



Project against Corruption in Albania (PACA)

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PACA Activities, November 2010-February 2011

- *The Anti-corruption Strategy*

On 22 November the Government of Albania held an Anti-corruption Conference attended by officials from the highest level, including the Prime Minister of Albania, Mr Sali Berisha, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, and Chargé d'Affaires of the European Union Delegation in Albania Mr Luigi Brusa. Albanian government representatives at the meeting underlined their commitment to the fulfilment of the Anti-corruption Strategy and sent a clear message to ensure the participation of relevant government officials in key meetings scheduled for December 2010 to discuss the content of a new 3-year Anti-corruption Action Plan.



On 13-14 December 2010 PACA hosted working meetings of 76 government officials from ministries and other public institutions, together with independent experts. The meetings provided the basis for PACA to draft proposed anti-corruption action plans in January and February 2011.

- *Corruption Risk Assessments*

In December PACA completed a preliminary assessment of the Albanian Competition Authority. In January 2011 two of PACA's five final risk assessments were completed, on the Immovable Property Registration and the system for handling complaints against judges. The risk assessment recommendations should assist in the development or improvement of government anti-corruption policies in these areas.

- *Conflict of interest and asset declarations*

From 26-28 January 2011 officials of the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets attended a Study Visit in Riga, Latvia hosted by the Latvian Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau. The visit focused on the exchange of information concerning techniques of administrative investigation and information gathering for investigations on conflicts of interest and declarations of assets of public officials.

- *Fighting Corruption in and Through Education*



PACA organised a second training of teaching staff, held in Durres on 17-18 December 2010, to finalise anti-corruption lessons for inclusion in Albanian school curricula for the 2011-2012 school year. In October 2010 and February 2011 PACA experts from the General Teaching Council of Scotland conducted two missions to conduct research for the PACA Education Risk

Assessment, meeting a wide range of stakeholders from ministry officials to school pupils.

- *PACA Impact*

In January amendments to the Law on Political Parties were passed, following intensive assistance by PACA to ensure Albania’s compliance with the recommendations of the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO). The amendments together with the imminently expected passage of amendments to the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism demonstrate the direct impact of the PACA project on Albanian anti-corruption policies.

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