



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

*ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE*

SPAI RSLO's

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY – MARCH 2005

Sarajevo, BiH

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Structure of the report

- I. INTRODUCTION*
- II. SPAI RSLO PROGRAMATIC ACTIVITIES*
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- IV. SPAI RSLO BILATERAL MEETINGS*



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I. INTRODUCTION

First three months of 2005 marked a visible progress in RSLO's efforts to become a **regional focal point** for the countries of the region and also a **respectable counterpart** for the traditional SPAI partners.

The **main priority** for RSLO during the first half of the year 2005 is to undertake all the necessary steps in organizing, in partnership with the Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact, the event of the year – **Expert and Ministerial Conference to Curb Corruption in South Eastern Europe**.

The preparations for this event are including substantial contribution from RSLO both on thematic and logistical aspects. In this respect RSLO organized **preparatory meeting** with all SPAI partners, conducted a regional tour in order to better assess the needs of the SPAI member countries and is also contributing financially and technically to the organization of this high level event.

Furthermore, RSLO continued its activities in **programmatic areas** and developed in cooperation with partner organizations **new project ideas** for the current year.

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 financial section of the report provides an **overview** of the SPAI RSLO's resources and expenses during the last three months.

II. PROGRAMMATIC 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 PROGRAMMATIC 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

- SPAI RSLO will organize a follow-up event regarding the implementation of the international standards. The workshop will be dedicated to the experts in treaty law and will address the mandatory steps that are to be taken by the countries of the region in implementing the UN Convention against Corruption and Council of Europe Civil and Criminal Law Convention;
- The event will be held in Tirana, Albania, June 10 – 11, 2005, organized in partnership with the Council of Europe as a component of the PACO IMPACT Program.



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- SPAI RSLO will be in charge with covering the aspects related to the UN Convention against corruption. In this regard already the UNODC experts have been contacted.

Objective 1.3 - UN Convention against corruption awareness campaign

- RSLO continued the cooperation with UNODC in promoting the Anticorruption video clips in the region;
- During February, with UNODC's support, RSLO concluded the process of translating and editing the anticorruption video clips for all 8 SPAI countries;
- During the regional tour conducted by RSLO strong signals were given that Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania will be broadcasting the clips. In addition Croatia, BiH and Serbia are analyzing the possibility to promote the clips;
- Romania already broadcasted the clips in February following the TI Romania diligences.

Objective 1.4 - Development of the "compliance matrix"

- In January a first questionnaire was developed by RSLO covering the preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement (Chapter 2 and 3 of the Un Convention against Corruption);
- The questionnaire was distributed to all SPAI member countries during February and is now under analyze by the Senior representatives;
- A general presentation of the compliance matrix as well as a brief summary of SPAI objectives and activities was elaborated by RSLO in February 2005. The document was requested by the SPAI Chairman and it was submitted on march 1st to the working group on developing the monitoring mechanism for 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 published the first presentation folder which presents - in a very professional manner and with a high quality design – the mission, achievements and future plans of the Office;
- The folders together with the 3rd issue of SPAIgram were published and distributed in 1000 copies in all 8 SPAI countries;
- SPAI RSLO also issued and distributed region wide 7th FLASH SPAIgrams covering the regional tour conducted by the Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert;
- SPAI RSLO, Stability Pact Office of the Special Coordinator, ABA CEELI and USAID ensured a region wide distribution of the SPAIgram in electronic format and hardcopy.



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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 High level event organized in May 2005, in Brussels;

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

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.
- Romanian Minister of Justice requested this manual to be edited and translated also in Romanian language;
- As no feedback and updated information were received from the countries with regard to content of the booklet RSLO is considering the possibility to postpone the editing of this booklet until the next event within the Project on Fighting high level corruption;

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;
- Based on a specific request received from Montenegro, RSLO will organize in September 2005, a Regional conference on fighting high level corruption in public procurement;

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.*



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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

- Complementing the Scoping paper which is still due to be published by OECD, SPAI RSLO conducted a regional tour aiming to gather the requests for assistance from the member countries. Following the on site visits of the RSLO's Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert, a series of pragmatic requests were addressed.
- List of the outcomes of the regional tour is attached to this report.

2.2 SPAI PARTNER ACTIVITIES AND SPAI RSLO INVOLVEMENT

22ND PLENARY MEETING OF GRECO, STRASBOURG, 14-18 MARCH

The RSLO's Executive Secretary participated to the 22nd Plenary Meeting of GRECO. With this occasion GRECO was informed of two forthcoming SPAI meetings: a High Level expert Conference on Fighting Corruption to improve the Business / Investment Climate in SEE (Brussels, 11 May) and a Ministerial Conference on Joint Measures to Curb Corruption in SEE (Brussels, 12 May).

With the same occasion it was established that RSLO will be invited to present within the GRECO plenary meeting, in the second half of the year, a brief report on the activities conducted in SEE countries.

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;

- **No Steering group meeting was scheduled during this interval;**

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

- Currently RSLO is taking the necessary measures in order to implement the decisions adopted by the Steering Group in Bucharest:



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- **To organize SPAI High Level Meeting** in May. The following activities were conducted:
 - RSLO drafted a discussion paper regarding the format, content, outcomes of the meeting;
 - RSLO in cooperation with the Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact organized on February 1st, in Brussels a preparatory meeting with SPAI donors and partner organizations;
 - RSLO maintained a permanent and direct contact with the SPAI countries. In this regard a regional tour was conducted by RSLO in all 8 SPAI countries (General presentation attached)
 - RSLO in cooperation with all SPAI Senior representatives, Council of Europe, OECD, ABA CEELI and USAID drafted the Declaration on 10 Joint Measures to Curb Corruption in South Eastern Europe (document attached)
 - RSLO is preparing the Annual SPAIgram as additional document for the Conference in May;

- **To further implement the Project on UN Convention against Corruption.** The following activities were conducted:
 - Monitoring 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 – the first questionnaire was developed and distributed. The countries are asked to provide detailed information about the legislative and institutional measures adopted regarding the preventive measures, criminalization and law
 - To organize follow up workshop – treaty law workshop – June 10 – 11, 2005, Albania, Tirana.

- **To further implement the Project on Fighting High Level Corruption.** The following activities were conducted:
 - RSLO requested the senior representatives to provide additional inputs for the booklet on best practices in fighting high level corruption in SPAI countries.
 - Follow up workshop – High level corruption cases in connection with the public procurement – September 2005.

- **To build the SPAI Anticorruption Resource Center.** RSLO is currently updating the following components:
 - ANTICORRUPTION LIBRARY
 - ANTICORRUPTION NETWORK
 - ANTICORRUPTION PROJECTS
 - ANTICORRUPTION CALENDAR



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- To support draft the **Terms of reference for the Annual SPAI Award**. Work is in progress.

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 8th 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.

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 Resource Center**. 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.

The Regional Anticorruption Resource Center is structured on the following 4 components:

- ANTICORRUPTION LIBRARY.
 - national strategies
 - 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



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- ANTICORRUPTION PROJECTS
 - o Project proposals (standard project proposal will be available via INTERNET)
 - o Ongoing projects
 - o Archive

- ANTICORRUPTION CALENDAR
 - o 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

- The meeting was decided to take place in May 11 – 12, 2005, in Brussels;
- RSLO organized the preparatory meeting with the donor countries and partner organization and conducted the regional tour;
- RSLO in cooperation with the office of the Special Coordinator of Stability Pact is currently updating the conference agenda;
- RSLO drafted the ministerial declaration;
- RSLO sent out the official invitation letter to the regional partners and is currently centralizing the registration forms;
- RSLO is undertaking all technical and logistical measures to prepare the Conference.

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 – June 10-11, in Tirana, Albania;
- During the tour in all 8 SPAI countries RSLO organized, together with the SPAI senior representatives, a set of bilateral meetings and public roundtables.

Objective 3.2 - Regional exchange of anticorruption experts

- During the visit organized to the NAPO in Bucharest, some of the SPAI senior representatives were interested in organizing twinning conventions with this Office;
- RSLO received a first request from the Montenegrin State Prosecutor's Office to visit the Anticorruption body from Croatia – USKOK. Preparations for this visit are on their way – tentative date May 23 – 27, 2005.
- 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:
 - o *Law enforcement anticorruption trainings*



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- *SPAI RSLO internship program*
 - *Moldova delegation expenses for attending the SPAI RSLO events*
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- Out of the above mentioned projects, the internship program received a positive answer from the Norwegian Government. Currently RSLO is waiting for the financial transfer. Within this project, RSLO received a proposal from Croatia, to include Mr. **Ivan Crnčec**, within the 3 months internship program;
 - SPAI RSLO is currently developing in cooperation with RIBA a project on Small grants for the civil society sector.

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

- Please see objective 4.1.

Objective 5 - INSTITUTION-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM
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- NO training session was scheduled for this three months;

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. This information are detailed within the attached FLASH SPAIgrams.

Furthermore, on March 4th, 2005, RSLO's Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert had a bilateral meeting with the **Mr. George Mills, Director of Anticrime and Corruption Unit within OHR**, in order to identify potential areas of cooperation.