



Project against Corruption in Albania (PACA)

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What is PACA?

With funding from the European Union under IPA 2008, on 1 September 2009 the Council of Europe launched the Project against Corruption in Albania (PACA). A new technical assistance project, PACA's overall objective is to contribute to democracy and the rule of law through the prevention and control of corruption. More specifically, the Project is aimed at:

- enhancing the implementation of anti-corruption policies and strategies (Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2013) in line with GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations and European Partnership commitments; and
- contributing to the prevention of corruption in the education sector by improving transparency, accountability and social participation in the education system.

The project's duration will be 30 months

September-November 2009



Inception Phase

- In September a series of meetings was held with government institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders to secure feedback on and make amendments to the draft Project Work Plan.
- In October the Project recruited its team for implementation of the project in Tirana, and the team took up their positions on 1 December 2009.
- The Project Office was allocated by the Government of Albania in November 2009 and is located within the building of the Council of Ministers.

The Team

The local PACA implementation team consists of:

- **Mr Quentin Reed (Team Leader)**, a British anti-corruption/governance consultant who has worked extensively in the region of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and was previously responsible for Council of Europe anti-corruption project in Azerbaijan.
- **Mr Gent Ibrahimi (Long-term Advisor)**, former Executive Director of the Institute for Policy and Legal Studies, will take responsibility specifically for the coordination and management of criminal law enforcement-related activities.
- **Mr Arben Lila (Local Project Officer)**, member of the Council of Europe Secretariat, is in charge for day-to-day management of the project.

December '09 Activities



Launching Event (1st SC Meeting)

On 15 December a project launching event was held at the Hotel Tirana International, attended by the 11 Steering Committee members and other representatives of beneficiary institutions. The event was addressed by the EU Ambassador, Mr Helmut Lohan, and Albanian Minister of State for Reforms and Relations with the Parliament, Mr Genc Pollo. The activity yielded final comments and feedback from participants on the draft Workplan, which were then incorporated into the final Workplan submitted as part of the Inception Report on 22 December 2009.

January '10 Activities

Meetings were held with other donors and stakeholders to gather information to enable the selection of 5 institutions/sectors on which the project will conduct risk analyses to identify corruption problems and risks and recommend reforms. In addition, the key project component of providing assistance to DIACA and line ministries to improve the Anti-corruption Action Plans and reporting on its implementation was launched. PACA submitted a Technical Paper together with a set of Guidelines for line ministries, and conducted a first training on the Guidelines on 25 January for 20 line ministry representatives.

February '10 Activities

During February the PACA Team held an intense series of 17 meetings with line ministries to assist them to draft clear Action Plans for 2010 in line with the Guidelines distributed in January. The project also moved forward on its criminal enforcement component, with assistance commissioned and a March event scheduled to discuss the consistency of legislation on prevention of money laundering, combating organised crime and recommend changes as appropriate.

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