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Project against Corruption in Albania (PACA)

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PACA Activities, September 2011 - February 2012

- ***Event on Reform of the System of Immunities in Albania***



On 18 October 2011 PACA held a joint event with the EU-financed Consolidation of the Albanian Justice System project (Euralius) on 'Reforming the System of Immunities in Albania, the path ahead'. The event was attended by approximately 80 participants, and was addressed by the President of the Republic of Albania Mr Bamir Topi, the Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Albania Mr Ettore Sequi, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Albania Mr Marco Leidekker, Minister of Justice Mr Eduard Halimi, Prosecutor General Ms Ina Rama, High Court Judge Mr Ardian Dvorani, and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Legal Committee. PACA and Euralius presented the projects' recommendations on the abolition/restriction of immunities for elected officials and judges respectively, and the official stakeholders presented their

positions on the proposals.

- ***Anti-corruption Action Plan coordination and monitoring***

On 6 February 2012 PACA provided a training for the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Monitoring Implementation of the Anti-corruption Strategy. On 20 February 2012 the project organised an NGO/stakeholder Forum to discuss the content of the Anti-corruption Action Plan for 2011-2013 and efforts to monitor its implementation.

- ***Training on 'corruption proofing'***

On 15-16 November 2011 PACA provided a joint training with Euralius on use of the Ministry of Justice Law Drafting Manual. PACA provided the training module on the Addendum to the Law Drafting Manual on Screening Draft Laws for Corruption Risks. The Addendum was disseminated during the training to ministries for inclusion in the Manual.

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- ***Money laundering, Law Enforcement and the Judiciary: guidelines and training***

In November 2011 PACA completed its intensive program of training on the investigation of corruption and money laundering. Following the three trainings of trainers already provided to the State Police, Prosecution Office and judiciary on all aspects of investigations as well as litigation in court, from 15-18 November 2011 the five police trainers trained other Albanian police officers, and on 22-25 November 2011 the other four trainers provided the same to prosecutors and judges; both trainings were organised and observed by PACA.

In January 2012 PACA completed a draft Guideline on Political Exposed Persons (PEPs) and submitted it to the General Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering. On 26 January 2012 PACA provided training to compliance officers from the banking industry and other private sector institutions on how to adopt and implement PEP policies as part of their obligations under the prevention of money laundering.

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

In November 2011 PACA completed proposed draft Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on information exchange between the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets (HIDAA) and three key institutions: the Immovable Property Registration Office (IPRO), General Directorate of Road Transport Services (GDRTS) and Agency for the Legalisation, Urbanisation and Integration of Informal Zones and Buildings (ALUIZNI). The MoUs are intended to ensure that HIDAA receives information that it needs to check the assets of public officials who are obliged to declare their income and assets. The MoU with ALUIZNI was formally signed in January 2012.

- ***Education against Corruption***

Between September 2011 and February 2012 PACA engaged in intensive communication with the Ministry of Education and Science to discuss the recommendations of its two risk assessments of the Albanian education system, culminating in a set of meetings between PACA experts and MoES officials in January 2012 and an NGO/stakeholder event held on 18 January 2012. In February 2012 PACA completed the printing of a curriculum manual on 'Education Against Corruption', which will enable primary and secondary school to integrate anti-corruption issues into school curricula .

- ***Steering Committee Meeting***

On 11 November 2011 the sixth PACA Steering Committee Meeting was held. The next Steering Committee Meeting will take place on 29 February 2012.

Contact	
Strasbourg (France)	Tirana (Albania)
Economic Crime Unit Information Society and Action against Crime Directorate Directorate General I - Human Rights and Rule of Law Council of Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex FRANCE Tel: +33 3 88 41 29 76; Fax: +33 3 90 21 5650 lado.lalovic@coe.int www.coe.int/economiccrime	PACA Project Team Council of Minister's Building Bulevardi "Deshmoret e Kombit" Nr. 1, 1000 Tirana, Albania Tel: + 355 42 24 70 80 Fax: + 355 42 24 89 40 arben.lila@coe.int www.coe.int/paca