

Working Group Report

Signature Collection Campaign

Objectives

1. To collect one million signatures in support of RECOM establishment
2. To deliver a message on the importance of RECOM establishment to as many people as possible

Number of signatures per state

The Campaign shall aim to collect the total of one million signatures. The number of signatures per state shall be distributed in the following manner. Croatia, B&H, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo, where a comprehensive consultation process was conducted and where the Coalition for RECOM is strong, shall be taken into account. Slovenia and Macedonia cannot partake on equal terms due to feeble activity of local coalitions and the inexistence of consultation process.

The figure of one million shall therefore be distributed to these five states commensurately with their respective populations. 10,000 signatures shall be designated for Slovenia and Macedonia combined (bearing symbolic, rather than actual significance). Such calculation shall result in the following figures:

Serbia:	390,000
Croatia:	255,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina:	225,000
Kosovo:	90,000
Montenegro:	30,000
Slovenia and Macedonia:	10,000

Manner of signature collection

A formal option to put a draft law on the parliament's agenda through civic initiative exists in Serbia and Kosovo. Croatia prescribes an option of compelling the parliament to call elections pursuant to a civic initiative.

In Serbia, the Constitution envisages an option for a draft law, a regulation or a general act to be proposed by no less than 30,000 constituents¹. This option pertains to people's initiative, closely regulated by provisions of the Law on Referendum and People's Initiative². This Law lays down stringent terms for collection of signatures, including a seven-day deadline which must be reported to the police³ and clearly specified locations on which signatures will be collected⁴.

The Constitution of Kosovo envisages an option for no less than 10,000 citizens to launch the initiative for enactment of laws before the Parliament of Kosovo⁵.

¹ Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, Article 107, Paragraph 1

² Law on Referendum and People's Initiative, Official Gazette of the RS No. 48/1994 and 11/1998

³ Law on Referendum and People's Initiative, Article 34, Paragraph 3

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Constitution of Kosovo, Article 79

Croatia envisages an option to collect signatures in support of calling a referendum⁶. Likewise, the procedure is complicated and has been unsuccessful to date (similarly to Serbia, all locations and dates are to be reported to the police, except that 14 days are allocated to collect signatures of minimum 10 percent of the overall electorate)⁷.

It is evident that all legislative norms in place are extremely complicated and designed to obstruct civic initiative. Conversely, if RECOM is to be established through intergovernmental agreement (apparently the only feasible variant from the legal perspective), that cannot be attained without the states' prior accord regarding the agreement itself, to be followed by its ratification in national parliaments. In this event, **there is no room for a formal civic initiative. Likewise, collection of signatures in keeping with the law in certain states only, would lead to confusion and unnecessarily complicate the whole process.**

Signatures need to be collected with a view to attaining objectives of the process, rather than meeting any formal constitutional or legal requirement.

Signatures will be collected from citizens who:

- Have more than 18 years old, and
- They are, in the moment of the signing, citizens of the countries from the former Yugoslavia republic.

In keeping with the above explanation, the overall purpose of the campaign is to collect signatures from as many people as possible. This means that a method of collecting signatures is irrelevant. At the national levels should be decided in what way for respective target groups, the signatures would be collected. The Working Group proposes the following signature collection modes:

- signature collection at stands during the six-week long campaign
- signature collection by using door-to-door method, conducted by activists
- signature collection via postal mail, wherein citizens would send filled-in forms to designated addresses
- signature collection via the Internet, wherein citizens would submit their signatures or fill in a special interactive section on the website
- any other method devised during design or implementation of the campaign

Signature form

Signature form should contain the following categories:

Mandatory:

- first name and surname
- address of residence (street and number, town, municipality and the country)
- ID number
- signaturer

Optional:

- contact telephone number
- contact e-mail address

⁶ Law on Referendum and Other Forms of Personal Participation in State Administration and Local Self-Government, Official Gazette No. 33/96 and 92/01

⁷ Ibid, Articles 8b to 8g

The signature form has to state clearly and evidently the purpose of signature collection, each person who signs the petition should see the heading which says: ...by this signature I support REKOM. Each form has to have the date and numbering.

The form will be the same for all countries (the same design, same information) and different languages in each country (this would go for all types of forms: email, postal, and paper forms). Every country should decide on which language and/or script (Cyrillic, Latin) will be used in signature form. Likewise, each country should decide if certain numbers of copies will be in one language/script.

Although this is not a formal initiative and therefore not a subject to verification by appropriate authorities, we deem that elementary information (otherwise collected and serving personal identification) should be collected here as well. Personal identification number complicates the entire procedure, because there is no the same number in all the countries where the campaign is implemented. Therefore, the ID number will be used to exactly identify the person who signs the petition.

Contact phone number and e-mail address should be in a form, as optional field. Some people are not exactly eager to provide them offhand, but it is good to have them all in the database and eventually organize an SMS/e-mail gratitude action or subsequently inform them of the results of the initiative. The ones who would like to be informed further will be asked to fill this field. The people will be informed of the results of the initiative at the end of the process of collection of signatures.

Campaign implementation mode and organizational structure

Volunteers and trainers

To collect one million signatures, 2,000 volunteers need to be recruited and trained. This figure was arrived at upon assessment that it would be impossible to expect one person to collect more than 500 signatures. Volunteers should be primarily trained to clearly deliver a message on the importance of REKOM when in contact with citizens. Likewise, they need to be given clear instructions as to how to collect signatures, what to do with them, as well as all other technical and logistic details essential to successfully conducting such a complex task.

This requires implementation of 100 trainings (20 volunteers per training). These trainings need to be conducted by qualified trainers, previously trained and familiar with REKOM objectives. This shall be attained through training of trainers, whom there should be at least 20. Upon the training, trainers shall be grouped into pairs and each pair shall conduct 10 trainings of volunteers. The training of trainers shall be attended by 30 people, since it is reasonable to expect some of them to drop out for various reasons or be otherwise committed and therefore unable to organize and implement trainings of volunteers. The trainers have only one role: to train volunteers, after that's done and signature collection begins they are no longer active in the campaign as the trainers. They can be included later and have the other role (described later in the Campaign management section).

The volunteer per diems will be paid when they collect 500 signatures. It should be considered if they would be paid extra for extra collected signatures. Even the majority of the volunteers will be gathered on the voluntary basis and value based interest, it is necessary that we put another insurance in order to the signature collection campaign succeed. I'm not sure if I understood this right. But, I think that the volunteers/activists should be paid per diems no matter how many signatures they collect (especially as I

believe that per diems will cover essential needs and after all the job is massive) Maybe some reward system should be implemented (as extra motivation) when the number of signatures collected is much bigger than 500. But as you said the volunteers for this amount of work will be motivated on values and there for I don't believe appropriate to condition a sandwich and travel allowance for a number of signatures.

Fully agree with Lana's comment – they will be paid per diem, not honoraria so that they can be conditioned by the numbers of signatures collected.

We have to be very sensitive on this matter. Finding On this matter we have to be very sensitive. Not paying a volunteers per diems until they didn't collect 500 signatures, clearly shows our mistrust. Reward as an extra motivation could be good The proper selection of volunteers will probably avoid

Organization of trainings and their implementation fall under the jurisdiction of the group for signature collection.

Campaign management

Campaign management structure must be clearly set up so as to be aware of precise delegation of tasks and responsibilities.

The Coordination group for the signature collection should be established by April 2010. The coordination group should be appointed by the RECOM Coordination Body. The coordination group will consist of the regional coordinator and 6 national coordinators (regional coordinator covers the country he/she is from). The regional coordinator shall be managing the entire campaign, assisted by national coordinators. National coordinators shall be in charge of all campaign-related activities in their respective countries and coordination of filling in the data about collection of signatures into the database. The Regional and National Coordinators must maintain a daily contact. Subordinate to them shall be Territorial (District, County, depending on local terminology) Coordinators who shall be tasked, directly in their area of jurisdiction, which is comprised of several municipalities or towns, with organizing a network of volunteers, supervising volunteer teams' work, verifying results at the end of each working day and issuing proposals/recommendations to National Coordinators regarding potential amendments to the signature collection methodology. Their number, area of jurisdiction and the number of volunteers available shall be dependent upon the respective area's population, geographic and infrastructural circumstances and strength of the Coalition for RECOM's network in the respective area. These coordinators need not originate from their area of jurisdiction, since it is presumed that it will not be feasible to find appropriate people for certain areas, while other areas will provide more eligible candidates than needed. Campaign management has to be done before the trainings for trainers.

Campaign-related activities

A number of volunteers engaged in population of the database at the Head Office shall be in charge of monitoring collection of electronic signatures via the Internet. They will be downloading the signatures from the website and uploading them into the database. Each country (i.e. National Office) shall have a team concerned with signatures sent via postal mail, tasked with delivering them to individuals assigned to populate the database.

Volunteers shall be collecting signatures at stands, the total of 500 to be set up, and in door-to-door activities. All volunteers must be involved in both signature collection modes. All signatures in electronic

form shall be sent to national headquarters at the end of each working day. There they shall be entered into the electronic central database. The paper forms should be sent to the national coordinators after each 100 signatures collected.

Database

There shall be a single database for the entire region. It shall be located on the Internet, with appropriate security measures in place (a special server based abroad). The Regional Coordinator, National Coordinators and data entry administrators shall have access to the database. Data entry administrators are filling the database and they have to be trustworthy individuals. Their number must be limited (maximum 10 per state). They are working in shifts, coordinated by national coordinators. The form of an electronic data base is necessary in order to keep tracks about the how the campaign progress in the whole region. It is also necessary to keep the paper forms for .

Trainer and volunteer structure per state

The total of 30 trainers to undergo training shall be grouped into 15 training pairs:

Serbia: 4 pairs (8 trainers)
Croatia: 3 pairs (6 trainers)
B&H: 3 pairs (6 trainers)
Kosovo: 2 pairs (4 trainers)
Montenegro: 1 pair (2 trainers)
Macedonia: 1 pair (2 trainers)
Slovenia: 1 pair (2 trainers)

Under these circumstances, some countries shall have more trainers than needed, but the aim is for each state to have at least one training pair. Since it is likely that some of these trainers will drop out (as explained above), there will be a chance for trainers from other states to help out and thus cover all volunteers.

Following the method applied for the number of signatures, the total of 2,000 volunteers shall be allocated in the following manner:

Serbia:	810
Croatia:	480
B&H:	430
Kosovo:	190
Montenegro:	70
Macedonia:	10
Slovenia:	10

It would be ideal that every state endowed with adequate capacities recruit additional volunteers as well, with a view to avoiding problems pertaining to dropping out in the course of the campaign or objective inability to volunteer for any reason. Likewise, volunteers to be working at national offices should not count toward these figures.

Coverage map

An initial coverage map needs to be developed prior to recruiting volunteers and setting up the entire network. This map would contain a projected number of signatures to be collected per area (a cluster of municipalities and towns), the Coalition's existing capacities in each location, which networks or victims' associations we can count on in a specific area, whether there is a possibility to recruit political parties' youth wings in certain areas etc.

This map would serve as a starting point for subsequent establishment of the network and volunteer teams per area. The map would also be indicative of the areas in which greater efforts should be invested into recruiting volunteers, as well as of the groups to be specifically negotiated with a view to involving them in the process.

It should be a questionnaire organized and distributed to REKOM network organization on capacities and willingness to participate in this campaign. The questionnaire is essential in order to achieve better planning and efficiency of campaign.

Campaign timeline

The campaign for signature collection is going paralely with the media campaign. There would be a prior awareness of the citizens from the region about the signature collection and REKOM.

- Group for signature collection (Regional and National Coordinators): to be set up in April 2010.
- Coverage map: to be developed in May 2010.
- Trainers for trainings: to be recruited by July 2010.
- Training of trainers: August 2010.
- Volunteer network, including Local Coordinators: to be established by December 2010.
- Trainings of volunteers: implemented in January and February 2011.
- Signature collection: March the 15th to May the 1st, 2011.
- Signature submission: June the 1st, 2011.

Month/ Activity	04/ 10	05/ 10	06/ 10	07/ 10	08/ 10	09/ 10	10/ 10	11/ 10	12/ 10	01/ 11	02/ 11	03/ 11	04/ 11	05/ 11	06/ 11
Group for signature collection	X														
Coverage map		X													
Trainers for trainings (Recruitment)			X	X											
Training of trainers					X										
Volunteer network/Local Coordinators						X	X	X	X						
Trainings of volunteers										X	X				
Signature collection												X	X		
Signature															X

