



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

*SPAI RSLO's*

*NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT*

*October – December 2006*

*Sarajevo, BiH*

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# STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

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

*October – December 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 fourth 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. SPAI international event**

- In cooperation with OSCE and UNODC and with the support of the Romanian Ministry of Justice, SPAI RSLO and SPOC Secretariat supported the organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNODC Sub-regional Expert Workshop in Bucharest – Romania, November 13-14. The event was a follow up of the similar event organized in Zagreb, aiming at observing the progress in implementing the Zagreb Declaration and identifying the challenges in ensuring an efficient international cooperation in the framework of the UN Conventions against terrorism, organized crime and corruption. Within the event, SPAI RSLO anticorruption expert delivered a presentation on the challenges in implementing the UN Convention against corruption in SEE. RSLO's expert also played and active role during the discussion sessions and also within the process of drafting the final declaration of the meeting.
- Participants stressed the importance of ratifying and implementing all universal and regional instruments against terrorism and highlighted the need for promotion of mutual legal assistance and extradition and implementation of bilateral agreements for



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the purpose of furthering international legal cooperation in criminal matters. They also called for the use of Interpol's I-24/7 global police communication system. They adopted the Bucharest Declaration on International Cooperation on Countering Terrorism, Corruption and Transnational Organized Crime, which called for cooperation in bringing to justice criminals who support or participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts and for prohibition by law of incitement to commit terrorist offences. It also encouraged the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Furthermore, the participants identified areas in which they would welcome UNODC technical assistance, including model laws, legislative guides and training manuals, as well as special software developed by UNODC to expedite mutual legal assistance. Participants also called upon the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to address needs of States to build their capacity in the recovery and return of corruption-related assets.

The experts came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia and the Slovak Republic.

#### 2. SPAI national event

- Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH) and Stability Pact of Anticorruption Initiative for Southeast Europe (SPAI) organized the UN Convention against Corruption Conference (UNCAC) on the International Anti-corruption Day December 09, 2006, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The Conference was a follow-up of the last-year Conference and it was dedicated to the improvement made in BiH regarding the Convention. Although BiH has signed and ratified the Convention, the true actions are yet to be made. Key topics of the Conference were corruption prevention and corruption proceedings, and property confiscation as very important segments of corruption prevention in general.
- During the Conference it was also made public the National Integrity Study 2007 that is a result of the project supported by the Open Society Initiative in BiH and implemented by TI BiH during 2006. The Study analyse legal framework for corruption and efficiency of all governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisation which are relevant in sector of prevention and fight against corruption. Results and recommendations of the Study are the foundation for defining strategic priorities in fight against corruption.



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3. The Technical Guide for Implementing the UN Convention against Corruption
  - The deadline on issuing the Draft technical guide was prolonged and the document is expected to be circulated in preparation for Global Forum V on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity, 2-5 April 2007, Johannesburg, South Africa.
4. Summer school for junior magistrates
  - SPAI RSLO developed within the package of project proposals for donor's review a follow up outline for organizing the Second Summer School for Junior Magistrates. Discussions are ongoing with the Romanian SPAI Senior Representative for continuing the Summer School series in Romania, within the training center of the National Institute for Magistracy, from Sovata. The event will continue to include a dedicated section on implementing UN anticorruption standards.
5. 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;
6. Follow-up activities
  - SPAI RSLO 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. Following the latest discussions with the OSCE partners the event will take place in Albania in April 2007.

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 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 was a component of a Regional NGO Conference on "*Curbing Political Corruption – Anticorruption as revolution*" organized in Sinaia, Romania October 12 – 15, 2006, by Romanian Academic Society (SAR), the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and National Endowment for Democracy.
- The conference compared lessons from anti-corruption initiatives in Balkan and South/East European countries, and identified best practices and common success



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indicators from these anticorruption campaigns. Speakers from Balkan and South/East European countries, including experts and donors, joined the discussions on the real achievements in the fight against political corruption in recent years. The conference also was a starting point for the establishment of the South-East European network of NGOs to serve as watchdogs against political corruption.

- 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.
2. Programs for raising public awareness
    - SPAI RSLO developed within the package of project proposals for donor's review a program outline for developing and disseminating region wide a campaign to raise awareness focused on the youngsters from SEE countries. According to the outline the main components are a public debate series including national and regional events and a media campaign incorporating thematic video clips, posters and leaflets.
    - 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 events such as roundtables, to promote the Anticorruption Action Plan and facilitate discussion between public and private sector.
  3. Updating and distributing the SPAI gram
    - SPAI RSLO updated its presentation materials: folders and leaflets;
    - SPAI RSLO produced and distributed a wide range of materials and reports covering conducted activities during the Stability Pact Regional Table and Working Table III Meetings, Bucharest, Romania, November 15 -16, 2006.
  4. 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. Twining type activity
  - SPAI RSLO in cooperation with the Moldavian Center for Combatic Economic Crimes and Corruption organized, in Moldova, Chisinau, between November 8 and 10, 2006, a twinning type exercise for anticorruption prosecutors and investigators from Moldova, Romania and Lithuania.
  - In addition to the participating magistrates and investigators, SPAI partner countries (Romania, Lithuania and USA) and organizations (ABA CEELI, Council of Europe, OSCE, TI) were represented. This wide participation contributed to the overall



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coordination of the anticorruption efforts in Moldova building upon the ongoing efforts to avoid duplication and overlapping of projects and activities.

- This type of activity was initiated by SPAI RSLO one year ago and aims, as main objective, to strengthen the direct and operative relations among the specialized anticorruption agencies from South Eastern Europe. This new approach in training senior experts proved to be also a very practical and efficient way to foster the exchange of experience and transfer of best practices in the field of preventing and combating corruption. SPAI RSLO coordinated similar joint trainings with the participation of prosecutors and investigators from Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro, Macedonia și Bosnia Herzegovina.

*Please find attached activity report* that was publicly disseminated and discussed during the National Anticorruption Conference organized by Moldavian authorities with the support of the Council of Europe, on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2006.

#### 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 event will take place in Sarajevo in 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

#### SPAI partner's event

- No training was conducted within this project area.



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#### **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***

- SPAI RSLO developed within the package of project proposals for donor's review a follow up outline for organizing the Second Summer School for Junior Magistrates. Discussions are ongoing with the Romanian SPAI Senior Representative for continuing the Summer School series in Romania, within the training center of the National Institute for Magistracy, from Sovata.

*For a full coverage of the first Summer school please visit [www.spai-rslo.org](http://www.spai-rslo.org).*

##### **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.

The next intern will represent Kosovo and will start the internship in February 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.



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#### **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**

- **Memorandum of Understanding between Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Governments of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Montenegro, Romania, Republic of Serbia to fully transfer to the region the leadership and ownership of the anticorruption initiative and ensure its financial sustainability.**

SPAI RSLO in cooperation with the SPAI Chairman, Stability Pact Working Table III and in close consultations with the SPAI Senior representatives drafted the MoU that will be opened for signature and ratification by the SPAI Member countries during 2007. The MoU regulates the steps that are to be taken by the region in order to ensure the sustainability of the SPAI Regional Secretariat in Sarajevo and leadership on the Anticorruption Initiative. The document was disseminated for final review by the SPAI Senior Representatives and Stability Pact National Coordinators until January 31, 2007. Based on these inputs SPAI RSLO will officially initiate the signature procedure by the relevant national authorities.

- **Donor coordination meeting**

Under the coordination of the SPAI Chairman and with the support of the WT III coordinator expert, SPAI RSLO is organizing in Brussels, on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Friends of the SPAI Chair meeting. The meeting will bring together potential donors for SPAI programmatic activities and will focus mainly on reviewing the package of project proposals developed by SPAI RSLO based on the objectives set within the Work plan for 2006 - 2007.

- **Stability Pact Regional Table and Working Table III periodic meetings**

SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert attended the *Meetings of the WT III and Regional Table* in Bucharest – Romania, November 15-16. During the WT III meeting the Executive Secretary briefed the participants with regard to the latest developments in the process of ensuring the sustainability of the Sarajevo Office.



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#### II. Institution-building training program

- No training was scheduled for this timeframe.

#### **V. EVENTS OF THE SPAI PARTNERS**

- SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary attended as Chief of the Montenegrin Delegation the "Xth Plenary meeting of GRECO" in Strasbourg - France, October 09. The meeting discussed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint evaluation report on anticorruption activities in Montenegro. In the same framework, bilateral meetings were arranged with the GRECO Chairman and Executive Secretary discussing the future cooperation between GRECO and SPAI;
- SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption expert attended, as moderators and speakers the National event on "Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic Integration perspectives" organized by Marshall Center in Podgorica – Montenegro, October 30 - November 01. Within a side meeting RSLO and Marshall Center representatives agreed about the joint international event that is to be co organized in May 2007 in Romania;
- SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary attended as speaker the "Sub-regional Workshop on the Anti-corruption Practitioners Network" organized by UNDP and OSCE in Bucharest-Romania, November 07-08. The main objective of the event was to collect feedback from practitioners about the usefulness of the Network and WEB site for their daily operational work.
- SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary attended as speaker the "Octopus Interface Conference on Corruption and Democracy" organized by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg – France, November 20-21. RSLO representative shared the RSLO experience in SEE within a panel dedicated to Corruption, Democracy and Justice.
- SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary attended as speaker the National Conference marking the Global Anti-corruption day organized by the Anticorruption Initiative Directorate in Podgorica – Montenegro, December 05, 2006. RSLO representative urged the national authorities to further support the regional activities conducted by RSLO.
- Working Table III Coordinator expert of Justice and Home Affairs issues represented SPAI RSLO within the National Anticorruption Conference organized by the Moldova in cooperation with the Council of Europe in Chisinau, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006. With this occasion the Stability Pact representative presented for discussion the Draft report prepared by SPAI RSLO after the twinning type exercise for anticorruption prosecutors and investigators from Moldova, Romania and Lithuania, organized in Chisinau, between November 8 and 10, 2006;
- SPAI RSLO Anticorruption expert attended as speaker the International Workshop on Post Conflict Institution Building: Beating Corruption organized by the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies in Monterey – California, December 10-13, 2006. The anticorruption expert shared the RSLO experience in providing assistance to the Western Balkan countries. (Activity report and background paper available on presentation CD)