



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

**REGIONAL COOPERATION
IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION
IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE**

Maternushaus, Cologne - Germany
February 25-26, 2008

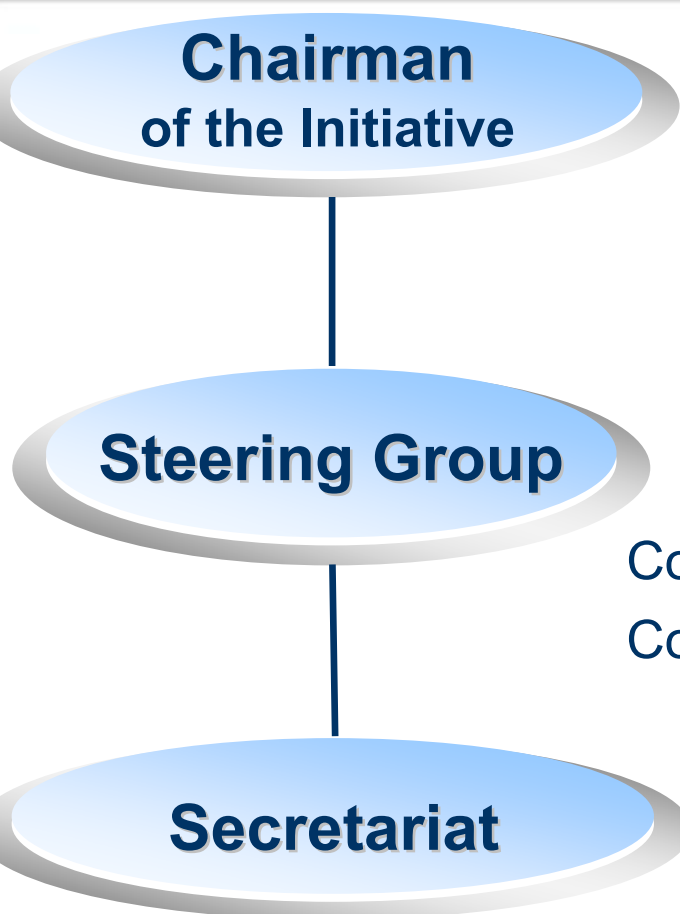
SEE members and observers



SEE countries adopted in Sarajevo during February 2000 the Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative (SPAI)



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE



Overall coordination

Elected from the region

Decision-making body

Core members, associate members & observers
Countries, organizations or international financial institutions

Executive body

- Based in Sarajevo
- Operational since March 2004
- Staffed with experts of member countries



Multidisciplinary approach to prevent and fighting corruption

**International
instruments**

***reliable public
administration***

***integrity in
business sector***

***strengthening of
national legislation
and the rule of law***

***active civil
society***

Focus on high level political commitment

Better coordination and optimization of efforts

Dialogue, assistance and support



REGIONAL APPROACH ASSETS AND LESSONS

- ◆ **Influence towards political commitments & responsibility** (declarations, commitments, financial participation, offering human capital...)
- ◆ **Common understanding on various issues** (transfer of knowledge, sharing of practices and lessons)
- ◆ **Regional co-operation – not a way *per se* for Euro-Atlantic integration**
- ◆ **Peer interaction** – an efficient mechanism to stimulate reforms
- ◆ **Increased effectiveness of international assistance**
- ◆ **Regional forum** – place where organizations that do not normally work together engaged in joint efforts
- ◆ **Matching** national, regional and international **needs and interests**



A Network of experts sharing their best practices and lessons learnt



PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES

- ◆ **Supporting the process of signing, ratifying and implementing the UN convention against Corruption**
- ◆ **Promoting a Regional Anticorruption Program for Raising Public Awareness**
- ◆ **Developing the Anti-Corruption Regional Resource Center**
- ◆ **Sharing best practices in fighting high level corruption**
- ◆ **Setting up of capacity building through the use of new technologies as ways for raising public awareness, information and continuing training**

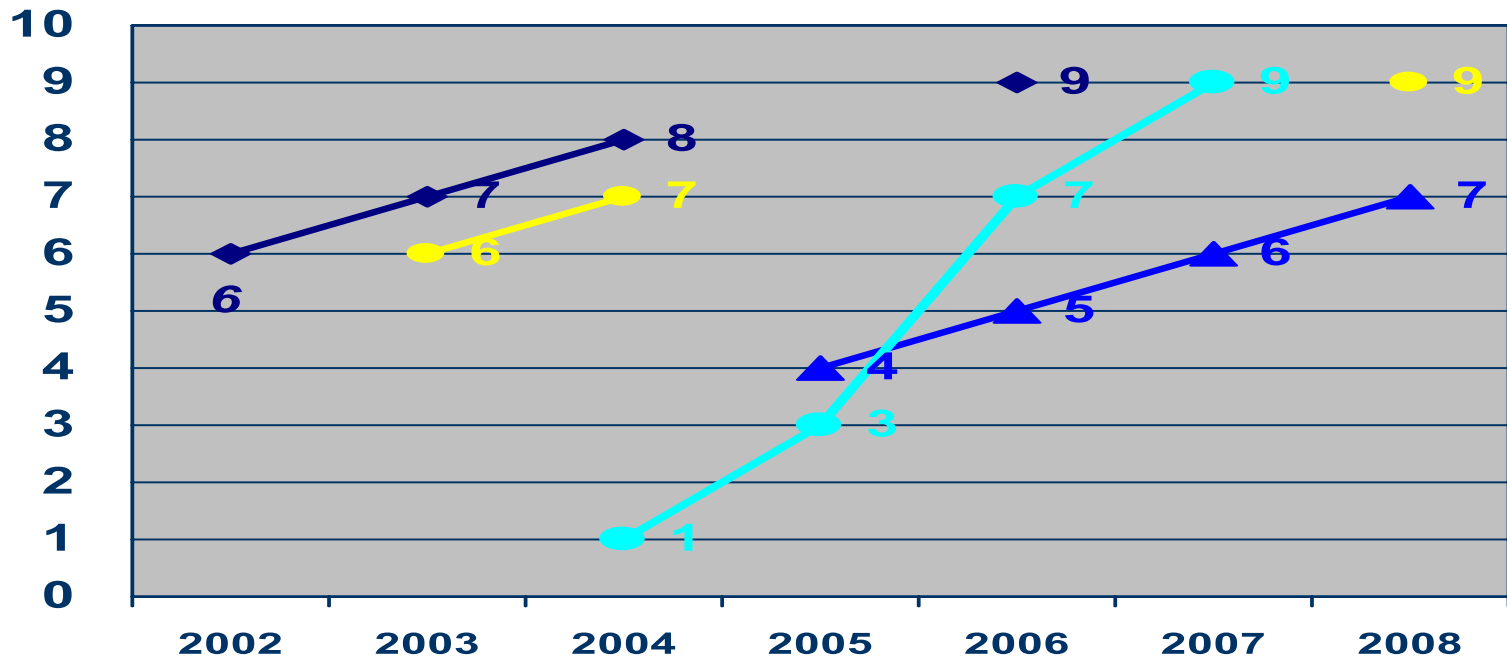
Assisting member countries to meet requirements related to Justice and Home Affairs in the EU accession process



- ◆ **4 regional conferences (Sarajevo, Durres, Belgrade and Sofia)**
- ◆ **Partnership with UNODC in promoting the Merida Convention in SEE (Involvement in drafting the Technical Guide for Implementing UNCAC)**
- ◆ **Cooperation with Council of Europe in observing the relations among the current anticorruption legal instruments**
- ◆ **Close cooperation with TI in promoting the ratification of the Convention (Global Anticorruption Day)**
- ◆ **Compliance matrix developed (www.spai-rslo.org)**



Ratification of International Conventions



◆ *Criminal law convention on corruption*

● *Civil law convention on corruption*

▲ *AP of Criminal law convention on corruption*

● *UNCAC*



Promoting a Regional Anticorruption Program for Raising Public Awareness

○ **Media campaigns**

- ◆ Promotion of the UN TV spots in SEE countries (local language)
- ◆ Marking the Anti-Corruption Day
- ◆ Press conferences

○ **Dissemination Campaigns**

- ◆ Newsletter,
- ◆ Folders, leaflets, posters
- ◆ Annual reports etc.

- **Resource center** (the only center dedicated to anti-corruption issues for the region) - www.spai-rslo.org



ANTI-CORRUPTION RESOURCE CENTER

- ◆ **Anti-corruption library**
- ◆ **Knowledge Center**
- ◆ **Platform of news**
- ◆ **Consultants framework**
- ◆ **Online training**
- ◆ **Interactive forum**
- ◆ **Anti-Corruption Network**

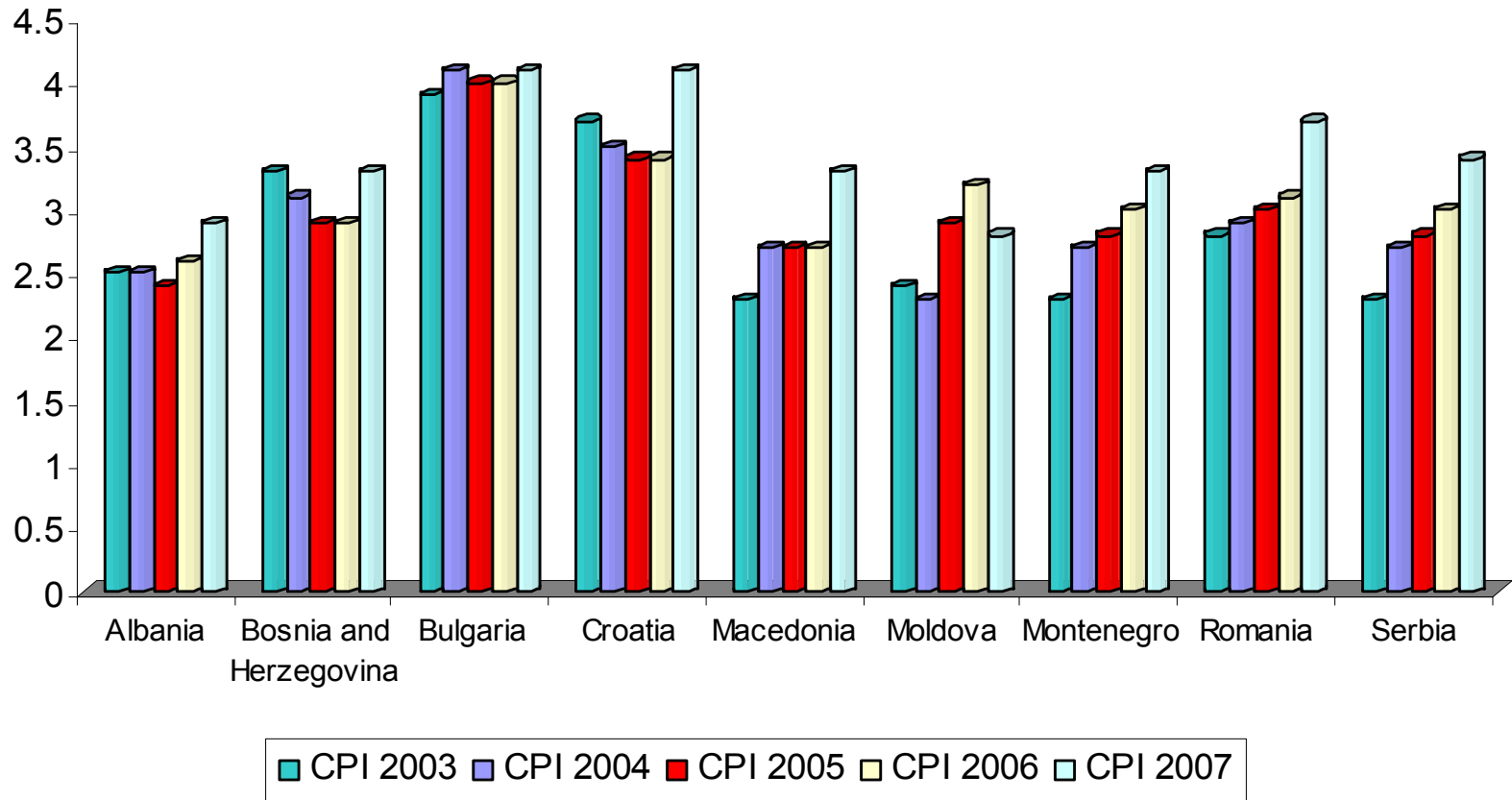
The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Events' page of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI-SEE). The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://www.rai-see.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=67&Itemid=69. The website header includes the RAI-SEE logo and the text 'REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE'. A navigation menu at the top lists: Home, About Us, What We Do, News, Events (highlighted), Publications, Forum, and Consultants Roster. The main content area is titled 'Events' and lists events for the years 2007 and 2006. For 2007, events include: 'Countering Corruption in SEE Conference, Bucharest, Romania, May 3-4, 2007.', 'Memorandum of Understanding – Signatory Ceremony, Zagreb, Croatia, April 13, 2007.', 'OSCE - SPAI RSLO Regional Conference in Preventing Corruption, Tirana, Albania, April 3-4, 2007.', and 'Friends of the Chair Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, February 23, 2007.'. For 2006, events include: 'UN Convention against Corruption Conference (UNCAC) on the International Anti-corruption Day Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 09 December, 2006.', 'Specialization training for prosecutors and investigators from Lithuania, Moldova and Romania, Chisinau, Moldova, 07 – 11, November, 2006.', 'Curbing Political Corruption – Anticorruption as revolution, Sinaia, Romania, 12 – 15 October, 2006.', and 'Summer school for junior magistrates, Sovata, Romania, 2 – 9 July, 2006.'. On the right side, there are two sections: 'MEMBER COUNTRIES' with a list of countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia) and 'RESOURCE CENTER' with links to 'Knowledge Center', 'Library', and 'Links'.

launched in May 2005, currently under entire review
Functional very soon.

www.spai-rslo.org www.rai-see.org

Corruption Perception in SEE

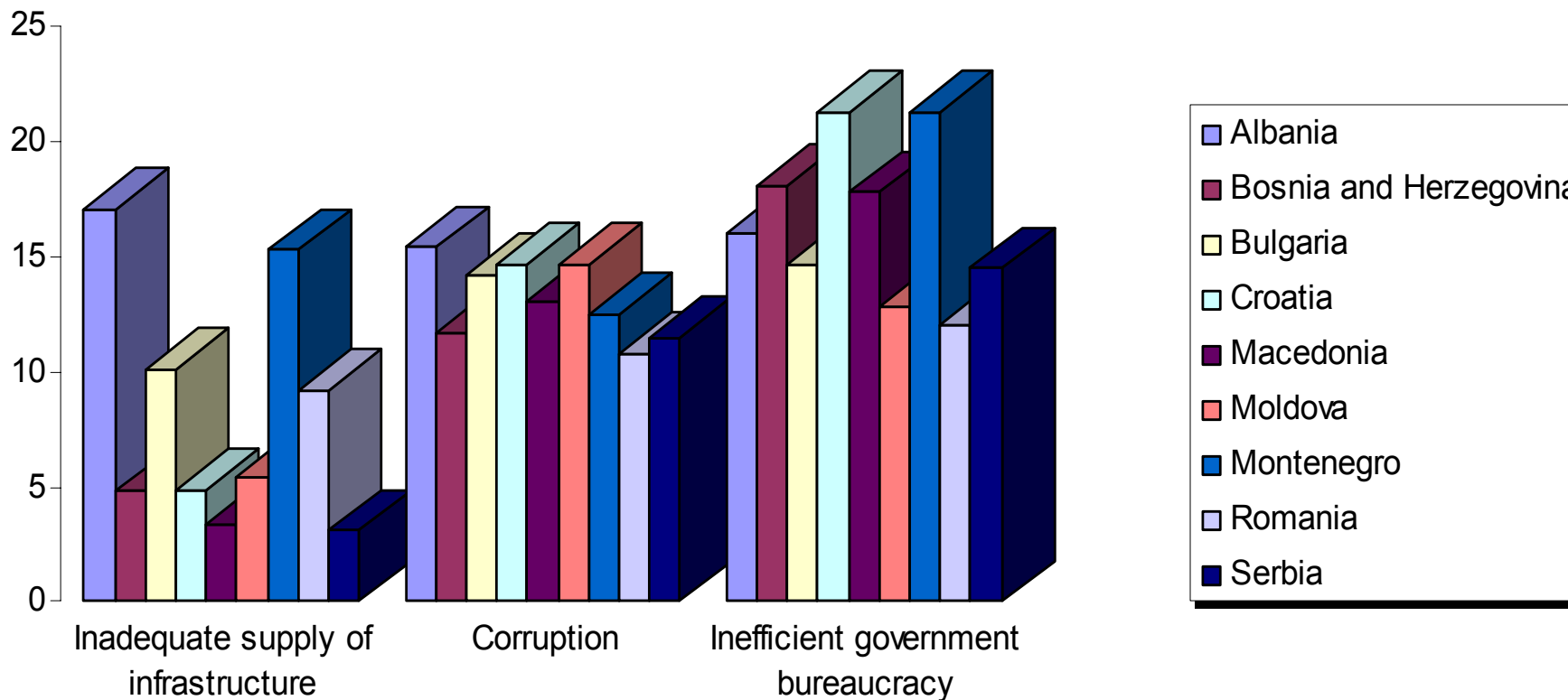
Corruption Perception Index in SEE countries (2003-2007)



Source: Transparency International

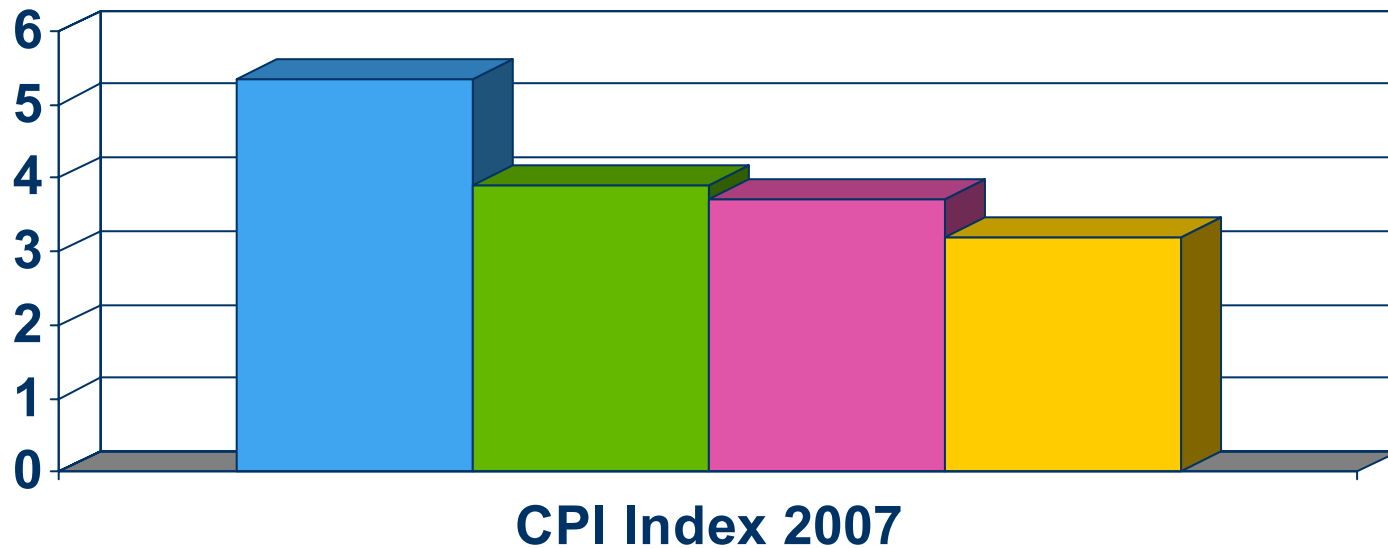


The Most Problematic Factors for Doing Business (among 14 factors)



Source: Global Competitiveness Index 2007-2008



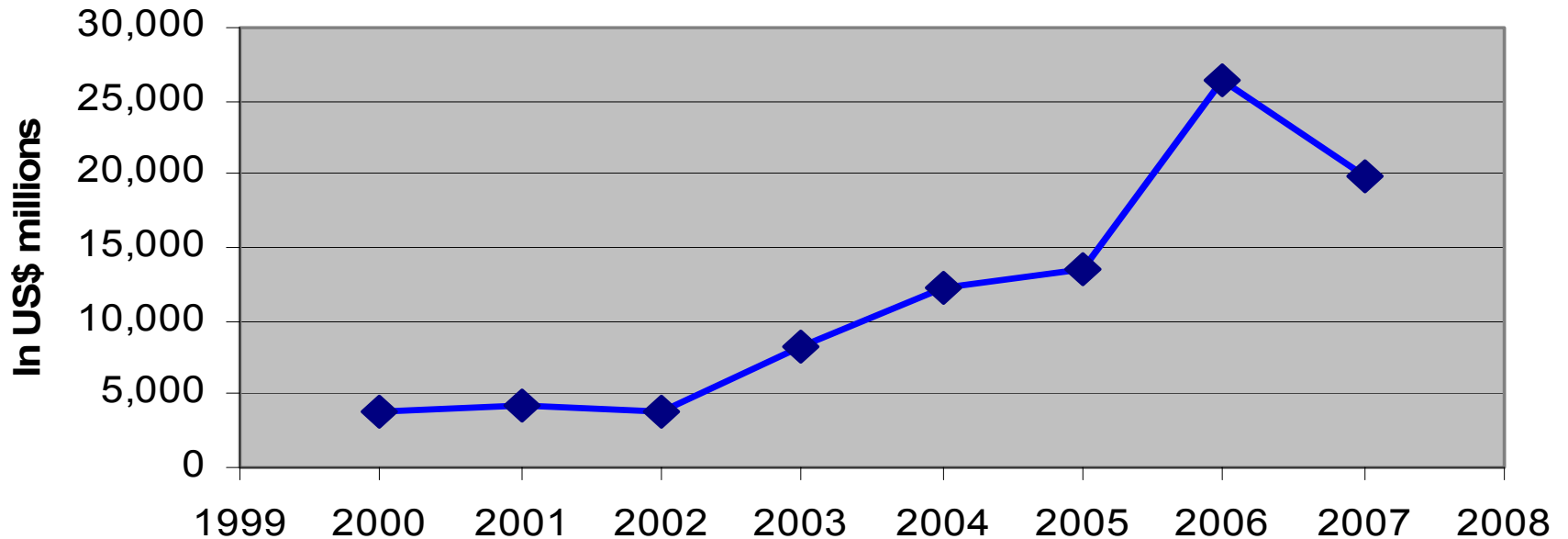


- 10 new EU members
- 2 last new EU members
- Candidate countries
- Countries under accession process



FDI Trends

TRENDS OF FDI IN SEE COUNTRIES



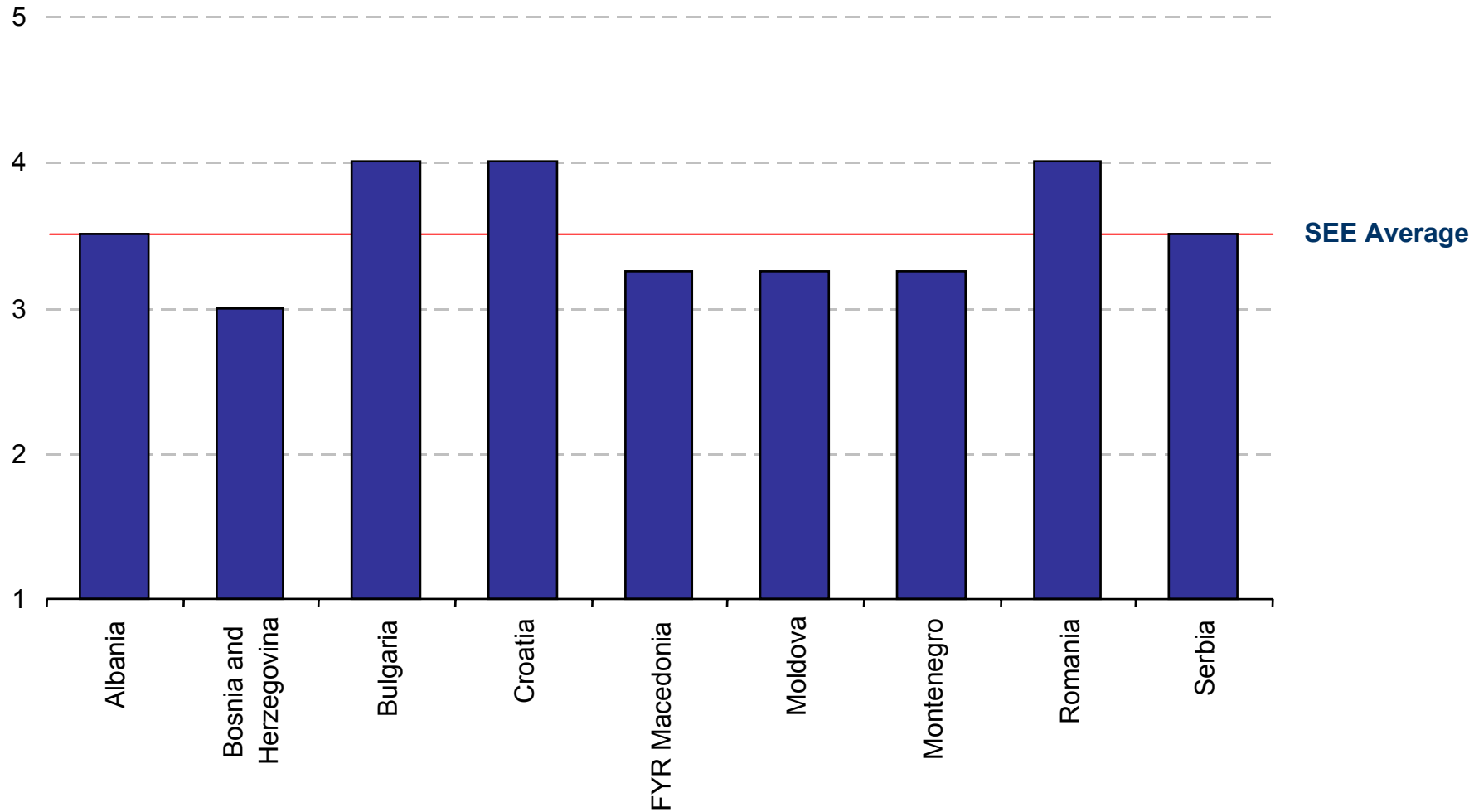
Increase: 15.7% for each year.

Source: EBRD, Transition
Report Update 2007



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

IRI (Investment Reform Index) Scores for Trade Policy



Source: OECD, Investment Compact for SEE, 2006.



- ◆ **According to OECD (IRI) investment policy, trade policy, followed to some extent by anti-corruption and business integrity and tax policy are the strongest policy dimensions in the majority of SEE countries.**
- ◆ **Moreover, other dimensions such as *investment promotion and facilitation, competition policy, regulatory reform and human capital* are areas of further improvement and are under SEE average for some of SEE countries.**

Source: OECD, Investment Compact for SEE, 2006.

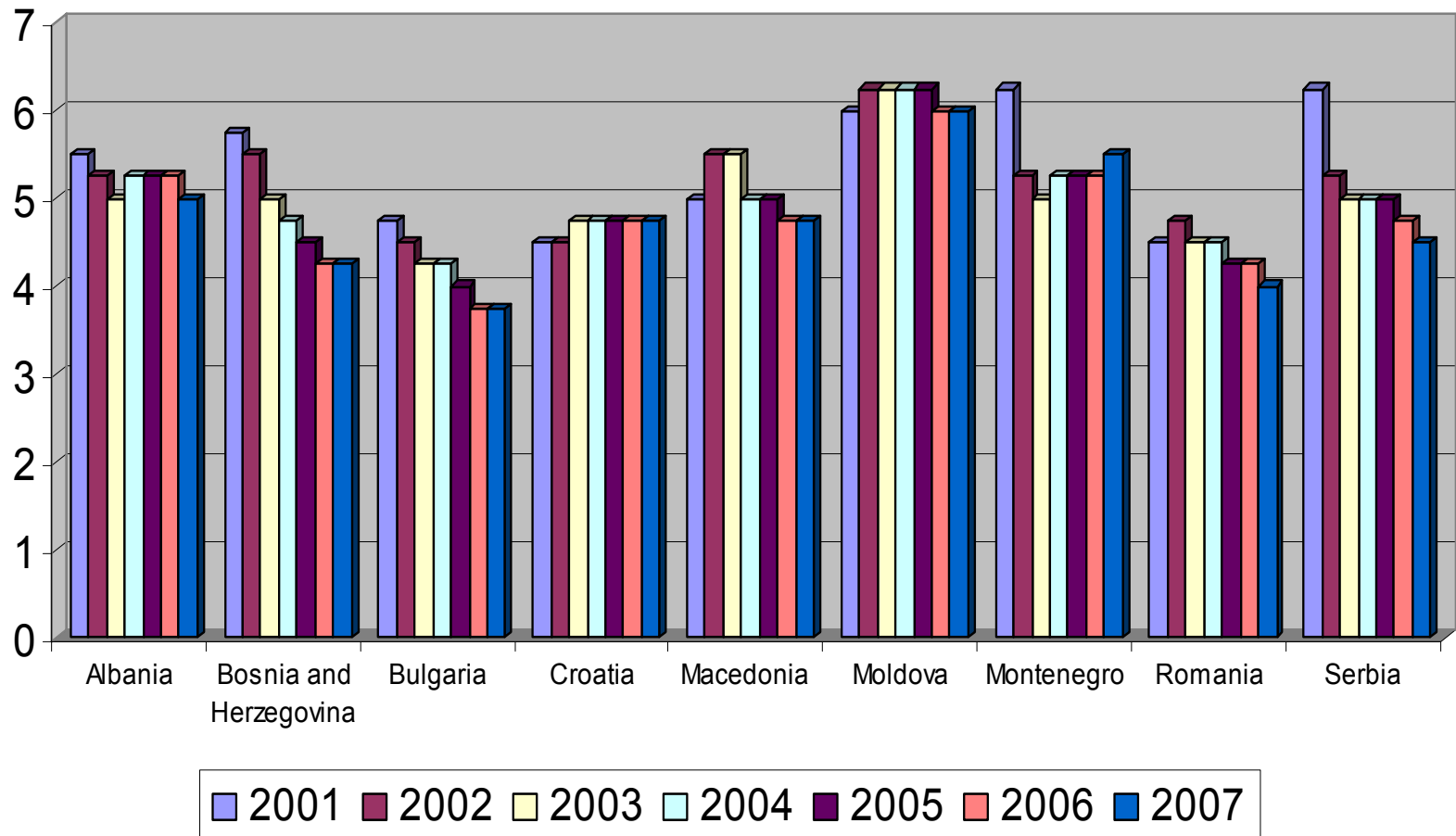


**AFTER 8 YEARS...
STILL A LONG WAY TO GO...**

Current challenges for the SEE countries:

- ◆ **reform of judiciary and public administration;**
- ◆ **the negative perception regarding the levels of corruption both from public and business community;**
- ◆ **lack of sound projects dealing with education and raising public awareness;**
- ◆ **understaffed anticorruption structures and low salaries;**
- ◆ **role of the prevention still not preeminent while the repression is seen as the only feasible solution.**

Control of Corruption in SEE



Source: Freedom House, Nations in Transit 2007



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

Indicators used:

- **high official position**
- **public impact**
- **level/value of the bribe or damage**



SETTING THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

- Independence/autonomy and accountability /oversight (*art.11. 36 UNCAC*)**
Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?
- Applying the code of conduct (*art. 8, 11 UNCAC*)**
- Inter agency coordination and cooperation (*art.37, 38 UNCAC*)**
- Proper training and resources (*art. 36 UNCAC*)**



PROMOTING HIGH INTEGRITY STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

- ◆ **Strengthen the control procedures for assets declarations**
- ◆ **Management of conflict of interest and incompatibilities**
- ◆ **Efficient monitoring of financing political parties and electoral campaigns**
- ◆ **Implement the free access to information legislation**
- ◆ **Increase transparency and integrity in the public procurement processes**



Knowledge exchange activities

Twining type activities:

- **Prosecutors (Montenegro – Croatia)**
- **Prosecutors, investigators and experts (BiH – Macedonia)**
- **Prosecutors (Romania, Moldova, Lithuania)**

Summer School for junior judges and prosecutors

Internship program for junior lawyers



CHALLENGES AHEAD

- ◆ Improving substantially the **Anti-Corruption Resource Center**
 - **As the challenging platform in providing transfer of knowledge**
 - **Through living, diversified and accurate information and mechanisms interesting any relevant stakeholder**
- ◆ Better implementation of **regional ownership principle** by ensuring the sustainability of SEE member countries involvement
- ◆ **Better matching the needs** of the region with what international donors and organizations can offer
- ◆ Providing an **improved communication framework** for other non governmental stakeholders (international community, civil society, business community)
- ◆ **Sound expertise** on thematic co-operation anti-corruption processes



CONCLUSION

The key word that guides so many efforts and values



Thank you for your attention!



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE
◦ SECRETARIAT ◦

Edmond DUNGA

Head of the Office

Bistrik 5, 71 000 Sarajevo - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: +387 33 550 220

Fax: +387 33 550 221

E-mail: dungae@lol.ba

Website: www.spai-rslo.org

QUESTIONS