



Department of Crime Problems
Directorate General I - Legal Affairs

Implementation of Anti-corruption Plans in South-eastern Europe

(PACO IMPACT)

– project summary –

Project title	Implementation of anti-corruption plans in South-eastern Europe (PACO IMPACT)
Project area	South-eastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Serbia and Montenegro ¹
Budget	EURO 1.5 million
Funding	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Implementation	Council of Europe (Department of Crime Problems/DGI - Legal Affairs)
Duration	24 months (1 March 2004 – 28 February 2006)

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The need to address corruption and organised crime as an obstacle to democratic stability, the rule of law and social and economic development in South-eastern Europe has been raised by the Council of Europe and other organisations on numerous occasions. Countries of South-eastern Europe have taken up this challenge and made progress in terms of adopting European standards and relevant legislation, joining international monitoring mechanisms (that is, the Group of States against Corruption – GRECO), elaborating national anti-corruption plans, and establishing specialised anti-corruption services.

The present project will support countries of South-eastern Europe in their efforts and more specifically in the implementation of their anti-corruption plans and strategies.

Experience shows that such strategies are more likely to be successful if they consist of three elements which are closely inter-related:

- Enforcement of legislation
- Prevention
- Public awareness and participation in the anti-corruption effort.

With regard to the present project, the experience gathered under the PACO Albania project (since 2001) is particularly valuable.

The project will follow up on the assessments carried out under the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI) as well as the recommendations resulting from GRECO

¹ The project area includes also Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), currently under the interim administration of UNMIK in accordance to the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

evaluations. It is expected that this project in turn will also feed into the SPAI process and GRECO. It will furthermore build on the commitments made by countries of South-eastern Europe at the London Ministerial Conference on Organised Crime (November 2002) and take into account the anti-corruption measures identified within the Stabilisation and Association process.

It is important to note that the European Commission (EC) will support the implementation of these commitments among other things through the CARDS programme. In November 2003, the EC awarded the CARDS regional project on strengthening police capacities against serious crime in South-eastern Europe to a consortium led by the Council of Europe. The CARDS Police and PACO IMPACT projects will be managed in a way that they complement each other.

OBJECTIVE, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Long-term objective:	Strengthen democracy and the rule of law in South-eastern Europe through the prevention and control of corruption
Project objective:	To contribute to the implementation (and further elaboration) of anti-corruption plans in countries of South-eastern Europe
Output 1:	Anti-corruption plans improved or elaborated
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In-country working group meetings, workshops and training events and advice to improve or elaborate and operationalise anti-corruption plans (including clear benchmarks, indicators, and assignment of tasks, and reflecting a balance between law enforcement, prevention and public awareness/involvement) ▪ Regional seminars to allow for a mutual review of anti-corruption plans and experience exchange (in support of the aims of the SPAI)
Output 2:	Institutional mechanisms for the monitoring and management of anti-corruption plans strengthened
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advice on legal basis, tasks, organisational set up and management of anti-corruption institutions ▪ Provide training for staff and advice to these institutions ▪ Provide basic equipment to these institutions (if necessary) ▪ Facilitate experience exchange and networking among anti-corruption institutions (in support of the aims of the SPAI)
Output 3:	Draft laws/amendments available to bring the criminal legislation on corruption in line with European standards
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support review of criminal legislation ▪ Commission legal opinions ▪ Hold workshops/training events to discuss and finalise draft laws for submission to government
Output 4:	Pilot activities supported
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In each project area support the implementation of limited number of activities which are of high priority and impact, which could serve as examples or which could help create a momentum ▪ Regional seminars to provide access to best practice and disseminate experience gained in different countries.

The project, while taking into account the specific needs of each project area, will also contain a strong element of regional interaction, and facilitate experience exchange and networking among anti-corruption institutions.

PARTNERS

In each of the project areas, activities will involve in particular the following main counterpart institutions:

- Albania: Anti-corruption Monitoring Group (ACMG), the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor General
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Working Group on corruption within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Court, State Public Prosecution, Ministries of Justice and Public Prosecutors at entity level
- Croatia: USKOK, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior
- “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: State Anti-Corruption Commission, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, group of specialises prosecutors on corruption and organised crime
- Serbia: Anti-corruption Office within the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Anti-corruption Council, anti-corruption teams, Ministry of Interior, Prosecution service
- Montenegro: Anti-corruption Agency (ACA), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Prosecution service
- Kosovo: Inter-ministerial Group of the Government of Kosovo against Corruption, Office of Good Governance at the Prime Minister of Kosovo, UNMIK Office of the Legal Adviser and the UNMIK Department of Justice.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented by the Department of Crime Problems of the Directorate General of Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. The Department will ensure coherence and integration with standard setting, monitoring and other technical cooperation activities, as well as with the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI).

In each country, the Government will appoint one project director who – together with the main official anti-corruption body – will be the main interlocutor for the Council of Europe in the implementation of this project.

In addition, a local project officer will be recruited by the Council of Europe in each country of the region with the task of supporting counterpart institutions on a day-to-day basis. The project will furthermore be able to rely on Council of Europe offices in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje and Tirana.

A pool of experts and consultants will also be created to provide short-term inputs to the project. In order to strengthen links with and benefit from the experience of anti-corruption bodies in other European countries, cooperation with such bodies will be sought.

CONTACT

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