THE REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (RAI)

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

Opatija, May 29, 2012
RAI was initially adopted *in Sarajevo, in February 2000*, as *Stability Pact Anticorruption 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
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.
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, GIZ.
RAI ACTIVITIES

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


• 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
MAINTAINING AN ANTICORRUPTION RESOURCE CENTER

WWW.RAI-SEE.ORG

- Legal library
- Publications
- Separate page for each member – state
- On-line News Center
Regional Anticorruption Resource Center
- Summer School for Junior Magistrates
- Twining type activities
- Organization / Co-organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.
- Internship program
- Executing surveys
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:

• Support for the ACN for Eastern Europe and Central Asia launched by OECD and for CARIN – the network of asset recovery experts;
• Launch of Integrity Experts Network (IEN) – composed of practitioners dealing with conflict of interest issues and declaration of assets;
• Establishment of Regional Network for Judicial Training (RNJT) as a platform for cooperation of Judicial Academies in SEE.
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
• Set up by RAI Secretariat in April 2012;
• Informal network of institutions responsible for training of judges and prosecutors which are in place in SEE;
• Mandate: to foster regional cooperation and experience sharing in the area; to elaborate and adopt a regional program for education of magistrates with focus on anticorruption dimension;
• RNJT Secretariat functions are managed by RAI Secretariat.
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.
QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

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

STANISLAV ALEKSANDROV
Anticorruption expert

Tel: 0038733.258.990
Fax: 0038733.258.991
saleksandrov@rai-see.org
www.rai-see.org