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SPAIgram

This newsletter will be an informal, periodic update on the establishment and activities of the SPAI RSLO



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Anticorruption Week for SPAI and SEECP Countries, November 2 - 5, 2004, Bucharest, Romania

HIGHLIGHTS

- SEE anticorruption week
- SPAI RSLO start up regional workshops
- SPAI partner organizations activities
- Introducing the SPAI RSLO STAFF

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During the first week of November 2004 SPAI RSLO, in cooperation with **OECD, Romanian Ministry of Justice** and **SEECP Chairmanship in Office**, organized a series of back-to-back meetings dealing with the prevention and combating of corruption:

- **8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting**
- **Friends of the SPAI Chairman Meeting**
- Visits of the SPAI Chairman and Senior Representatives to the **Romanian National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office** and **SPOC Secretariat**
- **SPAI - OECD Meeting** regarding the "International cooperation to fight corruption in South-east Europe: achievements, lessons learned and future challenges"
- **Second Meeting of the SEECP Consultation Group on Fighting Organized Crime and Corruption.**

Appreciating the entire activity developed within this regional owned Initiative, the **international partners commended the concrete results achieved in such a short time by the Regional Office.** To continue in the same line these high quality

standards that were met they requested that RSLO must be behind all the regional activities in the field of fighting corruption that other SPAI partners are envisaging.

Also, there have been suggestions to set up a **cross-table cooperation** within the Stability Pact framework such as Investment Compact (Working Table for Economic Cooperation and Development) and Social Cohesion (Working Table for Social and Democratic Development).

Major decisions were adopted during the meeting of the SPAI governing body – Steering Group, setting a challenging program of activities for the SPAI Regional Secretariat:

- to start preparations for the **5th SPAI Anniversary Meeting**, to be organized in February/March 2005;
- to conclude the building of the SPAI Resource Centre with its two components: **regional anticorruption network** and **anticorruption library**;
- to support the process of providing inputs for the **SEECP compliance matrix regarding the Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption**;
- to have an active role in concluding the **Scoping paper** developed by OECD. This document aims to analyse achievements, lessons learned and future challenges of anti-corruption programmes and national donor supported activities in the eight members of the SPAI;
- to ensure the region wide implementation of the **UN Anticorruption Awareness Campaign**;
- to promote, together with OECD and Council of Europe the **Annual SPAI Award.**

SPAI RSLO PARTNERS IN ORGANIZING THE ANTICORRUPTION WEEK





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Start - up Regional Workshop on UN Convention against Corruption, September 8 - 10 , 2004, Sarajevo, BiH

On 9 - 10 September 2004, ten SEE countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hellenic Republic, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey) met together in Sarajevo with the representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, other international specialized organizations and NGO's in order to analyze the actual state of play regarding the adoption and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption. The workshop represents the first step in the process of achieving one of the four SPAI RSLO programmatic objectives - **"Supporting the Process of Adoption and Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption by the SPAI Countries"**.

The SPAI Regional Secretariat organized the meeting jointly with the Romanian Chairmanship in Office of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECOP) as a concrete contribution to the implementation of the Joint Campaign launched in May this year to fight organized



crime and corruption in the region. Within their Joint Statement, the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs from the SEECOP encouraged the countries of the region to "strengthen regional cooperation in fighting corruption by **ratifying and implementing the UN Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention)** and by **making full use of the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI) and its Regional Secretariat Liaison Office in Sarajevo**". See second page

SPAI Chairman Conclusions - SPAI Countries Calendar to Sign, Ratify and Implement the Merida Convention

The workshop on UN Convention against Corruption organized by SPAI RSLO in Sarajevo was concluded with the message delivered by Professor UGO Draetta, the SPAI CHAIRMAN.

The CHAIRMAN extended his appreciation for the active and substantial contribution of the national

delegations to the success of the event. Professor UGO Draetta also underlined that the participating countries delivered national statements that offered a clear image of the envisaged next steps that are to be taken in order to sign, ratify and implement the Merida Convention.

In this respect it was highlighted that seven SEE

countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hellenic Republic, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey) have already signed the Convention.

Furthermore, the CHAIRMAN encouraged the SPAI countries to enforce the calendar of signing, ratifying and implementing the UN Convention against

Start - up Regional Workshop on UN Convention against Corruption, September 8 - 10, 2004, Sarajevo, BiH

The participants expressed their appreciation for any further support from the SPAI RSLO regarding the implementation of the Merida Convention

During the two days event, the countries of the region presented their efforts and commitment to speed up the process of harmonizing the national legislative and institutional framework with the standards set forth within the UN Convention against Corruption.

All the participants expressed their appreciation for any further support from the SPAI RSLO regarding the implementation of the Merida Convention and the

agreement to contribute to the SEECP's Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption.

It was also expressed the general agreement for a very effective and substantive involvement of the SPAI RSLO in the process of providing a major input to the compliance matrix developed by the SEECP Chairmanship in Office.

Some of the participants tasked the Regional Secretariat Liaison Office to continue its efforts in organizing

workshops, seminars and trainings, regarding the UN Convention against Corruption, with a focus on the preventive measures and the international cooperation.

Special thanks were addressed by the organizers to the UNODC representative for the comprehensive contribution to the success of the event. Considering the regional request addressed to the United Nation's Office in Vienna on technical assistance, future common initiatives will be envisaged.



SPAI Countries Calendar to Sign, Ratify and Implement the Merida Convention

The meeting was organized by SPAI RSLO jointly with the Romanian Chairmanship in Office of the SEECP and with the participation of the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime



***SPAI CHAIRMAN
Conclusions***

Corruption as it was agreed through the national statements. Within their national statements the SPAI countries made the following announcements:

- **Croatia** will end the ratification procedure until the end of 2004. Croatia has already developed its own legislative guide to implement the Convention;
- **Romania** has begun the ratification procedure of Merida Convention, the draft law being submitted to the Parliament for adoption. The expected time to be ratified is September 2004 within the extraordinary session;
- **Albania** will undertake

all the necessary efforts in order to ratify the Convention until the end of 2004;

- **Serbia and Montenegro** mentioned that the process of negotiations for adoption and signing the relevant international documents and instruments, as well as their ratification, is exclusively in the competence of State Union level. The Ministries of Justice of both, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Montenegro, are ready to initiate the process of ratification by the end of 2004. The coordinator of the actions undertaken towards this is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the

State Union. Separately, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Montenegro have started the harmonization of their national legislation with specific provisions of the convention;

- **Republic of Moldova** will sign the Convention during September and is in the process of drafting the national strategy to combat corruption;
- **FYR Macedonia** will sign the Convention until the end of 2004;
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** will use the outcomes of this meeting as a starting point for a legislative initiative to sign and ratify the convention.

Fighting against High Level Corruption in SPAI Countries, October 5 - 7, 2004, Podgorica, Serbia and Montenegro

In order to facilitate the process of sharing relevant information and best practices in fighting corruption in SEE countries, the SPAI RSLO developed a project outline that addresses the need for **“Sharing best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases”**.

The project aims to: create a regional framework for sharing and exchanging information, to enhance regional cooperation capacity by establishing a direct contact among anticorruption investigators and to formulate proposals for improving the national legislation and institutional framework.

Within this programmatic framework, on 6 and 7 of October 2004 in Podgorica, Republic of Montenegro was held the Start - up Regional workshop on **“Fighting against high level corruption in SPAI countries”** organized by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro – Office in Podgorica, SPAI Regional Secretariat based in

Sarajevo and Anticorruption Initiative Directorate - Montenegro.



The event was attended by the eight SPAI national delegations consisting in specialized prosecutors, judges, intelligence service experts and police officials.

The participants welcomed this joint initiative, appreciating that this was a first attempt to address very concrete and practical issues of implementation of relevant legislative provisions related to the fight against corruption. Furthermore the participants appreciated the opportunity offered by this event in order to create informal regional network of specialized experts.

During the meeting SPAI countries delegations shared best practices by presenting case studies related to their professional experience in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level

corruption cases.

During the discussions the participants pointed out that certain inconsistencies within the criminal legislation prevent the efficient use of special investigative means as effective tool to bring evidence of high-level corruption.

A special case study exercise, created and conducted, in two separate working groups, by an investigative judge from France, Mr. Riberolles, offered the participants the possibility to demonstrate how they can cope with this type of complex challenges.

The national delegations expressed their interest in identifying future follow-ups particularly focused on specific economic and financial areas such as privatization process, public procurement, conflict of interest, financing political parties.

The case studies presented by the participants, relevant legislative provisions and statistical data will be included in a special booklet, which will be prepared by the SPAI Regional Office and its international partners and widely distributed.

SPAI RSLO
partner organizations



Corruption can affect both, public and private sector, and usually involves high level officials, politicians, magistrates or executive managers having full access to modern and advanced techniques of dissimulating their illegal activity



The 5th Forum of Cities and Regions of South East Europe, October 11 - 12, 2004, Budva, Serbia and Montenegro

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, organized in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the The 5th Forum of Cities and Regions of South East Europe, Budva, Serbia and Montenegro, 11 – 12 October 2004.

During the meeting Mr. Veselin Sukovic, SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary, delivered a presentation within the session regarding the *“Role of the local and regional authorities in the*

fight against corruption and various traffics (money laundering, trafficking in human beings etc.) in particular within the transborder framework.

The Congress was attended by representatives from: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, FYR Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom. Also, important international

*The 5th Forum
of Cities and Regions
of South East Europe*

SPA PARTNER ACTIVITIES



PACO IMPACT
Implementing
anticorruption plans
in South - eastern
Europe

1st Regional Conference under PACO IMPACT Programme implemented by the Council of Europe, July 8 – 10, 2004

Council of Europe organized the First Start up Regional Conference in Budva, Serbia and Montenegro, during 8, 9 and 10 of July. The Conference addressed the issue of implementing anticorruption plans in South - eastern Europe.

The Conference was attended by participants from all project areas representing governmental authorities, civil society and NGO community: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, FYR Macedonia. The project area also includes Kosovo

(Serbia and Montenegro) currently under the interim administration of UNMIK in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). The SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary also attended the Conference.

During the Conference the following results were achieved:

- finalized list of activities and actions that will constitute the WORKPLAN for the PACO IMPACT PROJECT (July 2004 – March 2005);
- shared experiences among the participants in dealing with the difficulties arising from the

preparation and drafting of anti-corruption plans, implementation of international legal instruments related to corruption, organized crime and prosecutorial services;

- process started in order to establish regional networking capacities and a more efficient cooperation between the countries.

For further details about the PACO IMPACT PROJECT please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Ardita N. Abdiu, Project Manager – Ardita.ABDIU@coe.int

ABA/CEELI's Annual Meeting July 10- 12, 2004, Tirana, Albania,

On July 10 and 11, the SPAI RSLO participated in ABA/CEELI's Annual Meeting, held in Tirana, Albania. The Anti-Corruption Expert Cornel Calinescu was invited to participate in a panel on regional initiatives and innovative programming to fight corruption. The RSLO representative presented a history of the RSLO and its programmatic activities to an audience of more than 50 of ABA/CEELI's field-based liaisons, local staff attorneys, and Washington-based staff.

Mr. Calinescu's presentation was part of a roundtable discussion on global and regional initiatives, including the history, purpose, and ABA/CEELI's role in support of both, the SPAI and OECD Anti-Corruption

Action Plan Initiative for Eurasia.

The roundtable also highlighted the work of ABA/CEELI's Eurasia Regional Anti-Corruption Advisor program, including its recent success in reforming the Inspector General function within the Georgian Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Calinescu also attended a roundtable on the status of freedom of information (FOI) legislation and implementation in Central Europe and Eurasia. Experts from Bosnia, Romania, Albania and Croatia discussed their country's past and future challenges in drafting and implementing FOI laws, and suggested methods for encouraging

citizens to access information once it has become available.

Following the roundtables, Mr. Calinescu met with several members of ABA/CEELI's staff who were interested to learn more about the RSLO and ways in which they might be more involved in supporting its programs.



For further details about the ABA CEELI ANNUAL MEETING please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Jennifer Gauck, Deputy Program Coordinator- JGauck@abaceeli.org



Regional initiatives
and innovative
programming to
fight corruption

Introducing the SPAI RSLO staff



Veselin Sukovic
SPAI RSLO
Executive Secretary

Mr. Sukovic joined the SPAI RSLO starting with 1st of October 2004, following the general agreement reached by all SPAI member countries during the procedure of appointment that was concluded in July 2004.

Mr. Sukovic was the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for multilateral international relations, the SPAI Senior representative of the Montenegrin Government and starting with 2000 the Director of the newly established Governmental Anticorruption Initiative Agency.

Mr. Sukovic has more than 20 years of knowledge and working experience in the field of multilateral international and regional relations, versed in political, social, economic and security landscape, especially in South-Eastern Europe.

During the period of his involvement in the SPAI, Mr. Sukovic was in charge of the coordinating and implementing all governmental activities and projects in the anticorruption field, such as creation of legal framework in the field of anticorruption, anti-money laundering, conflict of interest and organized crime area; undertaking marketing and prevention activities, as well as the education and training programs; cooperation and coordination of both governmental and non governmental sector aimed at fighting corruption.

According to the SPAI RSLO terms of reference approved by the SPAI Steering Group, "in consultation with the SPAI Chairman and Steering Group, the Executive Secretary is responsible for overall supervision and management of the RSLO, to include its initial establishment and subsequent operations. The Executive Secretary is responsible for establishing and maintaining relations with SPAI counterparts in regional states, other SPAI partner states, representatives of international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations"



Cornel Virgiliu Calinescu
SPAI RSLO
Anticorruption Expert

Mr. Calinescu joined the SPAI RSLO starting with March 2004, following the general agreement reached by all SPAI member countries during the appointment procedure that was concluded during the 6th SPAI Steering Group Meeting, Sarajevo, September 23, 2003.

Before joining the SPAI RSLO, Mr. Calinescu worked for 5 years as magistrate within the Romanian Ministry of Justice, being appointed as Deputy Director of the Directorate for the Relation with the Public Ministry, Crime Prevention and Anticorruption. Since 2003 he was designated by the Romanian Government as SPAI representative and national representative within the Global Anticorruption Network. During 2003, Mr. Calinescu was also involved, as expert, within the technical component of the process carried out by Romania in concluding the negotiations with the European Commission regarding the Chapter 24 – Justice and Home Affairs.

Mr. Calinescu has a sound background in criminology and criminal law, high-level expertise in corruption and organised crime issues, as well as practical experience in international relations and project management.

During his professional activity Mr. Calinescu was involved in drafting national and sectoral crime prevention and anticorruption strategies, implementing national and international projects, cooperating with the national and international governmental and judicial anticorruption structures, establishing and strengthening the relation with the civil society and NGO sector.

According to the SPAI RSLO terms of reference approved by the SPAI Steering Group, the Anticorruption Expert is tasked to "have a pivotal role in establishing and maintaining relations with law enforcement and legal experts in regional states, other SPAI partner states, representatives of international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations". Furthermore, "the Anticorruption Expert is responsible for: providing legal and law enforcement expertise on anticorruption to the Executive Secretary, the SPAI Chairman and the Steering Group; technical advice and guidance on anti-corruption and related law enforcement issues; technical contributions to regional training programs conducted under the SPAI and the RSLO"



Dajana Stajic
SPAI RSLO
administrative assistant

Starting with July 2004, the Administrative Assistant's functions are being covered by Ms. Dajana Stajic. Ms. Stajic graduated at the University of Sarajevo, Department of Psychology, and she is finalizing her Postgraduate Studies in Psychology Research Area. Besides different organizational and administrative tasks, that Ms. Stajic was obtaining, she also has a professional experience in coordinating projects and public relations within various local NGOs and international organizations

According to the SPAI RSLO terms of reference approved by the SPAI Steering Group, the Administrative assistant "is responsible for all administrative support to the RSLO and to its Executive Secretary and Anticorruption Expert. He or she will also provide general support to the SPAI Chairman and the Steering Group, as coordinated by the Executive Secretary."



Jonida Gaba
SPAI RSLO intern

Starting from September, a young graduate from Albania has joined the staff of RSLO office. Her name is Jonida Gaba, she is 25 years old and she chose to attend an internship training period in this regional environment after the completion of her studies in Law at the University of Bologna in Italy and the obtaining of a Master's Degree in Criminology and International Criminal Policy in Turin.



SPAI RSLO serves as an executive implementing body of the SPAI with the mission to become Anti-corruption Center of Excellence for the countries of the South Eastern Europe

The 5th Forum of Cities and Regions of South East Europe, October 11 – 12, 2004, Budva, Serbia and Montenegro

organizations and institutions were represented such as: Council of Europe, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, European Commission, OSCE, Foundation for the Economy and Sustainable Development of the Regions of Europe, Open Society Institute – Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, European Agency for Reconstruction, European Bank for Development and Reconstruction, European Investment Bank.

The **final declaration** of the Congress makes specific references to the steps that the countries of the region need to undertake in the fight against corruption: full support from the local and re-

gional authorities in the process of drafting and implementing anticorruption strategies; specific training activities for the staff and the elected representatives based on the "European Code of Conduct for Local and Regional Elected Representatives"; specific measures to prevent, control and report corruption, and increase public awareness of the fight against corruption; establishment and enhancement of the Public Information Offices working to increase public awareness and perception of anti-corruption measures; programs of civic education to raise awareness in young people.

For details see: <http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cirae/>

Financial Management Training for SPAI RSLO, July 19 – 23, 2004, Sarajevo BiH

The SPAI RSLO participated in a joint training on financial management conducted by ABA/CEELI's Regional Institution-Building Advisor (RIBA) program from July 19-23. Several local organizations with which RIBA works were identified as needing guidance on financial management procedures, so it was decided to organize a joint training for the following:

1. *SPAI Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (RSLO) - administrative assistant and anti-corruption expert;*
2. *CSpi - Freedom of Access to Information Center;*
3. *Judicial Training Center of Republic of Srpska (RS JTC)*

Ms. Lisa Hammond, consultant trainer, ABA CEELI, delivered the training with the support provided by the Regional Institution Building Advisor, Mr. Josko Mandic.

During the five days of training, the participants gained knowledge in the following areas: basic financial systems, financial planning and budgeting, policies and procedures, cash management, fundraising plan and financial management, combined organizational budget and cash flow,

Efficient financial systems in accordance with the international donor and local legal requirements

allocation of costs to multiple projects/grants, monitoring and evaluation, preparation of grant reports, financial audit and control, application exercises etc.

Most of the training was designed to provide an interactive work and the participants, with the support of the trainer, developed a number of templates that can be used in their future work. The first part of the training was dedicated to

the introduction into the financial systems and mechanisms, the second part being focused mainly on the development of the practical tools and mechanisms that will be used by participants in their day-to-day activities.

The knowledge gained at the training will allow the participants to develop efficient financial systems in accordance with the international donor and local legal requirements.

Furthermore the event provided the participants with the opportunity for consultations about potential cooperation of their organizations in future (i.e. between RSLO and CSpi and CSpi and RS JTC).

Next steps in implementing the SPAI RSLO Work Plan and SEECP Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption in SEE Countries

Anticorruption week in Bucharest

- 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting – Back to back with
- SPAI Meeting organised by OECD,
- Friends of SPAI CHAIRMAN and
- S E E C P Consultative board on implementing Joint Campaign to Fight Organised Crime and Corruption

Tenth Meeting of Stability Pact Working Table III,
17 November 2004, Skopje, FRY Macedonia

5th SPAI Anniversary Meeting - February/March 2005

Follow up workshops on

- Supporting the process of implementing the UN Convention against Corruption - Preventive measures in fighting corruption
- Fighting against high level corruption in SPAI countries - economic and financial offences in connection with corruption: focus on areas such as privatization process, public procurement, conflict of interest, financing political parties.

Developing and updating the **JOINT SEECP & SPAI RSLO compliance matrix** regarding the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption by the SPAI and SEECP countries



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

REGIONAL SECRETARIAT LIAISON OFFICE

SPAIGram

Dear readers it is in our intention to further develop the SPAIGram.

To this end we kindly ask for your suggestions and comments.

Also, please send us a list of additional contact information for SPAI partners that are interested in receiving this newsletter in electronic format.

Additional information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO you can find at:

<http://www.spai-rslo.org>

<http://www.stabilitypact.org/anticorruption/default.asp>



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