



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

*ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE*

SPAI RSLO

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2004

Sarajevo, BiH

January 12, 2005



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

*ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE*

Structure of the report

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. SPAI RSLO PROGRAMATIC ACTIVITIES
- III. SPAI RSLO ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- IV. SPAI RSLO BILATERAL MEETINGS



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

I. INTRODUCTION

Within the last three months of 2004, SPAI RSLO ensured the further implementation of the Workplan and initiated new contacts with partner organization in order to expand the range of the activities in the region.

During this interval the second major programmatic project was initiated with a start up regional workshop on “**Fighting High Level Corruption in SPAI countries**”. Furthermore RSLO together with SPAI partner organizations USAID, ABA CEELI, OECD and SEECP organized a very ambitious set of meetings during the Anticorruption week in Bucharest:

- **8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting**
- **Friends of the SPAI Chairman Meeting**
- Visits of the SPAI Chairman and Senior Representatives to the **Romanian National Anticorruption Prosecutor’s Office** and **SPOC Secretariat**
- **SPAI - OECD Meeting** regarding the “International cooperation to fight corruption in South-east Europe: achievements, lessons learned and future challenges”
- **Second Meeting of the SEECP Consultation Group on Fighting Organized Crime and Corruption.**

These events ensured a good visibility for the Initiative and for the Regional Secretariat and also provided a sound message regarding the institutional capacity of the Office in Sarajevo to manage important projects at a very high standard.

Additionally, the Office continued the process of **building its capacity and sustainability** by ensuring the Secretariat functions for the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative, participating to training sessions, establishing new contact with potential partners and by further developing the main components of the Regional Anticorruption Resource Center.

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 provides a financial overview of the SPAI RSLO’s resources and expenses during the last three months.



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

II. 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

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

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

Objective 1.2 - Identifying the additional follow-up activities

- RSLO was mandated by the SPAI countries to continue the set of events dedicated to the UN Convention against Corruption. This mandate was renewed during the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting which was held in Bucharest on 4th of November 2004.
- The first follow up workshop will address the second chapter of the Convention – Preventive measures.

Objective 1.3 - UN Convention against corruption awareness campaign

- During the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting RSLO received the mandate to support de distribution of the UN anticorruption video clips. To this end RSLO is in permanent contact with the UNODC Advocacy Section. During December in cooperation with the SPAI senior representatives, RSLO ensured the translation of the subtitles necessary for producing the 8 versions of the clips. Also, RSLO contacted TELESEE in order to asses the possibility of broadcasting the clip with the support of this network of public TV stations from SPAI countries.
- SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert attended the Conference on UN Convention against Corruption. The event was organized in Sarajevo, on December 9th by the Transparency International (BiH Chapter).

Objective 1.4 - Development of the “compliance matrix”

- The 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting endorsed the decision taken in Sarajevo during the Start up regional workshop to start developing the UN Compliance matrix.
- To this end during December a draft presentation was elaborated by the anticorruption expert containing the scope and structure of the matrix and ways of ensuring the relevant flow of information in order to fill it in.



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

- Starting with January a first questionnaire it is to be developed covering the preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement (Chapter 2 and 3 of the Un Convention against Corruption)

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

Objective 2.1 - Developing the project outline and fund raising

- 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 issued the third issue of the SPAIgram on October 30th. Following the Anticorruption week in Bucharest SPAI RSLO issued on November 15th an updated version of the third issue.
- 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.spai-rslo.org and www.stabilitypact.org
- RSLO and ABA CEELI are currently developing a new web page which is to be launched during the first half of 2005.

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, OSCE Mission in Serbia and Montenegro, Office in Podgorica and the Anticorruption Initiative Agency from Montenegro co-organized the Regional Start up workshop in Podgorica.
- The event was attended by the eight SPAI national delegations consisting in specialized prosecutors, judges, intelligence service experts and police officials.
- The participants welcomed this joint initiative, appreciating that this was a first attempt to address very concrete and practical issues of implementation of relevant legislative provisions related to the fight against corruption. Furthermore the participants appreciated the opportunity offered by this event in order to create informal regional network of specialized experts.



ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

- During the meeting SPAI countries delegations shared best practices by presenting case studies related to their professional experience in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases.
- During the discussions the participants pointed out that certain inconsistencies within the criminal legislation prevent the efficient use of special investigative means as effective tool to bring evidence of high-level corruption.
- A special case study exercise, created and conducted, in two separate working groups, by an investigative judge from France, Mr. Riberolles, offered the participants the possibility to demonstrate how they can cope with this type of complex challenges.

Objective 3.2 - publishing a report on best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases

- During the Regional workshop agreement was reached to edit together a booklet regarding the event in Podgorica, based on the case studies presented by the participants, relevant legislative provisions and statistical data. The booklet will be prepared by the SPAI Regional Office and its international partners and widely distributed within the SPAI countries.
- Still no feedback and updated information were received from the countries with regard to content of the booklet.

Objective 3.3 identifying and implementing follow up activities based on the requests made by the SPAI countries

- The national delegations expressed their interest in identifying future follow-ups particularly focused on specific economic and financial areas such as privatization process, public procurement, conflict of interest, financing political parties.
- SPAI RSLO developed a project proposal which includes a series of follow up workshops addressing the aspects identified by the participants. SPAI RSLO is currently conducting fund raising activities in order to ensure the proper financial support for this project.

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

Objective 4.1 - Developing the template for gathering the information

- According to the decision of the 7th SPAI Steering Group, the Anticorruption expert developed the progress report template as a standard reporting tool. The template covers the information provided by SPAI countries during the previous 6 months, the latest developments (structured under the 5 SPAI pillars), *future activities in SPAI countries and the envisaged role of the SPAI RSLO.*



ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

Objective 4.2 - Requesting and centralizing the information

- During the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting all member countries delivered progress reports but only 5 countries provided the information structured according to the template.

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

- Based on specific requests made by all 8 SPAI countries RSLO developed a list of 13 possible topics for SPAI RSLO trainings. During the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting the countries of the region were asked to prioritize the topics and to further provide proposals.
- According to the decision taken by the Steering Group, SPAI RSLO supported the process of collecting and providing the necessary information for editing the Scoping paper – a document commissioned by the OECD-based Anti-Corruption Network for Transition Economies. This paper is to be prepared by the Basel Institute on Governance at the Basel University in the framework of the Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative through funding provided by Switzerland. The scoping paper aims to analyze achievements, lessons learned and future challenges of anti-corruption programs and national donor supported activities in the eight members of the SPAI. Also, the paper aims to analyze the initial objectives and priorities of the national anti-corruption programs, national efforts to achieve these objectives and relevant donor anti-corruption assistance provided to the SPAI countries. The paper covers programs and activities undertaken from the launch of the SPAI in 2000 till mid 2004.

2.2 SPAI PARTNER ACTIVITIES AND SPAI RSLO INVOLVEMENT

THE FIFTH FORUM OF CITIES AND REGIONS OF SOUTH-EAST EUROPE, Budva, 11-12 October

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, organized in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the The 5th Forum of Cities and Regions of South East Europe, Budva, Serbia and Montenegro, 11 –12 October 2004.

During the meeting Mr. Veselin Sukovic, SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary, delivered a presentation within the session regarding the “*Role of the local and regional authorities in the fight against corruption and various traffics (money laundering, trafficking in human beings etc.) in particular within the transborder framework.*”

The Congress was attended by representatives from: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, FYR Macedonia, Portugal,



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom. Also, important international organizations were represented.

The **final declaration** of the Congress makes specific references to the steps that the countries of the region need to undertake in the fight against corruption.

ANTI CORRUPTION WEEK,

Bucharest, November 2-5

During the anticorruption week in Bucharest, SPAI RSLO provided support in organizing two events initiated by SPAI partner entities: OECD and SEECP.

1. SPAI - OECD Meeting regarding the “International cooperation to fight corruption in South-east Europe: achievements, lessons learned and future challenges”.

- The meeting aimed to provide the countries of the region with the possibility of updating the draft scoping paper - a document commissioned by the OECD-based Anti-Corruption Network for Transition Economies.
- In preparing the meeting RSLO had a crucial role in ensuring the participation of all eight SPAI countries.
- Furthermore, according to the agreement reached during the meeting, SPAI RSLO was involved in the follow up process of gathering all necessary updates from SPAI countries.
- By November 20th five national reports were submitted to the author of the Scoping paper. Also, RSLO provided the author with detailed information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO (constituent documents, strategy and workplan, reports)
- The final Scoping paper is to be edited during January 2005.

2. Second Meeting of the SEECP Consultation Group on Fighting Organized Crime and Corruption.

- SPAI RSLO and Stability Pact WT III representatives attended the meeting as observers.
- The purpose of SPAI RSLO involvement in this process is related to the initiative of jointly contributing to the matrix drafted by SEECP Chairmanship in Office in order to observe the status of implementing the Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption in SEE Countries.
- During the meeting, the SEECP country representatives welcomed the decision of the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting to support the process of updating the SEECP matrix by providing information from SPAI countries regarding the adoption and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption.



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

REGIONAL TABLE AND WORKING TABLE III MEETING

SKOPJE, Noveber, 17-18

- During November 17 – 18, 2004, SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert attended In Skopje, Macedonia, the 10th Working Table III Meeting of the Stability Pact organized within the Regional Working Table Meeting.
- The topic of the WT III meeting was Regional Ownership and Implementation: Fighting Organised Crime and Corruption.
- SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary delivered during the meeting a brief presentation of the SPAI Mission, Programmatic Activities, Achievements and Next Events. In his speech the executive secretary stressed that the establishment of RSLO was the first step in a process of conveying leadership of the SPAI to the countries of the region and a mechanism to jointly develop a new vision of the Initiative.
- After highlighting the current status of implementing the SPAI objective and SPAI RSLO workplan, the Executive Secretary stressed the importance of the activities planned in 2005: training workshops, twinning between SPAI countries and the SPAI High Level Meeting (Five years of SPAI).
- In addition, RSLO representatives, together with Stability Pact WT III representatives used the opportunity offered by the event to submit to three SPAI potential donors a request for financial support. The document was requested during the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting. In the same meeting the Steering Group decided that the document should be prepared by RSLO until the SP Regional Table Meeting.

CONFERENCE ON UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Sarajevo, December 9th

- On December 9th, Global Anticorruption Day, SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert attended in Sarajevo, BiH a Conference on UN Convention Against Corruption, organized by TI BiH.
- The event benefitted of the participation of various public institutions and anticorruption agencies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, international organizations, civil society and mass media.
- During the Conference, the SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary briefly presented the steps undertaken by the Office and by the SPAI countries in order to promote the adoption and implementation of the UN convention against Corruption.



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

ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING SEMINAR

Podgorica, October 26

- On October 26th, SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary attended an international seminar on Figting Money Laundering.
- The main topic addressed during the Seminar was the institutional framework for fighting the money laundering phenomenon.
- SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary delievered a presentation on the role of RSLO as a regional resource center and highlighted the potential cooperation among the FIUs in the region with specialised anticorruption bodies.
- The Montenegrin authorites presented the Finance Inteligence Units (FIU) its structure, activities and the international cooperation.

THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION,

Tirana, December 9-10

- On 9th and 10th December 2004, the Office of the Minister of State for Coordination near the Prime Minister and the Anti Corruption Monitoring Group (ACMG) organized the Fourth National Conference on the Fight against Corruption supported by the technical assistance of the Council of Europe, PACO IMPACT Project.
- The two-day conference was focused to provide an open discussion of the Action Plan for Prevention and the Fight against Corruption with respect to the Inventory of Achievements for 2003-2004 and the new measures of the Action Plan 2004-2005.
- According to the Action Plan, in 2005 Albania will focus its anticorruption measures on three main areas:
 - o Law enforcement
 - o Prevention
 - o Collaboration with civil society
- SPAI RSLO was represented during this Conference by the Intern.



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

III. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This section includes information about the activities carried out by SPAI RSLO staff in order to ensure the efficient functioning and of the Office 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

Objective I.1 - Organization of the Steering Group Meetings;

- SPAI RSLO organized together with the Romanian Ministry of Justice (represented by the SPAI Senior Representative) a series of events - the **Friends of the Chair Meeting, 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting** and **visits to anticorruption institutions** - in Bucharest, Romania in November 4th. These events were organized back to back with two other meetings mainly organized by OECD and SEECF;
- The program at glance of the back to back meetings was the following:

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• Visit to the National Anticorruption Prosecutor’s Office• Visit to the SPOC Secretariat• 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



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

4TH OF NOVEMBER, 2004	
9:30 - 17:30	THE 8th 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	SEECF Consultative group for implementing the Joint Campaign o Fight Organized Crime and Corruption in South East Europe. Organizers: SEECF Romanian Chairmanship in Office Host: Ministry of Justice of Romania
6th of November, 2004	
Morning	DEPARTURE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

A. FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR MEETING

- SPAI RSLO, in cooperation with the Stability Pact WT III and Romanian Ministry of Justice, covered all organizational aspects regarding the FoC meeting: invitations, draft agenda, list of participants;
- The meeting was attended by the SPAI Chairman, Stability Pact WT III Director, France, Norway, USA, Switzerland, ABA CEELI, Council of Europe, European Commission, OECD, World Bank and RSLO (Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert)
- The topics addressed during the meeting were:
 - o future of the Initiative and Regional Secretariat;
 - o financial support for RSLO
 - o SPAI Anniversary Meeting
 - o SPAI Annual Award.
- The following decisions were taken
 - o RSLO to provide until November 17th Norway, Switzerland and France with a financial document regarding the current status and the financial gaps and needs for 2005 and 2006;
 - o RSLO to further elaborate the proposal on the Anniversary Meeting in order to organize a first preparatory meeting with the SPAI donors and partner organizations;
 - o To further discuss during the Steering Group Meeting the proposal of the OECD Deputy Director regarding the Annual SPAI Award.



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

B. PROGRAM FOR THE SPAI SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES

SPAI RSLO organized for the SPAI national representatives a special program which included the following activities:

- **Briefing with the SPAI RSLO staff**
 - all SPAI national representatives were informed about the activities planned by RSLO in the near future and also about the content of the report prepared for the Steering Group Meeting
 - SPAI Chairman asked the countries to have a more active role during the debates of the Steering Group;
 - SPAI country's representatives expressed their opinions about potential role of RSLO
 - Also, the SPAI representatives expressed their interest to further develop the list of potential topics for trainings prepared by RSLO.
- **Visit to the National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office**
 - RSLO organized in cooperation with National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office a tour of the NAPO Headquarters.
 - The tour included:
 - a general presentation of the institution made by the Deputy General Prosecutor and Chiefs of Units;
 - Q&A regarding the activity of the NAPO
 - visit to the database center of NAPO
 - visit to the operative room
 - screening of clips from undercover activities.
- **Visit to the Stability Pact Initiative Against Organized Crime (SPOC) Secretariat**
 - RSLO together with SPOC representatives organized a Tour of the Secretariat located in the Parliament Palace;
 - The tour included:
 - a general presentation of the Secretariat;
 - Q&A regarding the activity of the SPOC;
 - Discussion about potential cooperation between the SPAI RSLO and SPOC Secretariat.
- **Working lunch.**

C. 8th SPAI STEERING GROUP MEETING

- The meeting was organized by RSLO in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Justice.
- RSLO managed all organizational aspects: sending invitations, obtaining confirmations, draft agenda, edited the booklet with all eight national progress reports;



ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

- The meeting was attended by all eight SPAI member countries, SPAI chairman, SPAI donors and partner organizations (see attached the final list of participants);
- The main objectives of the 8th Steering Group were:
 - o to assess the progress made both at national and regional level in the implementation of the SPAI objectives ;
 - o to provide updated information about the steps undertaken by SPAI RSLO in implementing the Workplan for 2004-2005;
 - o to provide updated information regarding the role of the SPAI and SPAI RSLO within SEECP Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption.
- The members of the SPAI Steering Group agreed upon the **following conclusions and decisions**:
 - o All SPAI member countries fully endorsed the appointment of Mr. Veselin Sukovic as the new Executive Secretary of SPAI RSLO in Sarajevo.
 - o The Steering Group members took note of the appointment of the new SPAI senior representatives for Albania, BiH, Montenegro and Serbia;
 - o It was agreed that RSLO, in close cooperation with OECD and other interested SPAI partners, will start and conclude the process of drafting the Terms of reference for the Annual SPAI Award - until June 2005 allowing the first awarding ceremony to take place in the autumn of 2005. The Chairman stressed the fact that the proposal would not be further developed without the approval of Mr. Busek, the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact.
 - o All SPAI SG members were informed about the RSLO's proposal to organize an Anniversary meeting – *FIVE YEARS OF SPAI* during the first half of 2005. General agreement was reached to support the process of organizing the event and of producing a Joint statement to be endorsed by the SPAI countries and SPAI partners with regard to the future objectives of SPAI and mandate of SPAI RSLO within this framework. In this respect, RSLO was tasked to produce, in cooperation with SPAI countries and partners, an outline regarding the format, content and objectives of the Anniversary meeting;
 - o Based on a first draft list of 10 potential RSLO trainings, all SPAI member countries agreed to further identify new possible topics or to set the priority among the ones already compiled by RSLO. SPAI countries will submit their proposals to RSLO by the end of 2004. RSLO will incorporate these proposals within its calendar of activities for 2005.
 - o All SPAI member countries expressed their agreement and support with regard to the role of the RSLO in permanently updating the SEECP Matrix on Legislative and Institutional Building Measures – component



ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

regarding the UN Convention against Corruption. To this end the mechanism and set of activities suggested by the RSLO were approved;

- All SPAI member countries agreed to further support the process of building the Regional Anticorruption Network and Anticorruption Library. To this end the members countries will submit in due time all the relevant information to the SPAI RSLO;
- All SPAI member countries reviewed during the meeting the anticorruption video clips produced by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and agreed to support SPAI RSLO involvement within the United Nations Anticorruption Awareness Campaign. To this end SPAI RSLO is tasked to take all necessary measures in order to ensure regional wide distribution of this campaign by promoting the anticorruption video clips;
- All SPAI member countries agreed to update the Scoping Paper prepared by OECD in order to assess the achievements and the main lessons learned in implementing the SPAI and agreed to send their inputs to OECD within 20th of November 2004;
- Based on a specific request formulated by the SPAI donors, SPAI RSLO will prepare a document containing information about the Office's current financial arrangements, envisaged costs for 2005-2006 and areas where additional financial support is needed. Furthermore, the SPAI Chairman called for a quick decision on the SPAI RSLO internship program and suggested that the document incorporating all these aspects to be distributed to the SPAI donors during the Stability Pact Working Tables and Regional Table Meetings, to be held in Skopje, FRY Macedonia, 17 – 19 November 2004.

Objective I.2 - Implementing the decisions made by the Steering Group;

- SPAI RSLO submitted to the Steering Group Members a report on activities carried out since the last SG Meeting. This includes:
 - I. Redraft the Work plan for 2004 - 2005 according to the inputs provided by the Steering Group members
 - II. SPAI role in implementing the SEECP Joint Declaration to Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption in SEE
 - III. Standard reporting system based on the template developed by the SPAI RSLO
- Following the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting, RSLO implemented the decision regarding the financial document by preparing and submitting it to the SPAI potential donors (members of the Steering Group);
- Also, RSLO supported the UN Anticorruption Campaign by ensuring the translation of the subtitles necessary for the video clips and is now in contact



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

- with a broadcasting company aiming to ensure the distribution of the clips in all 8 SPAI countries.
- Currently RSLO is taking the necessary measures in order to implement the decisions adopted by the Steering Group in Bucharest:
 - o **To organize SPAI High Level Meeting** in April/May - this includes:
 - Drafting a discussion paper regarding the format, content, outcomes of the meeting;
 - To organize a preparatory meeting with SPAI donors and partner organizations;
 - To organize consultations with SPAI countries – RSLO tour;
 - To draft the Joint Declaration
 - To draft the Join SPAI Progress Report
 - o **To further implement the Project on UN Convention against Corruption** – this includes:
 - To monitor the Sarajevo Calendar – gathering updated information on the measures undertaken by SPAI countries in implementing the Calendar for signing, ratifying and implementing the UN Convention against corruption – adopted in Sarajevo, September 2004.
 - Compliance matrix – information about legislative and institutional measures adopted regarding the preventive measures, criminalization and law
 - To organize follow up workshop – preventive measures – March 2005
 - o **To further implement the Project on Fighting High Level Corruption** – this includes:
 - To edit the booklet on best practices in fighting high level corruption in SPAI countries.
 - To organize follow up workshop – High level corruption cases in connection with the business environment
 - o **To build the SPAI Anticorruption Resource Center** – this includes the following components:
 - ANTICORRUPTION LIBRARY
 - ANTICORRUPTION NETWORK
 - ANTICORRUPTION PROJECTS
 - ANTICORRUPTION CALENDAR
 - o To support draft the **Terms of reference for the Annual SPAI Award.**



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

Objective 1.3 - Monitoring the implementation of the work plan and of additional specific tasks and providing on regular bases progress reports to the Steering Group

- The objective was achieved by providing the Steering Group member with a comprehensive report on all activities carried out by the Office during the last 6 months.
- Additionally, RSLO is providing the Chairman, Stability Pact WT III Director and SPAI partners with periodic updates on activities undertaken by the office.

Objective 1.4 - Taking over and maintaining the administrative and historical files of the SPAI

- The objective is achieved.

NOTE:

During November, SPAI RSLO elaborated and circulated the minutes of the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting. The minutes were approved on December 10th, 2004.

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 these two specific objectives is influenced by the development of the electronic environment for storing and distributing the data – WEB PAGE and DATABASE.

Objective 2.1 - Building the Regional Anticorruption Network

- the work is in progress;
- approximate 60 new contacts were included in the network.

Objective 2.2 - Building the Regional Anticorruption Data Base (Library)

- the work is in progress;
- RSLO is taking the necessary measures in order to obtain from all 8 SPAI countries the following necessary information:
 - o ANTICORRUPTION LIBRARY.
 - national strategies



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

- relevant legislation
 - institutional framework – institutions with competences in fighting corruption
 - progress reports
 - UN compliance matrix
 - Studies
 - statistics
- ANTICORRUPTION NETWORK – list of policy makers and experts involved in the fight against corruption. The information should cover the following sectors:
 - governmental
 - nongovernmental
 - resident international organizations
 - business environment
 - mass media
 - ANTICORRUPTION PROJECTS
 - Project proposals (standard project proposal will be available via INTERNET)
 - Ongoing projects
 - Archive
 - ANTICORRUPTION CALENDAR
 - envisaged events at national and regional level

Objective 3 - ENHANCING THE REGIONAL CAPACITIES TO COOPERATE AND INTERACT
--

Objective 3.1 - Organizing the Annual SPAI Conference

- RSLO presented during the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting a first proposal on the format, structure and objectives of the meeting;
- Following the requests made by the donors and partner organizations during the Friends of the Chair Meeting and based on the decision taken by the Steering Group, RSLO took the following measures:
 - Drafted a discussion paper which includes additional information about:
 - Project necessity and the mandate of RSLO in this regard;
 - Main objectives and suggested format
 - Main topics
 - Mechanism for developing the Joint Declaration
 - Structure of the Joint Declaration
 - Request for support from SPAI partners



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

- Envisaged timeframe.
 - RSLO sent out the invitation for the preparatory meeting which is to be held in Bruxelles, on February 1st 2005.
 - RSLO prepared a presentation document regarding the tour in all SPAI countries which is planned to take place in February 2005.

Objective 3.2 - Regional or national workshops

- RSLO is currently taking the necessary measures in order to organize a follow-up workshop on UN Convention against Corruption.
- During the tour in all 8 SPAI countries RSLO will organize, together with the SPAI senior representatives, a set of bilateral meetings and roundtables.

Objective 3.2 - Regional exchange of anticorruption experts

- the subject is under evaluation;
- during the visit organized to the NAPO in Bucharest, some of the SPAI senior representatives were interested in organizing twinning conventions with this Office;
- Within the documents that details the content of the compliance matrix on UN Convention against Corruption it is envisaged to organize fact finding missions with a joint delegation that also includes experts from the SPAI countries.

Objective 4 - FUNDRAISING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE RSLO

Objective 4.1 - Identify fundable programs within RSLO's strategic portfolio

- According to the decision of the SPAI Steering Group, RSLO elaborated and submitted to potential donors a document containing areas within RSLO workplan that are requiring additional financial support. This areas are:
 - *Law enforcement anticorruption trainings*
 - *SPAI RSLO internship program*
 - *Moldova delegation expenses for attending the SPAI RSLO events.*

Objective 4.2 - Participate in specific training sessions on Project Design for Fundraising, Grant Proposal Writing and Budgeting, Grant Monitoring and Reporting;

- SPAI RSLO staff attended in December 2004 a training session regarding PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT, M&E AND REPORTING SKILL TRAINING. For details please see objective 5.

Objective 4.3 - Identify potential international, regional and national funding sources



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

- In October 2004 RSLO organized its second 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 Office in Podgorica, as a new SPAI RSLO partner organization, covered 75% of the costs for organizing the event.

Objective 4.4 - Engage in dialogue with potential donors, write and submit proposals

- Please see objective 4.1.

Objective 5 - INSTITUTION-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM

- On December 6 – 8, 2004, SPAI RSLO staff attended in Sarajevo a PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT, M&E AND REPORTING SKILL TRAINING SESSION.
- The main objective of the training was to provide the RSLO’s staff with necessary knowledge and skills to independently develop project proposals monitor and evaluate progress and appropriately report to donors.
- The specific objectives were the following:
 - o To present and gain knowledge of different Project Proposal (PP) formats and main elements
 - o To explain benefits of PP
 - o To explain needs assessment process and tools
 - o To present different project planning tools and methodologies
 - o To explain M&E techniques
 - o To improve participants’ reporting skills
- The following topics were covered at the training:
 - o Project Proposal – formats and usage
 - o Project Cycle Management – planning, fundraising, implementation, M&E, new ideas, steps and terminology etc.
 - o Needs assessment and problem definition
 - o Logical Framework
 - o Setting up Goals and Objectives
 - o Implementation
 - o Monitoring and Evaluation
 - o Resource Mobilization
 - o Sustainability and Contingency Planning
 - o Reporting
- During the training RSLO team developed the concept for the “Small Grant Project” planned for 2005, for which the funds are already available. This included the definition of the overall goal, objectives, activities and needed resources for the project.



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

IV. BILATERAL MEETINGS

During the last three months SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert had a series of meetings with current and potential partners.

ABA CEELI

After taking over the position of Executive Secretary, Mr. Veselin Sukovic and the anticorruption expert met with the representatives of ABA CEELI in Sarajevo: Mrs. Maureen O'Connor, Mrs. Dubravka Piotrovski and Mr. Josko Mandic. Sarajevo, October 19, 21. Within these meetings the participants shared information about the future activities and analyzed together the possibility of cooperating more closely in some of the areas.

On December 11th, the anticorruption expert met with Mr. Rob Leventhal, Director of CEE Rule of Law Program and Program Coordinator, Anticorruption. During this meeting, the anticorruption expert presented the latest developments regarding RSLO both on the programmatic and capacity building aspects. Among other issues it was stressed the importance of the SPAI High Level Meeting (preparations being on their way), RSLO's follow-up trainings and other potential seminars.

E-NET CENTER

On October 15, The Executive Secretary and the Anticorruption Expert met with Mrs. Jasenka Perovic, Director of the E-NET Center in Sarajevo

During the meeting Mrs. Perović described briefly the center activities, emphasizing the fact that E-net is a center for professional development through the designing of special programs and the promoting of constant refreshment of knowledge. To this end, the E-net Center can rely on a multiple services offer, such as the multimedia facilities, accommodating up to 40 people, the videoconferencing capability with virtually every part of the world, as well as the computer support for all kind of multimedia presentations.

The SPAI RSLO representatives considered the center facilities very useful with regard to a more efficient cooperation with the regional counterparts of the Initiative in occasion of the next events, in particular the dissemination of the UN Convention and the SPAI Annual Meeting.

It was suggested and agreed upon combining face to face seminars and follow-up training for participants, pursuing a step by step approach.



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

At the end of the meeting, the SPAI RSLO representatives promised to visit the E-net Center on the weeks to come, while Mrs. Perović committed herself to present to the SPAI RSLO representatives the prices list as soon as possible, for an overall evaluation.

THE ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY

On October 19th SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert meet with Mrs. Helene Bach, Program Coordinator within the Royal Danish Embassy in Sarajevo.

SPAI RSLO representatives briefed Mrs. Bach about the office's programmatic objectives of assessment of the needs of the countries in the region and raise of awareness campaigns. Considering the last mentioned objective the SPAI RSLO representatives expressed their intention to distribute in the regional public TV stations the UNODC-s anti-corruption video spots and asked to Mrs. Bach for assistance in this regard.

Mrs. Bach gave a brief description of the activities in which is engaged her office, consisting in supporting a network of public TV stations as well as a network of electronic associations. To her opinion the SPAI RSLO's idea would be beneficial to all the partners as it fits perfectly with a series of linked programs, supported by the Danish Embassy, that are being distributed on TELESEE – Network of Public Broadcasters at the moment.

Mrs. Bach promised to talk, within the same day, to the persons in charge of TELESEE, showing them the video spots and to encourage them to support this project.

At the end of the meeting, she promised to the SPAI RSLO representatives that she would make sure that they had a feedback from the TV Contacts as soon as possible.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

From November 29th to December 1st, Veselin Sukovic, SPAI RSLO Executive secretary was in Strasbourg, in order to have formal meetings with representatives of Council of Europe and its Directorates General. During this period, RSLO Executive secretary had separate formal meetings with:

- Mr. Alexander Seger, Economic Crime Division, Directorate for Legal Affairs;
- Mr. Drago Kos, Chairman of GRECO (Group of States against Corruption);
- Mr. Wolfgang Rau, Executive secretary of GRECO.

In addition, the meeting with Ms Ardita Abdiu, Project manager for PACO Impact was planned, but due to her unexpected illness was not held.

Information presented to the representatives of Council of Europe

During all meetings, the necessity to intensify the communication and cooperation with Council of Europe was pointed out. The representatives of Council of Europe were amply informed on the activities of the SPAI RSLO. They were also provided with the documents prepared by the Secretariat - SPAI RSLO Work Plan 2004-2005; SPAI RSLO



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

Mission, Programmatic Activities, Achievements and Next Events; the latest issue of SPAIgram; List of Possible Topics for Workshops in 2005. They were particularly informed on the outcomes of the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting, which was held in Bucharest, on November 4th 2004. In addition, the intention to organize an event dedicated to SPAI 5th anniversary was presented to them. In light of this, the expectation was expressed towards Council of Europe's active participation in organizing a high-level expert meeting on fighting corruption in SEE, mainly by improving the business/investment climate.

General remarks made by the representatives of Council of Europe

The representatives of Council of Europe recognized successful and fruitful cooperation with RSLO that was reached so far. The fact that Council of Europe has been one of the actors that induced the Stability Pact and the SP Anticorruption Initiative was also emphasized, as well as the intention to continue with the previously mentioned cooperation, in the activities aimed at curbing corruption in the South Eastern Europe.

They suggested that the best opportunity for enhancing future cooperation lies in the involvement of RSLO in specific activities under PACO Impact and CARDS projects.

Specific focus was set on joint organization and financial support of workshops and trainings, possibly on the matters of implementation of Council of Europe's Conventions on Corruption (Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and Civil Law Convention on Corruption), prevention of economic crimes in the Region according to the CoE standards, and presentation of CoE Jurisprudence to the countries of the Region.

The need to inform members of GRECO (38 countries) on the activities undertaken by SPAI RSLO, possibly on an annual basis, was discussed.

The reluctance in providing RSLO with any kind of status that would allow the representatives of the Secretariat to participate at GRECO meetings was mentioned, due to the closed nature of GRECO and confidentiality of the discussions (this should not be looked as an exemption, e.g. EBRD has been trying for two years to reach observer status, with no concrete results).

Joint assistance to the countries of the Region in the early stages of the procedure for GRECO Evaluations (e.g. flow of information, technical assistance, etc) would be an additional benefit to the members of the SPA Initiative.

Conclusions and outcomes

The talks were successful and open. The SPA Initiative encountered support, as well as the will to intensify the cooperation in more concrete manner. The readiness for cooperation that was widely expressed by GRECO representatives came as a surprise, due too the previous knowledge on the "closed" nature of this CoE Body. Therefore, there is enough room for expectations towards concrete and institutionalised cooperation between SPAI RSLO and GRECO. During January 2005, SPAI RSLO Executive secretary is expected to address a formal letter to the Executive secretary of GRECO, Mr. Wolfgang Rau. In this letter, RSLO would propose to the Bureau of



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

GRECO to assess the modes of future cooperation with RSLO. In this regard, RSLO would benefit from the opportunity to present the activities annually, during plenary sessions of GRECO.

The representative of Economic Crime Prevention, Directorate General for Legal Affairs, was slightly reluctant in defining the fields of possible future cooperation. However, the readiness for bilateral support was expressed in light of specific activities, namely in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova. The DG for Legal Affairs is already providing technical and expert assistance to Moldavia in its efforts to prepare and adopt a National Anticorruption Strategy, and they would like to continue in this manner.

An agreement was reached in order to find opportunities for future cooperation in specific and concrete projects, e.g. PACO Impact. Therefore, the meeting with Project manager is vital, in order to identify possible areas of cooperation and joint efforts. In this regard, Council of Europe's representatives expressed the intention and readiness to undertake additional activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova, as previously mentioned.

The representatives of Council of Europe, during separate talks with them, all agreed that the best manner of joint action would be the partnership in organizing thematic conferences, workshops and trainings. This would bring most benefits to the countries of the Region, the guarantee of which would be well coordinated actions by SPAI RSLO and Council of Europe's bodies.

With regards to the SPAI 5th anniversary, and the proposed partnership and assistance in organizing a high-level expert meeting, the representatives of Council of Europe were not reluctant in accepting this initiative, provided that they are informed in good time on all aspects and outcomes of this event.