



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

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

SPAI RSLO WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2004 - 2005

This outline has been developed in March 2004 by the Regional Secretariat Liaison Office of the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative (SPAI RSLO) based in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina.

After having been circulated among the Friends of the Chair, this revised version includes comments and suggestions submitted until 21 April 2004 by the OECD and ABA CEELI.

The document was analysed during the 7th Steering Group Meeting of the SPAI, held in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro, 5-6 May 2004. All the activities listed within the Work plan were approved with specific instructions for the SPAI RSLO to redraft the document in order to incorporate the additional comments and suggestions made by the Steering Group Members.

The current document incorporates all the above mentioned inputs and also takes into consideration the tasks and objectives set forth within the Joint Statement of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs from the States Participating in the South East European Co-Operation Process (SEEC) on a Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption in South Eastern Europe, endorsed in Bucharest, 18 May 2004.

THE RESHAPED DOCUMENT WAS CIRCULATED VIA E-MAIL AND APPROVED ON JUNE 18TH 2004 BY THE SPAI STEERING GROUP MEMBERS FOLLOWING THE SILENCE PROCEDURE.

Further comments and suggestions regarding the SPAI RSLO Work Plan and Schedule for 2004 - 2005 can be sent to the Secretariat:

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I. BACKGROUND

The **Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative (SPAI)** was adopted in Sarajevo in February 2000 to address one of the most serious threats to the recovery and development of South East European countries. Corruption is highly detrimental to the stability of democratic institutions and considerably undermines the business climate, discourages foreign direct investment and hampers economic growth.

The SPAI takes a **multidisciplinary approach to fighting corruption**, incorporating issues such as the adoption of international legal instruments, promotion of good governance, strengthening the rule of law, promotion of transparency and integrity in business operations and development of an active civil society.

SPAI also provides all partners with a **general framework for coordination**, optimization of effort and permanent dialogue with the donor community. Of necessity, the SPAI assumes that ultimately the regional states must themselves take ownership and leadership of the initiative.

Along these lines, at its **September 2003** meeting in Sarajevo, the SPAI Steering Group approved to **transfer the Secretariat of the SPAI¹ to the region** in order to promote local ownership of the Initiative and further enhance regional capacities to lead the fight against corruption in South East Europe. The SPAI RSLO as legal entity was established by the Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe – signed on 15 September 2003;

2. MANDATE OF THE SPAI RSLO

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 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.

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 will serve as a concrete and visible demonstration of the commitment of the regional states to the continuing, concerted and coordinated fight against corruption in SEE.

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

¹ Initially the Secretariat was based within the Council of Europe and the OECD



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the work towards raising international anti-corruption standards. The RSLO is also in charge of the administration and secretariat support to the SPAI.

To carry out its responsibilities, the RSLO will start a development process that will ensure its transition into the **Regional Anticorruption Initiative Secretariat**. To this end RSLO will take, through time the full responsibility over the following functions:

- Provide general administrative support to the SPAI Steering Group;
- Serve as the venue for the conduct of anticorruption training, SPAI meetings and regional information exchange;
- Coordinate training and operational proposals;
- Cooperate with other anticorruption programs in the region;
- Develop targeted project proposals;
- Function as forum for conduct of public awareness campaigns against corruption;
- Serve as a regional resource and information centre;
- Serve as primary point of contact within the region for interaction with SPAI partners;
- Maintain and refine on a continuing basis the Action Plan for the SPAI.

3. SPAI RSLO – PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES

SPAI RSLO programmatic objectives and activities were determined through the process of the Strategic planning session held in Sarajevo, 26-29 May 2004 and by taking into consideration the recommendations made by SPAI Steering Group within the 7th meeting held in Montenegro, Sveti Stefan 5-6 May 2004.

Additional inputs were provided by the Joint Statement of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs from the States Participating in the South East European Co-Operation Process (SEECp) on a Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption in South Eastern Europe, Bucharest, 18 May 2004.

The above mentioned events gave strategic guidelines for the work of SPAI RSLO as well as the base for further developing and refining the work plan that was approved by SPAI Steering Group during its 7th meeting in Montenegro.

SPAI RSLO activities will be focused on achieving the following **overall programmatic objectives**:

- ➔ **To execute and implement SPAI specific policies and strategy;**
- ➔ **To promote and ensure that individual country needs and priorities are addressed by the regional programs;**
- ➔ **To help SPAI Countries in the process of adopting and implementing the international standards related to the fight against corruption;**
- ➔ **To enhance regional cooperation in fight against corruption;**
- ➔ **To assist and participate within different stakeholders' anti-corruption activities in line with SPAI specific policies and strategy.**



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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 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

NOTE: The above listed specific programmatic objectives are further described within the appendix (excel file). Chart no I “RSLO Programmatic activities” is providing information on: goals, specific objectives and activities, timeline, persons in charge, supporting countries or organizations, performance indicators and additional comments.

4. SPAI RSLO – ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The ultimate goal of SPAI RSLO is to become Anti-corruption center of excellence for the SPAI countries. In order to achieve this goal, the organizational development objectives of the Regional Secretariat Liaison Office are:

- ➡ To develop capacities of the SPAI RSLO;
- ➡ To build Resource center as a service for stakeholders of fight against corruption;
- ➡ To establish a specific organizational position of the secretariat;
- ➡ To establish a network of anti-corruption stakeholders in the region;
- ➡ To assist international and national funding bodies in developing strategic funding programs that will address SPAI countries needs in process of fighting corruption.



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The following specific objectives and areas of development were approved by the SPAI Steering Group and included within the SPAI RSLO Work Plan:

- I. RSLO – Secretariat of SPAI** ➔ **Goal:** RSLO is to provide full Secretariat support to the SPAI

- II. Building the necessary infrastructure for developing the research and information centre** ➔ **Goal:** To provide the SPAI countries experts and policy makers with tools able to ensure direct and immediate communication and access to substantial and specialized information on anticorruption initiatives

- III. Enhancing the regional capacities to cooperate and interact** ➔ **Goal:** To develop a permanent framework for reviewing anti-corruption policies and practices, sharing information and lessons learned

- IV. Fundraising and sustainability of the RSLO** ➔ **Goal:** To develop and implement a Fundraising Plan and activities to secure additional funding, diversify sources of funding, and ensure adequate and sustainable resources to support RSLO work.

- V. Institution-building training program** ➔ **Goal:** To develop and refine organizational capacities of the SPAI RSLO in order to achieve the ultimate goal of becoming a center of excellence in promoting, delivering and monitoring anti-corruption initiatives of the SPAI countries.

NOTE: The above listed specific objectives and areas of development are further described within the appendix (excel file). Chart no 2 “RSLO Organizational development” is providing information on: Area of development, goals, specific objectives and activities, timeline, persons in charge, supporting countries or organizations, performance indicators and additional comments.



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5. ANTICORRUPTION PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES OF SPAI PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

During and subsequent to the 7th SPAI Steering Group Meeting, **ABA CEELI, Council of Europe, OECD and Open Society Institute** identified concrete projects and activities in line with the SPAI Strategy for 2003 and beyond. The SPAI partner organisations expressed their readiness to identify together with SPAI RSLO areas of cooperation in implementing specific activities within these projects.

Furthermore, RSLO is tasked by the Steering Group members to actively be engage in the process of **consolidating the cooperation with the current SPAI partner countries and organisations** and also **to build new partnerships** with other interested stakeholders.

To this end RSLO, based on the inputs received from the SPAI member countries will develop project proposals and carry out fund raising activities in order to ensure a **prompt reply and answer to each specific request**.

In this respect SPAI RSLO will make the best use of its expertise in assessing and identifying **projects and activities that are not duplicating or overlapping with other initiatives in the region**.

NOTE: Within the appendix (excel file) “SPAI partners’ agenda” additional information are available with regard to the current projects carried out by SPAI partner organizations, beneficiaries, timelines and contact person.

6. SPAI RSLO AT WORK - FIRST STEPS IN IMPLEMENTING THE WORK PLAN

Continuing the SPAI tradition, the current Work plan for 2004 and 2005 is an **open document** subject for periodic improvements and updates based on the concrete requests or offers for partnership received from the SPAI community.

For the beginning, SPAI RSLO’s resources and efforts will be **primarily directed to the accomplishment of its programmatic and organizational development objectives**. This will be reflected in carrying out, in close cooperation with SPAI member countries and partners, a complex and comprehensive set of activities such:

Anticorruption workshops

- Joint workshop for sharing the experience in *Combating Conflict of Interest at Local Governments*, in partnership with **Open Society Institute** (29 June 2004);
- Regional start up workshop on *UN Convention against corruption* - in partnership with the **UN Centre in Vienna** (September 2004);
- Regional start up Workshop on „*Fighting against high level corruption in SPAI Countries*” – in partnership with **OSCE** (October 2004).

Developing the infrastructure for the Anticorruption Research and Information Centre

- Building the Regional Anticorruption Network – December 2004;
- Building the Regional Anticorruption Data Base – December 2004;



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Enhancing the regional capacities to cooperate and interact

- SPAI annual anticorruption Conference – February 2005;
- Regional or national workshops – based on specific requests made by the SPAI countries;
- Regional exchange of anticorruption experts.

These activities represent just a brief highlight of the SPAI RSLO's short and medium term set of activities and priorities. Additional detailed information is available within the second part of the work plan – appendix consisting in:

- *RSLO Programmatic Activities;*
- *RSLO Organizational Development;*
- *SPAI Partners Agenda;*
- *RSLO's Year at Glance.*