



Directorate General I-Legal Affairs
Crime Problems Department



Version of 27 March 2004

PROGRAMME AGAINST CORRUPTION AND ORGANISED CRIME IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE (PACO)
IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION PLANS IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE (PACO IMPACT)

Regional Thematic Seminar: Strengthening anti-corruption services in SEE

Activity Programme

Skopje, 31 March-1 April 2005
"Aleksandar Palace" Hotel

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I. ACTIVITY OUTLINE

Regional thematic seminar & high level meeting on anti-corruption services in South-eastern Europe (Skopje, 31 March/1 April 2005)

Seminar title:	Strengthening anti-corruption services and their role in implementing national anti-corruption strategies
Date:	31 March 2005 – 1 April 2005
Place:	Skopje ("the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia")
Implemented by:	PACO Impact Project, Technical Cooperation, Crime Problems Department / Directorate General I – Legal Affairs / Council of Europe
Activity reference:	Workplan of the PACO Impact Project
Source of funding:	Voluntary Contribution: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Background and justification

The PACO Impact project is a regional project aimed at the "implementation of national anti-corruption plans in South-eastern Europe". It was launched in March 2004. This project provides technical assistance directly to seven project areas in South-eastern Europe, that is, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Kosovo (S&M), Montenegro (S&M), Serbia (S&M). It follows up on assessments carried out under the Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI) as well as recommendations resulting from GRECO evaluations. It furthermore builds on the commitments made by countries of South-eastern Europe at the London Ministerial Conference on Organised Crime (November 2002) and takes into account the anti-corruption measures identified within the Stabilisation and Association process and other agreements with the European Union.

Among the main challenges with regard to anti-corruption measures for the South-eastern European countries is the establishment, the strengthening and the proper functioning of independent anti-corruption services. Strong political commitment, along training of staff and provision of equipment and other resources, is essential to the success of such anti-corruption services. PACO Impact, therefore, pays particular attention to these institutions, and a number of project activities will be carried out, including regional thematic seminars.

There are two specific issues which should be dealt with under the first of these regional thematic seminars:

The role of anti-corruption services in anti-corruption plans in South-eastern Europe: In recent years, most countries of South-eastern Europe have established anti-corruption services. The seminar is to analyse the role and impact of these services in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of anti-corruption plans/strategies. The seminar is then expected to provide guidance to such services, allowing them to further enhance their role and to lead to further reforms and improvements of anti-corruption strategies.

Review of structures and status of anti-corruption services in South-eastern Europe: Different countries and areas have established different types of anti-corruption services. The seminar will provide an opportunity to exchange experience and lessons learned. This should encourage reforms to make existing services more effective and provide guidance for the creation of new anti-corruption bodies where they have not been established yet. It will furthermore permit networking and improved cooperation between services of different countries and project areas.

Need for confirmation of commitment by high-level officials

The implementation of anti-corruption strategies and the functioning of effective anti-corruption services require strong political commitment and support. With regard to the regional seminar, it is therefore proposed to complement working sessions of anti-corruption bodies at technical level with a high-level segment, which would allow senior representatives to take stock of achievements, of reforms underway and of their compliance with European and other international anti-corruption standards; it would also provide high-level participants with an opportunity for **reconfirmation of a high-level political commitment by Governments of the region**. This high-level segment would take place in the afternoon of the second day of the seminar, that is, Friday 1 April 2005.

Activities and expected results

Output 1:	Recommendations for a further strengthening of the role and effectiveness of anti-corruption services in South-eastern Europe are available
Output 2:	Cooperation between anti-corruption services of South-eastern Europe and other countries will have been enhanced
Output 3:	Good practice and lessons learned regarding anti-corruption services in South-eastern Europe will have been documented
Output 4:	Political commitment expressed by high-level officials to strengthen anti-corruption services and to implement anti-corruption plans in South-eastern Europe

II. SEMINAR AGENDA

31 March (Thursday)	First Day
09:00-09:45 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Mr Alexander Seger, Head of Technical Cooperation Unit, Council of Europe</i></p> <p>Opening and Welcoming Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcoming Remarks from the President of the Government, Mr Vlado Buskovski ▪ Opening Remarks from the Head of Technical Cooperation, Crime Problems Department at Council of Europe, Mr Alexander Seger ▪ Opening Remarks from the President of the State Anti-corruption Commission, Mr Dragan Malinovski ▪ Addressing Remarks from SPAI/RSLO Executive Secretary, Mr Veselin Sukovič
09:45-10:00 Coffee Break	
10:00-11:00 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Ms Ardita Abdiu, PACO-Impact Project Manager</i></p> <p>Current Status and Role of Anti-corruption Services: Reporting on current status by Project Directors of each Project Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Albania ▪ BiH ▪ Croatia
11:00-11:20 Coffee Break	
11:20-12:20 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Ms Ardita Abdiu, PACO-Impact Project Manager</i></p> <p>Current Status and Role of Anti-corruption Services: Reporting on current status by Project Directors of each Project Area (<i>continued</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" ▪ Kosovo ▪ Montenegro ▪ Serbia
12:20-13:30 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Ms Ardita Abdiu, PACO-Impact Project Manager</i></p> <p>The need for establishing and strengthening Anti-corruption Services and their (new) role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 Minutes presentation from each project area ▪ Questions and answers by CoE experts (<i>on-spot assessment</i>)
13:30-14:45 Lunch Break	
14:45-15:45 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Ms Ardita Abdiu, PACO-Impact Project Manager</i></p> <p>Strong and independent Anti-corruption Services and Anti-corruption Plans: Tools and Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Bertrand de Speville, CoE Expert (United Kingdom) ▪ Mr Drago Kos, CoE Expert, (Slovenia) ▪ Ms Kristina Hemon, CoE Expert (United Kingdom) <p>Questions and Answers</p>
15:45-16:15 Coffee Break	
16:15-18:00 (Working Groups)	<p><i>Moderators: CoE Experts & Secretariat members</i></p> <p>Drafting of Proposals for Reform for strong and independent Anti-corruption Services and Anti-corruption Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seven Working Groups (Room TBC)

1 April (Friday)	Second Day
09:00-10:30 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Ms Ardita Abdiu, PACO-Impact Project Manager</i></p> <p>Presentation of draft "Compilation of Proposals": Presentation by Project Directors of each Project Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Albania ▪ BiH ▪ Croatia ▪ "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" ▪ Kosovo ▪ Montenegro ▪ Serbia <p>Peer review and comments</p>
10:30-11:15 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Ms Ardita Abdiu, PACO-Impact Project Manager</i></p> <p>Best practices to be applied in view of each project area proposals: Comments by Council of Europe experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Bertrand de Speville, CoE Expert (United Kingdom) ▪ Mr Drago Kos, CoE Expert, (Slovenia) ▪ Ms Kristina Hemon, CoE Expert (United Kingdom)
11:15-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-12:30 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Mr Alexander Seger, Head of Technical Cooperation</i></p> <p>Review of the draft "Joint Declaration": Discussion/Comments/Amendments</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break
14:30-15:00 (Plenary)	<p style="text-align: right;">HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT</p> <p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcoming Remarks from the Prime Minister, Mr Vlado Buskovski ▪ Head of Technical Cooperation, Crime Problems Department at Council of Europe, Mr Alexander Seger
15:00-16:00 (Plenary)	<p><i>Chair: Mr Alexander Seger, Head of Technical Cooperation</i></p> <p>Presentation of final "Compilation of Proposals": Presentation by Project Directors for each project area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Albania ▪ BiH ▪ Croatia ▪ "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" ▪ Kosovo ▪ Montenegro ▪ Serbia
16:00-16:30	<p><i>Chair: Mr Alexander Seger, Head of Technical Cooperation, Council of Europe</i></p> <p>Reading and signing of the "Declaration of Support": "Tour de Table"</p>
17:00-18:00	Press Conference
19:30	Reception given by Prime Minister Mr Vlado Buskovski

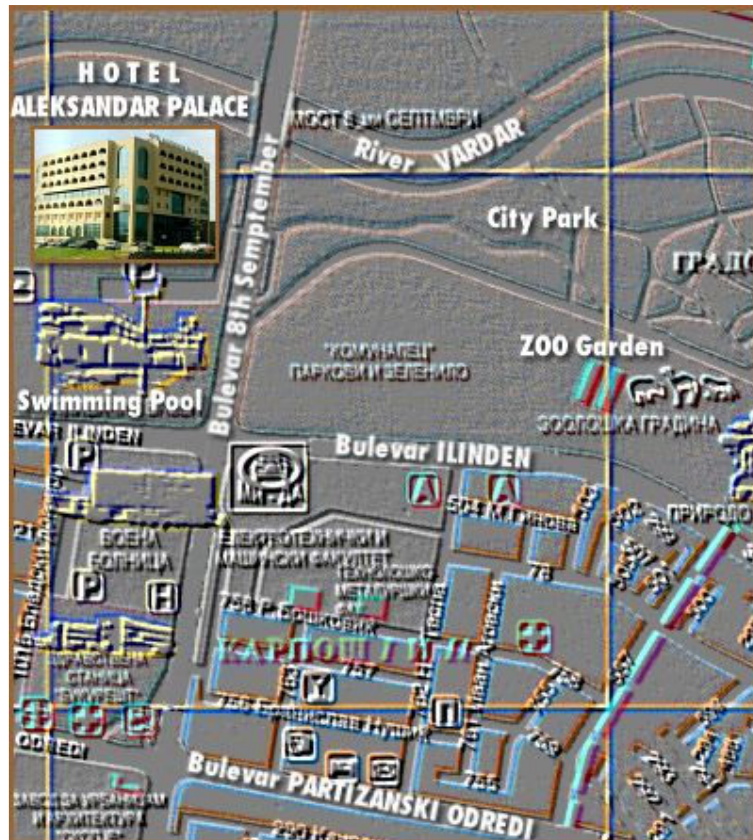
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III. INFORMATION

Seminar Venue

The seminar will take place at the Hotel "Aleksandar Palace", Skopje, "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and more specifically at the Congress Hall No. 1 "Kongresna Eden".

Location



Tel: +389 2 3092-392 ; Fax: +389 2 3092-152; E-mail: info@aleksandarpalace.com.mk
For more info: <http://www.aleksandarpalace.com.mk>

Registration of Participants and of Arrivals will take place in front of the Congress Hall No. 1
During the following hours:

30 March: 16:00-18:00
31 March: 08:00-09:00

Visa

Travellers to "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" 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 nominative official invitation letter can be provided upon request to the Secretariat to be used for visa application purposes.

Insurance

For participants whose travel and accommodation costs are borne by the Council of Europe, specific travel related risks are covered by a CHUBB insurance policy (number 6600-10-34), which provides worldwide cover for persons up to their 76th birthday. The following help line can be called in case of need: + 32 2 773 61 84.

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 works of this seminar is the same as with other participants. Observers are advised to arrange for their own medical and travel insurance in order to cover their visit to "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses

Conditions for coverage of travelling and subsistence expenses are specified in the invitation letters sent to delegation members through their Permanent Representations at the Council of Europe. In principle, the following applies:

Travelling expenses (plane, train or bus tickets, travel by car) of participants funded by the Council of Europe who did not use a prepaid ticket will be reimbursed to them during the meeting and upon submission of the necessary evidence according to the Rules for 2005.

Travel by car: Participants travelling by car shall be refunded a lump sum based on the first class rail fare, excluding any supplements and without taking into account any other expenditure occasioned by the use of a car. If two or more experts entitled to claim expenses use the same car, a refund shall be made only to the person in charge of the vehicle, with an increase of 20% for each passenger. Experts travelling by car do so at their own risk. The Council of Europe disclaims all liability in respect of any accident that may occur during the journey.

Travel by plane or train: Journeys should be arranged using the most economical route, making use, wherever possible, of any available reduced fares (Pex, excursion, etc.). Travel expenses will only be reimbursed upon presentation of documentary evidence of the sum actually paid (original invoice, copy of credit card slip, etc.). This evidence of the expenditure should be attached to the claim form for reimbursement together with a copy of the relevant travel tickets (plane, train, etc.). Participants are advised to bring a copy of their entire travel ticket to the meeting to facilitate the reimbursement process.

Accommodation

All invited participants have been booked and will be accommodated at the Hotel Aleksandar Palace.

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 Aleksandar Palace Hotel, where the seminar will be held. Extra expenses (drinks, mini-bar etc...) will not be covered.

If you travel by your own, please inform the Secretariat about your precise arrival and departure date and time, in order to make the necessary bookings (meals and accommodation).

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

Working languages

The main working language of the Seminar will be English, interpretation from and to local languages of the region will be provided.

Events

A reception given by the Prime Minister, Mr Vlado Buskovski will be given at the Foyer of the Hotel Aleksandar Palace at 19.30 hours on 1 April 2005.

Other

The currency used in "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" is MK Dinar. ATM machine services are available in Skopje and inside the hotel premises. Thus participants are advised to bring their own money for their incidentals and other additional expenses.

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

For overall coordination:

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IV. ANNEX 1: TEMPLATE OF REPORTING CURRENT STATUS PROFILES
Information on Anti-Corruption Services and Efforts
-STATUS PROFILE- (Project Area)

Anti-Corruption Policy		Institutions which endorsed it
Status of anti-corruption strategy		
Status of anti-corruption action plan		
Plans for revision		
Anti-Corruption Service/Body		Institutions which AC Service/Body is Accountable
Mandate (legal basis)		
Tasks and authority		
Composition and human resources		
Internal organization		
Annual budget or other financial resources		
In case of no anti-corruption service, who is in charge of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the anti- corruption strategy or providing anti-corruption policy advice?		
Relation to other relevant institutions (please list relevant institutions and bodies)		
Achievements up to date in anti-corruption policy and services provided		
Prevention		
Suppression/ Law enforcement		
Public awareness		
Difficulties encountered		

Recommendations for further improvement on Anti-corruption services/bodies
Risk factors (with relation to Item 6)

Note: A provisional Template as such has been already filled by each project area delegation and submitted to CoE Secretariat prior to the activity, and will be available for review and amendment during the Seminar.

**V. ANNEX 2: TEMPLATE OF REPORTING PROPOSALS FOR REFORMS
(Project Area)**

Proposed new/reform of Anti-Corruption Policy		Institutions that need to endorse/be responsible
anti-corruption strategy		
anti-corruption action plan		
other		
Anti-Corruption Service/Body		Institutions which AC Service/Body should be Accountable
Mandate (legal basis)		
Tasks and authority		
Composition and human resources		
Internal organization		
Annual budget or other financial resources		
Necessary Reforms on other areas		Institutions that need to endorse/be responsible
Prevention		
Suppression/ Law enforcement		
Public awareness		
Other Recommendations for further improvement on Anti-corruption services/bodies		

VI. ANNEX 3: DRAFT OF JOINT DECLARATION



Joint Declaration
(Skopje, 1 April 2005)

We, the representatives of the governments and administrations from the South-eastern European region:

Participating in this High-Level Meeting on Anti-corruption Services in South-eastern Europe held in Skopje (1 April 2005);

In cooperation with the Council of Europe and other European and international organisations

In our official capacity

Recognising the importance of Council of Europe resolution (97) 24 on “The twenty Guiding Principles for the fight against corruption”;

Building on the previous commitments and efforts and the lessons learned and experiences derived from them;

Taking into account the findings of this event and the proposed recommendations from all participants and the Council of Europe experts;

Taking into account recommendations from GRECO evaluations;

Considering the requirements of European instruments, in particular the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption;

Acknowledging the good practice shared at the Octopus Interface conference on specialised anti-corruption services (Strasbourg, November 2003);

Being aware of the critical role of independent anti-corruption services in the planning, coordination, monitoring and implementation of comprehensive anti-corruption strategies

Recognising the pressing need to further enhance our capacities in the fight against corruption and therefore to invest substantial national resources in that effort;

Acknowledging the commonalities and the regional character of the challenges we face, but also considering that the local particularities of many of our problems require specific solutions;

Acknowledging that in all our efforts and policies we have to strive towards accountability and transparency vis-à-vis the public;

WE

Commit ourselves to:

Continue our efforts to support initiatives aimed at establishing and/or strengthening Anti-corruption services (bodies) as specialised independent services;

Strengthen the role of Anti-corruption services (bodies) to contribute to the effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of compliance with relevant (newly introduced) legislation on the fight against corruption;

Strengthen the institutional capacities of the Anti-corruption services (bodies) for intra-governmental and international coordination with view to minimising the duplication of efforts and maximising the use of existing scarce resources to meet the challenges ahead;

Ensure bilateral and multilateral regional cooperation and the application of lessons learned from the region when implementing international standards in the fight against corruption, while at the same time promote efforts to design solutions tailor-made to the specifics of the local problem(s).

Strengthen the institutional capacities of Anti-corruption services (bodies) to be able to monitor and evaluate the success of existing anti-corruption policy documents/strategies, to implement appropriate follow-up mechanisms, and to communicate the results of these processes to the public;

Enhance the capacities of the Anti-corruption services (bodies) to operate credible public consultation mechanisms where appropriate;

Strengthen the capacities of the Anti-corruption services (bodies) to deal with preventive aspects of the fight against corruption;

Explore the possibility of establishing or/and seconding specialised law enforcement contingents (offices/officers) which are able to handle specifically corruption related cases;

Continue and strengthen Anti-corruption prevention efforts in parallel with public education and participation;

Advocate that additional allocation of budgetary funds is needed to assure the continuation and effective implementation of such reforms.

* * *

VII. ANNEX 4: PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (INVITEES)

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VIII. ANNEX 2: SUMMARY OF PACO IMPACT PROJECT

Implementation of Anti-corruption Plans in South-eastern Europe

(PACO IMPACT)

– project summary –
(version of March 2004)

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) including Kosovo currently under interim administration of UNMIK.
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) has been 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 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:	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:	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:	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:	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 specialised 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 project area, 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.