



American Bar Association

[Member Login](#)
[Home](#) | [JOIN](#) | [CLE](#) | [Lawyers](#) | [Education](#) | [Public](#) | [Store](#) | [Events](#) | [About](#) | [Contact](#)
Search:

Web Site

Go

[Advanced Search](#)
[Topics A-Z](#)

- CEELI Home
- ▶ About CEELI
- Other Rule of Law Initiative Divisions
- Opportunities
- ▶ Focal Areas
- ▶ Countries
- CEELI Institute
- ▶ Special Projects
- Upcoming Events
- Alumni
- ▶ Publications
- Links & Resources



SPAIgram

An Electronic Newsletter for the Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative

Published by the American Bar Association Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative Washington, D.C.

APRIL 2004

SPAI Regional Secretariat Liaison Office Established in Sarajevo

In early January, the American Bar Association Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI) received a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist SPAI in implementing the Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (RSLO) in Sarajevo. In addition to assisting with the physical establishment of the office, CEELI's support over the next three years will include institutional capacity building, technical assistance with regard to anti-corruption training, and assistance in developing and executing a public awareness campaign focusing on anti-corruption. The ultimate goal of the grant, and CEELI's work, is sustainability of the RSLO.

CEELI and RSLO Executive Secretary Josip Brkic met several times in January to establish priorities and discuss logistics related to the RSLO. Mr. Brkic began his tenure as Executive Secretary February 2; Cornel Calinescu took up his post as Anti-Corruption Expert on March 12. The RSLO also hired Nedzma Džananovic as its Administrative Assistant in March.

During February and March, CEELI and the RSLO focused on setting up the office, including registering the RSLO as an international NGO; establishing financial accounts and procedures; purchasing equipment; completing a proposal and budget for funds transferred from CEELI; organizing the travel and settlement for Mr. Calinescu; and preparing for the Friends of the Chair meeting (noted below).

[Back to Top](#)

SPAI Friends of the Chair Meeting Held in Brussels

On February 20, the SPAI Friends of the Chair met in Brussels to discuss various SPAI activities, including those of the RSLO. CEELI's

** In This Issue

SPAI Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (RSLO) Established in Sarajevo

SPAI Friends of the Chair Meeting Held in Brussels

RSLO Begins Institution-Building Trainings

Freedom Of Information Roundtable Held in Croatia

** Upcoming Events

May 5 and 6: SPAI Steering Group Meeting, Miločer, Republic of Montenegro

** Contact Information

SPAI RSLO
 Bistrik 5
 71 000 Sarajevo
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Telephone: +387 33 550 220
 Fax: +387 33 550 221

E-mail contacts:
 Josip Brkic:
brkicj@lsinter.net

Deputy Coordinator of Anti-Corruption programs Jennifer Gauck provided an update of CEELI's coordination with Mr. Brkic and the RSLO, including progress on establishing the office, procuring equipment, and beginning institution-building trainings. Mr. Brkic presented ideas for the draft workplan of the RSLO; CEELI, the OECD, the COE and the Chair commented upon these ideas. The Chair then asked that the RSLO have a draft workplan within a month's time; the draft has since been completed and distributed to the Friends of the Chair and other RSLO stakeholders.

Following the Friends of the Chair meeting, CEELI worked with the RSLO and with donors to develop workplan goals and communicate the progress CEELI and Mr. Brkic have made in establishing the RSLO as a functioning entity. On March 4, CEELI Executive Director Betsy Andersen and CEE Director Rob Leventhal met with Mr. Brkic to discuss the goals and plans of the RSLO, while Ms. Gauck met with Heather Goldman and Susan Kutor from USAID in Budapest to update them about the RSLO's future activities.

[Back to Top](#)

RSLO Begins Institution-Building Trainings

In mid-March, CEELI's Regional Institution Building Advisor (RIBA), Josko Mandic, began assisting the RSLO in developing financial management and grant reporting mechanisms, fundraising skills, and a strategic action plan. The RIBA has also worked with the RSLO on developing sound policies and procedures for day-to-day operations. The financial management and grant reporting training included discussions of cash management, generally accepted accounting principles, basic financial procedures for advocacy subgrants, financial reporting for advocacy subgrants, BiH-specific financial and administrative regulations, and other operational issues.

The draft workplan that the RSLO produced with the RIBA describes the current status of the RSLO, its financial resources, its human resources, and its objectives; a matrix within the workplan details activities and deadlines for each objective, as well as progress or completion made thus far. This workplan has been submitted to the SPAI Friends of the Chair for comments.

In addition to the draft workplan, the RSLO has also produced a concept paper for a two-day workshop on investigating high corruption cases, tentatively scheduled for October. The concept paper details the project necessity, objectives, and outcomes, as well as a draft agenda, items for budget consideration, and proposed list of participants. (Note: CEELI's RIBA program is separately funded, and is not part of the USAID RSLO grant to CEELI.)

[Back to Top](#)

Freedom of Information Roundtable Held in Croatia

On February 27 and 28, CEELI and Transparency International Croatia (TI) held a one-and-a-half-day roundtable to discuss proposed amendments to Croatia's Freedom of Information (FOI) law. CEELI has been supporting FOI-related activities in Croatia since September 2003 under the auspices of a grant from the U.S. Department of State in support of SPAI objectives. The February roundtable built upon an October 2003 roundtable that produced draft FOI provisions, many of which are incorporated into Croatia's FOI law. The amendments unveiled at the February roundtable, which were drafted by experts from the University of Zagreb law faculty, aimed at strengthening the existing law.

The discussion focused on critiques of the legislation, as well as regional experiences in drafting and implementing FOI laws in Bosnia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovakia and Romania. The discussion was fruitful and resulted in the drafters' honing the law to include their colleagues' experiences. TI, along with other Croatian NGOs, will continue to press for the amendments to be read in the Sabor. In the meantime, CEELI will begin work on a public awareness campaign for government officials, civil society and citizens on the provisions of the existing law and how they can use it.

[Back to Top](#)

*Comments? Questions? Activity Updates?

This newsletter was conceived as a way to keep those invested in the work of SPAI, and particularly the RSLO, informed of the work of these entities on an informal basis.

We would like to include relevant SPAI-related updates in this publication, which we will send periodically

Cornel Calinescu:
calinescucv@lsinter.net
 Nedzma Dzananovic:
dzananovicn@lsinter.net

ABA/CEELI
 740 15th St., NW
 Washington, D.C. 20005
 United States
 Telephone: +1 202 662 1728

E-mail contacts:
 Molly Inman:
minman@abaceeli.org
 Jennifer Gauck:
jgauck@abaceeli.org

as appropriate. Please send brief (approximately 200 words) descriptions of news or activities, e-mail addresses of other suggested recipients and any questions or comments to Jennifer Gauck at jgauck@abaceeli.org.

CEELI's main point of contact for issues related to the SPAI RSLO is Molly Inman. She may be reached at minman@abaceeli.org.

[Back to Top](#)

[ABA Copyright Statement](#) [ABA Privacy Statement](#)