



The Regional Centre for Public Administration Reform

*Advisory Board meeting
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RCPAR History

March 2006

Exploratory meeting:

Hellenic Ministry of Interior and
UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre

June 2006

Preparatory phase:

Joint initiative negotiated and
Cooperation Agreement signed June 2006

November 2006

Inaugural Meeting:

Regional Networks of Public
Administration Reform Practitioners and
Experts

Progress Report

November 2006 – 2008

Brief chronology – key milestones:

Nov 2006	1 st Steering Committee meeting (Alexandroupolis)
Jan-June 2007	Regional PAR Survey
2007 - ongoing	Controlled expansion of Focal Points Network
June 2007	Five-year Agreement signed by MoI and UNDP/BRC
Oct 2007	RCPAR web platform launched
Dec 2007	Five-year RCPAR project approved by UNDP
end Feb 2008	Five-year Agreement ratified by Parliament
end May 2008	First cost-sharing installment transferred to UNDP (2 nd in Oct 2008)

5-year Project

Title:

Strategic programming framework and regional facility for enhanced regional cooperation, professional networking, mutual learning and information sharing on Public Administration Reform in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

It encompasses:

Enhanced regional technical cooperation

Creation and maintenance of a large network of focal points

A strong demand-driven aspect

Interactive web platform / resource and documentation centre

RCPAR philosophy

❑ **Regional cooperation**

- similarity in transition challenges creates opportunity for capturing and disseminating relevant experience, fresh lessons in Public Administration Reform (e.g. EU accession)
- regional activities to complement in-country efforts
- at least three countries in each initiative
- emphasis on using regional expertise to the extent possible (regional expert roster)

❑ **Demand-driven, participatory programming**

- support for multi-country initiatives developed bottom-up through a participatory process
- participatory programming facilitated (process support)

RCPAR philosophy (cont.)

❑ **Networking**

- network of focal points in governments, academia, NGOs
- Public Administration Reform practitioners in UNDP Country Offices (“Regional PAR-AC CoP”) as support structure
- one component for network expansion, capacity build-up (eventual target > 1,000 professionals from the region, with country coordinators and thematic focal points)
- to be eventually structured into narrower thematic CoPs (with other existing or prospective networks as possible anchors: WeBa HRM CoP; ACPN; PIA practitioners; Public Finance practitioners – to be established through UNDP/BRC-Slovak project)
- web-based interactive platform for networking (workspace),

❑ **Thematic focus**

- 4 thematic pillars (Policy coordination; Organization & staffing; Public Finance Management; Service delivery)
- (eventually) thematic networks under each pillar
- strategy papers to be developed for each pillar, with programme targets (macro level), and periodically reviewed

RCPAR thematic pillars

I. Policy-making and coordination

- Strategic planning & policy-making
- Policy coordination
- Coordination in specific areas
(European integration)
- Coordination in specific areas (Public
Administration Reform)
- Policy coordination (other areas)

II. Financial management

- Budget preparation
- Budget execution
- Public Internal Financial Control
- Public procurement
- External audit

III. Organization and staffing

- Organization
- Civil service system
 - Central personnel units
 - Scope of civil service
 - Central personnel records
- Human Resources Management
 - Job analysis, description and
grading
 - Selection & recruitment
 - Appraisal, promotion and
advancement
- Human Resources Development
- Integrity Frameworks

IV. Service delivery

- Administrative Procedure
- Administrative Simplification
- Quality Management Systems
- E-government
- Decentralization
- Public Private Partnerships

Programmatic approach

□ Programme modalities

- **two activity tracks:**
 - support for multi-country proposals, based on strategic priorities and selection criteria. Detailed guidelines and templates are now available at www.rcpar.org
 - RCPAR-driven activities, based on analysis of aggregate demand, trends
- **decentralised implementation**
 - UNDP Country Offices will serve as outreach and implementation / operational infrastructure

□ Partnerships

- emphasis on coordination, joint activities with other regional actors (BSEC, OECD/Sigma, NISPAcee, ReSPA, UNSC...)

Network of Focal Points

Prerequisites to become a focal point

we are targeting particular profiles

consulting with UNDP COs and other partners on new FPs

National Coordinator

Thematic Focal Point

Strategy to expand the Network to its full size –
1.000 + members

Activities

- Horizontal criteria
- Vertical criteria
- Conditions for qualification of funding a proposal
- Guidelines
- Proposal for activities
- Activity plan

Advisory Board

In general:

- Provision of strategic recommendations / substantive support
- Guidance on programmatic framework, direction and programme impact

Ultimate purpose of the Board:
enhance RCPAR's effectiveness

Advisory Board

Specifically:

- Provide advice, guidance and expert opinion on framework, impact and general direction of the project
- Review strategy papers for four thematic areas and provide regular input and advice
- Assist in review and selection of multi-country project proposals
- Contribute to the annual survey of PAR
- Promote and encourage the development of new partnerships with relevant organisations
- Offer feedback and support to RCPAR's fundraising and resource mobilisation strategies, policies and programmes
- Review and provide input to RCPAR publications

Partnerships

The Project operates in an area where a number of other actors operate.

Thus, emphasis is given on coordination – in order to avoid duplication – with other regional actors.

An effort is already under way to cooperate with actors such as:

BSEC

OECD/SIGMA

NISPAcee

ReSPA

EIPA

UNSC

Outputs / activities

Output 1: Regional cooperation and mutual learning, enhanced through demand-driven programmatic activities and targeted technical assistance

- guidelines and criteria for multi-country activities finalized and disseminated (May-Oct 2008)

(i) policy-making and coordination

- participation in the HIAS (ΕΙΔΕ) biannual Forum on “the advancement of transparency in enhancing the quality of public administration” (June 2008, Thessaloniki)

(ii) public finance management

(iii) organization and staffing in public sector

- 2nd Western Balkans Workshop on Civil Service Reform (Oct 2007, Budva, Montenegro)
- 3rd Western Balkans Workshop on Civil Service Reform (Nov 2008, Zagreb, Croatia)
- support to Western Balkans comparative study on ways to attract and retain talent in civil service (2008)

(iv) public service delivery

- initiative on administrative simplification for SME incorporation (under discussion with BSEC/GIRG)

Outputs / activities (cont'd)

Output 2: Regional network of PAR practitioners and experts expanded, its knowledge infrastructure enhanced, and its capacity to engage in regional PAR programming strengthened

Network maintenance and expansion, capacity development

currently ~30 confirmed FPs, expected by early 2009 ~70

working with UNDP COs and existing FPs on controlled expansion

possible absorption of other existing or prospective networks, who could be anchors of thematic CoPs – WeBa HRM CoP; ACPN; PIA practitioners; Public Finance Management network*

** to be established under UNDP/BRC – SlovakAid partnership*

Roster of experts

created using UNDP/BRC platform, 45 registered experts to date

RCPAR online platform

operational – www.rcpar.org

Outputs / activities (cont'd)

Output 3: Establishment and enhancement of a regional facility to support the regional co-operation on PAR

Project Office, library

Project Office pending (on-going discussions with State Property Board, since July 2008 and with Ministry of Culture, since September 2008)

UNDP Joint Project Support Unit in Athens (for RCPAR and BSTIP) partly operational

Project staff

Recruitment completed for core project staff (Team Leader Panos Liverakos; PAR Specialist Anne Caroline Tveoy; Finance and Admin Associate Renate Eppich)

Other part-time recruitments ongoing (CoP coordinators, webmaster)

Advisory Board

12 members identified, attending 1st AB meeting on 11-12 Nov 2008

Ministerial Conference (political endorsement of RCPAR cooperation framework)

Envisaged for Q4 2009



Thank you for your attention

For more information
visit

www.rcpar.org