



**Regional School of Public Administration** (Phase 1)

A Joint Initiative of the European Union  
and the OECD, principally financed by the EU



RESPA/SC(2007)2/003

## Decision on the Second ReSPA Annual conference 2007

### *Committee action*

- **Agree** the proposal of the Government of Albania to host the annual conference.
- **Agree** the theme of the annual conference suggested by the delegate of Albania (proposal 1).
- **Invite** the Secretariat and the Albanian School of Public Administration to organise the annual conference.



In its third session, held in Podgorica, in January 2007, the Steering Committee approved the work programme 2007.

The Work programme foresees the organisation of the ReSPA Annual Conference. The Government of Albania offered to host the annual Conference in November 2007.

The Chair invited the Steering Committee Members to propose, in writing, the themes of the Annual Conference. The Chair asked the Secretary to wait until the 4th session of the Steering Committee for an exact date and theme to be decided upon.

Pursuant to the Steering Committee Rules of Procedure (RESPA/SC/(2006)2/001/FINAL), documents for the session should be submitted no later than seven days prior to the session. Two proposals were submitted within the deadline, both from Albania. They consider in particular:

1. **Making Strategies Work,**
2. **Building Quality in Civil Service.**

Both proposed themes are well within the mandate of ReSPA and could be of interest and benefit to the beneficiary countries/entities. While it is at the core of the ReSPA initiative to address the quality of the beneficiary countries/entities' civil service, it is mostly through the programme of training that this objective has so far been pursued. Still, the topic as such may be of interest to the ReSPA Steering Committee members and other country/entity representatives for addressing it from a broader strategic perspective.

Regarding the first proposed topic – Making Strategies Work – it could make an appropriate continuation of the first Annual Conference which focused more on strategy-making aspects of regulatory management (RESPA/CONF/2006-001-Prog). Regulatory management was chosen as the theme of the first ReSPA meeting since it is an overarching theme which could provide a good basis for further topical discussions.

A defective regulatory management process has negative repercussions on the ability of the countries to meet their Stabilisation and Association Process and Agreement (SAA/Sap) obligations and to implement necessary reform towards good governance. To this end, not only the risk of producing failed policies is considerable, as the first Annual conference examined, but also the risk of inappropriate implementation of policies which can effectively hamper the reform effort, especially in view of achieving sustainable, long-lasting results.

Importantly, the sustainability of reform strategies will be decisive factor for the donors. Reinforcing implementation efforts will not only reassure the donors but ultimately result in better governance and thus a regulatory environment conducive to social and economic development.

Enacting new laws and setting up new policies, institutions and other regulatory tools is not sufficient. In order to deliver the desired results (such as higher investment, economic growth, a better quality natural environment, increased social welfare, etc.) the strategies need to be thoroughly implemented and enforced. The institutions need to have the human and budgetary resources that are necessary and adequate to carry the reforms through. The regulated need to have clear information about the new regulatory requirements to be able to comply with them. Procedures are needed to make the communication between the regulators and the regulated transparent and provide for effective appeal possibilities (administrative and judicial). Finally, the strategies require appropriate monitoring and review mechanisms which would ensure their adaptability to the changing environment, making sure they continue to serve the goals they were originally designed for.

Given the above and the fact that implementation concerns seem to be shared among the ReSPA beneficiaries, **it is suggested that the Steering Committee agrees on adoption of the Albanian proposal to share ReSPA country/entity experiences on how to make the strategies work (proposal 1).**