



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Department of Crime Problems  
Directorate General I –Legal Affairs

## **Implementation of Anti-corruption Plans in South-eastern Europe**

### **(PACO IMPACT)**

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Implementation of anti-corruption plans in South-eastern Europe (PACO Impact)

South-eastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Serbia and Montenegro<sup>1</sup>

**€ 1.5 million**

**Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)**

**Technical Cooperation Section, Department of Crime Problems, Directorate General of Legal Affairs, Council of Europe**

**29 months (1 March 2004 – 31 July 2006)**

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**To contribute to the implementation of anti-corruption plans in countries of South-eastern Europe**

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Only in 2006, some 60 activities were carried out resulting in the following:

**1. Anti-corruption strategies/plans were elaborated or improved**

- In Albania and "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" the anti-corruption strategies continue to be the main anti-corruption policy driving documents with their respective action plans listing government priorities in the fight against corruption. The project has managed after 28 months to provide a new and comprehensive shape of these policy documents and introduce further tools on anti-corruption practices, measuring impact, monitoring progress in public sector reforms and enhancing commitments against corruption including here local government specifically designed anti-corruption plans.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, PACO Impact initiated and supported until the end the introduction of a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy and action plan.
- In Croatia, the new National Programme for the Suppression of Corruption that was finalised in the end of 2005, was endorsed and approved by the government of Croatia, in parallel to wide public information campaign which was fully supported and designed under the PACO Impact project
- In Kosovo, in accordance to the anti-corruption strategy, the newly introduced action plan has been finally endorsed by the PISG and UNMIK institutions, and now considered as one of the UN standards for implementation by the Kosovo authorities
- In Serbia, the newly developed Anti-corruption Strategy has been endorsed by the National Assembly of Serbia and has paved the way of drafting the sectorial anti-corruption action plans for each institution.
- In Montenegro, the endorsement by the Council of Ministers of the new Programme in the fight against Organised Crime and Corruption in July 2005 paved the way for the elaboration on the operational level of the Montenegro's anti-corruption action plan which was finalised and endorsed by the government in July 2006.

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

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## **2. Institutional mechanisms relevant for the fight against corruption were strengthened**

- In Montenegro, and "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", the respective anti-corruption services continued to be strengthened and be the main institutions driving anti-corruption measures and reforms. Additional public awareness campaigns and public relations component were the main focus of activities for these institutions, including here public perception survey that was carried out on "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" .
- In Albania and Kosovo, PACO Impact contributed to the drafting of the internal rules of procedure of the respective anti-corruption offices within the government auspices.
- In Serbia, reviews and round table discussions at technical and policy levels were carried out to provide the legal and technical advice on the establishment of the anti-corruption agency for Serbia leading on concept technical opinion of the necessary draft law for establishing specialised anti-corruption service in Serbia.
- In-country activities were complemented by regional dialogue, peer reviews and exchange of good practices among project countries and areas. Networking and best practices have now been documented through a set of three publications: on SEE Anti-corruption strategies; SEE Anti-corruption Services; and SEE Anti-corruption Law enforcement services in which is now being used also outside the SEE region as best practice dissemination exercise.

## **3. Legislation was improved to meet international standards**

- A series of training and awareness events on the application of existing legislation and international standards were carried out in all project areas
- As a direct result of 20 legal opinions, policy advice and other support provided, new legislation or amendments were introduced or adopted in Albania, Croatia, Serbia, and Kosovo
- Two regional seminars were organised to review compliance by countries with international standards on investigating and prosecuting corruption related offences.

## **4. Pilot activities designed in each project area**

- Seven Pilot Activities were undertaken and developed, and finalised based on original initiatives with potential relevance for the whole region. The project was able to accommodate and realize ideas coming from the beneficiary regions themselves, ranging from the purchase of material equipment to upgrade the work of relevant anti-corruption institutions, to the development of specific training materials, and the conduction of a public awareness campaign

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*Assessing the results of the project against its agreed outcomes, the project has achieved its main objectives. However, the sustainability of many of the interventions will become clear in the medium- to long-term future*

*The key anti-corruption policy documents such as national-level Anti-corruption Strategies and operational Anti-corruption Action Plans to support the implementation of these strategies are in place in all project areas as a direct result of this project. Countries have understood the importance of clearly assigning the coordination of implementation of anti-corruption strategies and action plans to either existing bodies or to institutions specifically created for this purpose during the course of the project implementation. Project areas have now moved towards completing the creation of a modern legal framework covering repressive and preventive aspects of corruption, in line with key international standards. A follow up project/regional activity set is necessary to be assured and coordinated by the Council of Europe in order to maintain the momentum as created and politically support the on-going reforms.*

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