



WORK PLAN 2008 – 2009

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The document was developed by the Regional Secretariat Liaison Office of the SPAI based on the inputs received from the 9 SPAI Senior Representatives, Chairman and Partner organizations and following the general principles agreed upon within the strategic documents: SPAI Action Plan and Compact (2000), SPAI Strategy for 2003 and beyond (2003), the Ministerial Declaration on 10 Joint Measures to Curb Corruption in South Eastern Europe endorsed by the Ministers of Justice in Brussels (May, 2005), and Memorandum of Understanding Concerning cooperation in Fighting Corruption through the South Eastern European Anti-Corruption Initiative (MoU) (April 13, 2007, Zagreb, Croatia).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND	PAGE 3
2. REGIONAL TRENDS AND EXPECTATIONS	PAGE 4
3. REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE LEVEL MECHANISMS	PAGE 5
■ Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Steering Group	
■ Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Chairman	
■ Cooperation with Regional Anti-corruption Initiative partners	
■ Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Resource Center	
4. NATIONAL PRIORITIES	PAGE 7
■ Implementing the 10 Joint Measures to curb corruption in South Eastern Europe	
■ Focus areas for activities to be initiated by the member countries	
5. REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT ROLE	PAGE 14
ANNEX	PAGE 16
I. National priorities in implementing the 10 joint measures adopted within the Brussels declaration	
II. Focus areas for trainings and conferences in 2008 – 2009	



WORK PLAN 2008 - 2009

I. BACKGROUND

The **Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI)**¹ 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.

SPAI provided all partners with a **general framework for coordination**, optimization of effort and permanent dialogue with the donor community. Of necessity, the SPAI assumed 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 SPAI**² 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.

In May 2005, Ministers of Justice from all SPAI member countries met in Brussels and reinforced their commitment to adopt impact oriented measures in order to curb corruption phenomenon in South Eastern Europe. As a concrete step in this regard countries of the region set a challenging calendar to implement **10 joint measures to curb corruption**. Furthermore, member countries committed themselves to provide full support and assistance to the SPAI RSLO.

The SPAI took 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. It also provided all partners with a general framework for coordination, optimization of effort and permanent dialogue with the donor community. Considering the fact that SPAI assumed that ultimately the regional states must themselves take ownership and leadership of the initiative SPAI RSLO in cooperation with the SPAI Chairman, Stability Pact Working Table III and in close consultations with the SPAI Senior Representatives at the second half of 2006 drafted the Memorandum of Understanding concerning cooperation in Fighting Corruption through the South Eastern European Anti-Corruption Initiative (MoU) that was disseminated for the final review by the SPAI Senior Representatives and Stability Pact National Coordinators until January 31, 2007. Based on these inputs SPAI RSLO officially initiated the signature procedure by the relevant national authorities. MoU was opened for signature and ratification by the SPAI Member countries during the SEECP JHA Meeting in Zagreb on April 13, 2007. The MoU regulates the steps that are to be taken by the Region in order to ensure the sustainability of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat in Sarajevo and leadership on the Anti-corruption Initiative.

¹ During the 11th Steering Group Meeting in Podgorica on October 09-10, 2007, it was agreed that Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) will be the successor of the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI). Consequently SPAI RSLO Sarajevo based Secretariat became Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat.

² Initially the Secretariat was based within the Council of Europe and the OECD.



2. REGIONAL TRENDS AND EXPECTATIONS

2.1. Current state of play

During the **seven years of the Anti-corruption Initiative**, the member countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia) undertook consistent and complex reforms of their institutional and legislative framework aiming to decrease the levels of corruption and ensure the efficiency of their policies.

The rhythm of reforms is now stronger as **Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU on January 1st 2007. Croatia started the accession negotiations**, while the other SEE member countries focus their efforts towards the same goal.

In this context, **National Anti-corruption Strategies** were approved together with action plans underlining the political commitment to address the issue of corruption and state capture.

Furthermore, the legal framework was **mostly harmonized with the European standards** set by the international conventions and **sensitive areas** are now regulated (e.g. conflict of interests, assets disclosure, free access to information, political parties financing, public procurement, money laundering etc). In addition, in all member countries, specialized anti-corruption bodies were created or are now under process of being established, reorganized or strengthened.

With all these efforts the South Eastern countries have still some challenges such as:

- 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 regarding corruption;
- understaffed anti-corruption structures and low salaries;
- role of the prevention of corruption still not preeminent while the repression is seen as the only feasible solution.

All SPAI members take into account the fact that fighting corruption in an effective way is a key factor for the overall regional development and on this basis they will continue to coordinate their efforts and to work in close cooperation in exchanging information and experience on questions related to prevention and combating corruption.

2.2. The way ahead

The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative will continue to promote at regional and national level the achievement of its objectives, focusing on its **multidisciplinary approach** and providing the **platform for interaction** among the public institutions, non governmental structures, business community, civil society and international partners.

The EU integration process has been recognized as the main driving force for structural reforms in the region. Therefore within the anti-corruption initiative the member countries will make the best use of their resources in fighting corruption to **reach practical results and to optimize the impact** of the adopted measures. As a way of achieving the joint goal of curbing corruption in South Eastern Europe, the members of Steering Group have set the following objectives for the next two years:

- the **full implementation of the Regional ownership principle** by ensuring the implementation of the MoU through enhancing the decision making role and active involvement of all member countries;



- the development of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat as a **self sustainable Anti-corruption Center for SEE**.

3. REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE LEVEL MECHANISMS

3.1. Steering Group

Mission and goal description

The **Steering Group** is the governing body of the Initiative bringing together, under the Chairman's leadership, the Senior Representatives of the member countries together with the donor community and partner organizations. Within its biannual Meetings the Group is mainly focusing the attention on assessing the progress reached in achieving the Initiative's goals **and to ensure the coordination and cooperation among different stakeholders**.

Envisaged activities:

- The Steering Group will have **one meeting per year** analyzing the progress reached by the member countries in implementing their National strategies on fighting corruption and the projects included within;
- Member countries will support the **increased role of the thematic meetings** by participating or coordinating participation to the events organised by the member countries at national and regional level;
- In the same time the Steering Group represent the platform for donor coordination;
- Member countries will make the best use of **alternative and modern means of communication** by convening, whenever necessary, consultations via phone and video/internet conference systems.

3.2. Chairman

Mission and goal description

The **Chairman** plays a pivotal role within the Initiative's framework by ensuring the permanent coordination of the activities undertaken by the member countries in implementing the commitments endorsed within the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Strategic documents. In this regard he/she convenes and chairs the Steering Group meetings and oversees the enforcement of the decisions by the executive body of the Initiative – the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat.

Envisaged activities / Role and responsibilities

The Chairman shall **represent** the Initiative and its member countries in relation with all international partners and **promote** the implementation of the Initiative's strategic objectives.

He/she will actively promote the implementation of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative strategic objectives by:

- **Convening** once per year (or whenever necessary) the Steering Group Meetings and **chair** them;
- **Fostering** the dialogue with the donor countries and international partners within bilateral discussions and whenever necessary through the Friends of the Chair meetings;
- **Strengthening** the communication with the high level governmental officials from the member countries throughout official visits;
- **Chairing** national and regional events related to the fight against corruption hosted by the member countries;



- **Giving strategic guidance** to the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat in order to ensure the achievement of the work plans objectives, as set and approved by the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Steering Group;
- **Reporting to the RCC** within its annual meetings and whenever necessary within in **SEECF Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Ministerial meetings**;
- **Informing and consulting** RCC Secretary General in relation with the anti-corruption issues concerning the region.

3.4. Cooperation with Regional Anti-corruption Initiative partners

Mission and goal description

A crucial role in achieving the objectives of the Initiative is played by the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative **partner organizations** which are developing and implementing regional projects for the member countries. Currently, the following Regional Anti-corruption Initiative partners are implementing regional projects/activities covering one or more member countries: Council of Europe, OECD, American Bar Association, UNODC, OSCE, World Bank, Open Society Institute and Transparency International.

Furthermore, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Chairman and the Executive body of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat are tasked by the member countries to actively engage in the process of **consolidating the cooperation with the current** Regional Anti-corruption Initiative **partner countries and organizations** and also **to build new partnerships** with other interested stakeholders.

In this regard all necessary measures are to be taken in order to assess, identify and initiate only those activities that **are not duplicating or overlapping with the ones already being implemented by the** Regional Anti-corruption Initiative **partners**.

Envisaged activities

Under the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Chairman's coordination the following measures are to be taken:

- The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat will organize once per year (or whenever necessary) bilateral/multilateral **strategic planning sessions with the** Regional Anti-corruption Initiative **partner organizations**;
- Whenever possible, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative partner organizations will make the best use of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat infrastructure by **involving the Regional Secretariat** in the activities designed under the regional projects;
- Whenever possible, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat will **extend invitations to all partner organizations** to co-organize/attend the regional and national events;
- Based on the inputs received from the partner organizations, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat will permanently update on the Initiative's web site all relevant information regarding the **ongoing or future anti-corruption projects**.

3.5. Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Resource Center

Mission and goal description

The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Resource Center is available on internet at www.spai-rslo.org and it was designed by the Secretariat in order to provide the experts and policy makers from the member countries with tools able to **ensure direct and immediate communication** and **access to substantial and specialized information** on anti-corruption initiatives.

Currently the Resource center includes the following sections:



- a. **Anti-corruption Library** structured on national strategies, relevant legislation, progress reports, International standards, studies;
- b. **Anti-corruption Network** listing policy makers and experts involved in the fight against corruption. The information is covering the following sectors: governmental, judiciary, nongovernmental, resident international organizations, business environment, mass media;
- c. **Anti-corruption Projects** including project proposals, ongoing projects and archive; Summer school, Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Internship Program;
- d. **Anti-corruption Calendar** of envisaged events at national and regional level.

Envisaged activities

In order to ensure the further development of the Resource Center and permanent dissemination of relevant information regarding anti-corruption initiatives the following measures will be taken:

- Each member countries will submit to the Regional Secretariat **relevant public information** in order to be posted on the public section of the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative web site.
- Every 6 months each Senior representative will **review the content of the Resource Center** and submit updates to the Regional Secretariat; Whenever possible, the documents should be submitted both in English and national language;
- If requested, documents may be posted under the **restricted section of the Resource Center**;
- Through the web site the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat will update on regular basis all the necessary information for the member countries in particular the upcoming events, and the legislation data base.

4. NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Based on the challenging calendar set forth within the **Ministerial Declaration on 10 joint measures to curb corruption in South Eastern Europe**, Senior Representatives - in cooperation with all national stakeholders and in consultation with the Secretariat - envisaged the practical steps to be taken in order to **observe the full implementation of the commitments** endorsed by the Ministers of Justice in Brussels, May 2005.

4.1. Implementing the 10 Joint Measures to curb corruption in South Eastern Europe

4.1.1. Measuring the progress

Apart from the Standard reporting mechanism designed to assess the progress reached under the five pillars of Regional Anti-corruption Initiative, member countries will **create a national system for monitoring the steps made in implementing the Ministerial Declaration on Joint Measures to curb Corruption in South Eastern Europe**.

Envisaged activities

- In order to ensure a **full coordination with the national anti-corruption agenda**, each member countries will focus its attention on the implementation of **3 to 5 national priorities** out of the 10 measures adopted in Brussels.
- **Once per year and at least one month before the Steering Group Meeting**, each Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Senior Representative, in coordination with the relevant national authorities, will summarize within a **Progress Report** the actions undertaken in implementing the identified priority measures. The reports will be available for all Regional Anti-corruption Initiative donors and international partners within the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Resource Center (www.spai-rslo.org)



- A **Progress Report on the status of implementation of the Brussels Declaration** will be presented **annually** to the Steering Group by the Head of the Regional Secretariat;
- Based on member countries requests, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat may facilitate **independent assessments** of the progress achieved.

4.1.2. National priorities in implementing the Brussels Declaration on implementing

A. ALBANIA

- **Measure number 2** - Refine and update the existing anti-corruption strategies in line with the international conventions, general principles and specific recommendations made by the European Union's institutions and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption

Envisaged actions/indicators

- Drafting a long-term strategy of prevention and fight against corruption and transparent governance for 2007-2013;
- Carry out consultations with civil society, media, business and international community in order to improve and refine the draft strategy;
- Adopting the strategy;
- Monitoring the implementation of the strategy as part of the National Strategy for Development and Integration.

- **Measure number 3** – Set high integrity standards and control mechanisms to address and reduce opportunities for corruption within the public administration, justice system and political parties

Envisaged actions/indicators

- Improving anti-corruption standards in the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns;
- Implementing anti-corruption mechanisms in order to scrutinize the public procurement system by strengthening role and capacities of the public procurement ombudsman;
- Administrative review procedures versus monitoring of complaints in the public procurement area.

- **Measure number 5** – Enhance the free access to public information and ensure regular cooperation, coordination and consultation among public authorities, the business community and the civil society by establishing an accountable and transparent institutional framework

- Assessment of implementation of internal rules aiming at implementing the legal framework on the right of information over the official documents;
- Promoting practical ways and mechanisms aiming at implementing the right of information rules and standards in the public administration activity.

B. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- **Measure number 1** - Sign, ratify and start implementing the UN Convention against Corruption

Envisaged actions/indicators

- Legislative and institutional national assessment of the compliance with the UN Convention against corruption;
- Ratification of the UN Convention against corruption;
- Monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention against corruption.



- **Measure number 2** - Refine and update the existing anti-corruption strategies in line with the international conventions, general principles and specific recommendations made by the European Union's institutions and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption

Envisaged actions/indicators

- Monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for Combating Crime and Corruption as part of the Mid Term development strategy;
 - Issuing periodic progress reports on the level of implementation of the Strategy;
 - Adopting the necessary measures to update and refine the Strategy in agreement with the recommendations from the European Union's institutions and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption.
- **Measure number 7** - Support the allocation of sufficient financial and human resources, as well as improved investigative tools, to public sector institutions responsible for the prevention and control of corruption, including governmental, justice sector and independent audit and other oversight institutions

Envisaged actions/indicators

- Drafting and adopting the law on establishing a State Commission for the prevention of corruption;
- Ensuring the sufficient human and financial resources for the efficient functioning of the new State Commission;
- Ensuring a proper training program for the staff of the new State Commission.

C. BULGARIA

- **Measure number 2** - Refine and update the existing anti-corruption strategies in line with the international conventions, general principles and specific recommendations made by the European Union's institutions and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption

Envisaged actions:

- Permanent monitoring of the Strategy for transparent governance and for preventing and counteracting corruption;
 - Preparing report for the implementation of the Strategy for transparent governance and for preventing and counteracting corruption for 2007;
 - Developing an Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for transparent governance and for preventing and counteracting corruption for 2008.
- **Measure number 5** - Enhance the free access to public information and ensure regular cooperation, coordination and consultation among public authorities, the business community and the civil society by establishing an accountable and transparent institutional framework

Envisaged actions:

- Developing and testing of a method for carrying out administrative audits of the integrity of the central executive power;
- Increasing the coordination and qualification of the officials of the National Audit Office, National Revenue Office and the Prosecution Office for carrying out checks of the asset declarations in cases of declarations with untruthful data or in cases of unfilled declarations as well as in cases of finding assets which do not correspond to the incomes of the person;
- Carrying out financial audits of the political parties in order to guarantee transparency and publicity of their financial sources and brooking no interference of unregulated influence in the political and managerial decision-making process.



- **Measure number 9** - Develop and disseminate targeted public awareness campaigns designed to prevent and control corruption in specific sectors and institutions, including those targeting the implementation of prioritized reforms and alternatives to corrupt practices

Envisaged actions:

- Carrying out broad anti-corruption campaign explaining the negative consequences of the corruption and the existing channels for submitting signals for corruption;
- Organizing a week for fight against corruption;
- Carrying out different public discussions and round tables dedicated to increasing the public awareness for prevention and counteraction of corruption.

D. CROATIA

- **Measure number 3** – Set high integrity standards and control mechanisms to address and reduce opportunities for corruption within the public administration, justice system and political parties

Envisaged actions:

- Improving anti-corruption standard in the financing of political parties;
- Continuation of successful implementation of anti-corruption strategy and further strengthening of inter-sectoral cooperation;
- Strengthening the professional ethics in state and local administration and within judiciary bodies (strengthening of individual integrity of employees);
- Further strengthening of the MP Strategic development Unit as a coordinative body in charge of drafting and implementation of anti-corruption strategy.

- **Measure number 5** – Enhance the free access to public information and ensure regular cooperation, coordination and consultation among public authorities, the business community and the civil society by establishing an accountable and transparent institutional framework

Envisaged actions:

- Establishing better inter-sectoral cooperation by improved access to information-(Database and Intranet developed).
- Continuous control over the Act of the right of access to information.

- **Measure number 9** - Develop and disseminate targeted public awareness campaigns designed to prevent and control corruption in specific sectors and institutions, including those targeting the implementation of prioritized reforms and alternatives to corrupt practices

Envisaged actions:

- Raising awareness on corruption among citizens through development and implementation of a public awareness campaign. Continuation of education as it was in 2006 and 2007.

E. MACEDONIA

- **Measure number 2** - Refine and update the existing anti-corruption strategies in line with the international conventions, general principles and specific recommendations made by the European Union's institutions and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption

Envisaged actions:

- Implementation of the activities set in the State Program for Prevention and repression of Corruption adopted in may 2007 by the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption and Action plan adopted by the Government as a part of the State Program;



- Implementation of the Key Performance Indicators through the Performance Monitoring System by the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption and permanently maintaining and updating of the KPI's.

Envisaged actions/indicators

- Number of activities implemented.

- **Measure number 3** – Set high integrity standards and control mechanisms to address and reduce opportunities for corruption within the public administration, justice system and political parties

Envisaged actions/indicators

- Diminishing discretion rights of the holders of public functions and authorizations and setting up criteria and proceedings in performing their duties according to the law;
- Strengthening control mechanisms;
- Implementation of the merit system based on integrity, competency and efficiency.

- **Measure number 7** – Support the allocation of sufficient financial and human resources, as well as improved investigative tools, to public sector institutions responsible for prevention and control of corruption, including governmental, justice and independent audit and other oversight institutions

Envisaged actions/indicators

- strengthening the capacities of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, Public Revenue Office, Public Prosecutor Office, State Audit Office, financial controlling institutions and other oversight institutions;
- Creation of databases and establishing direct link among Public Revenue Office and State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, and other oversight institutions with aim tracking and verifying declared and actual property assets.

- **Measure number 8** - Promote and support research and analysis of corruption phenomena including assessment of the forms, patterns and drivers of corrupt practices in targeted sectors and institutions (e.g. the justice sector, legislative processes, political parties and elections, local government, public procurement, energy, education, health, infrastructure, tax administration, customs, business registration and licensing, banking, insurance and pensions)

Envisaged actions

- Conducting annual researches on corruption in different segments (e.g. health care, construction, education etc) making analysis, and preparing Reports including conclusions and recommendations.

Envisaged indicators

- Number of conducted researches.

F. MONTENEGRO

- **Measure number 4** - Ensure a fair and competition based business and investment climate by combating private-to-private corruption, promoting corporate liability on the basis of international standards, introducing clear rules for whistle blowing, guaranteeing the independence and celerity of the justice act, as well as setting the practice of “white lists” of companies of demonstrated integrity

Envisaged actions/indicators: TBD



- **Measure number 8** - Promote and support research and analysis of corruption phenomena including assessment of the forms, patterns and drivers of corrupt practices in targeted sectors and institutions (e.g. the justice sector, legislative processes, political parties and elections, local government, public procurement, energy, education, health, infrastructure, tax administration, customs, business registration and licensing, banking, insurance and pensions)

Envisaged actions/indicators

- Conducting, on annually basis, studies on corruption to research and pinpoint vulnerable areas, risk factors and measure success in implementing national policies to curb corruption.

- **Measure number 9** - Develop and disseminate targeted public awareness campaigns designed to prevent and control corruption in specific sectors and institutions, including those targeting the implementation of prioritized reforms and alternatives to corrupt practices

Envisaged actions/indicators: TBD

G. MOLDOVA

- **Measure number 4** - Ensure a fair and competition based business and investment climate by combating private-to-private corruption, promoting corporate liability on the basis of international standards, introducing clear rules for whistle blowing, guaranteeing the independence and celerity of the justice act, as well as setting the practice of “white lists” of companies of demonstrated integrity

Envisaged actions:

- Enhancing the insurance of the functioning of the corruption acts notification mechanism, inclusively nameless, through different ways;
- Setting up of the proper legislative framework for guaranteeing of the justice act independence and celerity.

Indicators:

- Increasing of the civil society reliability towards the activity of CCECC and judicial Authority.

- **Measure number 8** - Promote and support research and analysis of corruption phenomena including assessment of the forms, patterns and drivers of corrupt practices in targeted sectors and institutions (e.g. the justice sector, legislative processes, political parties and elections, local government, public procurement, energy, education, health, infrastructure, tax administration, customs, business registration and licensing, banking, insurance and pensions)

Envisaged actions:

- Performing the analytical, prognosis and corruption prevention studies, with support of Joint Anti-corruption Project of the European Commission and the Council of Europe; training organization with foreign experts' participation;
- Analytical information exchange organization between law enforcement agencies, concerning corruption development aspects.

Indicators:

- Number of studies elaborated and sectors identified as to be corruption targeted; elaboration of risks evaluation methodology.



- **Measure number 9** - Develop and disseminate targeted public awareness campaigns designed to prevent and control corruption in specific sectors and institutions, including those targeting the implementation of prioritized reforms and alternatives to corrupt practices

Envisaged actions/indicators:

- Developing ample public awareness campaign with assistance from MOLICO-Moldova;
- Organizing of the International Anti-corruption Day.

Indicators:

- Public awareness soundings; diminution of corruption tolerance.

H. ROMANIA

- **Measure number 1** - Sign, ratify and start implementing the UN Convention against Corruption

Envisaged actions

- Elaborating the draft law amending Criminal Code with a view to incriminate the liability of legal person;
- Elaborating the draft law amending Criminal Procedure Code with a view to establish the necessary means to implement the criminal liability of legal persons;
- Adoption of the draft law amending Criminal Code;
- Adoption of the draft law amending Criminal Procedure Code.

Indicators:

- Draft laws approved by the Government;
- Draft laws adopted by the Parliament.

- **Measure number 2** - Refine and update the existing anti-corruption strategies in line with the international conventions, general principles and specific recommendations made by the European Union's institutions and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption

Envisaged actions:

- Adoption of the National Anti-corruption Strategy for 2005 – 2007;
- Monitoring the implementation of the strategy;
- Ensuring compliance with the international conventions, general principles and specific recommendations made by the European Union's institutions and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption.

Indicators:

- Degree of fulfillment of the measures in the anti-corruption strategy;
- Degree of compliance between the anti-corruption measures adopted and the international conventions, general principles and specific recommendations made by the European Union's institutions and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption;
- Adoption of the second GRECO evaluation round report for Romania.

- **Measure number 9** - Develop and disseminate targeted public awareness campaigns designed to prevent and control corruption in specific sectors and institutions, including those targeting the implementation of prioritized reforms and alternatives to corrupt practices

Envisaged actions:

- Developing ample public awareness campaign with assistance from PHARE Twinning 2003-005-551.04.15. The budget from the Phare project is of 285,000 EUR, with co-financing of 45,000 EUR;



- Developing public awareness campaign on the risks of corruption with assistance from technical assistance component of the Phare Programme 2004. The Budget of Phare 2004 is 1,6 M Euro.

Indicators:

- Increase of the degree of transmission of the anti-corruption messages;
- Increase of the degree of understanding the corruption mechanisms;
- Number of conferences and seminars organized to disseminate anti-corruption tools;
- Number of information leaflets drafted and distributed.

I. SERBIA

- **Measure number 3** - Set high integrity standards and control mechanisms to address and reduce opportunities for corruption within the public administration, justice system and political parties

Envisaged actions/indicators: TBD

- **Measure number 4** - Ensure a fair and competition based business and investment climate by combating private-to-private corruption, promoting corporate liability on the basis of international standards, introducing clear rules for whistle blowing, guaranteeing the independence and celerity of the justice act, as well as setting the practice of “white lists” of companies of demonstrated integrity

Envisaged actions/indicators: TBD

- **Measure number 5** - Enhance the free access to public information and ensure regular cooperation, coordination and consultation among public authorities, the business community and the civil society by establishing an accountable and transparent institutional framework

Envisaged actions/indicators: TBD

4.1.3. Focus areas for activities to be initiated by the member countries

Based on the **needs assessment conducted by the** Regional Anti-corruption Initiative **Senior Representatives** each country should identify focus areas where the assistance and support is needed. Countries of the region will cooperate with the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat and Regional Anti-corruption Initiative partners in developing **activities at national and regional level within the identified focus areas**. The chart of envisaged conferences and trainings is attached – table 3.

5. REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT'S ROLE

Programmatic objectives

The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat activities will be focused on achieving the following **overall programmatic objectives**:

- To execute and implement Regional Anti-corruption Initiative **specific decisions, policies and strategies**;
- To promote and ensure that **individual country needs and priorities are addressed** by the regional programs;



- To assist Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Countries in the process of **adopting and implementing the international standards** related to the fight against corruption;
- To enhance **regional cooperation in the fight against corruption**;
- To participate within different stakeholders' **anti-corruption activities in line with** Regional Anti-corruption Initiative **specific decisions, policies and strategies**.

Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat will continue to undertake all necessary steps in achieving its **specific programmatic objectives**:

I. Supporting the process of adoption/ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against corruption by the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Countries	➤ Goal: All Regional Anti-corruption Initiative countries to ratify (only Moldova did not ratify UNCAC) and implement the UN convention against corruption
II. Supporting the process of developing and implementing Regional and National Anti-corruption Programs for Raising Public Awareness	➤ Goal: Enhancing the public awareness both at regional and national level about the costs and consequences of corruption
III. Sharing best practices in fighting high-level corruption in Regional Anti-corruption Initiative countries	➤ Goal: To build a regional framework for sharing and exchanging information on the available tools, techniques and means of investigation and prosecution, specific court procedures, case studies and best practices in fighting high level corruption
IV. Assessing the regional anti-corruption needs and specific requirements	➤ Goal: To identify, based on inputs from national level, the regional priorities and needs for assistance in fighting against corruption
V. Promoting the public – private partnerships in reducing the impact of corruption within the business environment	➤ Goal: To create efficient framework for coordination and cooperation among various public authorities and the business community

Envisaged activities

- Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat will organize **national and regional events** (conferences, workshops and seminars) in cooperation with the counterparts from the member countries and regional and international partners.
- On request from the member countries, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat will organize **twining type activities**. These activities are aiming to bring together, within a working environment, practitioners and experts from at least two Regional Anti-corruption Initiative countries in order to exchange best practices.
- A regional network will be created **among anti-corruption prosecutor's offices and agencies** through bilateral and regional meetings.
- Regional Anti-corruption Initiative **Secretariat Internship Program** aims to provide young graduates from the member countries with the opportunity of working within an international environment and to gain knowledge and experience in anti-corruption related topics;
- The **Annual Summer School related to the EU acquis** is designed to bring together junior magistrates and lawyers working in public administration from member countries.



ANNEX

I. NATIONAL PRIORITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE 10 JOINT MEASURES ADOPTED WITHIN THE BRUSSELS DECLARATION										
Measures Countries	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Albania		x	x		x					x
BiH	x	x					x			x
Bulgaria		x			x				x	x
Croatia			x		x				x	x
Macedonia		x	x				x	x		x
Montenegro				x				x	x	x
Moldova				x				x	x	x
Romania	x	x							x	x
Serbia			x	x	x					x

Country	II. FOCUS AREAS FOR TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES IN 2008 – 2009	
	National level	Regional level
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic roundtable on best practices on the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns Thematic seminar on implementation of methods for detecting and reporting corruption offences by tax inspectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional conference on scrutinizing the public procurement system through public participation and oversight mechanisms
BiH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic seminar on the relation between business environment and corruption – focus on privatization process Thematic seminar on administrative, civil and criminal liability of legal persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Conference on Vulnerable Areas to Corruption in Public Administration – focus on process of issuing authorizations, licenses and concessions
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminars, round tables and training courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminars, round tables and training courses Regional Conference of the national bodies with competence in preventing and counteracting corruption in order to improve the coordination between them Training courses for exchanging best practices and experience between the law



Country	II. FOCUS AREAS FOR TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES IN 2008 – 2009	
	National level	Regional level
		enforcement bodies in the field of combating corruption practices
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic Round table on the subject – the work of NGOs in the anti-corruption program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional conference on the national bodies with competence in participation in the activities of the Public Procurement
Macedonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the new proceeds of crime legislation on confiscation and seizure and connected issues, including the establishment of guidelines and thorough training for the officials concerned and to collect detailed information on the use, and failure to use, confiscation and interim measures in order to be able to evaluate how the system operates in practice Corporate liability of legal persons and the implications of corporate liability legislation for the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of relevant cases Conference on the assessment of the implementation of the State Programme for prevention and repression of corruption” which takes place once per year in the organization of the State Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange of experience and best practices among Institutions/ bodies authorized for prevention of corruption in countries member countries Seminars, round tables, trainings on the role of the Ombudsman as a potential mechanism for processing complaints concerning corruption in the public administration
Montenegro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic Seminar/Specialized Training on the Use of Special Investigative Means Promotion of Civil Convention of Council of Europe against corruption Conference on the simplification of registration legal entities and licenses obtain, putting the accent on transparency, efficiency and importance of anti-corruption standards in private sector Research on Corruption (in vulnerable sectors, education, health etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Seminar on Liability of Legal Persons for criminal offences The Conference related to Asset recovery Chapter of UN Convention against corruption
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate liability of legal persons in cases related to corruption Thematic seminar/Specialized trainings on the risks assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing the best practices on high level corruption cases Seminar on the most efficient measures of preventing corruption
Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Law on Anti-corruption Agency Legislative changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing the best practices on high level corruption cases



Country	II. FOCUS AREAS FOR TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES IN 2008 – 2009	
	National level	Regional level
Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Comply with the new constitutional provisions regarding the fight against corruption■ Establishment of the new independent Anti-corruption body and identifying the priorities according to the National Anti-corruption Strategy	