



**ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE**

NARRATIVE REPORT JULY - SEPTEMBER 2004

Starting with July 2004, the SPAI RSLO was directly and effectively involved in the implementation of its Workplan approved in mid June by the SPAI Steering group through the silence procedure.

The human and financial resources of the Office were focused on the achievement of both programmatic and organizational development objectives. In this respect, preparations were made well in advance for the organization of the first international event which was designed and implemented 100% by the Office in Sarajevo – The Start up regional workshop on the UN Convention against Corruption, held in Sarajevo in September. Also, SPAI RSLO staff participated to training activities and major international events that required active and substantial contributions.

Within the above mentioned timeframe, SPAI RSLO enhanced the level of direct contacts and dialogue with possible SPAI partners as United Nation office on Drugs and Crime, South Eastern Europe Cooperation Process and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This approach also included negotiations for partnerships in implementing the SPAI objectives and possible additional financial contribution to the SPAI RSLO resources.

The current report is analyzing the main activities conducted by the SPAI RSLO, highlighting, objective by objective, the activities carried out and the results achieved both in programmatic and organizational development areas. The last section consists in updated information about several changes of the SPAI RSLO staff and SPAI RSLO financial overview.

I. PROGRAMATIC ACTIVITIES

The report under current section is structured in two parts:

- SPAI RSLO Programmatic objectives, activities and results
- SPAI partner activities and SPAI RSLO involvement

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

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



**ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE**

Objective 1.1 - Regional start up workshop - activities

- Beginning of July Anticorruption Expert finalized the draft agenda and background presentation papers;
- in mid July the invitations were sent to all SPAI senior representatives with request of extending the invitation also to experts in international legal instruments;
- UN office in Vienna, the main partner organization for this project, received and accepted the SPAI RSLO proposal to contribute to this event with experts;
- In mid August it was also reached the final agreement with the SEECF Chairmanship in Office to place the event under the auspices of the Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption. Also, the SEECO CiO extended the invitation to the three non SPAI members of SEECF – Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey.
- End of August, SPAI RSLO sent the invitation to the SPAI and SEECF countries embassies in Sarajevo with the request of designating participants within the diplomatic missions.
- Qualitative and quantitative performance criteria provided by the SPAI RSLO Workplan were met:
 - all SPAI countries were represented by national delegations consisting in SPAI senior representatives, experts and diplomats;
 - two SEECF (non SPAI) countries – Greece and Turkey - attended the meeting being represented by diplomats.
 - SPAI countries delegations delivered national statements including a timeframe for signing, ratifying and implementing the UN Convention against Corruption;

Objective 1.2 - Identifying the additional follow-up activities

- participants expressed the support for follow up events organized by SPAI RSLO, specific request being made with regard to the preventive measures aspect and international cooperation;

Objective 1.3 - UN Convention against corruption awareness campaign

- SPAI RSLO in cooperation with the Stability Pact - Office of the Special Coordinator, WT III and the SEECF CiO ensured the coverage by national and international media; The event was promoted on both web pages of the Stability Pact and SEECF CiO;
- During the meeting the SPAI RSLO and the UN representatives ensured the distribution of a CD including a set of UN Publications including explicative documents, toolkits, manuals and additional anticorruption related studies;
- During the meeting in cooperation with UN representatives the RSLO distributed the anticorruption clip released by the UN Office in Vienna.



ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

Negotiations were started by RSLO an UN in order to ensure the distribution of the clip within all SPAI countries.

Objective 1.4 - Development of the “compliance matrix”

- during the meeting the SEECF representatives informed about the development of a compliance matrix covering the Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption.
- The SEECF CiO addressed to the SPAI Chairman and SPAI RSLO the request for supporting SEECF in developing the matrix and in providing inputs for a permanent update with regard to the status of implementing the UN Convention against Corruption by the SPAI and SEECF countries.
- The request was accepted in principle by the SPAI Chairman and SPAI RSLO and it will be further discussed and open for approval during the SPAI 8th Steering Group Meeting.

Objective 2 - Developing and coordinating a Regional Anticorruption Program for Raising Public Awareness

Objective 2.1 - Developing the project outline and fund raising

- According to the Workplan SPAI RSLO started negotiations with Transparency International Berlin on possible development of a project outline regarding the SPAI regional and national awareness campaign;
- No decision on joint program was reached due to the agendas of the national TI chapters;
- Still, potential bilateral projects may be started with some TI chapters as BiH, Croatia and Romania;
- SPAI RSLO initiated negotiation with Un Office in Vienna and TELESEE (a Regional TV Broadcasting Company) for distributing the UN Anticorruption clips in SPAI countries.
- SPAI RSLO is analyzing the possibility of organizing a Regional Start up workshop regarding the anticorruption awareness campaigns –design, message and impact.

Objective 2.2 - Updating and distributing the SPAI gram

- SPAI RSLO, Stability Pact Office of the Special Coordinator, ABA CEELI and USAID ensured a region wide distribution of the SPAIgram both in electronic format and hardcopy.

Objective 2.3 - Maintaining and regularly updating the official web site of the SPAI

- the SPAI gram and additional updated information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO are available on internet at: www.nobribes.org/spai and www.stabilitypact.org



**ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE**

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

Objective 3.1 - Regional start up Workshop on „Fighting against high level corruption in SPAI Countries”

- SPAI RSLO and OSCE Mission in Serbia and Montenegro, Office in Podgorica reached agreement regarding the co-organization and co-funding the event that is to be organized in Podgorica, 5 –7 October;
- Draft agenda and background papers were developed by the Anticorruption Expert in cooperation with the OSCE representative
- In preparing the meeting a template was developed for the national reports including a case study, legislative questionnaire and statistical data;
- In preparation for the event SPAI RSLO and the partner organization have meetings twice a month;
- Agreement was reached to edit together a booklet regarding the event in Podgorica, based on the case studies presented by the SPAI countries.

Objective 4 – Assessment of the regional anticorruption needs and specific requirements

Objective 4.1 – Developing the template for gathering the information

- The template is developed and distributed in preparation of the SPAI RSLO public events.

Objective 4.2 - Drafting the report on the findings of the assessment

- Based on the inputs received from SPAI countries, SPAI RSLO prepares for the Steering Group Meeting a list of specific requirements;
- Furthermore, in August, SPAI RSLO answered to a request made by OECD regarding a Scoping paper regarding the lessons learned by SPAI countries since the Initiative was adopted and the challenges of the future. The SPAI RSLO will contribute further to this assessment undertaken by OECD. The first draft report will be released during the back to back SPAI meetings that are to be organized in November, in Bucharest.

I.2. SPAI partner activities and SPAI RSLO involvement

SPAI RSLO was invited and attended two major events organized by SPAI partner organizations: Council of Europe and ABA CEELI.



**ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE**

PACO IMPACT - First Start up Regional Conference in Budva, Serbia and Montenegro, during 8, 9 and 10 of July.

Under the PACO IMPACT PROJECT, Council of Europe organized the **First Start up Regional Conference** in Budva, Serbia and Montenegro, during 8, 9 and 10 of July. The Conference addressed the issue of implementing anticorruption plans in South - Eastern Europe.

The Conference was attended by participants from all project areas representing governmental authorities, civil society and NGO community: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, “the former Republic of Macedonia. The project area also includes Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) currently under the interim administration of UNMIK in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). The SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary also attended the Conference.

The Conference aimed to achieve the following results:

- to finalize the list of activities and actions that will constitute the WORKPLAN for the PACO IMPACT PROJECT (July 2004 – March 2005);
- shared experiences among the participants in dealing with the difficulties arising from the preparation and drafting of anti-corruption plans, implementation of international legal instruments related to corruption, organized crime and prosecutorial services;
- establishment of regional networking capacities and a more efficient cooperation between the countries.

ABA/CEELI’s Annual Meeting, July 10 - 16, Tirana, Albania

On July 10 and 11, the SPAI RSLO participated in **ABA/CEELI’s Annual Meeting**, held in Tirana, Albania. The Anti-Corruption Expert Cornel Calinescu was invited to participate in a panel on regional initiatives and innovative programming to fight corruption. The RSLO representative presented a history of the RSLO and its programmatic activities to an audience of more than 50 of ABA/CEELI’s field-based liaisons, local staff attorneys, and Washington-based staff.

Mr. Calinescu’s presentation was part of a roundtable discussion on global and regional initiatives, including the history, purpose, and ABA/CEELI’s role in support of both the SPAI and OECD Anti-Corruption Action Plan Initiative for Eurasia. The roundtable also highlighted the work of ABA/CEELI’s Eurasia Regional Anti-Corruption Advisor program, including its recent success in reforming the Inspector General function within the Georgian Ministry of Justice.



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

SPAI RSLO representative also attended a roundtable on the status of freedom of information (FOI) legislation and implementation in Central Europe and Eurasia. Experts from Bosnia, Romania, Albania and Croatia discussed their country's past and future challenges in drafting and implementing FOI laws, and suggested methods for encouraging citizens to access information once it has become available.

Following the roundtables, Mr. Calinescu met with several members of ABA/CEELI's staff who were interested to learn more about the RSLO and ways in which they might be more involved in supporting its programs.

II. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This section includes information about the activities carried out by SPAI RSLO staff in order to ensure the efficient functioning of the Office and sustainability. The information is structured according to the five major objectives set forth within the SPAI RSLO WORKPLAN FOR 2004 – 2005.

OBJECTIVE I – SPAI RSLO - THE SECRETARIAT OF SPAI

SPAI RSLO negotiated and agreed with the Romanian SPAI Senior representative to co organize the 8th SPAI Steering Group in Bucharest, Romania in November. This decision was also made upon the agreement reached by SPAI RSLO with OECD and SEECF Chairmanship in Office to organize back to back meetings for SPAI and SEECF countries. Based on this decisions, endorsed by the SPAI Chairman and Stability Pact Office of the Special Coordinator, SPAI RSLO acted as the SPAI Secretariat in preparing the meetings in Bucharest. The program at glance of the back to back meetings looks as follows:

1st of November 2004	
Afternoon	ARRIVAL OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE SPAI – OECD AND SPAI STEERING GROUP BACK TO BACK MEETINGS
2nd of November, 2004	
10:00 – 17:30	INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE: ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE CHALLENGES. Meeting for members of the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI) Organizers: Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Host: Ministry of Justice of Romania
3rd of November, 2004	
10:00 – 16:00	PROGRAM FOR THE SPAI SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Briefing with the SPAI RSLO staff



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to the SPOC Secretariat (TBC) • Visit to the National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office (TBC) • Working lunch
17:30 – 19:30	FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR MEETING
20:00	OFFICIAL DINNER OFFERED BY THE ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND SPAI RSLO
4TH OF NOVEMBER, 2004	
9:30 - 17:30	THE 8 th SPAI STEERING GROUP MEETING Organizers: Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (SPAI RSLO) Host: Ministry of Justice of Romania
5th of November, 2004	
10:00 – 14:00	SEECP Consultative group for implementing the Joint Campaign o Fight Organized Crime and Corruption in South East Europe. Organizers: SEECP Romanian Chairmanship in Office Host: Ministry of Justice of Romania
6th of November, 2004	
Morning	DEPARTURE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Objective 2 - BUILDING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPING THE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTRE

In achieving this objective SPAI RSLO developed specific questionnaires and template reports which were distributed to the experts participating within the events organized by the Office. The information gathered is centralized by the Anticorruption expert and structured according to the SPAI RSLO Workplan in the **Regional Anticorruption Network** and **Regional Anticorruption Data Base**. The deadline provided by the Workplan in December 2004. The achievement of this two specific objectives is influenced by the development of the electronic environment for storing and distributing the data – WEB PAGE and DATABASE.

Objective 3 - ENHANCING THE REGIONAL CAPACITIES TO COOPERATE AND INTERACT

Under this objective the SPAI RSLO managed to provide for on anticorruption initiatives for the policy makers and experts of the SPAI countries and also to ensure direct contact among the countries of the region in their joint efforts to fight. The specific



**ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE**

objectives were achieved by SPAI RSLO by organizing the Start up Regional Workshop on UN Convention against Corruption.

Objective 4 - FUNDRAISING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE RSLO

According to the Workplan the Executive Secretary and the Anticorruption Expert engage in dialogue with potential donors, wrote and submit proposals in this respect. In July 2004 together with OSCE – Office in Podgorica, RSLO representatives reached agreement regarding the joint organization of the Second SPAI RSLO international event regarding the FIGHT AGAINST HIGH LEVEL CORRUPTION IN SPAI COUNTRIES – workshop included within the SPAI WORKPLAN under the third programmatic objective “Sharing best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases”. The OSCE agreed to cover 75% of the costs for organizing the event. Following this agreement the SPAI RSLO Anticorruption Expert and the OSCE representative had twice a month working meetings in order to organize the event scheduled for the beginning of October in Podgorica.

Objective 5 - INSTITUTION-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM

The main activities carried out in order to achieve this objective were related to the trainings requested by the SPAI RSLO staff.

Financial Management Training

Due to special request made by the SPAI RSLO staff the training of financial management initially scheduled within the WORKPLAN in mid September was organized in July 19–23, 2004, in Sarajevo. Since the financial management was identified as one of the problems that all RIBA partners are faced with, it was decided to organize a joint training for the following organizations:

1. SPAI Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (RSLO)
2. CSpi - Freedom of Access to Information (FOAI) Center
3. Judicial Training Center of Republic of Srpska (RS JTC)

Ms. Lisa Hammond, consultant trainer, ABA CEELI, delivered the training with the support provided by the Regional Institution Building Advisor, Mr. Josko Mandic.

Ms. Stajic Dajana, administrative assistant and Mr. Calinescu Cornel-Virgiliu, anticorruption expert, represented SPAI RSLO during the training session.

During the five days of training, the participants gained knowledge in the following areas: basic financial systems, financial planning and budgeting, policies and procedures, cash management, fundraising plan and financial management, combined organizational budget and cash flow, allocation of costs to multiple projects/grants, monitoring and evaluation, preparation of grant reports, financial audit and control, application exercises etc.



**ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE**

English Course. Starting with 6th of September the Administrative assistant is attending the **Advanced English Course** in SOROS School of Foreign Languages.

III. CHANGES REGARDING THE SPAI RSLO STAFF

It needs to be mentioned that during the months covered by the current progress report substantial modifications were made with regard to the SPAI RSLO STAFF.

NEW SPAI RSLO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Due to the new position offered by the BiH government to the current SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary, it was necessary to conduct, in cooperation with the SPAI CHAIRMAN and the Stability Pact Office of the Special Coordinator, the process of selecting and appointing the new Executive Secretary. The procedure was completed via e-mails, involving the SPAI Senior representatives. According to the request made by the SPAI Chairman, all senior representatives offered their vote for or against the candidate for the position. On 31st of July the process was finished and the general agreement was reached to support the candidature of the Montenegrin Government representative, Mr. Veselin Sukovic for the position of SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Due to the resignation of Ms. Nedzma Dzananovic, the SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary took the necessary measures for selecting and employing a new administrative assistant. Starting with 1st of July Ms. Dajana Stajic is the new SPAI RSLO administrative assistant.

SPAI RSLO INTERN

Upon request made by the SPAI CHAIRMAN, starting with September 2004, SPAI RSLO staff structure was expanded by receiving Ms. Jonida Gaba as intern. The initial period of the internship is three months. During this interval all cost related to the presence of Ms Gaba within the SPAI RSL Office are covered by her. During the internship Ms Gaba's activity will be coordinated by the Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert.