



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

SPAI RSLO's

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

July – September 2006

Sarajevo, BiH

October, 2006



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July – September 2006

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

1. The Technical Guide

- September 25-27, 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, UNODC and OSCE in Vienna, Austria;
- RSLO expert contributed to the workgroup dealing with the Second Chapter: Preventive measures.
- It is expected that a refined and updated version of the Guide to be circulated for review in mid November. The first draft document will be presented officially during the Conference of the State Parties of UNCAC that is to take place in Jordan, Aman, December 14, 2006.

2. Summer school for junior magistrates

- July 02–09, SPAI RSLO in cooperation with SPOC Secretariat, Romanian Ministry of Justice and National Institute for Magistrates organized the Summer school for junior magistrates. One training module addressed the international standards in the fight against corruption, including the UN Convention against Corruption. An UNODC expert attended the meeting and delivered presentations on the content and challenges in implementing UNCAC.



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For additional details please refer to section III from this report.

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. Transparency International issued on September 12, 2006, the Study on possible monitoring mechanism regarding UNCAC. SPAI Chairman was a member of the expert group and RSLO provided inputs regarding the peer review process and role of regional cooperation. The study contains a brief description of SPAI RSLO as a soft monitoring mechanism. RSLO requested from TI Berlin 100 hard copies for distribution.

5. Follow-up activities

- Following the trilateral negotiations with its partners, SPAI RSLO is 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. SPAI RSLO Anticorruption expert will deliver presentation within a panel dedicated to Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative.
- During the Expert meeting in Vienna, SPAI RSLO Anticorruption expert reached agreement with OSCE and UNODC representatives to co-organize, in the first half of 2007, a Regional Conference on implementing UNCAC's provisions on preventive measures.

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

- SPAI RSLO received a small grant (5000 EURO) from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung to organize a panel discussion on the governmental perspective in addressing political corruption. The panel is a component of a Regional NGO Conference organized in Sinaia, Romania October 12 – 15, 2006, by Romanian Academic Society (SAR), the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and National Endowment for Democracy.

It is expected that SPAI and the co-organizers of this event will agree to initiate, in 2007, an activity addressing the impact of awareness raising campaigns.

- As a component of the OSCE project for Bosnia and Herzegovina, SPAI RSLO, in cooperation with ABA CEELI Sarajevo, will support, during the next months, the public authorities in designing and conducting a public awareness-raising campaign, including public



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events such as roundtables, to promote the Anticorruption Action Plan and facilitate discussion between public and private sector.

2. Updating and distributing the SPAI gram

- SPAI RSLO updated its presentation materials: folders and leaflets;
- SPAI RSLO will produce and distribute a SPAIgram covering year 2006 during the Stability Pact Regional Table and Working Table III Meetings, Bucharest, Romania, November 15 -16, 2006.

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
- In September 2006, RSLO requested updated information from the SPAI Senior Representatives.

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

1. SPAI National thematic event and twinning type activity

- No training was conducted within this project area.

2. Follow-up activities

- SPAI RSLO, in cooperation with Moldavian Senior representative, between 7 and 11 of November is organizing a twinning type visit of Romanian prosecutors and investigators to Chisinau.
- 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 event will take place in Sarajevo in the first quarter of 2007.

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.

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

- No training was conducted within this project area.

III. NEW TRAINING MODULES FOR TRAINING JUNIOR EXPERTS

SPAI RSLO developed specific module trainings dedicated to junior experts, aiming to provide magistrates and public officials with basic knowledge on anticorruption standards. Currently trainings for young experts are delivered by RSLO during the Summer Schools and the Internship Program.

1. Summer School for Junior Magistrates from SEE Countries – European Standards in Justice and Home Affairs. Focus area: *International and Regional Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption and Organized Crime*

- The event was jointly organized by SPAI RSLO and SPOC in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Justice and National Institute for Magistrates; the event took place in Bucharest and Sovata (National Training Center for Magistrates) between July 2nd and 9th.
- Training modules covered during the Summer School:
 - a. International standards in anticorruption – the implementation of the relevant UN and CoE conventions;
 - b. Anticorruption policies and preventive measures – available tools and best practices;
 - c. EU experience regarding the international judicial cooperation in criminal matters (EUROJUST, European Judicial Network, OLAF, EUROPOL);
 - d. Reform of the judiciary and anticorruption as challenges of the EU accession process.
- The training modules benefited of the presences of experts from Croatia, France, Slovenia, Romania, as well as international organizations involved in the fight against corruption as: UNODC, Council of Europe, OLAF, Stability Pact Initiatives against Corruption and Organized Crime.
- All 9 SPAI member countries were represented (22 magistrates – prosecutors and judges);
- All participants successfully passed a final written examination.
- Graduation certificates were delivered under the co-signature of the Romanian Minister of Justice, Monica Macovei and Veselin Sukovic, SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary;

For a full coverage of the Summer school please visit www.spai-rslo.org.

Note:

The reaction of the participants during the one week training, as well as their very impressive replies to the written examination, gives SPAI enough grounds to do its best in ensuring the follow up of such project. In this regard we already approached the Macedonian authorities in order to assess the possibility of supporting us in organizing the Second Summer School for Junior Magistrates next year.



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2. SPAI RSLO Internship Program

Starting with September 2006, RSLO - with financial support of Norway - initiated the Internship program for junior public officials from SPAI member countries. The first country that sent a junior official to RSLO was Moldova. Next intern will be selected in December and will start the internship in January 2007.

According to the Terms of reference the intern will be asked to fulfill the following tasks:

- provide substantive input and active involvement to the running projects;
- ensure the efficient preparation of SPAI meetings and assume general organizational tasks;
- provide event-related information updates on the website;
- performing other related tasks as directed by the Anticorruption Expert;
- additionally the Intern will be asked to handle other tasks as directed by the SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary.

The intern will be asked to finalise a thematic study by the end of the three months period.

IV. 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

Follow-up measures to ensure the financial sustainability of SPAI RSLO

In line with the decisions of the 10th SPAI SG Meeting and the conclusions of the WT III meeting that were held in Belgrade, May 2006, the following measures were taken:

- The Coordinator of the Stability Pact and the Chairman of SPAI sent out to all Prime Ministers of the member countries official request to analyze the possibility to support financially SPAI RSLO, starting with 2007. 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;
- WT III Coordinator expert and SPAI RSLO kept direct contacts with all National Coordinators of Stability Pact and SPAI Senior representatives in order to monitor the reactions to the official request. So far 4 positive answers were received from: Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania.
- It is envisaged that all member countries will be invited in November 2006, during the next Working Table III or regional Table Meeting, to endorse a Memorandum of Understanding with regard to the financial sustainability of SPAI RSLO.



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II. Institution-building training program

- 25-27 September, Prague, Czech Republic – SPAI RSLO Administrative Assistant attended the Field Financial Manager training.

The training was organized by ABA CEELI office in Washington in cooperation with CEELI Institute from Prague. The training was attended by ABA CEELI Field Financial Managers and Country Directors from: BiH, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kosovo, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Russia and Tajikistan. The only organization with the status of Sub-grantee, participating to the training, was SPAI RSLO. The main purpose of the training was to share the updated changes within ABA CEELI policies and manuals, and to train Fin. Managers in advanced reporting skills and newly developed financial sheets.

V. EVENTS OF THE SPAI PARTNERS

I. Annual Meeting of ABA CEELI, July 10 – 11, Istanbul, Turkey

- During the meeting RSLO's anticorruption expert delivered a presentation within the panel on „Donor and International Organization Perspectives on Emerging Priorities in Combating Corruption“;
- The panel included also presentations delivered by OECD, USAID and Millennium Challenge Corporation;
- RSLO's anticorruption expert had also side-meetings with the ABA CEELI Anticorruption Program Manager and the representatives of the ABA CEELI offices in SEE, planning 4 joint anticorruption events for the second half of 2006 - 2007: Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Moldova.

2. Final Regional Conference of PACO Impact Project, July 10 – 11, Strassbourg , France

- PACO project was launched in 2004 aiming at providing technical assistance and cooperation to countries of South Eastern Europe on their anticorruption policy, including on institutional and legislative reforms.
- RSLO's Executive Secretary delivered two presentations during the Conference focusing on the bilateral cooperation Council of Europe – SPAI and the outcomes of the PACO Impact Project. Within his presentation, RSLO's Executive Secretary highlighted for the present partners and donors the fact that, with the conclusion of the PACO Impact project, SPAI RSLO remains the only regional anticorruption Initiative and the only structure dealing with coordinating such efforts.

3. Conference on Countering Corruption, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking, 8-21 September, Tirana, Albania

- During the meeting RSLO's anticorruption expert delivered a presentation on the trends and challenges in preventing and combating corruption. The expert also participated in the restricted task force work groups focusing on the possible solutions to address corruption and its links with organized crime.
- As a side meeting, RSLO's expert, WT III Expert Coordinator, SECI Center representative and program coordinator of Marshall Center agreed to jointly organize a



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Regional Conference on fighting Corruption in SEE. Parties agreed about Bucharest, Romania as a venue for the event. The event is scheduled already by Marshall Center for May 2007.

4. Anticorruption Assessment Mission of UNDP and UNODC to Montenegro, September 26, Podgorica

- SPAI RSLO's Executive Secretary attended the assessment meeting organized by UNDP and UNODC;
- The mission had three objectives:
 - o To examine and assess Montenegro's existing anti-corruption framework;
 - o To assess how the current framework is compliant with UNCAC and the gaps that exist.
 - o To identify the necessary technical assistance necessary to strengthen Montenegro's anti-corruption framework and its consistency with UNCAC.
- RSLO's Executive Secretary expressed the availability of SPAI RSLO to support future UN activities in Montenegro and other SPAI member countries.

V. BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH SPAI PARTNERS

1. Meeting with ABA CEELI representatives, July 27, Sarajevo

- RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert met with Zelah Senior, ABA CEELI BiH Country Director and Selma Osmanagic-Agovic, Staff Attorney;
- Participants reviewed together OSCE project for BiH and agreed on the next joint activities.

2. Meeting with the representatives Kondrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, August 15, Sarajevo

- RSLO's Anticorruption expert had a bilateral meeting with Stefanie Ricarda Roos, Director of the Rule of Law Programme for South Eastern Europe (based in Bucharest) and Christina Catherine Krause, Country Director (based in Sarajevo).
- During the meeting participants jointly assessed the possibility of joining forces for a future joint activity at regional level. Among possible areas of interest the "cooperation among MPs" was highlighted as priority. It is possible to jointly develop for 2007 an activity outline on the Role of the Parliaments in Fighting Political Corruption.
- The representatives Kondrad-Adenauer-Stiftung expressed their interest in joining RSLO for future events and also to attend as Observer the Steering Group Meetings.

3. Meeting with BiH SPAI Senior Representative, September 13, Sarajevo

- RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert reviewed together with the SPAI Senior representative the schedule of activities for 2006 and 2007, according to the Workplan approved in Ohrid.



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- Participants agreed about the joint activities within OSCE project: drafting the law on establishing an Anticorruption Body, study visit for the members of the drafting group and awareness raising activities.

4. Meeting with, ABA CEELI representatives, September 13, Sarajevo

- RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert met with Rob Leventhal, Director of Programs, Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Zelah Senior, BiH Country director and Nebojsa Milanovic BiH Deputy Country director;
- Participants discussed about the possible joint activities in BiH and Western Balkans.

5. Meeting with Rheto Brunhart, Expert WT III, Stability Pact, September 22, Sarajevo

- SPAI RSLO' Executive Secretary discussed potential cooperation projects with POLICE FORUM and SEEPCA (South Eastern European Police Chief Association)

6. Meeting with Montenegrin authorities during the official visit of Michael Mozur, Deputy Special Coordinator of Stability Pact, September 26 - 28, Podgorica, Montenegro

- SPAI RSLO's Executive Secretary joined the Official delegation of the Deputy Special Coordinator and had meetings with Montenegrin authorities: Ministry of Foreign Affairs/National Coordinator of Stability Pact, Directorate for Anticorruption Initiative, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of European Integration and International Economic Relations, Commission for Public Procurement, Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises.
- During the meetings, among other topics, participants discussed WT III related issues as: recent anticorruption efforts of the Montenegrin authorities, including the new public procurement law and the implementation of the Anticorruption Action plan, support for the financial sustainability of SPAI RSLO in the process of transferring the ownership of the Anticorruption Initiative etc.