



Project against Corruption in Albania (PACA)

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March 2010 Activities



Following the assistance provided by PACA to line ministries and DIACA in revising their draft action plans for 2010, the 2010 Anti-corruption Action Plan (implementing the Strategy for Preventing, Combating and for Transparent Governance 2008 – 2013) was approved on 8 March 2010. The improvements in the Action Plan based on PACA inputs constituted the achievement of the first project benchmark. The Action Plan is now available on the Council of Ministers' website at http://www.dsdc.gov.al/dsdc/pub/pl_vep_2010_2_518_1.pdf (in Albanian) and http://www.dsdc.gov.al/dsdc/pub/pl_vep_20101_en_2_517_1.pdf (in English).

- The first two of ten PACA civil society *fora* were held to discuss corruption in the education system and the key issue of which 5 sectors/institutions PACA would select to conduct corruption risk analyses. Another NGO forum was held to clarify the options for cooperation amongst NGOs against corruption.
- An economic crime investigation training workshop was held in cooperation with the US Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training Programme (OPDAT) for representatives of Albania's Joint Investigative Units, and Financial Intelligence Unit.
- PACA Steering Committee Meeting, held on 10 March 2010, was attended by the Ambassador of the EU Delegation in Tirana Mr Helmuth Lohan and Minister for State Reforms and Relations with the Parliament Mr Genc Pollo. The discussion was mostly dedicated to the recent approval of the 2010 Anti-corruption Action Plan and the upcoming risk analysis selection.

April - June 2010 Activities

- A meeting of PACA Steering Committee Members on 26 April 2010 selected the following four areas for the Project to conduct corruption risk analyses: the Office for Registration of Immovable Property, Healthcare System, Complaints Procedures in the Judiciary and the allocation of public housing. The fifth area was agreed to be either Administrative Inspections or the Competition Authority.



- Another key PACA activity was initiated in April 2010 in the form of a workshop held in cooperation with the EURALIUS II Project to present a methodology for screening draft legal acts for provisions that facilitate corruption ('corruption proofing'). The activity will end with the inclusion of an addendum in the Albanian law-drafting manual recently completed by EURALIUS.
- With regard to the prevention of money laundering and

financing of terrorism a two-day workshop was held to discuss implementation of the relevant legislation. The event brought together the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), banks and other entities with duties to identify customers and report suspicious transactions under the law. The workshop highlighted important limitations in the current functioning of the anti-money laundering system, notably in the number and quality of suspicious transaction reports and an over-formal approach to customer due diligence.

- Two workshops were held in April 2010 and June 2010 to discuss upcoming reforms of political party financing to fulfil the recommendations of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). The workshops secured agreement between different political party representatives on key issues on the selection of the Central Election Commission as the institution to oversee political party financing. PACA submitted specific recommendations, in particular on specific paragraphs of the Political Parties Law, a draft amendment of which the Government expects to prepare by October 2010 prior to GRECO's plenary /evaluation session dedicated to Albania in November 2010.
- PACA continued its support for strengthening capacities of the investigation of economic crime in the month of June 2010 through trainings provided to the Agency for Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets and to the Joint Investigative Units of Korca, Vlore and Gjirokastra.

Preventing corruption in the Education System

- The second main component of the PACA project is to prevent corruption in and through the education system. In May 2010 this part of the project was commenced with a mission by Council of Europe experts to Tirana, following which an outline framework for curricula reform was submitted by PACA; the objective is to finalise anti-corruption module curricula for schools by the end of 2010. The risk analysis and other components will be commenced in July 2010 as scheduled with a preliminary study.

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