

DOCUMENT ON PRIORITY POLICIES IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY

“Serving the citizens, enforcing the law”

AIM

Pursuant to the political program of the Council of Ministers, the functions and competence of the Ministry of Interior, this document aims at outlining the priorities, objectives and key measures in the endeavour to achieve the rule of law standards in the field of public order and security, in preventing and combating crime, in serving the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Albania.

ACHIEVEMENTS, ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Achievements

The situation of security and public order in the country has been substantially improved in the last four years. Today, Albania is a safer country for all those who live in its territory, for their lives, businesses and properties, foreign investments and tourists who visit the country.

This achievement has in the genesis deep concrete normative and organizational reforms, such as the improvement of the legal framework of the activity of the Ministry of Interior, State Police and other law enforcement institutions under its authority, adoption of amendments and addendum to anti-mafia law¹, the Criminal Procedure Code² and the laws on interception and surveillance.³

In the context of fight against narcotic substances, the approval of programmatic instruments such as *“The Action Plan against Cultivation and Trafficking of Cannabis Sativa for the period 2017-2020”*, and successful execution of police operations against cultivation of cannabis sativa in Lazarat⁴, Dukagjin and in some other problematic areas have brought about positive outcomes not only in terms of the amount destroyed and seized,⁵ but also in terms of restoring legitimacy and control of the State in these areas.⁶

Reformation of the State Police structures and functioning, focused on the personnel reform, enhancement of operational cooperation, rapid exchange of police information, logistical support and public awareness activities, as well as improvement towards transparency, facilitation of procedures, digitalization of police services, services to citizens, and financial, economic and logistical treatment of state police are apparent and tangible achievements.

¹ Law no. 24/2014, ““For some addenda and amendments to law no. 10192, dated 3/12/2009 “On the prevention and fight against Organised Crime and Corruption, through preventive measures against Assets.

² Law no.35/2017 “For some addenda and amendments to law no. 7905, dated 21.03.1995 “Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Albania”, as amended.

³ Law no. 69/2017 for some amendments and addenda to law no. 9157, dated 4.12.2003 “Interception of Electronic Communications” as amended.

⁴ An amount of 551414 cannabis plants in total were destroyed that year, which constituted an increase of 460% compared with the year 2013.

⁵ Referring to the data delivered to the State Police by Interforza specialists, about the results of air monitoring in 2013 in Lazarati Commune, Gjirokaster.

⁶ European Commission, “Report on Albania 2015”, page 65, accessed on line in:

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2015/20151110_report_albania.pdf

Re-establishment of the Security Academy will serve to create a professional, well-educated and well-trained police force⁷.

Improvement of state police international cooperation, especially with Europol, in fight against organised crime⁸ and terrorism, brought about the reduction of the number of Albanian citizens recruited as foreign terrorist fighters⁹.

All these achievements have contributed to increasing the public confidence to State Police, as the most trusted public institution, according to a research conducted at national level¹⁰.

Issues

Notwithstanding the achievements made during the last four years, we are conscious that a number of issues that require the proper attention of law enforcement institutions are still present.

Every day the State Police faces challenges that have to do mainly with political and economic pressure, political or criminal relationships of some of its leaders and employees, poor infrastructure and lack of equipment or insufficient oversight¹¹, obstructing, in this way, the performance of duty according to the required standards and the correct and impartial implementation of law¹².

Police involvement in corruption has contributed to hampering in-depth investigations of organised crime¹³. This remains a serious concern¹⁴, the fight against which at all levels¹⁵ is one of the country's key priorities. Despite the increasing number of those being punished, most of them belong to lower or middle-ranking police employees.

Other issues which should yet be considered as problematic remain money laundering, black market of goods, as well as the major criminal activities such as: trafficking of drugs, fiscal

⁷ European Commission, "Report on Albania 2016, page 73, accessed on line in:

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_albania.pdf

⁸ European Commission, "Report on Albania 2016", page 19, accessed on line in:

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_albania.pdf

⁹ Europol, 'Report on the Situation and inclination of Terrorism in the European Union, 2017, p. 33., accessed online in: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/eu-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-te-sat-2017>

¹⁰ IDRA, 'Impunity: Public opinion on the meaning, reasons and role of institutions', 2017, accessed on line in: http://www.idrainstitute.org/files/impunity_final_report_2017.pdf

¹¹ American State Department, "Report on Human Rights, Albania 2016",

<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265600.pdf>

¹² IDRA, 'Impunity: Public opinion on the meaning, reasons and role of institutions', 2017, accessed online in: http://www.idrainstitute.org/files/impunity_final_report_2017.pdf

¹³ European Commission "Report on Albania 2016", page 73, accessed online in:

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_albania.pdf

¹⁴ European Commission "Report on Albania 2016" page 4, accessed online in:

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_albania.pdf

¹⁵ Ibid.

evasion, smuggling and trafficking of human beings¹⁶. Although, police capacities in this regard have been strengthened, more staff and specialised investigations are required.

State Police international cooperation, namely with Europol and Interpol should be improved to be more pro-active, while the inter-institutional cooperation, particularly with the Prosecution Office in terms of detecting and investigating complex criminal cases is being considered to be poor. It is required a comprehensive approach to investigations and prosecutions, direct access to certain public and private databases¹⁷, as well as improved access to the information of inter-institutional reports¹⁸.

Capacities of the staff that are facing the migratory crisis need to be focused on the identification of smuggled migrants and trafficked persons. Detection of false documents has remained at low levels, mainly at the international airport¹⁹.

Challenges

With the aim at preventing and fighting crime, enhancing the professionalism and integrity of security and public order institutions, further improving the trust of the public in these institutions, the endeavours in the upcoming four years will be focused on four main directions.

First, the State Police should be reformed through the mechanisms of verification and assessment of their integrity, assets and proficiency. This effort should be accompanied by the improvement of quality of initial and continues education/training of state police employees through the strengthening of academic capacities of Security Academy,²⁰ either in terms of enhancing the professionalism of its academic staff or through improving its programs and curricula. The police body should be guaranteed a transparent appointment and evaluation and a merit based promotion process. Procedures and policies to eliminate political or nepotistic relations in its structure should be adopted as well as motivating and enhancing policies for all employees aiming to increase their dignity and public trust should be drafted.

Second, fight against organized crime and trafficking should be strengthened with the priority to intensify endeavours against criminal groups and combating trafficking of narcotics substances. This result is also achievable if there is pro-active approach to investigations, detecting and striking strong drug trafficking, through close regional and international inter-institutional cooperation. Heads of structured groups and criminal organisations, as well as their assets should be submitted to a professional and pro-active investigation. This is achieved through strengthening of cooperation with international partners, as regards the investigation and arrest of Albanian perpetrators for the offenses committed outside the territory of the Republic of Albania.

¹⁶ Americal State Department, “International Narcotics Control Strategy Report Volume II: Money Laundering and Financial Crimes –Albania”, pf.2, March 2017, accessed online in: <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/268024.pdf>

¹⁷ Findings from the minutes of the meetings with prosecutors for the drafting of this policy document, dated 27.07.2017

¹⁸ State Police “Assessment of Organised and Serious Crime Threat - SOCTA 2016”, page 20.

¹⁹ European Commission “Report on Albania 2016”, page 72, accessed online in:

https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_albania.pdf

²⁰ Recommendations from the meeting with the professors of Law Faculty, 27.07.2017.

Third, a least not less important challenge is also the fight against terrorism and violent extremism through pro-active investigations, systematic risk assessment and better inter-institutional cooperation, monitoring of migratory flows, aiming to eliminate the possibility of their use for masking members of terrorist organization among refugees²¹, intensification of endeavours for the prevention of radicalization through information exchange. Community policing and close cooperation with religious community and civil society as well as conducting detailed investigations of financing terrorism tentative through strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation with organs which monitor flows of financial circulation means.

Fourth, *security and public order can be improved through*, prevention of criminal activities and other crimes guided by the philosophy of “community policing” through a continues interaction with the community and organs of local government; ensuring lawfulness in the territory and a new relationship with the business in the context of guaranteeing the safety of citizens; improvement of road traffic management with the aim to minimizing accidents; continuation of important projects such as the voluntary delivery of arms, or the prevention and management of emergency situations; re-dimensioning of the Prefect role for the management and coordination of control in the territory and strengthening cooperation with civil society in local and international level.

II. Key Priorities, Objectives and Measures for action

I. Strong institutions, professionals with integrity

Our commitment is to offer an active contribution for the consolidation of a **more secure State, where the respect of human rights prevails as guaranteed by the Constitution and laws to establish strong and sustainable law enforcement institutions, in accordance with European standards.**

Objectives of this priority include:

- ✚ Strengthening institutional capacities and guaranteeing operational independence of State Police and internal control structures;
- ✚ Functioning of subordinated institutions and structures with professionals of moral integrity and strong human character;
- ✚ Consolidation of education, qualification and especially continues and profiled training of State Police structures;
- ✚ Ensuring a career, promotion and objective and sustainable evaluation system based on merit;
- ✚ Opening and further democratization of subordinated institutions and structures through transparency, information of the public, accountability and a more active communication with civil society organizations, the media and investigative journalism;
- ✚ Strengthening the planning, supervisory and controlling capacities of the Ministry, for the implementation of policies and objectives;

²¹ State Police, ‘Assessment of Organised and Serious Crime Threat – SOCTA 2016’, p. 76.

- ✚ Increasing the performance, strengthening and empowering the local good governance and democracy;

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Analysing and reconsidering the system of recruitment, tenure of office and promotion, based on the system of meritocracy, and the continuous professional training;
- Guaranteeing professional capacities through the improvement of legal framework, the conduction of objective exams, in accordance with the function and rank, by preventing political influence, non-professional and non-ethical behaviour, and the links to crime and corruption. Establishing a sustainable identification and punishment system for such cases;
- Reviewing the personnel structure aiming to increase efficiency, performance and ethics at work;
- Using of standard procedures to measure performance (Project SACP);
- Amending the Law "On Service of Internal Affairs and Complaint Service", in order to expand the scope of application and the drafting of the act on the configuration of the "Case Management" section;
- Completion of digitalization of the documentation administered in the filing cabinets and the secretariat of the SIAC;
- Realization of a process of assessing the integrity, assets and proficiency (otherwise known as "vetting"), which the State Police employees, and not only, will be subject to, from the highest leadership levels to the basic role employees, monitored by international partners;
- Defining concrete quotas for more female employees in State Police ranks and promoting them in managerial and leadership functions;
- Reviewing the Internal Regulation and the Code of Ethics of the institution;
- Establishing a national performance monitoring system at the local level;

- Utilizing special expertise through pursuit of attractive employment policies, relationship with professional associations and internship programs;
- Reorganizing the central and local police structures with the assistance of international partners, for the good management of human resource, operational, financial and infrastructure capacities;
- Conducting an analysis of the current state of human resources, infrastructure, logistics, equipment and technological programs, accompanied by a master plan of their development through the state budget and foreign donations;

- Drafting a legal framework for more effective and transparent management of procurement processes, centralized at the MoI;
- Re-conceptualization of the Ministry of Interior in the context of materializing the priorities and objectives of this document;
- Re-conceptualization of the General Directorate of Anti-Trafficking and Asylum in the Ministry of Interior in the context of covering three fields: anti-trafficking, asylum and migration;
- Restructuring the General Directorate of Strategic Planning and Integration in the Ministry of Interior in the context of increasing policy making, planning, supervisory and coordination capacities;

- Establishing a Sector for Research, Analysis and Statistics in the General Directorate of Strategic Planning and Integration;
- Drafting of a communication plan with public, organization of respective structures which will assure full transparency and will prevent misinformation;
- Accreditation of the Security Academy;
- Determining higher admission criteria for the Security Academy, increasing the quality of teaching programs and curricula, the professional and ethical level of teaching and training, modernizing the teaching infrastructure, twinning with Western counterpart institutions;
- Functioning of the Security Academy as the only centre for vocational training, training and qualification of all police officers, judicial police structures as component part of the executive and other security services;
- Programing the specialized training within the country in cooperation with the European Police College - CEPOL, as well as participating in international training programs;
- Implementing a three-track career system, facilitating the admission of graduates from legal, social, economic, and IT sciences;
- Developing special training for the management level in the Police, and increasing the language skills in the job position criteria;
- Profiling the training in accordance with the functional duties of the State Police employees;

Decentralization and partnership

- Establishing an Advisory Forum at the Ministry of Interior, consisting of representatives of civil society organizations, criminal law and criminology professors, journalists, experts and independent researchers in the fields of rule of law, public order and security;
- Drafting a Plan of Actions to support the children of police officers fallen in the line of duty;
- Improving health care and ensuring the psycho-social care of police employees;
- Establishing a special system for evaluation through moral incentives and material reward for the employees' contribution in years, as well as for those with high scores in the performance of duty;
- Putting in place the Advisory Council "Government – Local Self – Government";
- Overhauling the role of the Prefect in relation to the new civil protection system;
- Establishing a network of EU coordinators in municipalities;
- Completing the process of transferring competencies and assets to newly decentralized functions;
- Improving the legislation and the implementation of the National Crosscutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Governance 2015-2020.

II. Institutions serving the citizen. Prevention – aim at the fight against crime

The protection of human rights and freedom, as well as the guarantee of life, health and property of the citizen are an absolute priority for State Police activities, which will have as a key phrase in its activity "control of the territory" and "community policing" carried out in practice through the re-organization of police presence in the territory, in view of a more effective control and substantial transformation of relations and service toward the community.

We are clearly oriented by the motto: “serving the citizen, enforcing the law”, therefore the whole system will be reconstructed to be decentralized in view of a more effective presence in the territory and for a more organic relation with community and its representative structures as a requisite to promote “proactivity”, “continuous interaction with community” as a guarantee to prevent events that disturb the public, conflict resolution, detect perpetrators but also to strengthen the public confidence in the police, ethical and professional behaviour of leaders and specialists of local police as well as citizens’ perceptions on the security level of their security. The main indicator of success for this system will be the prevention in dealing with minor offenses and anti-social behaviours, which if neglected can convey the message that no one is concerned for their solution, allowing their recurrence, the emergency of most serious offences and consequently urban degradation and increased fear of crime in community.

The objectives of this priority include:

- Building a sustainable interaction relationship and trust between the community and police. Encouraging the active participation of the community and its representatives on issues for the prevention and response to the violation of the law in the territory, aiming a more active role of citizens in signalling, identifying, detecting and punishing the offenders;
- Better coordination and cooperation on crime prevention issues among the structures of policing in the community and local government, law enforcement bodies, organizations of civil society, religious communities in a specific territory including various political forces;
- Qualitative change of territory control system and policing in the community in function of crime prevention and law violations, aiming to significantly reduce the number of people involved in minor offenses and law violations and especially to reduce the number of minors and youth involved in offenses;
- Increasing the preventive and punitive forces against domestic violence and community, blood feuding and promotion of radicalization;
- Strengthening the care, support and protection toward vulnerable groups of society, including women, minors, victims of trafficking and violence as well as victims (te ngujuarit) of blood feud;
- Increasing attention for the prevention and dealing with minor offenses and anti-social behaviours. Prevention and efficient reaction to cases of domestic violence and minor abusing, aiming at providing the victims a cautious treatment and referral assistance to relevant institutions.

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Setting an inter-sectoral and inclusive Strategy for Community Security, in cooperation with international partners;
- Signing the “Social Memorandums for Security” and establishment and functioning of “Regional Security Councils”, which under the direction of the Prefect of District will include representatives of police, prosecution, court, prefecture, municipality, NGOs, local media and citizens;

- Reorganization of local police structures, based on an analyses regarding dynamics of criminality, territory and population. Reassessment of police employee's role in the community, definition of functional tasks and responsibilities to observe the territory and community activities. Review of the selection criteria as well as evaluation and promotion of these employees in compliance with their performance and level of perception of citizens in relation to security and their ethical behavior in community;
- Opening of security offices in community, ("Police at your service") in order to provide appropriate working environment for police employees, reception of citizens of the area and keeping the data base with relevant police data as well as conducting administrative and necessary police actions;
- Opening and functioning in MoI of a special desk to provide a series of services for citizens, for registering complaints and provide information to the public;

- Conducting surveys and reviewing citizens' complaints on services provided and performance of employees at the ministry, police and other depending institutions expressed in counters, on-line, through green lines or post office;
- Establishing direct contact between the police and community through standing patrols, door to door meetings, joint patrols with citizens near the most frequented and problematic areas;
- Organization of open meeting in community to increase efficiency, transparency and better monitoring of policing in community;
- Strengthening psychologist/sociologist service in State Police structures;
- Intensification of public education programs in schools through a more effective cooperation with education institutions and civil society organizations;
- Conducting raising awareness campaigns in relation to the importance of preventive measures, especially toward radicalization and involvement in crime or organized crime of minors and youth;

- Strengthening the monitoring of police work for the identification and reporting of minor offenses occurred in the territory;
- Controlling the effectiveness and transparency dealing with cases reported through the Digital Commissariat;
- Continuous monitoring on the implementation of protection orders;
- Organization of raising awareness campaigns on the prevention of domestic violence in cooperation with state institutions and partners;
- Completing initiated projects, including population or address system, implementation of the project to place the field signalization, digitalization of archives and improvement of services in counters and civil status offices through the establishment of IT infrastructure and application of electronic system, etc.;
- Implementation of advanced technological surveillance system of the territory, mainly in "hot spots" of crimes, aiming at their correct identification and better focus on them from police resources;

III. Fight against organized crime – major challenge

Uncompromising war and harsh criminal punishment against different groups and/or criminal organizations as well as groups with extremely violent and terrorist agenda

targeting, sequestering and confiscating every illegal economical asset constitutes an absolute priority for the Albanian government.

Albania cannot be a “paradise” or “safe shelter” of human being traffickers, drugs and arms, who acted inside and outside the country and have benefited so far due to significant problems of a corrupted justice system that we had. This government has the unwavering willingness to substantially change the situation in this regard. **The targeting and striking of organized crime activities and criminal networks constitutes a major priority for the Albanian government.**

The objectives of this priority include:

- ✚ Application of a new dynamic and flexible approach which will aim the establishment of a hostile and discouraging environment for anyone who is involved in organized crime, fight them with a disruptive approach, through a better coordination of actions and measures of various law implementing agencies in this regard;
- ✚ Reorganization of the judicial police service at the state police in central and local level, the definition of functions, responsibilities as well as coordination and cooperation points. Strengthening of control and accountability, setting the criteria and rules of recruitment, promotion and evaluation in duty as well as evaluation based on concrete and objective results and not based on formal statistics;
- ✚ Reorganizing of investigation structures in the State Police, strengthening their responsibility and vertical control, quality of officers and agents. Their support with contemporary technology, more effective use of human resources and logistics with the aim to conduct proactive and qualitative investigations;
- ✚ Intensification of exchange information, conducting of investigations and joint operations with foreign counterpart agencies against Albanian citizens involved in organized crime activities abroad;
- ✚ Increase the number of joint activities and meetings in particular with the prosecution, but also with other law enforcement agencies as well as improving the procedures to obtain and share information and use of special means of investigation;
- ✚ Preservation at “LOW” level and taking the necessary measures to prevent terrorist acts, in cooperation with intelligence and law enforcement agencies in the country and in the region;

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Re-conception of the Department of Organized Crimes and Serious Crimes, with the assistance of international partners, oriented through an autonomous and hierarchical structure within the State Police for tracing, detecting and investigating the criminal activities in this regard. Establishment of regional directorates, redefining the way of cooperation and interaction with NBI, SPAK and prosecutions of judicial districts;
- First time implementation of “fight from many fronts” of persons involved in organized crime, coordination and use of various tactics and competences of police structures (order, road, border and migration etc.) and partner agencies (FIU, tax authorities, etc.) in addition to closely orientated operations to certain organized crime activities;
- Drafting of Activity Plan in fight against Human Being trafficking 2018-2020;

- Review the guideline to define standard procedures on reporting, monitoring and maintaining statistics based on which is made the assessment of the completed objectives of State Police in the field of organized crimes;
 - Drafting the necessary legal framework to ensure the access of State Police structures in the database of public telecommunication operators;
 - Enhancing the human capacities and technics for the implementation of legal instruments for conducting interceptions;
 - Adaption of Vienna Convention “On Police Cooperation in South East Europe” in the internal procedural criminal law;
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- Complete modernization and update of MEMEX system aiming at establishing a solid database of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in all areas;
 - Organization of Special Operational Forces according to the Department of Organized Crimes structure;
 - Establishment and functioning of a special structure in the Department of Organized Crime and Serious Crimes for the prosecution and initiation of criminal proceedings against Albanian citizens involved in activities of organized crimes abroad, including trafficking and selling narcotics, trafficking and exploitation of persons, organized theft of housing and vehicles, etc.;
 - Supporting the crime investigation structures with the necessary materials, logistical and contemporary technological means;
 - Consolidation of investigation structures and capacities of State Police, focusing on criminal offenses such as drug cultivating and trafficking, economic and financial crime, sexual crime, acts related to human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, prostitution and exploitation, cybercrime.
 - Taking measures to increase the security of witnesses and justice collaborators, improve the defence methods and strengthening of inter-institutional and international cooperation;
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- Intensify the cooperation with the Special Prosecution Office, State Intelligence Service, General Directorate of Money Laundering Prevention, etc.;
 - Establishment and use of joint investigation teams with law enforcement agencies of other countries to enhance and facilitate direct exchange of information without sending formal requests, conduct of investigative acts;
 - Implementation of a mandatory standard according to EU model for the return of stolen vehicles found in Albania and shortening the time needed to return to the country of origin;
 - Establish the team FAST (Fugitive Active Search) through the support of international partners and conducting focused search of wanted people in cooperation with ENFAST (European Network of Fugitive Active Search Teams);
 - Concentration on investigation of primary importance, considering the human resources and logistical constraints, as well as rationalizing forces and renouncing the mentality of work “show up and statistics”. The work of any officer or police agent will be measured by concrete results achieved in the field and investigative activity;
 - Conducting investigation on activities and organized crime structures in parallel with investigations on assets and illegal activities’ products;
 - Strengthening the professional and institutional capacities of forensic police according to international standards in this field;
 - Increasing the number of raising awareness campaigns to prevent human trafficking in cooperation with civil society and media;

- Increasing the level of cooperation, information exchange and the number of joint cooperation with intelligence services and law enforcing in our country and in the region to maintain “LOW” the level of terrorism threat and taking the necessary measures to prevent terrorist acts;
- Training of employees at the Directorate of Anti-Terrorism with contemporary tactics and technics. Ensure the access to other institutions data, increase the number of proactive investigation against individuals/groups suspected of criminal acts with a terrorist background, monitoring and control of foreign terrorists, people with high risk and those inserted in the “Border Notification” list;
- Prevention of radicalization to be conducted through policing in community, cooperation with various local actors, as well as realization of raising awareness campaigns;

IV. Public Security and efficient services to citizens

Through strengthening and improving of the community policing system and radical improvement of control and inspecting systems in field, **we aim at strengthening the Public Security for citizens.**

The objectives of this priority include:

- ✚ Punishment of illegal activities within the territory, for acts which effect the public security such as:
Production and selling of hazardous food and substances for health, environment crime, damages and forest fires, digging (corrosion) of rivers, illegal constructions, illegal connection of water and energy etc;
- ✚ Functioning of a more efficient system of inspecting and controls of the territory and their relations with businesses;
- ✚ Substantial improvement of communication system for data and cooperation through community policing structures and control and inspection services, but also the need to clearly identify and better concentrate on resources of inspecting nature.
- ✚ Facilitating the services for citizens.

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Drafting and approving the necessary legal framework for the reconstruction, organization and functioning of control and inspection services which depend from the MoI;
- Approval of secondary legislation with criteria of recruitment, definition of functions and responsibilities, rules of functioning and monitoring as well as those of the training;
- Drafting of a necessary legal act to facilitate the access of public institutions to NRCS
- Supporting of municipalities for the services – one - stop shop;
- Preparation of an action plan to implement law no. 19/2016 “For additional measures to public security”
- Drafting and approving secondary legislation to implement the law “For additional measures of security”;

- Improvement of legal framework to regulate the activity of SHRFSS and control over them;
- Reorganization and standardization of obtaining, storing and publishing data and statistics;
- Completing the projects of “Police management of the case”, “For the personnel”, “Performance assessment”, “For the system of surveillance in Tirana city”;
- Implementation of the project “Digital system of radio and communication at ASP”;
- Completing the data base and deployment of services on the dynamics of fight against the crime;
- Establishment of an updated *on-line* system to manage the performance for assessing the *Customer Satisfaction* for services provided to the community and the level of crime in geographic areas;
- Establishing the on-line system of inspecting in territory aiming to avoid abusing inspections toward citizens and business.

V. Safe Borders – their integrated management

Strengthening of border control and improvement of service in Cross Border Points remains a priority for the government as a condition to guarantee the free movement of people and goods.

The objectives for this priority include:

- ✚ Integrated management of borders, securing them against different forms of cross-border crime, including elements with radical and terroristic tendency;
- ✚ Better coordination and management of endeavours to prevent human trafficking, migratory flows and unfounded asylum claims;
- ✚ Integrated management of blue and green border and flows through Rinas international airport, as the main gate of the country;
- ✚ Improving the image of the country by increasing the performance and ethical behaviour of employees in our borders;
- ✚ Better management of the coastline in the context of tourist quality service and life security of citizens;

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Re-organising the Border and Migration Police structures, in collaboration with the international partners, based on identified needs and recommendations from the European Commission;
- Maintaining the autonomy and reorganising the Border and Migration Department (BMD) according to the model EU-IBM, provided for in Article 4 of the Regulation (EU) 1624/2016 for mitigation of cross-border flows, strengthening the fight against illegal trafficking, improving risk analysis and international cooperation;
- Improving the procedures for preliminary processing of illegal immigrants, in collaboration with the international organisations in the country.
- Modernising and updating the national system of border registration TIMS;
- Clear separation of duties of border police from those of the Operator of Rinas Airport;

- Enhancing the human and technical capacities of the border police in the field of airport security;
- Application of a system for constant exchange of information with airports of other countries;
- Training of police dogs and their presence in the border crossing points;
- Harmonisation of the legislation in force against trafficking of human beings, in compliance with the UN Convention against Organised Crime, and its added Second Protocol, and the European Council Convention “On measures against trafficking of human beings”.
- Functioning of border crossing points as database for other police structures and other law enforcement agencies, through registration, processing, analysing and exchanging intelligence about citizens who have been prosecuted in other countries;
- Preparing a detailed action-plan for the management of the tourist season, in reference to the best European experiences (e.g. that of Croatia);
- Carrying out a feasibility study on the creation of an automatic system for the checking of biometric documents ‘e-Gate’, at the border crossing points;
- Application of protocols for Advanced Passenger Information (API);
- Strengthening the control regime for the prevention of asylum seeking in EU countries through application of more stringent criteria, particularly for juveniles (review of the notary declaration; TIMS system alert in cases of parents returning without the children they were travelling with;
- Application of a ‘Train the Trainers’ system for the border police officers with the required qualifications, provision of effective language courses and training courses on computers;
- Renewal of the cross border points, implementation of the plan for setting up, in the North of Albania, a Police Cooperation Centre with Montenegro and Kosovo;
- Strengthening human capacities and improving the technical infrastructure of the IMOC in Durres and functioning of border police radar system;
- Close cooperation with custom branches in all cross boarding points to prevent and increase the detection of illegal trafficking;
- Enhancing inter-institutional collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and other agencies, for the purpose of strengthening the capacities of control on the blue border for prevention of trafficking of narcotics;
- Developing an action plan for specific maritime training of border police in the Adriatic/Ionian Sea and the lakes of Ohrid and Shkoder;
- Establishing the Police Cooperation Centre with Greece;
- Provision of translators at the border crossing points along the border with Greece, in compliance with recognised international standards on management of migratory flows;
- Improving, in collaboration with the Port Authorities, of the maritime register of vessels, and ensure full access in this register of CBP.

VI. Battle against Cultivation and Trafficking of Drugs

The serious concerns caused by the cultivating, trafficking and use of drugs, make us more determined to further continue the battle with no compromise against this illegal and criminal phenomenon. We reconfirm the commitment of the Albanian Government to make it consolidated reality what we achieved during 2017 – the removal of our country from the cannabis-cultivating countries.

The Objectives of this priority include:

- ✚ Developing an Action Plan for 2018, implementing the Action Plan against Cultivation and Trafficking of Cannabis;
- ✚ Consolidation of the experience gained during 2017, for proper control of the territory with the aim of not having cultivation of cannabis in the areas previously known for this, and substantial minimisation in remote mountainous areas;
- ✚ Significant reduction of cases of drug trafficking from and through the Albanian territory, in particular through border crossing points;
- ✚ Achieving concrete results in combatting criminal structures operating in the area of drug trafficking, by detecting and arresting their leaders and members, this combined with the seizure and confiscation of assets deriving from illegal activity;
- ✚ Maximum reduction of the presence and access to drugs near schools.

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Carrying out a complete analysis on the experience gained during this year in the area of combatting cultivation of cannabis, in implementation of the Action Plan against Cultivation and Trafficking of Cannabis, by further improving its main elements of efficient control on the territory, collaboration with other executive agencies, local government agencies, improvement of the electronic system for control on the territory, and responsible enforcement of respective responsibilities;
- Setting up an inter-institutional working group for drafting the National Plan against Cultivation and Trafficking of Cannabis;
- Co-drafting of an action plan with the international partners, in particular Italians (GDF and Interforze) and PAMECA mission, setting up a joint monitoring instrument for controlling the territory from the land and from the air in the difficult mountainous areas, the blue area, and the border crossing points, as well as for exchange of intelligence with partner agencies in the region;
- Increasing the number of personnel specialised in investigation of offences in the area of narcotics;
- Supporting with contemporary special technology, more efficient exchange of intelligence with other law enforcement agencies and international partner services, and increasing support for the network of informants;
- Drafting a specific action plan in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, local government bodies, education institutions and the community of parents, to combat firmly the cases of presence and access of drugs near schools and other facilities frequented by pupils and students; as well as cooperation in regard to the prevention of the spread of this phenomenon amongst them;
- Provision of suitable and secure facilities for the administration and safeguarding of drugs as material evidence, based on Recommendations by the European Commission and TAIEX mission;

VII. Fight against corruption and money laundering

We are committed for an uncompromised fight without distinctions against corruption and money laundering in collaboration with the Prosecution, Investigation structures for Taxation and Customs, the Directorate of Prevention of Money Laundering.

The Objectives of this priority include:

- ✚ Achieving concrete results in fight against corruption and money laundering, aiming at carrying out proactive investigations, more professional references based on concrete and verifiable evidence and following up to the end the proceedings by prosecution offices and courts;
- ✚ Increasing the number and value of seized and confiscated assets deriving from corruption, in line with the recent legal amendments in this field;

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Reorganising centrally and regionally the structures of investigating economic crime, corruption and money laundering;
- Increasing human capacities with specialised and high-integrity, well-trained employees, who will be supported with necessary logistics in their activity, to achieve proactive investigations and use of special investigation techniques;
- Support with specialised contemporary technology, more efficient exchange of information with other law enforcement agencies and international partner services, and enhancing the support for their network of informants;
- Provision of access by the structures investigating economic crime, corruption, and money laundering, to the databases of other public institutions, as well as provision of necessary logistic and technical support for investigation proceedings;
- Intensifying inter-institutional collaboration between these structures with the prosecution offices and other law enforcement agencies, such as NBI, SPAK, Taxation and Customs Investigation, Directorate of Prevention of Money Laundering, etc.
- Presenting for the first time the national report on the situation of corruption, including the number of penal proceedings, the typical areas of corruption and sentences.

VIII. Road Safety

We shall commit ourselves to a fundamental improvement of the road traffic control, aiming at creating a new culture in the traffic of vehicles and citizens, and particularly on the management of road safety. Advanced technology systems will be implemented to monitor the road traffic and to identify precisely and in real time the breaches of the provisions of road code, as well as an automated and advanced system for issuing and collecting fines.

Objectives of this priority include:

- ✚ Prevention and significant reduction of accidents, in particular those resulting in fatalities;
- ✚ Building a new culture of the public on road traffic;
- ✚ Ensuring a better management of road traffic and road safety, especially on national roads;

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Drafting of a masterplan on the possibilities of a fundamental change to the current system of road safety management, in collaboration with international expertise in this area;
- Implementing advanced technology systems to monitor the road traffic and to identify precisely and immediately breaches to the road traffic rules;
- Increasing investments in technology for Traffic Police, gradual reduction of the number of police officers present on roads and replacing them with technical equipment;
- Assessment of capacities of traffic police, their professional skills, and their provision with vehicles and equipment with the purpose of improving the quality of service;
- Improving the system of fines for breaches of traffic rules, by introducing electronic tablets, and the system of appeals for fines, in order to eliminate every possibility for subjective decision and the bureaucracy in providing service to citizens;
- Reorganisation of Traffic Police in the whole territory of the country, in line with the model of the Tirana Traffic Police Commissariat, part of Tirana Local Police Directorate;
- Drafting a detailed cooperation plan with education institutions, the media and civil society, for public awareness, especially of children and youth regarding the compliance with road traffic rules and the relevant consequences in cases of breaching them;
- Drafting a plan in cooperation with the ministry of Energy and Infrastructure regarding the improvement of road safety standards and control measures for them , better management of the road system and the service towards companies that represent added risk;
- Drafting a cooperation agreement with the insurance companies and their regulatory supervising body, regarding the accomplishment of respective obligations in the area of road safety;
- Periodic review of the application of provisions on registration of vehicles, in particular those stipulating removal from using the road of all vehicles with invalid registration plates.

IX. Intelligence and Information

Strengthening the capacities of intelligence and information services constitutes a necessity, in the face of challenges to the public order and security and in particular the organised criminal activities, at national and international level. Intelligence-led activity by the judicial police structures in general and the criminal police in particular, is a modern model of policing, characterised by a proactive investigative approach and efficient results. The successful application of intelligence and information services is a condition to accomplish many of the priorities laid out in this document.

Objectives of this priority include:

- ✚ Setting up a contemporary intelligence and information system for fighting criminality and in particular organised crime;
- ✚ Carrying out proactive investigations and the police structures making decisions based on the results from products of intelligence and analysis;
- ✚ Strengthening the professional, technical and logistic capacities of Police intelligence services;
- ✚ Strengthening cooperation in analysing and disseminating information.

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Improving the procedures and practices for collecting, analysing and disseminating information/intelligence;
- Drafting, in collaboration with international partners, the National Strategy for Intelligence and Information;
- Setting up the responsible structure for the management and harmonisation of the Intelligence and Information service;
- Setting up a unified National Intelligence System, which shall incorporate all data, of all kinds, on persons who have been the subject of work by law enforcement agencies;
- Setting up a Unified Service of Communication, Service of Management of Work Document Flows, and Information and Communication Technology Service;
- Reviewing normative acts regarding the Secret Informative Network (RSI) and qualitative improvement of systems for recruiting, safeguarding, assessing and rewarding them;
- Creating “crime mapping” and profiles of organised crime gangs in each local police directorate;
- Broaden access to the MEMEX system for more users in Local Police Directorates, and storing in the system the information related to a criminal activity after its verification;
- Provision of financial and logistic support to the Police Forensic Institute, including the legal amendments on the creation of the “self-development fund”; strengthening professional and institutional capacities of forensic police in line with international standards in this area;
- Providing full access for Criminal Police to the national public database, mobile telephone companies and the data on internet users, in compliance with relevant legislation and international standards;

X. Inter-Institutional and International Cooperation

The above-mentioned priorities require as necessity the consolidation of international cooperation with organisations specialised in combatting crime, including the direct assistance in our country from international institutions and/or partner police services fighting crime, in particular organised crime.

Objectives of this priority include:

- ✚ Strengthening institutional cooperation and operational coordination with international agencies in the area of fighting crime;
- ✚ Strengthening cooperation with partner countries, enhancing their assistance and the number of joint operations against criminal groups/organisations which operate in common territories;

In the context of fulfilling this strategic priority and the relevant objectives, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Signing bilateral and regional agreements on combatting criminality, building a periodic system of analysis and control of their implementation;
- Institutionalize the creation of joint mobile police teams with partner countries, as a possibility to swiftly exchange information, carrying out joint operations on penal investigations, better protection of the data on the collaborators of justice, use of modern methods and technology, and also as an opportunity for further professional development of our police structures;
- Setting up the Forum “Friends of the Ministry of Internal”, composed of diplomatic and assistance missions in the area of public safety and security, with the aim to coordinate the assistance provided to accomplish the priorities, as well as coordination of their financial and logistic support to the structures of the Ministry and ASP;
- Setting up negotiating structures, in the framework of the pre-screening process for Chapter 24 “Justice, Liberty and Security” and compiling the respective Action Plan;
- Setting up of a unit for making, coordinating and monitoring projects with foreign funding in the General Directorate of Strategic Planning and Integration, and creating a database for all completed and planned projects, in order to avoid overlapping and maintain coherence of national interests;
- Increasing the number of joint international police actions (joint investigation teams, joint operations, controlled delivery, etc.) in which Albania has participated or has initiated;
- Initiating penal proceedings in Albania for Albanian citizens charged with crimes committed in other countries, in particular those in the area on drug trafficking and organised crime.

Implementation, Monitoring and Assessment

Implementation in practice of the political will of the Albanian Government laid out in these ten priorities, will take place through accomplishing the objectives and the concrete measures provided for each priority. The Action Plan accompanying and completing this document, contains the concrete activities to be undertaken, the measurable indicators, relevant deadlines and financial support to achieve them in practice.

Full implementation of the Document of the Ministry of Interior on the Policies in the area of Order and Security, is planned to take place in a period of 4 years.

Monitoring of the implementation of Priorities, Objectives and Action Plan, will continuously be carried out by the Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of ASP, including the possibility for periodic inspections during the four-year period. The analysis of progress and issues faced during implementation of the strategic documents, will be carried out every six months.

References:

In compiling this document, which constitutes priorities, objectives and concrete measures, to be implemented in the period 2017-2021, consideration has been given to various analysis on the accomplishment of existing sectorial and inter-sectorial strategies. More specifically, the main strategic documents consulted to the effect of compiling this document, include:

- Inter-sectoral Strategy on fighting organised crime, illegal trafficking and terrorism 2013 - 2020
- Integrated Strategy of Border Management 2014-2020
- Strategy on Trafficking of Human Beings, and Action Plan 2014 - 2017
- Strategy on Public Order, and Action Plan 2015-2020
- Action Plan against Cultivation and Trafficking of Cannabis 2017-2020

Also, consideration has been given to other strategies and action plans related to the activity of the MoI, such as:

- Strategy of the Albanian Government against Corruption, and Action Plan (2105-2020)
- National Plan for European Integration 2017-2020

This document is in compliance and in support to the above-mentioned strategies. It has intensively been consulted with experts of criminal law, prosecutors, lawyers, representatives of civil society who operate in this area and investigative journalists in the country. This document also reflects the valuable contribution of international partners (ICITAP, PAMECA V, OSCE Presence) as well as representatives of EU member states.

The priorities laid out in this document are output from a comprehensive process of consultation, in response to the dynamics of criminality and the latest challenges presented to the rule of law and public order. These dynamics and challenges are of national, regional and international character. For this purpose, representatives of partner countries and international missions, are invited to assist with the best practices in the context of materializing these priorities.