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## Project against Corruption in Albania (PACA)

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### PACA Activities, March-August 2011

- ***Immunities in Albania***

In April PACA held a first event to discuss options to narrow the immunities from prosecution of elected officials and judges in Albania. The event was attended by all relevant stakeholders and reached important agreement on the need to change the Albanian Constitution. It will be followed by an event to discuss more detailed PACA Recommendations in October.

- ***Risk Assessments***

Between April and June PACA finalised three corruption risk assessments on the Health Sector, Provision of Social Housing and the Albanian Competition Authority, thus completing all five PACA risk assessments. The risk assessments identified corruption vulnerabilities in the selected institutions and sectors and addressed targeted recommendations to the Albanian Government.

- ***Law Enforcement and Judiciary Train the Trainers Programme***



From March to May PACA provided an intensive program of training of trainers on the investigation of corruption and money laundering. The training covered all aspects of investigations, including the use of special investigative techniques and asset tracking mechanisms. The first two trainings held in March and April were built around a simulated case and aimed to enhance the skills of the participants to plan and conduct investigations as well as successfully litigate cases in court.

Nine selected trainees then received three days of instruction on professional training techniques, where they conducted mock presentations to the instructors, and an Instructor's Manual was completed.

- ***Involvement of Civil Society***

In June and July PACA organised/co-organised four civil society fora, including two key events. One of these gathered representatives from twelve NGOs, DIACA, EU Delegation, OSCE, USAID Rule of Law Program and SNV to discuss the role of NGOs in relation to the Anti-corruption Action Plan of the Albanian Government. The second forum was held on Corruption Risk Assessment Methods and PACA Risk Assessments, and was attended by representatives from seven NGOs and international donor/project implementers. The fora provided NGOs with important tools for monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption policy, together with a guide to conducting risk assessments, and also provided an opportunity for PACA to present its risk assessment findings and hear feedback from beneficiaries, in particular the ministries of Education and Health..

- ***Asset declarations and information exchange.***

In May PACA organised three roundtables bringing together the High Inspectorate for the Declarations and Audit of Assets (HIDAA) with the General Directorate of Road Transport, the Agency for Legalization, Urbanization and Integration of Informal Zones and Constructions, and the Immovable Property Registration Office. The meetings focused on ways to enhance interagency cooperation and information exchange particularly in relation to the assets of public officials registered in the three agencies. They agreed to review their memoranda of understanding with HIDAA in order to improve information exchange, and PACA subsequently drafted new MoUs for this purpose.

From 28-30 March, officials of HIDAA, Financial Intelligence Unit, Bank of Albania and two commercial banks attended a Study Visit in London, UK, hosted by the British Financial Services Authority (FSA). The visit focused on the transfer of knowledge regarding the monitoring of ‘politically exposed persons’ and introduced the Albanian participants to the most advanced standards on PEPs.

- ***Education against Corruption***

In April-May PACA finalised a Corruption Risk Assessment of the Albanian Education System, together with an Assessment of the Licensing, Regulation and Inspection of Private Education Institutions. These key PACA documents provide key recommendations to the Ministry of Education and Science on how to bolster the integrity of the education system. In May PACA completed in cooperation with the Institute for Development of Education (IDE) a draft curriculum manual (‘Education Against Corruption’) to enable primary and secondary school teachers integrate anti-corruption issues into school lessons.

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