



Regional School of Public Administration (Phase 1)

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



PROTOCOL OF COOPERATION

ON THE CREATION OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The representatives of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro along with the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) acting on behalf of Kosovo pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, in presence of the European Commission;

Recalling the importance for the Stabilization and Association Process of strengthening regional co-operation and administrative capacity, as pointed out in the "Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans" endorsed by the governments of the region and the Council of Ministers of the European Union in June 2003;

Recalling also that the same document specifically encouraged the creation of a regional mechanism fostering training and education for public administration;

Have agreed as follows:

I - Cooperation objectives

- 1) This Protocol establishes the Regional School of Public Administration (hereafter: ReSPA), aiming at:
 - a) improving regional cooperation in the field of public administration;
 - b) strengthening administrative capacity as required by the European integration process;
 - c) developing human resources in line with the principles of the European Administrative Space.
- 2) Initially ReSPA has the form of a network, as further described in this Protocol.

II – Activities

- 1) The Parties maintain contacts amongst their institutions responsible for public administration training and education, facilitating the sharing of information and experiences through activities including but not limited to:
 - a) Stimulating cooperation between public administration institutions from the region and similar institutions in the European Union, as well as participation in international networks;
 - b) Holding seminars and summer/winter schools for public administration professionals, as well as an annual conference for public administration training and education institutions;
 - c) Acting as a catalyst for trans-national communities of practice, through the implementation of training by mobility schemes allowing public servants to gain experience of different contexts;
 - d) Sharing information resources through the publication of a newsletter, the creation of a joint electronic library, and the issuing of other specialised publications such as training materials.
- 2) The Parties also participate in joint projects of mutual interest aiming at direct improvements in the training and education for their public administration. Such activities may include but are not limited to:
 - a) Developing methodological guidelines based on good practice for training and education programs, and encouraging innovation by reviewing existing ones;
 - b) Strengthening the research base of training and education for public administration through joint study groups for comparative research on topics of immediate interest;
 - c) Advising on the strengthening of the institutional framework for the management of quality training and education for public administration, including under the auspices of the network;
 - d) Improving the availability and quality of training and education by delivering, in cooperation with national institutions, high quality programmes on issues relevant to the European integration process.

