



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

SPAI RSLO's

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

January – March 2007

Sarajevo, BiH

31 March, 2007



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Structure of the report

- I. INTRODUCTION*
- II. SPAI RSLO's PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES*
- III. NEW TRAINING MODULES FOR TRAINING JUNIOR EXPERTS*
- IV. SPAI RSLO's ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT*
- V. EVENTS OF THE SPAI PARTNERS*



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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 first quarter of 2007, 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 regional and national events

Preparation of:

- **Regional Conference on implementing the UN Convention against Corruption – Chapter 2 – Preventive measures**, Tirana, Albania, 03 – 04 April 2007. This Conference SPAI RSLO will organize in cooperation with OSCE. This will be a Regional event for policy makers, representatives of the agencies with competences in preventing corruption and civil society.

The participants will be from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo-UNMIK, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, as well as from Council of Europe.



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

- **Regional Conference on curbing Corruption in SEE**, Romania, Bucharest, 03 – 04 May 2007. The participants on this regional event will be the members of Parliaments, Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Interior, Ministries of Defense, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Military Security Intelligence Agencies, Anticorruption agencies, Directorates of Counter Organized Crime, and Prosecutor Offices from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, PISG-UNMIK, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia.

This conference will focus on countering corruption, the greatest threat to stability and sustainable development in the Western Balkans. This conference, organized in cooperation with Marshall Center, will strengthen the existing anti-corruption regional institutional framework by providing a platform for the sharing and dissemination of counter corruption best practices and lessons learned with respect to:

- The Role of Law Enforcement;
- Impact of Corruption Prevention Measures;
- Raising Awareness, Promoting Transparency, and Building the Partnership with Civil Society.

2. 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 after Global Forum V on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity, 2-5 April 2007, Johannesburg, South Africa.

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;
- Convention status matrix included in the Annual Report SPAI RSLO for 2006.

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

- No events were conducted within this project area.

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



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

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.
- In the scope of the Regional Conference on implementing the UN Convention against Corruption – Chapter 2 – Preventive measures, Tirana, Albania, 03 – 04 April 2007, it will be organized Working group session where the awareness campaigns will be presented from the countries of the region, ranging from ones with general approach and finishing with dedicated and focused ones on: conflict of interest, hot lines, corruption in judiciary, customs corruption etc.
- As one of the main objectives on the Regional Conference on curbing Corruption in SEE, Romania, Bucharest, 03 – 04 May 2007, a platform for the sharing and dissemination of counter corruption best practices and lessons learned with respect to Raising Awareness, Promoting Transparency, and Building the Partnership with Civil Society will be provided.
- Every event which is (co)organized by SPAI RSLO has a panel on raising public awareness.

3. Updating and distributing the SPAI gram

- SPAI RSLO produced and distributed a wide range of materials and reports covering conducted activities.
- Preparatory activities for Annual report 2006.
- Preparatory activities for Flash SPAIgram.

4. Redesigning, maintaining and regularly updating the official WEB site of the SPAI RSLO

During the March 2007 SPAI RSLO is redesigning and updating the official WEB site and the following actions were performed:

- The official WEB site of the SPAI RSLO is redesigned;
- The CMS (Content Management System) is implemented in the new WEB design;
- The existing data are transferred into the new design.

The SPAIgram and additional updated information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO are available on internet at: www.spai-rslo.org and 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 and ABA CEELI in Sarajevo coorganized in cooperation with the Slovenian Agency for Preventing Corruption organized, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, between February 05 and 08, 2007, a Twining type activity for anticorruption prosecutors and investigators from Bosnia and Hercegovina who are in the same time members of Working group for drafting



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

the Law on Anti-corruption Agency. **Mr. Veselin Sukovic**, Executive Secretary of the SPAI RSLO participated to this event.

As a part of very intensive program, participants of the Twinning type activity visited the Commission for prevention of corruption, the Ministry of Justice, the Police Office, the Election Commission, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the State Prosecutorial office.

During this Twinning type activity participants gained a valuable knowledge and experience and were able to find answers on their questions regarding the setting up the Anti-corruption agency that needs to be established in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Visiting the Police office, members of the Working group were informed about police structure in Slovenia and their special department for fighting corruption. It was useful to see which mechanism in concrete case they can use in investigating the corruptive behavior. During the visit of State Prosecutorial office, two meetings were organized that gave to participants prospective of the advantages and disadvantages of the anticorruption agency that is set up within the governmental system.

At the end, both sides agreed that the experience gained during this Twinning type activity were highly useful and will be a helpful tool for drafting the law on setting up the anti-corruption agency.

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

- No events were conducted within this project area.

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

1. SPAI partner's event

- No events were 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*

- 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 from SEE,



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

Romania, Sovata, end of June 2007. 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. Co organizers are Romanian Ministry of Justice, National Institute for Magistracy and SPOC Secretariat. This is the regional event for junior prosecutors, judges and representatives of the Ministries of Justice.

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 second intern, Mr. Asdren Gashi, represented Kosovo-UNMIK, started the internship in February-March 2007.

According to the Terms of reference and under the coordination of the Executive secretary and Anti-corruption expert, the intern fulfilled the following tasks during february - march internship period:

1. Updated the Data base of SPAI contacts/countries;
2. Revised of the office library;
3. Prepared and drafted the written thematic study/report about „Where Kosovo stands on anti-corruption fight“, with concrete data about law enforcement bodies and legislative framework in anti-corruption domain;
4. Prepared and drafted the Report on his 3 months internship period;
5. Updated the relevant anti-corruption information for the Anti-corruption Resource Center:
 - a. The Law of Kosovo on Combating Corruption No. 2004/34, of 22 /04/2005;
 - b. National Strategy on Combating Corruption - last version;
 - c. Action plan for the implementation of the National Strategy for preventing and combating corruption for the year 2006/2007;
 - d. The Anticorruption Action: Social and economic necessities for Kosovo. October 2006;
 - e. Updated network contact list of all country partners of SPAI-RSLO
 - f. Prepared Contact list of Kosovo authorities in charge of fighting corruption, including media, business, NGO's and international resident organizations.
6. Revised the Office Library;
7. Involved in the preparation, updating and redesigning of the official WEB site of SPAI-RSLO (list of contacts from Kosovo-UNMIK, Kosovo-UNMIK related legislations, events related information to be put on the WEB);
8. Involved in organization of the „Regional Conference on Sharing best Practices and Lessons Learned in Preventing Corruption“ organized by SPAI RSLO and OSCE Albania, in Tirana, which will be organized April 3-4, 2007:



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

- Made contact with Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to resolve the visa issue and other technical details regarding to the traveling of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Serbia Delegations
- Assisted to RSLO staff in other organizational and preparation activities for the Tirana Conference, as well as other additional activities and tasks as directed by the SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert.

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

- Friends of the Chair meeting

Under the coordination of the SPAI Chairman and with the support of the WT III coordinator expert, SPAI RSLO organized in Brussels, on January 23, 2007 the Friends of the SPAI Chair meeting. The meeting brought together potential donors for SPAI programmatic activities and focused mainly on reviewing the package of project proposals developed by SPAI RSLO based on the objectives set within the Work plan for 2006 - 2007.

- RSLO - SIDA Meeting, January 25, 2007

RSLO representatives, Mr. Veselin Sukovic, Executive Secretary, and Mr. Cornel Virgiliu Calinescu, Anticorruption Expert, presented the Programmatic Portfolio and offered detailed information about the current status within Stability Pact and SPAI. Also the outcomes of the FoC meeting in Brussels were presented.

SIDA's representative, Mr. Joakim Molander - first secretary, in charge with SIDA projects, expressed interest regarding the process of transfer of ownership underlining the advantages of the new position of RSLO as self sustainable organization with operational costs to be covered by the region. He will analyze the projects and consider them for the Plan of activities in 2008. Furthermore he offered to disseminate the RSLO documents within a coordination meeting of SIDA representatives from SEE that is to take place this week.

Further contact is envisaged in the near future.



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

- **RSLO - Delegation of the European Commission in BiH meeting, January 25, 2007**

RSLO representatives, Mr. Veselin Sukovic, Executive Secretary, and Mr. Cornel Virgiliu Calinescu, Anticorruption Expert, presented the Programmatic Portfolio and offered detailed information about the current status within Stability Pact and SPAI. Also the outcomes of the FoC meeting in Brussels were presented.

Representatives of the EC Delegation, Mr. Luc Steeman, attaché, Mr. Ferdinand Kopp, Counsellor, Head of Operations Section 1, Ms. Dina Karic, Task manager, Ms. Paraskevi Nazou, Task Manager, expressed interest in RSLO activities especially in those related to training anticorruption prosecutor and investigators. A special interest was expressed regarding the possibility of RSLO to develop trainings that combine topics as anticorruption the relation with organized crime and money laundering issues. Furthermore, a special interest was expressed for potential cooperation in training border officers. In this last regard, RSLO offered support in developing such activity by also involving the SECI Center, SPOC and SEEPAG.

EC representatives will further analyze RSLO's portfolio and address additional questions if necessary. They also expressed their availability for attending future RSLO events and showed interest in using RSLO's infrastructure for organizing their training activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). In this regard RSLO needs to seek support from BiH authorities in order to have full access to the training facilities, free of charge, as provided by the Bilateral Agreement between the SP Special Coordinator and BiH.

- **Meeting between Mr. Veselin Sukovic, Executive Secretary of SPAI RSLO and Mr. Martin Harvey, Representative of European Commission in Podgorica, Montenegro, February, 28, 2007**

The meeting was held in order to consider the possibility of cooperation between SPAI RSLO and the European Commission, with the emphasis on activities which are to be directed on raising public awareness regarding negative consequences of corruption. Mr. Sukovic gave a brief introduction on establishment and activities of SPAI RSLO and presented activities and plans of SPAI RSLO for future period, pointing out the necessity for direct and more intense cooperation between SPAI Regional Secretariat and the European Commission.

In conclusion, Mr. Harvey conveyed his appreciation for an informative meeting and announced feed back information and constitution of cooperation with SPAI RSLO, following consultations with the office of the European Commission in Brussels.

- **Memorandum of Understanding concerning Cooperation in Fighting Corruption through the South Eastern European Anti-Corruption Initiative (MoU)**, between 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.



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

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 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 officially initiated the signature procedure by the relevant national authorities. MoU will be opened for signature and ratification by the SPAI Member countries during the SEECP JHA Meeting in Zagreb on April 13, 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.

II. Institution-building training program

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

In the SPAI RSLO Office in Sarajevo the Strategic Planning Process was conducted from 12-16 March 2007 in the presence of Mr. Veselin Sukovic, Executive Secretary, Mr. Sorin Sterie, Expert in Justice and Home Affairs, Ms. Jennifer Gauck, Program Manager – ABA CEELI, Ms. Dajana Stajic, Administrative Assistant, and Mr. Goran Vujovic, Short time anticorruption consultant.

During the Strategic Planning, participants discussed issues regarding Transitional phase of the SPAI RSLO, the way of replacement of Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert, as well as the Annual report, updating Office Policy Manual, the structure of the next Narrative report, and other financial related issues.

Participants also finalized the text of the Draft of Memorandum of Understanding between Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Governments of the SPAI RSLO member states and discussed the possible terms when MoU can be signed.

The conclusions of the Strategic Planning were that transitional phase should be conducted as smoothly as possible and that MoU should be opened for signature and ratification by the SPAI Member countries during the SEECP JHA Meeting in Zagreb on April 13, 2007.

Immediately after the Strategic Planning in coordination and consultation with the Special coordinator Office in Brussels, Mr Goran Vujovic replaced Mr. Cornel Calinescu, Anticorruption expert, and become new SPAI RSLO Anticorruption Expert (22 March 2007).



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

V. EVENTS OF THE SPAI PARTNERS

- **The presentation of Transparency International Publication – National Integrity System Study, Sarajevo (February 13, 2007)**

Mr. Veselin Sukovic, Executive Secretary of SPAI RSLO, participated in this event and addressed to the participants emphasizing *inter alia* the need of continuation of further cooperation between SPAI RSLO and Transparency International.

- **The Celebration of 10th Anniversary of ABA CEELI Office in Sarajevo (February 14, 2007)**

All partner organizations of ABA CEELI Office in Sarajevo were presented and they directed attention to all achievements of the ABA CEELI Office and programs that were fulfilled in last ten years in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Partner organizations of ABA CEELI Office in Sarajevo were present too, and had presentations. Mr. Veselin Sukovic, Executive Secretary of SPAI RSLO addressed to the participants and informed them about RSLO activities, as well as about joint RSLO – ABA CEELI activities in last three years.

You will be informed in details about this event from ABA CEELI office in Sarajevo.

- **USAID SEED ROL Networking Meeting**

CEELI Institute organized a “**USAID SEED ROL Networking Meeting**” in Prague on 26-28 March 2007 that focused on the Rule of Law development in Southeastern Europe.

In order to ensure that the training programs effectively target the needs of the region, the Institute and USAID were hosting this networking meeting of regional professionals. Meeting conducted the training for legal professionals and judges from this region in the areas of anti-corruption, judicial integrity, and commercial law. Regarding the participant's requirements to learn more about the role and jurisdiction of Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative (SPAI), Mr. Sorin Sterie, Expert in Justice and Home Affairs/Law Enforcement, Anti Corruption and Terrorism, as the representative of SPAI was invited to deliver the presentation on this topic.

During the first working day topics that were discussed were:

- “Rule of law situation” in participants countries
- Overview of project and facilitated discussion about its components
- Description of “Institute methodology”
- “Anti-corruption training”
- “Judicial integrity programming”
- “Commercial law training”

During the second working day “Presentation on Distance learning” was delivered by Florida State University, as well as the “Needs assessment”, conducted by USAID. At the end the participants had time for comments.



STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE (RSLO)

During the last working day the “Discussion of multi-disciplinary team approach and how to make it most effective” was conducted and the “Lessons learned” and “Best practices” were identified.