



## SPI Albania Becomes Operational

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 marked the first official working day for the SPI Secretariat. The team composed of Ms. Elona Bollano, Director of Analytics and Policy and Ms. Anuela Ristani, Director of Operations, is sharing the working premises of AAB. While new to the SPI Concept the Secretariat had to immediately start working on organizing the first Committee Meeting and managing the settling-in process in coordination with all partners involved.

### First SPI Committee Meeting

The focus of SPI Secretariat activities was on preparing the first SPI Committee Meeting which objectives are to create a coherent and comprehensive governance framework and to approve the 2008 Activity Program.

- The SPI Secretariat has finalized the SPI Committee Operating Guidelines that provide the rules and procedures governing SPI Committee, SPI Secretariat and Project Working Group Activities and states the framework of cooperation between BoA, AAB and SPI Albania.
- SPI Secretariat has conducted interviews with BoA and AAB in order to acquire a full understanding of the issues and thus a mandate from the proposing institutions.
- SPI Secretariat has drafted the background notes and the respective Terms of Reference for the first four projects to be undertaken. The Terms of Reference have been designed in line with the EU Better Regulation Approach. After SPI Committee endorsement, the Terms of Reference will be approved by the Project Working Groups.

### SPI Visibility

- An Integral part of the starting phase of SPI Albania work has been the relationship-building with other international institutions. So far the Secretariat has met with representatives from EURALIUS program, IFC (International Finance Corporation), and the Residential Twinning Advisor to the Ministry of Justice.
- The SPI Secretariat has finalized the SPI Website layout and has negotiated the terms and conditions with the providing company in Croatia. The company has

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started to work on the design and the Secretariat will back the work with the preparation of the content. The website will be launched within July 2008.

- The Secretariat has worked on the identity of SPI Albania in establishing the image of the Logos, featuring SPI Albania logo, partner's logos and making a reference to the future of SPI by including the SPI Adriatic logo.

### Convergence Program Assistance

- Ms. Ramona Bratu, SPI Regional Director has been continuously present during this initial working phase of SPI Albania. SPI Secretariat has had the chance to get her support through 2 separate week visits during May and June as well as the full time online presence.

### Next Steps (June-July)

#### June:

- The Project Working Group gathering for the first four projects.
- The First Project Working Group meetings for the projects on Improving Auction Procedures for Buildings under Foreclosure for Immovable Collaterals and Assessing the IFRS Adoption Impact on the Regulatory Framework.
- Completion of the First Stage of the project on Assessing the IFRS Adoption Impact on Regulatory Framework. (Scoping of the Problem)
- Completion of the First Stage of the project on Auction Procedures for Buildings under Foreclosure for Immovable Collaterals (i.e. Letter to the Albanian Ministry of Justice and to the Head of the Legal Parliamentary Commission)
- Identification of external expertise needed for the first two projects (peer-reviewers or technical anchors)
- Identification and contact-making with the potential consultants for the first two projects.

#### July:

- Preparation of the background material for the Project on Reducing Cash Transactions

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- First meeting of the Working Group for the Project on Reducing Cash Transactions
- Second and third meetings of the Working Groups for the projects on Improving Auction Procedures for Buildings under Foreclosure for Immovable Collaterals
- Second meeting of the Working Groups Assessing the IFRS Adoption Impact on the Regulatory Framework
- Conclusion of the Second Stage of the Project on Auction Procedures under Foreclosure for Immovable Collaterals (Acquiring a mandate to discuss in a public-private working group possible ways to improve the efficiency of the Bailiff Office activity)
- Identification of external expertise needed for the newly started project (peer-reviewers or technical anchors)
- Identification and contact-making with the potential consultants the newly started project
- Contracting the identified consultants for the first two projects.
- Study tour in Rome and Bucharest for the SPI Director of Analytics and Policy
- Launch of the SPI Albania Website

### Future Activities (September-October)

- Conclusion of the projects on Assessing the IFRS Adoption Impact on Regulatory Framework and Reducing Cash Transactions
- Completion of the Third Stage of the Project on Auction Procedures under Foreclosure for Immovable Collaterals
- Start-up of the project on Improving Regulations on Capital Adequacy
- Start-up of the project on Facilitating Leasing Transactions

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**Document prepared by Anuela Ristani**

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