



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

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

**PROGRESS REPORT
MISSION, PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES,
ACHIEMENTS**

17 November 2004

Skopje, FRY Macedonia



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SPAI RSLO – MISSION

- 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 establishment of the RSLO was the **first step in a process of conveying leadership of the SPAI to the countries of the region** and a mechanism to jointly develop a new vision of the Initiative. The RSLO serves as a concrete and visible demonstration of the commitment of the regional states to the continuing, concerted and coordinated fight against corruption in SEE.
- **The role of the SPAI RSLO is to complement international and national anticorruption efforts** and to develop, plan and implement activities in partnership or synchronized with the existing and/or new programs/initiatives that are engaged in the process of fighting corruption.
- In this light, the RSLO is responsible for designing and implementing a comprehensive work program aiming to contribute to the capacity of the SPAI countries to fight corruption and to the work towards raising international anti-corruption standards. The RSLO is also in charge of the administration and secretariat support to the SPAI.

SPAI RSLO – PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES

The following **specific programmatic objectives** were approved by the SPAI Steering Group and included within the SPAI RSLO Work Plan:

I. Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the UN Convention against corruption by the SPAI COUNTRIES

➔ **Goal:** All SPAI countries to sign, ratify and implement the UN convention against corruption

II. Developing and coordinating a Regional Anticorruption Program for Raising Public Awareness

➔ **Goal:** Region-wide implementation of the Anticorruption program for raising public awareness

III. Sharing best practices in



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investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high-level corruption cases in SPAI Countries

➔ **Goal:** To build a regional framework for sharing and exchanging information on the available tools, techniques and means of investigation, court procedures, case studies and best practices in fighting high level corruption

IV. Assessment of the regional anticorruption needs and specific requirements

➔ **Goal:** To identify regional priorities and needs for assistance in fighting against corruption

SPAI RSLO – ACHIEVEMENTS

- Since its establishment SPAI RSLO developed **partnerships and direct working relations with international partner organisations** as: ABA CEELI, Council of Europe, OECD, UN, OSCE, Transparency International, Open Society Institute etc;
- SPAI RSLO is coordinating its activities with the SEECF Chairmanship in Office in order to implement the **SEECF's Joint Campaign to Fight Organised Crime and Corruption in SEE**.
- SPAI RSLO organised within the last 9 months **workshops and conferences with high level attendance from all SPAI and SEECF countries**, focusing on issues that are top on regional anticorruption agenda:
 - Supporting the Process of Adoption and Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption by the SPAI & SEECF Countries
 - Combating Conflict of Interest at Local Governments in CEE – Sharing experience with the SEE countries
 - Sharing best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases in SPAI countries
- Also, RSLO is ensuring the **permanent communication with and among the SPAI countries, partner organisations and donor countries**. In this respect, at every 6 months the Regional Secretariat is organizing the **SPAI Steering Group meetings**.

SEE ANTICORRUPTION WEEK

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



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- ▶ 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting
 - ▶ Friends of the SPAI Chairman Meeting
 - ▶ SPAI - OECD Meeting regarding the “International cooperation to fight corruption in South-east Europe: achievements, lessons learned and future challenge”
 - ▶ Second Meeting of the SEECP Consultation Group on Fighting Organised Crime and Corruption.
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- Appreciating the entire activity developed within this regionally 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 organised 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 ensure the region wide implementation of the UN Anticorruption Awareness Campaign.

NEXT EVENTS

- SPAI RSLO is preparing the **high level meeting** - a major international event that will mark the **5 years from the adoption of the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative**. This event is to be organised in February/March 2005 and will provide the opportunity to assess the progress achieved, lessons learned and the future challenges for the Initiative and the member countries.
- Furthermore, the follow up activities planned by RSLO in 2005 will answer in a pragmatic and efficient manner to the requests formulated by the SPAI countries. The areas in focus are: **fighting high level corruption**,



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implementing the international anticorruption legal instruments, promoting the fair and competitive bussines environment and involving the civil society in the fight against corruption.

For additional information about SPAI and SPAI RSLO please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Secretariat from Sarajevo

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Additional info is also available within the SPAIgram and on

**www.spai-rslo.org
&
www.stabilitypact.org**