI, OSI...) and **initiated cross table cooperation within the Stability Pact framework (Invest Compact and E- SEE).**

Furthermore, the Initiative as such, benefited from the **reinforcement of the political commitment to curb corruption** (SPAI Ministerial Declaration on 10 Joint measures to curb corruption in SEE). In this context, SPAI RSLO ensured **permanent and direct communication with the 8 member countries**, become a **recognised partner** and **facilitator** for anticorruption initiatives, as well as a **focal point** for anticorruption activities in SEE.

**2. SPAI RSLO'S PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES**

During 2004 – 2005, SPAI RSLO focused its activity mainly on achieving the programmatic objectives approved by the SPAI Steering Group.

<b>Objective I</b>	<b>Goal</b>
Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the UN Convention against corruption by the SPAI COUNTRIES	All SPAI countries to sign, ratify and implement the UN convention against corruption



**Achievements**

- From the beginning of the project **all 8 countries become signatory** parties to the Convention and **4 of them already ratified it (Croatia, Romania, Montenegro, Serbia);**
- RSLO organized in cooperation with its partners (SEECF, CoE, OSCE, UNDP, UNODC) **4 regional conferences** (Sarajevo, Durrës, Belgrade and Sofia);
- It was developed the **partnership with UNODC** in promoting the Merida Convention in SEE;
- RSLO initiated the **cooperation with Council of Europe** in observing the relations among the current anticorruption legal instruments – joint event;
- Implementation of UN Convention become the **1st measure within the Brussels Ministerial Declaration;**
- **Compliance matrix** was developed as a tool to assist experts in comparing existing anticorruption legislation and institutions.

**Objective 2**

Developing and coordinating a Regional Anticorruption Program for Raising Public Awareness

**Goal**

Region-wide implementation of the Anticorruption program for raising public awareness

**Achievements**

- RSLO initiated and conducted its own **Dissemination Campaigns** by widely distributing the SPAIgrams, folders, leaflets and posters;
- A very comprehensive **Anticorruption Resource Center** is available on the SPAI Official WEB site ([www.spai-rslo.org](http://www.spai-rslo.org));
- RSLO promoted region wide a **Media campaign** by organizing press conferences after each public event and promoting the **UN Anticorruption TV spots** – with subtitles in local languages).

**Objective 3**

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

**Goal**

To build a regional framework for sharing and exchanging information on the available tools, techniques and means of investigation, court procedures, case studies and best practices in fighting high level corruption

**Achievements**

- RSLO organized in cooperation with its partners (OSCE, UNDP, UNODC) **3 regional events** (Podgorica, Běci and Sofia);
- The trainings were focused on **practical aspects** as:
  - investigation and prosecution of corruption cases - policy perspectives and development;
  - corruption cases in public procurement;
  - seizure, freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of corruption;
  - international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases;
- RSLO organized the **first twinning type activities** within the region by bringing together anticorruption prosecutor from Montenegro and Croatia.



<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Goal</b>
Assessment of the regional anticorruption needs and specific requirements	To identify regional priorities and needs for assistance in fighting against corruption
<b>Achievements</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessing the <b>impact of the anticorruption efforts 2000 - 2004</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Regional Conference in cooperation with OECD (Bucharest, November 2004)</li> <li>■ Inputs for the SCOPING PAPER - independent assessment commissioned by OECD</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Assessment of the <b>regional anticorruption needs and specific requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ RSLO regional tour (March – April 2005)</li> <li>■ RSLO working meeting with the SPAI Senior representatives (October 2005)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

In addition to all these activities, SPAI RSLO was also involved in the process of drafting several **studies, laws, strategies**:

- Under the SPAI Chairman coordination, RSLO provided inputs for **two important studies**:
  - possible monitoring mechanisms for Merida Convention (initiated by Transparency International)
  - comprehensive assessment of regional ownership in SEE (initiated by the Stability Pact)
- In cooperation with OSI, RSLO promoted and distributed region wide the “**Booklet on Combating Conflict of Interest at Local Governments in CEE**”;
- RSLO Executive Secretary was a member of the Working Group for drafting the **New Public Procurement Law for Montenegro**;
- SPAI RSLO, in cooperation with ABA CEELI, reviewed the **Moldavian Anticorruption Strategy**, and provided suggestions for its improvement.

### 3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

<b>Objective I</b>	<b>Goal</b>
RSLO – Secretariat of SPAI	RSLO is to provide full Secretariat support to the SPAI
<b>Achievements</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SPAI RSLO successfully organized the <b>last three Steering Group Meetings</b> by ensuring the participation of all 8 member countries, various partner organisations and donors;</li> <li>- SPAI RSLO managed to <b>implement all decisions taken by the SPAI Steering Group</b></li> <li>- RSLO staff provided <b>assistance to the SPAI Chairman</b> – reports, official visits etc.;</li> <li>- SPAI RSLO developed <b>direct communication</b> with the SP WT III, partner countries and organizations;</li> <li>- SPAI RSLO in cooperation with ABA CEELI Washington developed and maintained the <b>SPAI web site – www.spai-rslo.org</b>.</li> </ul>	



<p><b>Objective 2</b></p> <p>Building the necessary infrastructure for developing the research and information centre</p>	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>To provide the SPAI countries experts and policy makers with tools able to ensure direct and immediate communication and access to substantial and specialized information on anticorruption initiatives</p>
<p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SPAI RSLO, in cooperation with the SPAI Senior representatives and with assistance of ABA CEELI Washington, developed a multidisciplinary <b>Anticorruption Resource Center</b> available on internet at <a href="http://www.spai-rslo.org">www.spai-rslo.org</a>. The Resource Center includes information for all 8 member countries structured under the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Anticorruption Library</b> - national strategies, relevant legislation, institutional framework – institutions with competences in fighting corruption, progress reports, UN compliance matrix, studies, statistics;</li> <li>■ <b>Anticorruption Network</b> – list of policy makers and experts involved in the fight against corruption. The information covers the following sectors: governmental, nongovernmental, resident international organizations, business environment, mass media ;</li> <li>■ <b>Anticorruption Projects</b> - Project proposals (standard project proposal will be available via INTERNET), Ongoing projects, Archive;</li> <li>■ <b>Anticorruption Calendar</b> - envisaged events at national and regional level.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<p><b>Objective 3</b></p> <p>Enhancing the regional capacities to cooperate and interact</p>	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>To develop a permanent framework for reviewing anti-corruption policies and practices, sharing information and lessons learned</p>
<p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SPAI RSLO organized various <b>trainings for governmental officials, prosecutors, judges and representatives of the civil society</b> (complete list of events organized or attended by RSLO’s representatives available within the attached documents);</li> <li>- SPAI RSLO developed and updated the <b>Anticorruption network</b> which now includes, for each member country, a list of contact points from all sectors governmental, nongovernmental, resident international organizations, business environment, mass media. The Network is available at <a href="http://www.spai-rslo.org">www.spai-rslo.org</a> within the Anticorruption Resource Center;</li> <li>- SPAI RSLO initiated in 2005 the <b>Internship program</b>;</li> <li>- SPAI RSLO initiated the <b>twining type activities</b> which bring together, in the working environment experts, prosecutors or judges from SPAI countries. The first such exercise brought together, for one week, anticorruption prosecutors from Croatia and Montenegro.</li> <li>- SPAI RSLO initiated the <b>Strategic Planning Sessions</b> with the participation of the SPAI Senior representatives.</li> </ul>	



<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Goal</b>
Fundraising and sustainability of the RSLO	To develop and implement a Fundraising Plan and activities to secure additional funding, diversify sources of funding, and ensure adequate and sustainable resources to support RSLO work.
<b>Achievements</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2004 – 2005 SPAI RSLO approached numerous <b>donors and potential partners</b>;</li> <li>- Following the implementation of RSLO's fundraising policy approximately <b>126.002 USD</b> were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>33.410 USD</b> from the SPAI member countries – mainly as <b>in kind contributions</b>;</li> <li>■ <b>80.492 USD</b> from SPAI partners – mainly as <b>matching funds</b> in organizing public events;</li> <li>■ <b>10.000 EURO</b> from the Norwegian Government – <b>grant</b> for implementing the RSLO internship program in 2006.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Goal</b>
Institution-building training program	To develop and refine organizational capacities of the SPAI RSLO in order to achieve the ultimate goal of becoming a center of excellence in promoting, delivering and monitoring anti-corruption initiatives of the SPAI countries.
<b>Achievements</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SPAI RSLO attended and successfully completed the following specific trainings conducted by RIBA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Financial Management and Grant Financial Reporting</b> – March 15, 2004</li> <li>■ <b>Financial Management Training</b> – July 19 – 23, 2004</li> <li>■ <b>Project Cycle Management, M&amp;E and Reporting Skill Training</b> – December 6 – 8, 2004</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

#### 4. GUIDELINES FOR A STRATEGIC PLAN IN 2006 – 2008

Based on the experience gained after implementing the Workplan for 2004 -2005, SPAI RSLO will make the best use of its current financial and human resources, in order to achieve the following **top priority objectives**:

- **Fundraising in order to secure the sustainability of the Office.** SPAI RSLO, in cooperation with the main stakeholders (Stability Pact, USAID, ABA CEELI, SPAI Chairman and senior representatives) will develop, in the first 3 months of 2006, a **Strategic plan to approach all possible donors**. The effort will be focused on securing sufficient financial resources, both for **operational and programmatic activities in 2006 and 2008**;
- **Consolidating the current status of the Office as Regional focal point by further strengthening the cooperation relations with partner organisations.** SPAI RSLO will continue to build the **partnerships with prestigious partner organizations** as European Commission, Council of Europe, UNDP, UNODC, OECD, ABA CEELI and USAID. The immediate target will be to co-organize thematic events in cooperation with all above mentioned organizations;
- **Focus on impact of anticorruption efforts in the SPAI member countries.** SPAI RSLO will pay special attention to the **progress reached by the member countries** towards EU accession. A key objective will be to ensure a region wide dissemination of the success stories in implementing the **SPAI Ministerial Declaration on 10 Joint measures to curb corruption in SEE (Brussels, May 2005)**.