



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

*SPAI RSLO's*

*NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT*

*January – March 2006*

*Sarajevo, BiH*

*April, 2006*



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# STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

## REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

### *SPAI RSLO's NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT*

*JANUARY – MARCH 2006*

#### ***I. INTRODUCTION***

Starting with January 2006, SPAI RSLO initiated the implementation phase of the new work plan approved during the 9<sup>th</sup> SPAI Steering Group Meeting held in early November last year, in Ohrid, Macedonia. According to the new programmatic document, SPAI RSLO will continue to act as Secretariat for the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative and offer full assistance to its Chairman and supporting team from the Stability Pact - Brussels based Office. SPAI RSLO will closely work and cooperate with the countries of the region in the process of implementing the national priorities identified by each SPAI member according to the Brussels Ministerial Declaration. In this regard, RSLO will focus on organizing all envisaged activities from its portfolio:

- 4 regional and 8 national events addressing the focus areas identified by the SPAI countries;
- Summer school for junior magistrates;
- Twinning type activities mainly developed for anticorruption agencies;
- Internship program for junior officials.

The current report is analyzing the main activities conducted by the SPAI RSLO in the first three months 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
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###### **I. SPAI National thematic event**

- Based on a request of the Montenegrin SPAI senior representative and Directorate for Anticorruption Initiative from Montenegro, SPAI RSLO organized a national thematic event in Podgorica, Montenegro, February 15-16;
- The main topic of the Conference was the Implementation and Incorporation of the UN Convention against Corruption into Montenegrin Legislation;
- Co-organisers: The Directorate for Anti-corruption Initiative of the Republic of Montenegro, OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro/Office in Podgorica and United Nations Development Programme/LO in Podgorica;



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- On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Montenegro, the Conference was opened by Mr. Igor Lukšić, Minister of Finance. Opening remarks were also made by Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu, Deputy head of OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro and Head of OSCE Office in Podgorica, Mr. Garret Tankosić-Kelly, Head of UNDP/Liaison Office in Podgorica, and Mr. Veselin Šuković, Executive Secretary of the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative/Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (SPAI RSLO);
- Within a panel addressing the regional and international cooperation, RSLO's Anticorruption expert presented the recent activities conducted by the Office in the process of supporting the implementation by the SPAI countries of the UN Convention against Corruption;
- The Conference was attended by 50 participants, among which the representatives of competent bodies and institutions of the Republic of Montenegro, representatives of NGO sector and civil society, as well as relevant international organizations and institutions.

#### 2. The Technical Guide

- SPAI RSLO anticorruption expert was invited by UNODC and UNICRI to be a member of the working group drafting the Technical Guide to Promote the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption;
- The purpose of this UN guide is to provide technical guidance and implementation options to practitioners based on good practices and lessons learned. As such it seeks to close the gap between the sometimes generic language and principles enshrined in the Convention and the need of Member States to fully implement these principles through laws, procedures, institutions and operational capacities. Thus Member States would be provided with a guide not only on to what to do, but also on how to do it. At the same time the technical guide is not intended to be prescriptive but to identify the key components or intentions of any legislative, institutional or procedural reform required under the Convention;
- The experts have been chosen for their known expertise in relation to various aspects of the Convention, and for their commitment to the implementation of the Convention. In order to ensure global relevance of the guide and coverage of a representative set of legal and institutional experiences, experts have been chosen from all regions;
- Each expert invited will be assigned a small number of articles, which fall into his or her specific field of expertise, and will be requested to prepare a short paper on each of the assigned articles with a view to identify the core components and aspects which need to be considered when implementing the respective provisions;
- RSLO's expert will identify the core aspects for 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 (deadline for submitting the inputs: April 18, first expert meeting: May 2 – 5 in Turin, Italy).

#### 3. Summer school for junior magistrates

- SPAI RSLO initiated the process of developing the outline for the Summer school for junior magistrates that is to be held in Romania in mid July. It is envisaged that one training module will also address the international standards in the fight against corruption, including the UN Convention against Corruption.



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#### 4. 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.

#### 5. Follow-up activities

- Following the trilateral negotiations with its partners, it is envisaged the during the first 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 National or regional events

- Although no specific request for trainings were submitted by the SPAI senior representatives, SPAI RSLO assesses the possibility of organizing in 2006 a Regional workshop regarding the anticorruption awareness campaigns –design, message and impact.

#### 2. Updating and distributing the SPAI gram

- SPAI RSLO will updated in the first half of the year its presentation materials: folders, leaflets, notebooks, pencils;
- SPAI RSLO is preparing a two years report and a new issue of the SPAIgram for the 10<sup>th</sup> SPAI Steering Group meeting scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup> in Belgrade;
- SPAI RSLO, Stability Pact Office of the Special Coordinator, ABA CEELI and USAID will ensure a region wide distribution of the report and SPAIgram in electronic format and hardcopy.

#### 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](http://www.spai-rslo.org) and [www.stabilitypact.org](http://www.stabilitypact.org)

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

#### 1. SPAI Regional thematic event

- Based on a request of the Montenegrin SPAI senior representative and State Auditors Institution from Montenegro, SPAI RSLO organized a regional thematic event in Podgorica, Montenegro, March 29 -30;



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- The International Conference of the Supreme Audit Institutions of Central and South Eastern Europe had as main topic “The Role of Supreme Audit Institutions in Preventing Corruption”;
- Co-organisers: State Auditors Institution of the Republic of Montenegro, GTZ and OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro/Office in Podgorica;
- The meeting benefited of the high level participation of presidents and vice presidents of the Supreme Audit institutions, senior experts and auditors from the Central and South Eastern Europe. Among them, as special invitees, the following provided keynote interventions during the meeting: Mr. Ranko KRIVOKAPIĆ, President of the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro, Dr Árpád KOVACS, Chairman of the Governing Board of INTOSAI and President of the State Audit Office of Hungary, Mr. Igor SOLTES President of the Slovenian Court of Audit, Mr. Milenko ŠEGO, Auditor General, Audit office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr. Dragoljub ARSOVSKI, State Audit Office General State Auditor from Macedonia;
- RSLO's Executive Secretary delivered a welcoming message during the opening plenary session and the RSLO's Anticorruption expert moderated a panel focused on practical ways to prosecute and adjudicate cases of high level corruption based on auditing results;
- It need to be mentioned that the meeting was the first regional event organized by SPAI RSLO officially attended by Bulgarian representatives. Bulgarian delegation was headed by Prof. Valeriy Dimitrov, President of National Audit Office.

## 2. SPAI partner's events

SPAI RSLO's representatives received several invitations to attend and contribute as experts to regional events focused on regional cooperation in the fight against high-level corruption and related serious crimes as organized crime, fraud, money laundering etc.

- RSLO's Executive Secretary attended the Round Table on financing political parties organized in Belgrade, February 8, by the Center for Free Elections and Democracy). RSLO's representative had an presentation on SPAI and also acted as a moderator for the panel on Public funding of political parties. During his presentation the Executive Secretary introduced the RSLO's project on fighting high level corruption and the regional trainings already organized for judiciary, law enforcement agencies, public procurement agencies, as well as the scheduled event for audit institutions. During the meeting RSLO received proposals for further cooperation from CESID and IFES;
- RSLO's Executive Secretary attended The 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the SEE Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG) organized in Belgrade, February 22 – 23, by SEEPAG Secretariat and SECI Center and supported by US Department of Justice, US Department of State, OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro and Stability Pact for SEE. RSLO's representative provided a presentation on SPAI and Prosecutorial Cooperation. Among the highlights of the presentation: the Brussels Declaration and the political commitment for enhanced regional cooperation in the fight against corruption, focus on high level corruption, opportunities for cooperation with the SPAI Secretariat;
- RSLO's Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert attended the Seminar for senior police officers from SEE countries, organized by OCTN (Organized Crime Training Network) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, March 27 – 28, 2006. During the training,



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RSLO Executive Secretary provided a detailed presentation of the SPAI Secretariat, mission and activities, as well as opportunities for further cooperation. The meeting also marked the transfer of Chairmanship of SEEPAG from Serbia to Slovenia.

#### 3. Follow-up activities

- SPAI RSLO developed a follow up Project outline on Sharing Best Practices in Fighting High Level Corruption in SEE. The project includes 3 type of activities:
  - o regional level training for prosecutors, judges and investigators;
  - o four twinning type activities including study visits to the anticorruption agencies from Croatia and Romania;
  - o publishing a best practices manual on fighting high level corruption in SEE.
- As a follow-up to the meeting of SPAI Chairman with the General Director of OLAF, RSLO's anticorruption expert and expert coordinator from Stability Pact WT III, had an operative meeting, in Brussels, February 21<sup>st</sup>, with the OLAF Unit for Investigations and Operations. During the meeting the parties agreed to prepare together a project outline for a joint training activity for investigators and prosecutors on fighting fraud and corruption. First steps were already done, RSLO submitting the first draft budget for the proposed event;
- RSLO's Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert had a meeting with IFES representatives in Sarajevo Sarajevo, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Parties agreed in principle to co-organize in mid June, in Sarajevo, a twinning type activity including a study visit of Macedonian prosecutors to their counterparts from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main topic of the activity will be sharing best practices in identifying and prosecuting high level corruption and frauds during electoral campaigns. IFES representatives will support the activity by bringing US experts in electoral fraud related areas (one public prosecutor and one FBI agent);
- During the SPAI regional event for audit institutions, the participants provided RSLO anticorruption expert with inputs for developing a regional event involving the Privatization Agencies and having as a main issue in focus the vulnerabilities to corruption within the privatization process.

#### 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:

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



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

#### SPAI partner's event

- RSLO's Anticorruption expert attended in Brussels, February 21<sup>st</sup> the meeting of the Stability Pact Business Advisory Council. During the meeting the SEE representatives addressed the issue of impact of corruption for the business environment. The Stability Pact expert coordinator for organized crime and corruption provided a detailed update on the role and activities of SPAI RSLO in this regard. He also mentioned the SPAI meeting for business community and governmental experts from SEE, held in Brussels, in May 2005 and its concrete outcome during the next day SPAI high level meeting - the endorsement of a SPAI ministerial declaration addressing as regional priority the public – private partnerships in reducing the impact of corruption within the business environment;
- During the same meeting SECI Pro representatives offered their support in designing a regional project addressing the impact of corruption in customs and consequences for the trade in Balkan countries.

#### **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**

##### I. Project outlines

- Based on the inputs from the SP's Brussels based coordinator expert, RSLO updated the project outlines for the SPAI internship program. Subsequently, the program was approved and budgeted amounts were disbursed by Norwegian Government to the SP Brussels Office;
- RSLO initiated the process for developing the project outline regarding the Summer school for junior magistrates that is to be held in Romania in mid July. The project is supported by the Romanian Ministry of Justice and National Institute of Magistracy. Additional support is envisaged from the SPOC and SEEPAG Secretariats;

##### 2. SPAI RSLO's presentation package

- During March 21 and 23, in Sarajevo, RSLO staff had a Strategic planning session with the participation of Mrs. Susan Kutor, Local Governance and Stability Pact Coordinator USAID Regional Services Center;
- With the full support received from ABA CEELI Washington, RSLO finished the Public Report covering the first 2 years of SPAI. The document is to be printed and distributed region wide to all interested partners and donors;
- In preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> SPAI Steering Group Meeting and following the specific requests from the Stability Pact Office of the Special Coordinator, RSLO developed various budget scenarios for the operational and programmatic costs in 2007.



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#### II. Institution-building training program

In close connection with the activities conducted under the first objective, SPAI RSLO and ABA CEELI – Washington scheduled, for early April, a thematic training on fundraising. During this event, RSLO staff will be trained on generic proposal writing, donor specific grant applications, fundraising strategies, outreach presentation etc.

#### ***IV. BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH SPAI PARTNERS***

In addition to the meetings organized in the framework of the RSLO's projects, several meetings were held with the participation of key SPAI partners:

- Sarajevo, January 31, 2006 – RSLO's Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert met with Ms. Lucy J. Gillers, Program Officer for Central and Eastern Europe, ABA CEELI. Topics discussed: RIBA support for SPAI RSLO and possible future cooperation;
- Sarajevo, 6-7 February – Dr. Erhard Busek, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact visited Bosnia and Herzegovina. RSLO's Executive Secretary was member of the official delegation during the visits to the Ministry of Security and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. RSLO prepared for this meeting a paper outlining the cooperation in anticorruption field between BiH and Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative;
- Sarajevo, March 2 - RSLO's Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert met with Mr. Thor Gislesen, Stability Pact National Coordinator for Norway. Topics discussed: Internship program and RSLO's sustainability.
- Sarajevo, March 3 - RSLO's Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert met with Mr. Mike Mozur Deputy Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact. Topics discussed: ongoing anticorruption projects and RSLO's sustainability.
- Sarajevo, March 7 - RSLO's Anticorruption expert met with Mrs. Cristine Riehl, Regional Economics Officer, Office of the South Central Europe, US Department of State. Topics discussed: RSLO mission and ongoing anticorruption projects.