



Project against Corruption in Albania (PACA)

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PACA Activities, July-October 2010

- ***The Anti-corruption Strategy***

PACA submitted key recommendations in July for improvement of the Anti-corruption Action Plan and the mechanism for coordinating its implementation. A number of these recommendations are to be taken into account during the formulation of a three year Action Plan for 2011-2013, to be assisted by PACA in November-December 2010.

- ***Corruption Risk Assessments***

In September the PACA Steering Committee selected the Albanian Competition Authority as the fifth target for anti-corruption risk assessment. In July-August preliminary studies were completed on the other four areas – property registration, the healthcare sector and its financing, allocation of social housing and the system for complaints against judges.



- ***Combating Economic Crime***

In October a Manual on the Investigation of Economic Crime was completed and launched as a joint effort of the US Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training and PACA. In addition, in July 12 Albanian prosecutors, police officers, tax and customs officials and FIU officials participated in a Study Visit at the Federal Bureau of Anti-corruption/Federal Ministry of the Interior in

Vienna, where valuable information and best practices were exchanged on the main themes of the Manual.

- ***Legislation***

- PACA completed a key opinion on draft amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Law in October, identifying provisions that would go against Council of Europe (MONEYVAL) recommendations. PACA also assisted with the development of and provided training on typologies and approaches to assist banks and other institutions to identify suspicious transactions more effectively.

- PACA recommendations to improve regulation of political party financing were used to draft amendments to the Political Parties Law, with the finalisation of which PACA will assist further in November.
- Extensive comments and recommendations on the Conflict of Interest and Asset Declaration Laws and draft amendments to them were provided by PACA in July.
- Compliance Matrix. In October PACA completed a matrix of the compliance of Albanian legislation with the requirements of Council of Europe Anti-corruption Conventions and the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance.



• **Fighting Corruption in and Through Education**

In August PACA completed a preliminary study on corruption risks in the Albanian education system, prior to a full risk assessment to be conducted by the Scottish General Teaching Council (GTC). The GTC also provided key feedback on a draft Code of Conduct for Teachers in September. In October PACA experts provided training to around 30 teachers and education officials on how to develop units/lessons in school curricula that will raise

awareness of and build resistance to corruption.

• **Steering Committee Meeting**

On 8 September the Third PACA Steering Committee Meeting was held. Participants agreed that the Project has reached a crucial phase at which the impact of assistance provided so far should begin to be seen. The Steering Committee took important decisions concerning the visibility of the anti-corruption efforts in the country and proposed several additional activities:

- the organisation of the high level conference;
- the creation of a sole oriented anti-corruption website portal within the Council of Minister's web-page; and
- production of leaflets to make citizens aware of what they can expect specifically from implementation of the Anti-corruption Strategy/Action Plan.

Concerning the risk assessment activity, the Steering Committee members agreed that the Competition Authority will be the fifth area for analysis.

The next Steering Committee Meeting shall take place at the end of February 2011.

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