



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

SPAI RSLO's

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

April – June 2006

Sarajevo, BiH

July, 2006



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I. INTRODUCTION

Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative - Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (SPAI RSLO) continued the implementation of the Work plan adopted in 2005 by conducting activities in four key areas:

- developing the institutional capacities of the Regional Secretariat;
- providing Secretariat services for the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative;
- conducting trainings for the SPAI member countries;
- consolidating the relations with partner organizations.

The current report is analyzing the main activities conducted by the SPAI RSLO in the second quarter of 2006, highlighting - objective by objective - the activities carried out and the results achieved both in programmatic and organizational development areas.

II. SPAI RSLO's PROGRAMATIC ACTIVITIES

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

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

I. The Technical Guide

- From May 3rd until 5th 2006, SPAI RSLO anticorruption expert attended the Expert Group Meeting for the Development of the Technical Guide to Promote the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption. The meeting was organized by UNICRI and UNODC;
- RSLO expert developed brief outlines of the key components and aspects which need to be considered when implementing the provisions of four articles within the UN convention against Corruption: Article 5 – Preventive anti-corruption policies and practices, Article 6 – Preventive anti-corruption body or bodies, Article 7 – Public sector, Article 11 – Measures related to the judiciary and prosecution services.

2. Summer school for junior magistrates

- SPAI RSLO finalized the outline for the Summer school for junior magistrates, that is to be held in Romania in mid July. One training module will address the international standards in the fight against corruption, including the UN Convention against Corruption. In this regard UNODC's experts already confirmed the participation to the event.



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3. Updating the “compliance matrix”

- SPAI RSLO will further develop the compliance matrix and address the Chapter on law enforcement;
- SPAI RSLO will request the countries to continue the process of filling in the detailed version of the matrix;
- The first detailed compliance matrix was filled in by Moldova and Romania.

4. Follow-up activities

- Following the trilateral negotiations with its partners, it is envisaged the during the second half of the year, SPAI RSLO to be invited by UNODC and Romania to co-organize a Sub- regional expert workshop on International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism, Corruption and the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime.

Objective 2 - Supporting the process of developing and implementing Regional and National Anticorruption Programs for Raising Public Awareness

Based on its experience in this area, SPAI RSLO reformulated this programmatic objective within the Plan for 2006-2007. RSLO will focus more on supporting existing initiatives and involving the national counterparts in developing further activities as video clips, posters banners etc.

1. SPAI international event

- SPAI RSLO co-sponsored the International Conference on Enforcing Global Anticorruption Standards – A European and Central Asian Dialogue, organized by Transparency International – Croatian Chapter and Government of Croatia, May 26-27, 2006, Brijuni, Croatia;
- RSLO Executive Secretary delivered a presentation within the panel on Regional Anticorruption Initiatives;
- The meeting was attended by more then 120 participants from Europe and Central Asia, representing NGOs, international and regional organizations and institutions;
- The main objective of the event was to debate and share experiences on topics as: political parties financing, public procurement, conflict of interest, privatization, free access to information etc.
- The event was appreciated as the most prominent and most significant anticorruption event organized in the last 2-3 years, raising public awareness with regard to the costs and consequences of corruption both at national and regional level, as well as the framework of Croatia’s EU accession process.

2. Updating and distributing the SPAI gram

- SPAI RSLO updated its presentation materials: folders and leaflets;
- SPAI RSLO published its first report covering the two years of activities. The report was widely distributed in electronic format via e-mails and on RSLO’s WEB site, as well as in hard copies during the Stability Pact Working Table III and 10th SPAI Steering Group meetings that took place at the end of May, in Belgrade; The report is still to be distributed to all interested Embassies and international organizations present in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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3. Maintaining and regularly updating the official web site of the SPAI
 - the SPAIgram and additional updated information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO are available on internet at: www.spai-rslo.org and www.stabilitypact.org
 - Until September 2006, RSLO will request and centralize all updated information from the SPAI Senior Representatives. All these info will be uploaded on the WEB site.
4. National and regional trainings
 - Although no further specific requests for trainings were submitted by the SPAI senior representatives, SPAI RSLO assesses the possibility of organizing in 2006 a Regional workshop regarding the cooperation between governmental and NGO sector and the promotion of anticorruption awareness campaigns –design, message and impact.

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

- I. SPAI National thematic event and twining type activity
 - SPAI RSLO and IFES (International Foundation for Election Systems) co-organized in Sarajevo (June 19 – 2, 2006), a joint training including a study visit of Macedonian prosecutors and representative of the Electoral Commission to their counterparts from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
 - The event brought together up to 40 investigators, prosecutors and experts in electoral systems from Bosnia Herzegovina and Macedonia as well as US experts in electoral fraud related areas (one public prosecutor and one FBI agent);
 - The main topic of the activity was „Sharing best practices in identifying and prosecuting high level corruption and fraud cases identified in connection with the electoral campaigns”; The topic covered in the training is strictly related to the forthcoming elections that are to be organized in both countries.
 - The training offered a combined approach: general presentation from the trainers and case studies solved by three working groups involving investigators, prosecutors and experts from the electoral commissions.
 - The following areas of reform and immediate action were identified by the participants:
 - Establishing teams of investigators, prosecutors and representatives of the electoral commissions to jointly work and monitor possible illegal activities before, during and after closing of the election process;
 - From all levels and jurisdictions of the prosecutor’s office a responsible person should be designated in charge with the monitoring of the electoral process;
 - Specialized training should be provided for the above mentioned teams – focus on comparative analyze of previous irregularities in order to prevent/preempt future errors; operative actions, methods and techniques.
 - Appointment of on duty officers in relevant locations should be encouraged. This should also include the establishment of hot lines to connect the on spot teams with the electoral commission; hot lines



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- available for the public; On duty judges should be also be appointed in order to issue emergency court orders;
- Allocation of relevant logistical support.
 - To monitor the pre-electoral activities, reports of the electoral commission and audits conducted by the competent bodies, press releases etc. in order to collect relevant information about possible vulnerable areas to electoral fraud;
 - Development by the police of plans for internal activities in line with their competences – in order to avoid overlapping with the activities conducted by the electoral commission;
- The trainers also recommended to focus on the following areas:
- Creation of a formal relation with the Electoral Commission;
 - Making the best use of the existing Association of Prosecutors in order to provide mutual assistance and resource allocation;
 - Active involvement in the process of drafting the amendments to the current legislation – the role of the association of prosecutors in this area is crucial;
 - Investigators and prosecutors should work together in electoral fraud cases;
 - If the legal system allows it focus the prosecutor's offices should prioritize their cases and focus on those ones with impact. *this recommendation can not be implemented as BiH and Macedonian legal systems do not provide the prosecutors with discretionary powers in initiating and conducting investigations.
2. Follow-up activities
- RSLO drafted together with OLAF the first agenda for the joint training for investigators and prosecutors on fighting fraud and corruption. Parties also agreed in principle regarding the allocated budget. The timeframe for the event is still to be decided.

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

The new work plan for 2006 and 2007 was developed by RSLO in cooperation with the SPAI Senior representatives following the Strategic Planning Session held in Sarajevo in October 2005. Two separate chapters from the work plan are currently addressing the assistance needs expressed by all SPAI countries:

- Implementation of the regional priorities according to the Brussels Ministerial Declaration;
- Focus areas for national and regional trainings to be organized in cooperation with SPAI RSLO.

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



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SPAI partner's event

- SPAI RSLO's Executive Secretary attended the Investment Compact Experts' Meeting in May 11-12, 2006, Rome, Italy. During the meeting RSLO' Executive Secretary delivered a presentation on the anticorruption efforts in SEE;
- The meeting had as a main objective the review of the Preliminary results of the Progress reached by the South Eastern Countries in the Investment Reform.
- Participants analyzed the trends within the Investment Reform Index (IRI), shared the best practices from SEE and CEE countries and focused on the Country priorities for 2006 – 2007;
- Participants drafted also a Ministerial Declaration as an answer to the mandate given to Investment Compact by the SEE ministers during the previous meeting held in Sofia. According to this mandate Investment Compact was tasked to prepare a regional framework that should draw upon OECD principles and consolidate the progress achieved in policy areas related to investment. Among the key areas the draft Declaration includes a section on "Anticorruption and business integrity". Within this section a special reference is made to the promotion of "regional cooperation, including the use of the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative to create synergies in the fight against corruption throughout the region".

III. SPAI RSLO's ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Taking into consideration the progress achieved by RSLO from its establishment regarding the SPAI secretariat function and depository of the Anticorruption resource center, the SPAI Steering Group approved within the new work plan for 2006 and 2007 the following two organizational objectives and priorities:

I. Fundraising and sustainability of the RSLO

Strategic planning sessions of Stability Pact

RSLO's played an important role in the preparation of the Stability Pact's Regional Table and Working Table III meetings, organized for the first time back to back with the 10th SPAI Steering Group meeting (May 29-30, 2006, Belgrade, Serbia).

The main topic of the Stability Pact periodic meetings was the process of transferring the SE region the ownership of the Initiatives. The discussions were carried out based on the outcomes of the Final Report of the Senior Review Group on The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

During the Working Table III Meeting a key role was given to the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative, represented by its Chairman and Executive Secretary. The achievements of SPAI and its Regional Secretariat were presented as a success story and lesson learned in the process of transferring of ownership to the region. In line with the keynote address delivered by the SPAI Chairman, the WT III Chair subscribed to the appeal that the SEE governments should also contribute financially to the operating and programmatic costs of SPAI. At the same time, he called on international partners to support SPAI and suggested that in particular the European Commission should seriously consider how it could make use of SPAI to fight corruption in SEE.



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The topic was further discussed and analyzed in concrete manner during an operative Steering Group Meeting. The 10th SPAI SG Meeting focused on the practical way of ensuring the sustainability of the Initiative and its Regional Secretariat. SPAI Senior Representatives agreed on the short term steps that are to be taken in order to assist financially the Regional Secretariat from Sarajevo. In line with the decisions of the Steering Group, SPAI RSLO with the support of the Stability Pact WT III, initiated the necessary consultations with the regional partners. This effort includes a letter addressed by the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact to all prime ministers of the SPAI member countries. The letter includes the request for financial contribution of minimum 24.000 EUROS from each SPAI member countries in order to cover RSLO's operational costs. A final decision on this topic is expected to be taken during the next Stability Pact Regional Meeting scheduled for November 2006, in Bucharest, Romania.

Please find attached the agenda of the Stability Pact Regional Table and Working Table III meetings as well as the agenda and the conclusions of the 10 SPAI Steering Group Meeting.

II. Institution-building training program

In close connection with the activities conducted under the first objective, SPAI RSLO and ABA CEELI – Washington scheduled, for April 10-14, 2006, a thematic training on fundraising and proposal writing skills. During this event, RSLO staff was trained on generic proposal writing, donor specific grant applications, fundraising strategies, outreach presentation etc. Also, under the guidance of the trainer, RSLO reshaped its mission statement, redrafted a project proposal on Sharing Best Practices in Fighting High Level Corruption and shaped out new budget scenarios.

IV. BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH SPAI PARTNERS

In addition to the meetings organized in the framework of the RSLO's projects, Executive Secretary met in Sarajevo, June 28th, with Ms. Marijana Trivunovic, Council of Europe and PACO Impact evaluator. The topic of the discussion was the forthcoming Final PACO Impact Conference scheduled for July 10 – 11, 2006, in Strasbourg. RSLO was asked to provide, during the Conference, two presentations focused on bilateral cooperation RSLO – Council of Europe and the evaluation of the two years PACO Impact project contribution to the anticorruption activities in the region.