



Regional School of Public Administration (Phase 1)

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**DEPT. FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
Provided by Sandra Malesic**

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT JULY 2008

1. Steering Committee Activities

- Upon consultations held between BiH SC member and substitute member it is decided that Mr. Nikola Sladoje, Assistant Minister for International Legal Aid in Ministry of Justice of BiH (BiH MOJ) will participate in legal experts' meeting in Paris as well as Mr. Emir Mehmedovic, Expert Advisor for International Legal Aid in BiH MOJ.
- Consultations regarding the draft Agreement on ReSPA were held between BiH SC member and authorized representatives of BiH in Paris on 28-29 July 2008.
- On July 17, meetings were held between Mr Jan Truszczyński, Deputy Director General DG Enlargement in European Commission, Mr. Jose-Antonio Torres Lacaza, Acting Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate General for Enlargement, Unit 3 -Regional Programmes and Mr. Nicolas Dubois, Secretary to the ReSPA Steering Committee with Mr. Srdjan Arnaut, Deputy Minister in Ministry of Justice of BiH, Ms. Vera Letica, Assistant Minister in Sector for Financing of Programmes and Projects of EU in Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH and with Mr. Osman Topcagic, Director of BiH Directorate for European Integrations.

The main outcome of the meeting was a positive opinion on the ReSPA institutionalisation. For BiH it is very important that financial aspect of this project is estimated as feasible. Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH positively assessed the preliminary conclusions on the contents and managing of the ReSPA core budget. From the legal perspective there were no crucial remarks on the draft international agreement establishing ReSPA.

- Organisation of Bosnian participation in the Meeting of Finance Experts and Legal Experts on financial aspects of ReSPA to be held in Podgorica on 11-12 September 2008.

2. ReSPA Publications

- The second part of BiH contribution for the second regional ReSPA publication is delivered to the coordinator for this task.
- The third website contribution "European Integration Strategy of BiH" is delivered.
- The relevant documents for preparations of TNA ReSPA methodology (BiH methodology and CSA of BiH Action plan for 2008) were shared with all in-country resources.

3. ReSPA Events

- Mr. Hazim Kazic, Assistant Minister for Trainings and IT in BiH CSA and Ms. Sandra Malesic, BiH in country resource participated in the meeting of Schools and Institutes of Public Administration in the Western Balkans, held in Tirana on 10 July 2008. Main ideas on methodology of future ReSPA TNA were shared between participants of this meeting. The meeting resulted in recommendations for the development of the ReSPA specific TNA methodology.
- BiH Option B resource took part in the meeting of Option B resources held in Tirana on 11 July 2008.
- Ms. Nevenka Savic, State Coordinator for Reform of Public Administration of BiH participated in 15th Intensive Seminar on the European Union, organized by the College of Europe in Bruges from 30 June to 18 July 2008. Ms. Savic found topics presented at this seminar of great interest for her future work.
- Two Bosnian representatives participated in the Meeting of Legal Experts for ReSPA's draft International Agreement, held in Paris on 28-29 July 2008.

4. Other Issues

- The European Union's Interim Agreement (IA) with Bosnia and Herzegovina entered into force on 1 July 2008. The IA effectively creates a free trade area, with progressive opening of the market of Bosnia and Herzegovina facilitating economic and social development. Until the ratification process is finalised the trade provisions of the SAA will be applied through the IA.