



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

# **THE REGIONAL ANTICORRUPTION INITIATIVE (RAI)**

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

Opatija, May 29, 2012



# HOW DID IT START?

RAI was initially adopted *in Sarajevo, in February 2000*, as *Stability Pact Anticorruption 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 features:

- Intergovernment organization;
- No operational mandate;
- Platform for coordination of anticorruption efforts and policy-making.

# RAI member states





# THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAI

## **Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat**

- Launched 2003 as Regional Secretariat Liaison Office, operational since 2004
- 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 Anticorruption Initiative.



## RAI Partners on the Anticorruption Field

On national level:

- Focal points;
- Other representatives of state institutions;
- Representatives of civil society.

On international level:

- Regional Cooperation Council and the existing regional initiatives;
- UNODC, OLAF, OECD/SIGMA, TI, COUNCIL of EUROPE, Europol, Eurojust, GIZ.



# RAI ACTIVITIES

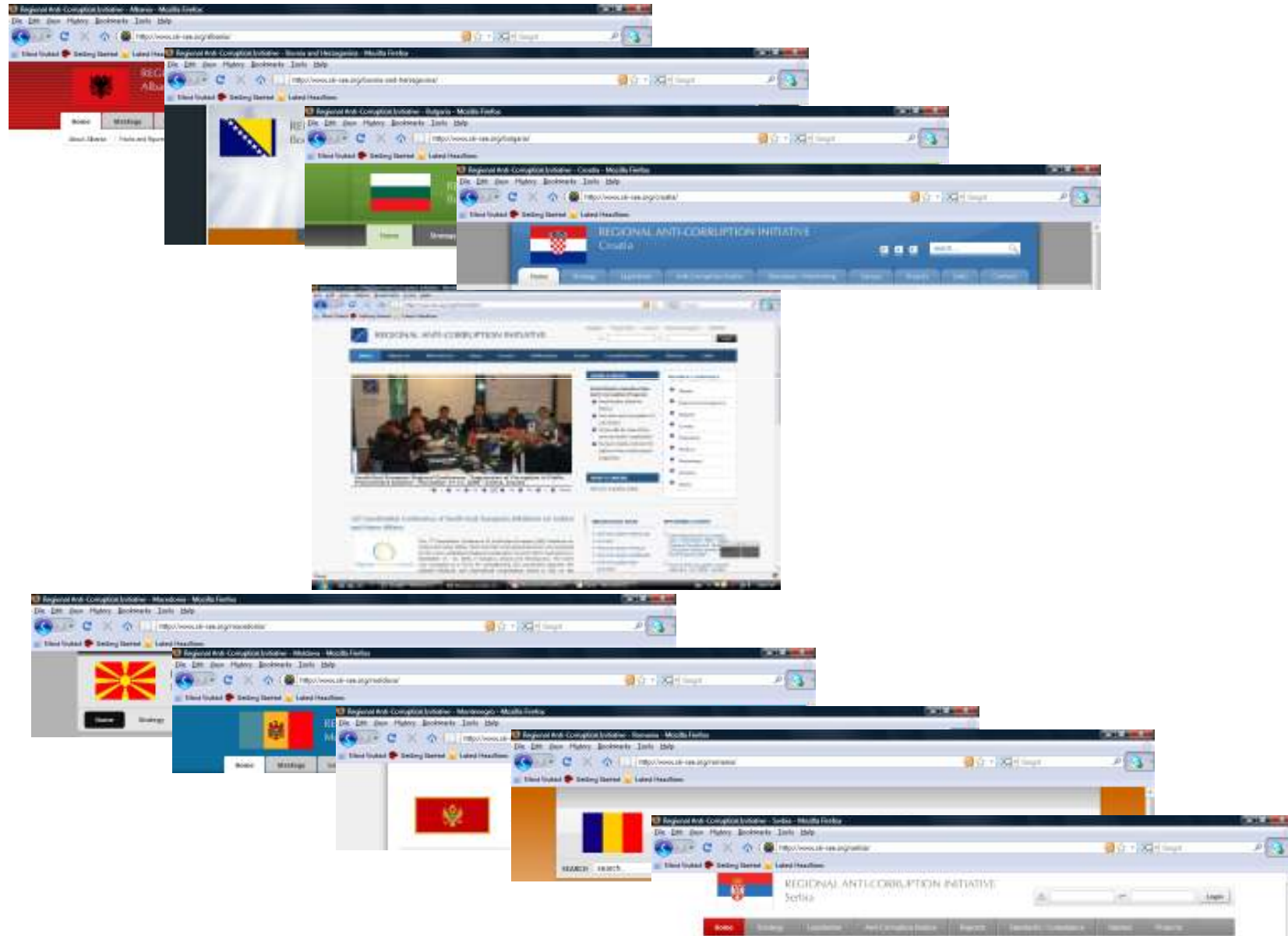
## ***Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the international anticorruption instruments or standards***

- 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





# Regional Anticorruption Resource Center







# RAI ACTIVITIES

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





# RAI ACTIVITIES

## **Launching Anticorruption Networks**

Two stages of support:

- Studying the feasibility for setting up brand new networks;
- Supporting and elaborating upon already existing networks of practitioners involved in anticorruption activities.

Practical examples:

- Support for the ACN for Eastern Europe and Central Asia launched by OECD and for CARIN – the network of asset recovery experts;
- Launch of Integrity Experts Network (IEN) – composed of practitioners dealing with conflict of interest issues and declaration of assets;
- Establishment of Regional Network for Judicial Training (RNJT) as a platform for cooperation of Judicial Academies in SEE.



## Integrity Experts Network (IEN)

- Launched by RAI Secretariat in 2010;
- Informal European network of integrity institutions responsible for conflict of interest prevention and assets declaration;
- Mandate: to serve as a platform for policy making, exchange of information, experience and best practices between the practitioners in the area;
- IEN Secretariat functions are managed by RAI Secretariat in close cooperation with the institution having the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Network;
- IEN web site: [www.integrity-experts.net](http://www.integrity-experts.net)



## Regional Network for Judicial Training (RNJT)

- Set up by RAI Secretariat in April 2012;
- Informal network of institutions responsible for training of judges and prosecutors which are in place in SEE;
- Mandate: to foster regional cooperation and experience sharing in the area; to elaborate and adopt a regional program for education of magistrates with focus on anticorruption dimension;
- RNJT Secretariat functions are managed by RAI Secretariat.



# The achievements of RAI

- All the RAI member countries approved National Anticorruption Strategies and Action Plans, that underline their political commitment to address the issue of corruption and state capture.
- The member states' legal framework has largely been harmonized with European standards;
- In each RAI member country specialized anticorruption bodies have been created or are in the process of being established;
- Increased level of cooperation among anticorruption experts through exchange of data and experience in the framework of profiled professional networks and anticorruption forums.

# AFTER 11 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 sufficient efforts 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.



QUESTIONS ?

**THANK YOU!**

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

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