



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

**THE REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION  
INITIATIVE (RAI)**

***FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION  
AND  
SHARING BEST PRACTICES IN FIGHTING  
CORRUPTION IN SEE***

Kotor, Montenegro  
June 10, 2008



# HOW DID IT START?

RAI was initially adopted *in Sarajevo, in February 2000*, as ***Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI)*** and represented an intergovernmental mechanism to address corruption as one of the most serious threats to the recovery and development of SEE countries.

RAI mission to curb corruption is based on the following five pillars of the Initiative:

1. Adoption and implementation of the international anti-corruption instruments;
2. Promotion of good governance and reliable public administration;
3. Strengthening of national legislation and the rule of law;
4. Promotion of integrity in business operations;
5. Promotion of an active civil society.

# SPAI members and observers





# THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAI

## **Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat**

- Launched 2003 as Regional Secretariat Liaison Office, operational six months later
- Main goal – to promote regional ownership of the Initiative and enhance regional capabilities to lead the fight against corruption in SEE

## **Signing the Memorandum of Understanding**

- April 13, 2007, Zagreb, Croatia;
- The signatory countries ensured the financial sustainability of RAI Secretariat by providing certain annual grants and decided for the first time to raise a Chairperson of the Initiative from the region ;
- Important step towards a full regional ownership and leadership of the Anti-corruption Initiative.

## **Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI)**

- October 9, 2007, Podgorica, Montenegro;
- Complete transformation of the Initiative to full regional ownership and leadership



## RAI INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- RAI Chairman – **overall coordination**
- RAI Steering Group – **the decision making body** – in principle composed of 9 Senior representatives, representing the member countries; in some issues observers, partner countries and international organizations are also included
- RAI Secretariat – **the executive body**, based in Sarajevo, staffed with experts from the region, operational since March 2004
- Head of the office
- Anti – corruption expert
- Executive Assistant – B&H resident
- Outreach and Fundraising Assistant
- Interns



# RAI ACTIVITIES

## ***Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the international anti-corruption instruments***

- Instruments on focus: United Nations Convention Against Corruption, CoE Civil Law Convention on Corruption & CoE Criminal Law Convention on Corruption;
- Why are they so important?
- All RAI member states have already signed and ratified these international tools;
- Next step – full implementation in practice of the standards applied by the conventions



# RAI ACTIVITIES

Supporting the process of developing and implementing regional and national anti-corruption programs for raising public awareness

A new perception of **corruption**, being a **cancer** for the society, needed!



## FLASH SPAIgram

*This newsletter will be a periodic update on the activities of the SPAI RSLO*

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### SPAI RSLO REGIONAL TOUR

February 8th, 2005, ZAGREB, CROATIA



- Mr. Dubravko Palijaš, Senior SPAI representative, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Justice
- Mr. Zejko Zganjer, head of the Office for the Prevention of Corruption and Organized Crime

Also, SPAI RSLO representatives organized, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, a public debate addressing the role and mission of RSLO, current anti-corruption efforts in Croatia, practical ways to cooperate with the Office in Sarajevo. The meeting benefited from the active and substantial contribution of various public and private sector institutions. The following entities were represented: Ministry of Justice, State Attorney's Office, Office for Prevention of Corruption and Organized Crime, Ministry of Interior, Council of Europe - PACO IMPACT Program Coordinator, ABA/CEELI, UNDP, Transparency International, TELESEE, National Competitiveness Council, Croatian Journalist's Association and mass-media.

The roundtable offered RSLO a great opportunity to extend a direct invitation to all participants to make the best use of the facilities and infrastructure that the Office in Sarajevo can provide and also to contribute to the creation of the SPAI RSLO's Resource Center as a platform for sharing information and best practices in anticorruption.

#### SPAI RSLO'S VISIT TO ZAGREB

The first country to be visited was Croatia, on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005. During the visit to Zagreb, SPAI RSLO representatives had bilateral meetings with high level public officials coordinating anti-corruption activities.

- Ms. Snezana Bagic, state secretary, Ministry of Justice

#### ANTICORRUPTION NEWS:

- Croatian Parliament ratified the UN Convention against Corruption. The Law is to be published within the Official Gazette.

#### NEXT SPAI RSLO'S VISITS

- ROMANIA, 10 - 11 February
- FYR MACEDONIA, 14 February
- ALBANIA, 16 - 17 February



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# RAI ACTIVITIES

## MAINTAINING AN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESOURCE CENTER

[WWW.RAI-SEE.ORG](http://WWW.RAI-SEE.ORG)

- Legal library
- Publications
- Anti-corruption network
- Separate page for each member – state
- On-line projects – Consultants Rooster, On-line News Center, Forum etc.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI). The header includes the RAI logo and navigation links: Register, Forgot Pass, Contact, Advanced Search, and Login. Below the header is a main navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, What We Do, News, Events, Publications, Forum, Consultants Roster, Glossary, and Links. The main content area features a large image of a conference titled "Implementation of the Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption". To the right of the image is a "WORLD NEWS" section with a list of articles, including "Canadian companies stamping out fraud and corruption" and "Former Fiji Prime Minister Faces fresh corruption charges". Below the news section is a "MEMBER COUNTRIES" section with a list of countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia. Further down, there is a "WHO'S ONLINE" section indicating 2 guests are online. The bottom section is titled "RAI Secretariat has marked the International Anti-Corruption Day" and includes a video player and a text block about the event. To the right of this section is a "KNOWLEDGE BASE" section with a list of resources: Anti-Corruption Handbooks, Anti-Corruption best practices, Guides/Guidelines, Surveys, Anti-Corruption Projects, Questions/Answers, Library, Anti-Corruption Monitoring, and Links. Below the knowledge base is a "HOW IMPORTANT IS ANTI-CORRUPTION EDUCATION FOR FIGHTING CORRUPTION?" survey with radio button options: very, not so much, and not at all. At the bottom right, there is a "Get Firefox with Google Toolbar" button and a "Google" search bar with the URL www.rai-see.org.





# RAI ACTIVITIES

## Assessment of the regional anti-corruption needs and specific requirements

### *3 stages:*

- Inputs from national counterparts
- Assessment of their specific needs and requests
- Planning of the Secretariat activities based on the identified priorities





# RAI ACTIVITIES

Sharing best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption

- **Summer School for Junior Magistrates**
- **Twining type activities**
- **Organization / Co-organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.**
- **Internship programs**





# The achievements of RAI

- All the RAI member countries approved National Anti-corruption Strategies and Action Plans, that underline their political commitment to address the issue of corruption and state capture.
- The member states' legal framework have largely been harmonized with European standards set by international conventions, and sensitive areas such as conflict of interest, assets disclosure, free access to information, financing of the political parties, public procurement and money laundering, have been regulated.
- In each RAI member country specialized anti-corruption bodies have been created or are in the process of being established.

# AFTER 8 YEARS... STILL A LONG WAY TO GO

## Current challenges for the countries of SEE:

- reform of judiciary and public administration;
- the negative perception regarding the levels of corruption both from public and business community;
- lack of sound projects dealing with education and raising public awareness;
- understaffed anticorruption structures and low salaries;
- role of the prevention is still underestimated, while the repression is seen as the only feasible solution.



# The future of the Initiative

Under the political coordination of the newly established Regional Cooperation Council, the Anti-corruption Initiative and its Secretariat in Sarajevo will continue, for a long term, to provide a regional framework for cooperation among the SEE countries, as a prerequisite for achieving the overall goal of **European and Euro – Atlantic integration.**



QUESTIONS ?

**THANK YOU!**

For further information about RAI Secretariat and its activities  
please do not hesitate to contact us:

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