



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Council of Europe**

**Directorate General I - Legal Affairs**

Department of Crime Problems

Technical Cooperation Section



**Organisation for Economic  
Co-operation and Development**

**Public Governance and Territorial  
Development Directorate**

Innovation and Integrity Division

SPAI Programme

Version of 16 November 2005

PROGRAMME AGAINST CORRUPTION AND ORGANISED CRIME IN SOUTH-EASTERN  
EUROPE (PACO)

IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION PLANS IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE (IMPACT)

&

OECD/STABILITY PACT ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (SPAI)

MANAGING CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR

## **Information Package**

**Regional Thematic Seminar:**

**Anti-corruption Services and the Implementation of Conflict-of-Interest Laws**

**Belgrade, Serbia, 18-19 November 2005**

**“Intercontinental” Hotel**

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## I. ACTIVITY BACKGROUND

### A. ANTI-CORRUPTION SERVICES

Anti-corruption policy in South-eastern Europe has arrived at a critical juncture. Most countries and project areas have established specialised anti-corruption agencies or services, and important legislative and institutional reforms have been introduced.

Yet, the impact these measures had on the levels of corruption in the Balkans has not been sufficiently captured. This dilemma – which is echoed in other regions that have undergone substantial anti-corruption reforms - has to a great extent been caused by the lack of impact measurement considerations and success indicators at the design stage of reforms.

As the anti-corruption debate advances, tools and guidelines are being developed to bridge this gap. The first day of the meeting will try to discuss such tools and mechanisms and how they could be applied by anti-corruption services to evaluate the results of ongoing and future reforms.

At the same time, the meeting will up-date practitioners from the different project areas on progress achieved since the last regional activity in Skopje in April 2005 and in particular on how the recommendations made in the framework of this activity have been brought forward.

### B. IMPLEMENTATION OF CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST LAWS

There is increasing recognition that conflict-of-interest situations that are not adequately dealt with can lead to corruption. Countries in South-eastern Europe have made substantial efforts to develop conflict-of-interest laws and policies in order to set ethical standards and prevent corruption in the public service.

In recent years governments have started shifting their efforts from designing conflict-of-interest laws and policies to supporting and assessing their implementation. Participants at the High Level Forum in Prague in November 2003 endorsed the need for support in implementing and assessing conflict-of-interest laws.

The second day of the seminar will review the effectiveness of policies, legal frameworks and implementation practices in SPAI<sup>1</sup> countries. It will aim in particular at: gathering evidence on progress made, mapping out areas and positions with a high potential for conflict of interest, and identifying suitable directions for supporting the implementation of conflict-of-interest laws and policies.

### C. EXPECTED RESULTS

First of all participants will receive an overview and discuss available methodologies, tools and mechanisms of measurement of the impact of anti-corruption policies, and their relevance for their specific context. Equally, they will discuss how such methodologies will be factored into the design of future anti-corruption efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> The Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative (SPAI) was established in February 2000. The SPAI brings together Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the 'Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Romania and donor and international organisations, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Europe.

Furthermore, the seminar will provide participants with a unique opportunity to assess the effectiveness of conflict-of-interest measures in their country. They will gain a better understanding of the conditions for effectively implementing conflict-of-interest laws and policies and the possible options for adjusting them. Discussions will also explore possible future steps for strengthening the implementation of conflict-of-interest laws and policies and monitoring progress.

#### D. ORGANISERS

##### **Council of Europe, Directorate General of Legal Affairs-DG I, Department of Crime Problems (Technical Cooperation Section - PACO Impact Project)**

(PACO Impact is funded by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency, Sida)

Contact Person:

Ms Ardita N. ABDIU  
PACO-Impact Project Manager  
DG I – Legal Affairs - Department of Crime Problems  
Council of Europe

☎ + 33 3 88 41 23 54  
☎ + 33 3 90 21 59 48  
Fax+33 3 88 41 39 55  
✉ [ardita.abdiu@coe.int](mailto:ardita.abdiu@coe.int)

##### **OECD, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, Innovation and Integrity Division** (SPAI project on Managing Conflict of Interest in Government and the Public Sector)

Contact Persons:

Ms Elodie BETH  
Administrator  
Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

☎ + 33 1 45 24 96 29  
Fax + 33 1 45 24 85 63  
✉ [elodie.beth@oecd.org](mailto:elodie.beth@oecd.org)

Mr János BERTOK  
Principal Administrator  
Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

☎ + 33 1 45 24 93 57  
Fax + 33 1 45 24 85 63  
✉ [janos.bertok@oecd.org](mailto:janos.bertok@oecd.org)

II. DRAFT AGENDA (AS OF 16 NOVEMBER 2005)

 <p>COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE</p>	<p>FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2005</p> <p>ANTI-CORRUPTION SERVICES</p>
<p><b>09:00-09:30</b> (Plenary)</p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> Ms Aleksandra Popović, Country Project Director for Serbia</p> <p><b>Opening and Welcoming Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Zoran Stojković, Minister of Justice of Serbia</li> <li>▪ Ms Nadia Ćuk, Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade</li> <li>▪ Mr Christian Vergez, Acting Head, Innovation and Integrity Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</li> <li>▪ Mr Veselin Suković, Executive Secretary, SPAI Regional Secretariat Liaison Office</li> </ul>
<p>09:30-10:00</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p><b>10:00-11:00</b> (Plenary)</p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> Ms Aleksandra Popović</p> <p><b>Follow up on the recommendations/needs for reform from the Regional Thematic Seminar in Skopje PC-TC-(2005)8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summary of recommendations/commitments since the beginning of PACO Impact. Ms Ardita Abdiu, PACO Impact Project Manager</li> <li>▪ Each project area presents in 10' major improvements/challenges since April 2005 (Albania, BiH, Croatia, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia)</li> </ul>
<p>11:00-11:15</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p><b>11:15-11:45</b> (Plenary)</p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> Ms Aleksandra Popović</p> <p><b>Follow up on the recommendations/needs for reform from the Regional Thematic Seminar in Skopje PC-TC-(2005)8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each project area presents in 10' major improvements/challenges since April 2005 (Albania, BiH, Croatia, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia)</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:45-12:30</b> (Plenary)</p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> Ms Ardita Abdiu</p> <p><b>Measuring and Monitoring Corruption and Anti-corruption: how to determine progress when taking specific and general measures.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Bertrand de Speville, Council of Europe Expert</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30-13:00</b></p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> Ms Ardita Abdiu</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>

13:00-14:30		Lunch Break	
14:30-15:15 (Working Groups)	<i>Chair:</i> Ms Vera Devine	<b>Performance indicators of Anti-corruption Agencies</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participants will discuss a given case study</li> </ul>	
15:15-15:45 (Plenary)	<i>Chair:</i> Ms Vera Devine	<b>Discussion</b>	
Coffee Break			
15:45-16:30 (Working Groups)	<i>Moderators:</i> Mr Bertrand de Speville and MsVera Devine		
	<b>Developing Success Indicators for Anti-corruption Policies</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participants will discuss a given case study</li> </ul>		
16:30-17:15 (Plenary)	<i>Chair:</i> Ms Aleksandra Popović	<b>Reporting of Working Groups and Follow-up Recommendations</b>	
17:15-17:30	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>		

PACO Impact is a Council of Europe Project funded by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida)

<p><b>09:00-09:15</b> (Plenary)</p>	<p><b>Introductory Remarks</b></p> <p><i>Co-chairs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Christian Vergez, Acting Head, Innovation and Integrity Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</li> <li>▪ Ms Aleksandra Popovic, Assistant to the Minister of Justice, Serbia</li> </ul> <p>The co-chairs will set the scene by outlining the objectives of the second day of the Seminar in the framework of the OECD/SPAI project “Managing Conflict of Interest in Government and the Public Sector”.</p>
<p><b>9:15-12:45</b></p>	<p><b>Plenary session I:</b> <b>Country cases: Assessing conflict-of-interest policies, legal frameworks and implementation practices</b></p>
	<p><i>Co-chairs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Christian Vergez</li> <li>▪ Ms Aleksandra Popovic</li> </ul> <p>Each panel session will review the effectiveness of current conflict-of-interest policies, legal frameworks and implementation practices in a SPAI country. The session will start with a presentation by a representative from the country concerned. A panel will bring in the views of an OECD expert and a representative from another SPAI country, followed by a more general discussion.</p>
<p><b>09:15-10:00</b></p>	<p><b>Panel session:</b> Assessing the implementation of conflict-of-interest laws in Serbia</p> <p><i>Country presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Branko Lubarda, Member, Republican Council of Conflict of Interests, Serbia</li> </ul> <p><i>Respondents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Janos Bertok, Principal Administrator, Innovation and Integrity Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</li> <li>▪ Mr Krsto Pavicevic, Chairman, Parliamentary Working Group on Conflict of Interests, Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<p><b>10:00-10:45</b></p>	<p><b>Panel session:</b> Assessing the implementation of conflict-of-interest laws in the Republic of Montenegro</p> <p><i>Country presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Slobodan Lekovic, President, Commission for determination of Conflict of Interest, Republic of Montenegro</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Respondents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Howard Whitton, Principal Administrator, SIGMA<sup>2</sup>, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</li> <li>▪ Ms Agata Nasti, Director of Cabinet, High Inspectorate of Declaration and Control of Assets, Albania</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
10:45-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-12:00	<p><b>Panel session:</b> Assessing the implementation of conflict-of-interest laws in Romania</p> <p><i>Country presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Cristian Anghel, Prosecutor, Directorate for the Relation with Public Ministry, Crime and Corruption Prevention, Ministry of Justice, Romania</li> </ul> <p><i>Respondents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Howard Whitton</li> <li>▪ Ms Sladjana Taseva, Member, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12:00-12:45	<p><b>Panel session:</b> Assessing the implementation of conflict-of-interest laws in Moldova</p> <p><i>Country presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Anatolie Donciu, Chief of Analysis and Prevention Direction, Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption, Moldova</li> </ul> <p><i>Respondents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Elodie Beth, Administrator, Innovation and Integrity Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</li> <li>▪ Ms Catalina Stroe, Legal advisor, Department for the Relation with Public Ministry, Crime and Corruption, Prevention, Ministry of Justice, Bucarest, Romania</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12:45-14:15	Lunch Break
14:15-15:45	<p><b>Plenary session II: Lessons learned in developing and implementing conflict-of-interest laws and policies</b></p>
14:15-15:45	<p><i>Co-chairs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Christian Vergez</li> <li>▪ Mr Veselin Sukovic, Executive Secretary, SPAI Regional Secretariat Liaison Office</li> </ul> <p>This session will provide an opportunity, in particular for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to present the lessons learned in developing and implementing conflict-of-interest laws and policies. The ensuing discussion will focus particularly on the challenges and difficulties faced in the implementation process.</p>

<sup>2</sup> The SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) programme is a joint initiative of the European Union and the OECD, principally financed by the European Union.



	<p><i>Country presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms Fatmira Laskaj, General Inspector, High Inspectorate of Declaration and Control of Asset, Albania</li> <li>▪ Ms Lidija Korac, Member, Election Commission of BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>▪ Mr Josip Leko, President, Committee for Prevention of Conflict of Interest, Croatian Parliament</li> <li>▪ Ms Vanja Mihajlova, Member, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC), former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:45-16:15	Coffee Break
<b>16:15-17:15</b>	<b>Plenary session III: Future directions for supporting the implementation of conflict-of-interest laws and policies</b>
	<p><i>Co-chairs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Christian Vergez</li> <li>▪ Mr Veselin Sukovic</li> </ul> <p>Building on previous discussions during the day, the session will allow countries' representatives to review challenges, identify national priorities and define possible future steps for supporting the implementation of conflict-of-interest laws and policies and monitoring progress.</p> <p><i>Presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Janos Bertok</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
<b>17:15-17:30</b>	<p><b>Conclusions of the day</b></p> <p><i>Co-chairs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Christian Vergez</li> <li>▪ Mr Veselin Sukovic</li> </ul> <p><i>Closing remarks</i></p>

### III. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

#### Seminar Venue



Address:

Vladimira Popovica 10, 11070 N. Belgrade  
tel. 381-11-311-3333 fax. 381-11-311-1402  
For more info: <http://www.hoteli-srbije.co.yu>

#### **Intercontinental Hotel ★★★★★**

It is situated on the left side of the Sava River in the business part of the city. It is 2,5 km far from the Belgrade center and 16,5 km far from the airport. It is connected with the Sava congress center.

There are different shops with newspaper, tobacco and souvenirs, art galleries, a florist, a hairdresser, a jeweler and exclusive shops in the hotel. A lodging capacity of hotel is: 30 suites, 125 double rooms and 260 single rooms.

The hotel has the biggest banquet hall in the city, which is well equipped. All equipment for meetings and services could be rented in the hotel.

#### A. REGISTRATION

The registration of participants and of arrivals will take place in the hotel lobby during the following hours:

16 November:	16:00-18:00
17 November:	16:00-18:00 and 22:00 (for the late arrivals)

Please note that someone from the CoE Secretariat will be at the hall in case of necessity

20 November:	Last Check out time must be 12:00 hours (noon)
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#### B. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Those participants that have registered and provided in advance the time/date/venue of arrival and departures in Belgrade airport, will be provided free transportation from and to the airport/hotel. In case of flight delays/cancellations, participants are suggested to notify the Secretariat through the phone numbers as provided in this information package.

#### C. VISA

Travellers to Serbia from other countries may be required to obtain a valid entry visa, which must be obtained before departure. Visa requirements are subject to change. All participants should ascertain with the Embassy or Consulate in their home jurisdiction whether or not a visa is required and make the necessary formalities as early as possible. A letter from the Council of Europe Protocol has been issued and forwarded to the relevant Serbian

authorities/Embassies/Consulates in order to facilitate the process. Participants are reminded to carry a copy of this letter, and the letter of invitation addressed to the delegations when travelling and applying for visa.

#### D. BORDER ENTRY FEE CHARGES

When entering Serbia via Airport or via land border a border crossing fee, as well as an exit fee may be charged to some of the participants subject to the bilateral agreements with their country of nationality. Therefore, all participants **are reminded to keep or show proof (copy of visa in their passport/receipt) of those charges in order to be reimbursed when they arrive in Belgrade.**

#### E. INSURANCE

For participants whose travel and accommodation costs are borne by the Council of Europe, and OECD, specific travel related risks are covered by an AIG EUROPE insurance policy (number 2.004.761) of the Council of Europe, which provides cover for persons up to their 76th birthday. The following help line AIG EUROPE Assistance 24 Hours can be called in case of necessity: +32 3 253 69 16.

Observers will be those representatives from different international or domestic organisations, which are invited and/or additionally nominated and wish to attend the seminar. Their participation status in the work of this seminar is the same as for other participants. Observers are advised to arrange for their own medical and travel insurance in order to cover their visit to the seminar premises.

Reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses

Conditions for coverage of travelling and subsistence expenses are specified in the invitation letters sent to delegation members (participants). In principle, the following applies:

Travelling expenses (plane, train or bus tickets, travel by car) of invited participants will be funded by OECD and will be reimbursed to them during the meeting **upon submission of the necessary** evidence according to the Rules for 2005.

#### F. MEALS AND ACCOMMODATION

All invited participants (based on the registration forms) have been booked and will be accommodated at the intercontinental Hotel. Observers have been kindly asked to make their own arrangements as far as it concerns hotel booking.

For participants whose costs are borne by the Council of Europe, accommodation, meals and local transportation (from the Airport to the hotel and vice-versa) will be provided by the organisers free of charge within the premises of the Intercontinental Hotel.

In the meantime all other meals starting from 17 November (Dinner) – 20 November (Lunch) will be provided within the premises of the Intercontinental Hotel.

Extra expenses (drinks, mini-bar, phone use in the rooms etc...) will not be covered.

If you travel in your own car, please inform the Secretariat of your precise arrival and departure dates and times, in order to make the necessary reservations and arrangements (meals and accommodation).

If you travel by air, please inform the Secretariat of your precise arrival and departure dates and times in order to make the necessary arrangements for your local transportation from Airport-Belgrade-Airport.

Observers will pay their own accommodation expenses, but the Secretariat can book rooms for them upon written request. In the end of their stay, they should contact the Secretariat to arrange for the payment of their stay.

#### G. WORKING LANGUAGES

The main working language of the Seminar will be English, simultaneous interpretation from and to Albanian-Serbian-Croatian-Bosnian-Macedonian-Romanian will be provided.

#### H. EVENTS

A reception and dinner given by the Minister of Justice of Serbia will take place in Belgrade at 1930 hrs on 18 November 2005. This reception will be followed by a dinner at the same place. Local transportation from Hotel-Reception Venue-Hotel will be arranged by the organisers.

#### I. OTHER

The currency used in Serbia is Dinar. There are some ATM machine services available in Belgrade. However, participants are advised to bring their own cash in Euro for their incidentals and other additional expenses. Payment in Euros is accepted almost in every commercial transaction.

For any further information, please contact the Council of Europe Secretariat:

For overall coordination:

Ms Ardita N. ABDIU  
PACO-Impact Project Manager  
DG I – Legal Affairs - Department of Crime Problems  
F-67075 STRASBOURG Cedex

☎ + 33 3 88 41 23 54  
☎ + 33 6 75 69 17 60 (mob)  
**Fax** +33 3 8841 39 55  
✉ ardita.abdiu@coe.int

For Finance and Reimbursements:

Ms Colette HEITZ  
Administrative Assistant  
DG I – Legal Affairs - Department of Crime Problems  
F-67075 STRASBOURG Cedex

☎ + 33 3 90 21 59 48  
**Fax** +33 3 8841 39 55  
✉ colette.Heitz@coe.int

Ms Marie MURPHY  
Assistant  
Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

☎ + 33 1 45 24 90 52  
**Fax** +33 1 45 24 85 63  
✉ marie.murphy@oecd.org

#### IV. LIST OF INVITEES

Country/Area	Name	Institution/Address
Albania	Mr Shkelqim GANAJ	High Inspector High Inspectorate of Declaration and Control of Assets Street "Reshit Çollaku" Tirana, Albania Tel.: + 355 4 234 960 Fax: + 355 4 228 516 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sganaj@hidaa.gov.al">sganaj@hidaa.gov.al</a>
Albania	Ms Agata NASTI	Director of Cabinet High Inspectorate of Declaration and Control of Assets Street "Reshit Çollaku" Tirana, Albania Tel.: + 355 4 259 466 Fax: + 355 4 228 516 E-mail: <a href="mailto:anasti@hidaa.gov.al">anasti@hidaa.gov.al</a>
Albania	Ms Fatmira LASKAJ	General Inspector High Inspectorate of Declaration and Control of Assets Rruga "Reshit Çollaku", Tirana, Albania Tel: + 355 4 259 466 Fax: + 355 4 259 464
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms Lidija KORAC	Member Election Commission of BiH MULA MUSTAFE BAŠESKIJE 6 71000 SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina Tel:+ 387 33 251 300; Fax: + 387 33 251 329 E-mail: <a href="mailto:lidijak@izbori.ba">lidijak@izbori.ba</a>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr Damir VEJO	Expert Associate Department on Organised Crime and Corruption Ministry of Security Trg BiH 1 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Tel : +387 61 438 483 Fax : +387 33 213 628 ✉: <a href="mailto:dvejo@hotmail.com">dvejo@hotmail.com</a>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms Azemina VUKOVIĆ	Head Office for Implementation and Monitoring of MIDS EPPU Council of Ministers Mustajbega Fadil Pasica 1c 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Tel : +387 33 218 552 Fax : +387 33 214 326 ✉: <a href="mailto:avukovic@eppu.ba">avukovic@eppu.ba</a>

Croatia	<b>Ms Zorka FUMIĆ</b>	PACO-Impact Project Director - Croatia Deputy Director Prosecutors Department USKOK Kapucinska 21 31000 Osijek, Croatia Tel : +385 31 215 260 Fax : +385 31 215 261 ✉: <a href="mailto:uskok.os@uskok.hr">uskok.os@uskok.hr</a>
Croatia	<b>Prof. Josip KREGAR</b>	Head Working Group of Drafting AC Strategy University of Law Zagreb – Sociology Department Trg M. Tita 3 10000 Zagreb, Croatia Tel : +385 1 4597 834 Fax : +385 1 4597 522 ✉: <a href="mailto:jkregar@pravo.hr">jkregar@pravo.hr</a>
Croatia	<b>Ms Ljubinka ŠEBETOVSKY</b>	Senior Adviser Department for International Legal Assistance Ministry of Justice R. Austrije 14 10000 Zagreb, Croatia Tel : +385 1 3710 676 Fax : +385 1 3710 672 ✉: <a href="mailto:ljsebetovsky@pravosudje.hr">ljsebetovsky@pravosudje.hr</a>
Croatia	<b>Mr Josip LEKO</b>	President Committee for Prevention of Conflict of Interest Croatian Parliament 10000 Zagreb, Croatia Tel: + 385 1 45 69 508 Fax: +385 1 45 69 505 (no E-mail)
Croatia	<b>Mr Nikola MAK</b>	Deputy President Commission on deciding on Conflict of Interest Croatian Parliament Trg Sv. Marka 6 10000 Zagreb, Croatia Tel: + 385 1 4569508 Fax: + 385 1 4569505 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sabor@sabor.hr">sabor@sabor.hr</a>
Croatia	<b>Mr Zoran GASPAR</b>	Head of Office of Committee on deciding on Conflict of Interest Croatian Parliament Opaticka 8 10000 Zagreb, Croatia Tel: + 385 1 4569 502 Fax: + 385 1 4569 505 E-mail: <a href="mailto:zoran.gaspar@sabor.hr">zoran.gaspar@sabor.hr</a>
Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Ms Ana NIKOLIĆ</b>	PACO-Impact Project Director - Montenegro Acting Director Office of Anti-corruption Initiative (OACI) Podgorica, Montenegro (S&M) Serbia and Montenegro Tel : +381 81 234 395 Fax : +381 81 234 082 ✉: <a href="mailto:aci@mn.yu">aci@mn.yu</a>

Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Ms Marija NOVKOVIĆ</b>	Advisor Office of Anti-corruption Initiative (OACI) Rimski trg 45 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro (S&M) Tel : +381 81 482 234 Fax : +381 81 234 082 ✉: <a href="mailto:novkovicm@mn.yu">novkovicm@mn.yu</a>
Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Mr Krsto PAVICEVIC</b>	Chairman Parliamentary Working Group on Conflict of Interests Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 10 Podgorica, Montenegro (S&M) Tel: +381 81 242 170 Fax: +381 81 664 213 ✉: <a href="mailto:krsto.pavicevic@skupstina.mn.yu">krsto.pavicevic@skupstina.mn.yu</a>
Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Mr Slobodan LEKOVIĆ</b>	President Commission for determination of Conflict of Interest Crnogorskih serdara bb 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro (S&M) Tel: +381 81 621 124 Fax: +381 81 620 540 ✉: <a href="mailto:konflikt.interesa@mn.yu">konflikt.interesa@mn.yu</a>
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Ms Aleksandra POPOVIĆ</b>	PACO-Impact Project Director - Serbia Assistant to the Minister of Justice Ministry of Justice Nemanjina 22-26 11000 Belgrade, Serbia (S&M) Tel : +381 11 3620 491 / 381 11 363 1775 ✉: <a href="mailto:apopovic@mpravde.sr.gov.yu">apopovic@mpravde.sr.gov.yu</a>
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Mr Branko LUBARDA</b>	Member Republican Council of Conflict of Interests Nušićeva 4 11000 Belgrade, Serbia (S&M) Tel : +381 63 235 887 / 381 11 3232 587
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Ms Verica BARAC</b>	President Anticorruption Council (AC) Nemanjina 11 11000 Belgrade, Serbia (S&M) Tel : +381 11 3617 749 ✉: <a href="mailto:antikorupcija.savet@sr.gov.yu">antikorupcija.savet@sr.gov.yu</a>
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Mr Stjepan GREDELJ</b>	Member Anticorruption Council (AC) Nemanjina 11 11000 Belgrade, Serbia (S&M) Tel : +381 63 322 105 ✉: <a href="mailto:antikorupcija.savet@sr.gov.yu">antikorupcija.savet@sr.gov.yu</a>
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Mr Josip BOGIĆ</b>	Ministry of Interior Head of Economic Organized Crime Department
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	<b>Mr Danilo SUKOVIC</b>	Member Anti-corruption Council of the Government

Montenegro)		
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	Mrs Radmila VASIC	Member Anti-corruption Council of the Government
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	Mr Milovan DEDIJER	President Republican Board for the Conflict of Interest
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	Mr Vojislav STANOVCIC	Member Republican Board for the Conflict of Interest
Serbia * (Serbia and Montenegro)	Mrs Aleksandra KOSTIC	PR Republican Board for the Conflict of Interest

"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Ms Vanja MIHAJLOVA	PACO-Impact Project Director – "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" Member State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) GTC, II Floor 1000 Skopje - MK Tel: +389 2 32 15 377 Tel/Fax: +389 2 3215 380
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Ms Slagjana TASEVA	Member State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) GTC, II Floor 1000 Skopje - MK Tel: +389 2 32 15 377 Tel/Fax: +389 2 3215 380
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Mr Jovan TRPENOVSKI	Member State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) GTC, II Floor 1000 Skopje - MK Tel: +389 2 32 15 377 Tel/Fax: +389 2 3215 380
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Mr Sami ASANI	Member State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) GTC, II Floor 1000 Skopje - MK Tel: +389 2 32 15 377 Tel/Fax: +389 2 3215 380
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Ms Sofka PEJOVSKA– DOJCINOVSKA	Secretary State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) GTC, II Floor 1000 Skopje - MK Tel: +389 2 32 15 377 Tel/Fax: +389 2 3215 380
Kosovo-UNMIK	Mr Francesco CARACCIOLO	PACO-Impact Co-Project Director– Kosovo/UNMIK Deputy Chief Financial Investigation Unit



		<p>UNMIK O/DSRSG – Pillar I  Pristina, Kosovo  Tel : +381 38 504 604 2798  Fax : +381 38 504 604 4597  ✉: <a href="mailto:caracciolo@un.org">caracciolo@un.org</a></p>
Kosovo-UNMIK	<b>Mr John RYAN</b>	<p>Senior Legal Officer  UNMIK/OSRSG/OLA  Government building  Street “Mother Teresa” N.N  Pristina, Kosovo  Tel: +381 (0) 38 504 604 ext: 5847  Fax: +381 (0) 504 604 5630  Mobile: +377 (0) 44 502 010</p>
Moldova	<b>Mr Anatolie DONCIU</b>	<p>Chief of Analysis and Prevention Direction,  Center for Combating Economic Crimes and  Corruption  Chisinau, Moldova  Tel. + 373 22/ 25-72-28  Fax + /373 22/ 29-63-18  ✉: <a href="mailto:adonciu@cccec.md">adonciu@cccec.md</a></p>
Moldova	<b>Mr Alexandru PUZDERI</b>	<p>Deputy Chief  General Anti-Corruption Department  Chisinau, Moldova  Tel: +373 22 257353  Fax: +373 22 225829  ✉: <a href="mailto:a_puzderi@yahoo.com">a_puzderi@yahoo.com</a></p>
Romania	<b>Mr Cristian ANGHEL</b>	<p>Prosecutor  Directorate for the Relation with Public Ministry  Crime and Corruption Prevention  Ministry of Justice, Bucarest, Romania  ✉: <a href="mailto:canghel@just.ro">canghel@just.ro</a>  Tel : + 40213146209  Fax: + 40213146412</p>
Romania	<b>Ms Catalina STROE</b>	<p>Legal advisor  Department for the Relation with Public Ministry,  Crime and Corruption, Prevention  Ministry of Justice, Bucarest, Romania  Tel. 0040213146209  Fax 0040213146412  Email: <a href="mailto:cstro@just.ro">cstro@just.ro</a></p>

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (OBSERVERS)

Institution	Name	Address
SPAI/RSLO	Mr Veselin ŠUKOVIĆ	Executive Secretary Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (SPAI RSLO) Bistrik 5 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina Tel: +387 (0)33 550 220 Fax: +387 (0)33 550 221 ✉: sukovicv@lol.ba
SPAI/RSLO	Mr Cornel-Virgiliu CALINESCU	Anti-Corruption Expert Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative Regional Secretariat Liaison Office (SPAI RSLO) Bistrik 5 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina Tel: +387 (0)33 550 220 Fax: +387 (0)33 550 221 ✉: calinescucv@lol.ba
Sida-Belgrade *	Mrs Svetlana BAŠČAREVIC	National Programme Officer Development Programme Section Ledi Pedzet 2 11040 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro Tel: +381 11 2069 261 Fax: +381 11 2069 252 ✉: svetlana.bascarevic@foreign.ministry.se
SWIS MFA *	Mr Pierre MAURER	Deputy Country Director Swiss Cooperation Office Belgrade Knez Mihailova 10 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro Tel.: 381 11 328 16 69 ✉: pierre.maurer@sdc.net
OSCE – Belgrade *	Mrs Svetlana ZORBIC	National Legal Officer OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro Rule of Law / Human Rights Department 11000 Belgrade, Cakorska 1, Serbia and Montenegro Tel: + 381 11 3606 180 Fax: + 381 11 3672 429 ✉: svetlana.zorbic@osce.org
Transparency International *	Mr Nemanja NENADIC	NGO – Transparency International- Serbia
Transparency International *	Mr Vladimir GOATI	NGO – Transparency International-Serbia (also member of ACC)
Presidenza Consiglio Ministri- Italy	Mrs Maddalena FILIPPI	Ufficio Secretario Generale Palazzo Chigi 1 Piazza Colonna 370 Roma, Italy Tél: 06 - 677 932 31 Fax: 06 – 677 937 21

## TRANSLATORS

Institution	Name	Address
Albania	Mr Artur CEKODHIMA	Rruga Asim Vokshi, Pall. 22, Shk.1/1, Tirana, Albania Tel/Fax: +355 4 227411 Mobile: +355 69 21 41 733 ✉: <a href="mailto:arturc@albnet.net">arturc@albnet.net</a>
Albania	Mr Maksim DAIU	Faculty of Foreign Languages, Rruga e Elbasanit, Tirana, Albania Tel: + 355 4 363 144 Fax: + 355 4 223 981 Mobile: + 355 69 25 07 515 ✉: <a href="mailto:mdaiu@yahoo.com">mdaiu@yahoo.com</a>
"The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Ms Tanja TEMELKOSKA- MILENKOVIC	Judges` Association of Macedonia Court Palace Ul. Krste Misirkov bb MK-1000 Skopje Mobile phone: +389-70-217303 ✉: <a href="mailto:tanjatm@mja.org.mk">tanjatm@mja.org.mk</a>
"The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Ms Jasna SOPTRAJANOVA- VRTEVA	Bul. Partizanski Odredi 93/1-10 MK-1000 Skopje Mobile phone: +389-70-232463 ✉: <a href="mailto:jasna@culture.in.mk">jasna@culture.in.mk</a>
Serbia*	Ms Danica KRALJEVIC	Krunska 22/24 11000 Belgrade Serbia and Montenegro Telephone: +381 11 3240 738; +381 63 248 065 Fax: +381 324 13 14 ✉: <a href="mailto:qlife@eunet.yu">qlife@eunet.yu</a>
Serbia*	Ms Biljana OBRADOVIC- VUJNOVIC	Ljube Stojanovica 24 11000 Belgrade Serbia and Montenegro Tel: +381 11 2766 793; +381 11 2769 325 Mobile: +381 63 8124 338 Fax: +381 11 339 27 35 and +381 11 3241 314 ✉: <a href="mailto:vanjavu@eunet.yu">vanjavu@eunet.yu</a>
Romania	Ms Aurora BARTHA	Calea Dorobantilor 111-131, 9F, SC. A Ap. 17, Sector 1 Bucarest, Romania Tel : +40 722 512 125 ✉: <a href="mailto:aurorabarta@yahoo.com">aurorabarta@yahoo.com</a>
Romania	Ms Mihaela IGNATESCU	Allea Postavarului Nr.4 Bloc C4, scara 5, ap. 54, sector 3 Bucarest, Romania ✉: +40 722 750 271 ✉: <a href="mailto:ignat@digicom.ro">ignat@digicom.ro</a>

COUNCIL OF EUROPE (co-organiser with OECD)

Institution	Name	Address
Consultant	Ms Vera DEVINE	235 rue de la Loi B-1040 BRUXELLES Belgium Tel. : +32 (2) 280 1586 Fax : +32 (2) 228 01586 ✉: <a href="mailto:veradevine@yahoo.com">veradevine@yahoo.com</a>
Consultant	Mr Bertrand DE SPEVILLE	55 The avenue Richmond SURREY T, W9 2AL Great Britain Tel.: 00442089401771 Fax: 00442089485176 ✉: <a href="mailto:bdes@compuserve.com">bdes@compuserve.com</a>
PACO Impact Project Manager	Ms Ardita ABDIU	Department of Crime Problems DG I – Legal Affairs F-67075 STRASBOURG Tel : +33 3 90 21 45 06 Fax : +33 3 88 41 39 55 ✉: <a href="mailto:ardita.abdiu@coe.int">ardita.abdiu@coe.int</a>
PACO Impact Project Officer *	Ms Silvija PANOVIC-DJURIC	Council of Europe, Belgrade Office Sinđeliceva 9 11000 Belgrade Serbia & Montenegro Tel: +381 11 30 88 411/412 Fax: + 381 11 631 955 ✉: <a href="mailto:silvija.panovic-djuric@coe.int">silvija.panovic-djuric@coe.int</a>
PACO Impact Project Officer	Ms Eridana ÇANO	Council of Europe Secretariat - Tirana Office Pallati i Kultures, Kati i I Sheshi "Skenderbej" Tirana, Albania Tel.: + 355 4 234 375 Fax: + 355 4 234 375 ✉: <a href="mailto:eridana.cano@coealb.org">eridana.cano@coealb.org</a>
PACO Impact Assistant	Ms Colette HEITZ	Department of Crime Problems DG I – Legal Affairs F-67075 STRASBOURG Tel : +33 3 90 21 59 48 Fax : +33 3 88 41 39 55 ✉: <a href="mailto:colette.heitz@coe.int">colette.heitz@coe.int</a>

OECD (co-organiser with Council of Europe)

Institution	Name	Address
OECD	Mr Christian VERGEZ	Acting Head of Division Innovation and Integrity Division Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD 2 rue André-Pascal 75775 Paris Cedex 16 Tel: +33 1 45 24 90 44 Fax: +33 1 45 24 85 63 ✉: christian.vergez@oecd
OECD	Mr Janos BERTOK	Principal Administrator Innovation and Integrity Division Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD 2 rue André-Pascal 75775 Paris Cedex 16 Tel: +33 (0) 1 45 24 93 57 Fax: +33 (0) 1 45 24 85 63 ✉: janos.bertok@oecd.org
OECD	Mr Howard WHITTON	Principal Administrator SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD 2 rue André-Pascal 75775 Paris Cedex 16 Tel: +33 1 45 24 13 08 Fax: +33 1 45 24 13 05 ✉: howard.whitton@oecd.org
OECD	Ms Elodie BETH	Administrator Innovation and Integrity Division Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD 2 rue André-Pascal 75775 Paris Cedex 16 Tel: +33 1 45 24 96 29 Fax: +33 1 45 24 85 63 ✉: elodie.beth@oecd.org
OECD	Ms Marie MURPHY	Assistant Innovation and Integrity Division Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD 2 rue André-Pascal 75775 Paris Cedex 16 Tel: +33 1 45 24 90 52 Fax: +33 1 45 24 85 63 ✉: marie.murphy@oecd.org

\*  
name No need for hotel accommodation  
registration form received