



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

THE REGIONAL ANTICORRUPTION INITIATIVE (RAI)

FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AND SHARING BEST PRACTICES IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN SEE

Slanchev Briag, June 7, 2011



HOW DID IT START?

RAI was initially adopted *in Sarajevo, in February 2000*, as *Stability Pact Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI)* and represented an intergovernmental mechanism to address corruption as one of the most serious threats to the recovery and development of SEE countries.

RAI features:

- Intergovernment organization;
- No operational mandate;
- Platform for coordination of anticorruption efforts and policy-making.

RAI member states





THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAI

Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat

- Launched 2003 as Regional Secretariat Liaison Office, operational since 2004
- Main goal – to promote regional ownership of the Initiative and enhance regional capabilities to lead the fight against corruption in SEE

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding

- April 13, 2007, Zagreb, Croatia;
- The signatory countries ensured the financial sustainability of RAI Secretariat by providing certain annual grants and decided for the first time to raise a Chairperson of the Initiative from the region ;
- Important step towards a full regional ownership and leadership of the Anticorruption Initiative.

Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI)

- October 9, 2007, Podgorica, Montenegro;
- Complete transformation of the Initiative to full regional ownership and leadership



RAI INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- RAI Chairperson – **overall coordination**
- RAI Steering Group – **the decision making body** – in principle composed of 9 Senior representatives, representing the member countries; in some issues observers, partner countries and international organizations are also included
- RAI Secretariat – **the executive body**, based in Sarajevo, staffed with experts from the region, operational since March 2004
- Head of the Office
- Anticorruption Expert
- Finance and Administration Assistant
- Outreach and Fundraising Assistant
- Interns



RAI Partners on the Anticorruption Field

On national level:

- Focal points;
- Other representatives of state institutions;
- Representatives of civil society.

On international level:

- Regional Cooperation Council and the existing regional initiatives;
- UNODC, OLAF, OECD/SIGMA, TI, COUNCIL of EUROPE, Europol, Eurojust, etc.



RAI ACTIVITIES

Supporting the process of adoption and implementation of the international anticorruption instruments

- Instruments on focus: United Nations Convention Against Corruption, CoE Civil Law Convention on Corruption & CoE Criminal Law Convention on Corruption;
- Why are they so important?
- All RAI member states have already signed and ratified these international tools;
- Next step – full implementation in practice of the standards applied by the conventions



RAI ACTIVITIES

MAINTAINING AN ANTICORRUPTION RESOURCE CENTER

WWW.RAI-SEE.ORG

- Legal library
- Publications
- Separate page for each member – state
- On-line News Center

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI). The header includes the RAI logo and navigation links: Home, About Us, What We Do, News, Events, Publications, Forum, Consultants Roster, Glossary, and Links. There are also links for Register, Forgot Pass, Contact, and Advanced Search, along with a search bar and a Login button.

The main content area features a large image of a conference titled "Implementation of the Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption". Below the image is a "WORLD NEWS" section with a headline "Canadian companies stamping out fraud and corruption" and a list of news items. To the right is a "MEMBER COUNTRIES" section with a list of countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia.

Below the main content is a "WHO'S ONLINE" section stating "We have 2 guests online".

The bottom section is titled "RAI Secretariat has marked the International Anti-Corruption Day" and includes a "KNOWLEDGE BASE" section with links to Anti-Corruption Handbooks, Anti-Corruption best practices, Guides/Guidelines, Surveys, Anti-Corruption Projects, Questions/Answers, Library, Anti-Corruption Monitoring, and Links. There is also a "How important is anti-corruption education for fighting corruption?" poll with radio buttons for "very", "not so much", and "not at all", and a "Vote" button. A "Get Firefox with Google Toolbar" button is also present.

The footer includes a "Google" search bar and the website URL "www.rai-see.org".



Regional Anticorruption Resource Center

The image displays a collage of overlapping screenshots of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) website, illustrating its multilingual and multi-country presence. The screenshots are arranged in a layered, overlapping fashion, showing the website's interface for various countries and languages.

- Albania:** Shows the website in Albanian, with the Albanian flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/albania/>.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Shows the website in Bosnian, with the Bosnian flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/bosnia-and-herzegovina/>.
- Bulgaria:** Shows the website in Bulgarian, with the Bulgarian flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/bulgaria/>.
- Croatia:** Shows the website in Croatian, with the Croatian flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/croatia/>. The main header reads "REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE Croatia".
- Central Overview:** A larger screenshot shows the main website interface in English, featuring a navigation menu (Home, Strategy, Legislation, Anti-Corruption Bodies, Standards / Monitoring, Surveys, Projects, Links, Contacts) and a central content area with a photo of a conference and various news items.
- Macedonia:** Shows the website in Macedonian, with the Macedonian flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/macedonia/>.
- Moldova:** Shows the website in Romanian, with the Moldovan flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/moldova/>.
- Montenegro:** Shows the website in Montenegrin, with the Montenegrin flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/montenegro/>.
- Romania:** Shows the website in Romanian, with the Romanian flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/romania/>.
- Serbia:** Shows the website in Serbian, with the Serbian flag and the URL <http://www.rai-see.org/serbia/>. The main header reads "REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE Serbia".



RAI ACTIVITIES

Assessment of the regional anticorruption needs and specific requirements

3 stages:

- Inputs from national counterparts
- Assessment of their specific needs and requests
- Planning of the Secretariat activities based on the identified priorities





RAI ACTIVITIES

Sharing best practices in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption

- **Summer School for Junior Magistrates**
- **Twining type activities**
- **Organization / Co-organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.**
- **Internship program**
- **Executing surveys**





RAI ACTIVITIES

Launching Anticorruption Networks

Two stages of support:

- Studying the feasibility for setting up brand new networks;
- Supporting and elaborating upon already existing networks of practitioners involved in anticorruption activities.

Practical examples:

- Establishing of informal network of young judges and prosecutors as a follow-up to the annual Summer School for Junior Magistrates;
- Support for the ACN for Eastern Europe and Central Asia launched by OECD and for CARIN – the network of asset recovery experts;
- The launch of Integrity Experts Network (IEN) – composed of practitioners dealing with conflict of interest issues and declaration of assets.



Integrity Experts Network (IEN)

- Launched by RAI Secretariat in 2010;
- Informal European network of integrity institutions responsible for conflict of interest prevention and assets declaration;
- Mandate: to serve as a platform for policy making, exchange of information, experience and best practices between the practitioners in the area;
- IEN Secretariat functions are managed by RAI Secretariat in close cooperation with the institution having the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Network;
- IEN web site: www.integrity-experts.net



The achievements of RAI

- All the RAI member countries approved National Anticorruption Strategies and Action Plans, that underline their political commitment to address the issue of corruption and state capture.
- The member states' legal framework has largely been harmonized with European standards;
- In each RAI member country specialized anticorruption bodies have been created or are in the process of being established;
- Increased level of cooperation among anticorruption experts through exchange of data and experience in the framework of profiled professional networks and anticorruption forums.

AFTER 11 YEARS... STILL A LONG WAY TO GO

Current challenges for the countries of SEE:

- reform of judiciary and public administration;
- the negative perception regarding the levels of corruption both from public and business community;
- lack of sufficient efforts dealing with education and raising public awareness;
- understaffed anticorruption structures and low salaries;
- role of the prevention is still underestimated, while the repression is seen as the only feasible solution.



The future of the Initiative

In close cooperation with all partners and major stakeholders in the area, the Anticorruption Initiative and its Secretariat in Sarajevo will continue to provide a regional framework for cooperation among the SEE countries on the anti-corruption field, as a prerequisite for achieving the overall goal of **European and Euro – Atlantic integration**.

Our perception is that tackling with corruption is a question of mutual interest to SEE countries and should be addressed on *regional level*.



QUESTIONS ?

THANK YOU!

For further information about RAI Secretariat and its activities
please do not hesitate to contact us:

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