

# AL- VL ROADMAP

Requirements	Current situation	Future Action
<p><b>I. Correct implementation of the Community Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements</b></p>	<p><b>I. <u>Implementation of the Readmission Agreement Albania – EU:</u></b></p> <p><b>1.</b> Implementation Protocols have been approved with:            - Benelux countries;            - Austria.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Readmission Agreement has been concluded with Kingdom of Denmark</p> <p><b>3.</b> Negotiations have been completed for producing draft-Protocols with:            - Slovenia            - Italy.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Texts of Protocols are under negotiation with:            - Greece            - France            - Czech Republic            - Slovakia</p> <p><b>5.</b> Readmission Agreements and Protocols have been exchanged and negotiation is underway with the regional countries:            - Agreement and Protocol with Bosnia – Herzegovina;            - Agreement and Protocol with Moldavia;            - Agreement and Protocol with Montenegro,</p> <p>As well as</p> <p>- Agreement with Island;            - Protocol with Croatia</p>	<p>1. Signing of implementation Protocols which have been negotiated or negotiations are pending with CE countries and Readmission Agreements and Protocols with the regional countries.</p> <p>2. Negotiation and signing of Readmission Agreements and implementation Protocols with the countries of origin.</p>

	<p><b><u>II. Create the necessary infrastructure for the implementation of the Readmission Agreements and Protocols:</u></b></p> <p><b>1.</b> A Migration and Readmission Department has been established within the Border and Migration Directorate in the Ministry of Interior. This department has a special Sector dealing with readmission issues.</p> <p><b>2.</b> There are 8 Regional Departments for the Border established throughout the country. They all comprise a special sector dealing with Migration and Readmissions issues.</p> <p><b>3.</b> The Readmission agreements' contact point at the Migration and Readmission Department is fully equipped (phone line, fax and e-mail address).</p> <p><b>4.</b> A Closed Administrative Centre of a capacity of 200 persons, financed by EU, is being constructed to receive foreigners of illegal stay in Albania.</p> <p><b>5.</b> In the majority of Border Crossings (BC) where the readmission procedures take place, specific admission facilities have been set up. The personnel has been trained for the reception, interviewing and selection of the returned persons.</p> <p><b>6.</b> Authorities have accepted and recognised, as long as necessary, the standard EU travel documents to the effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the period January 2006 - July 2008, the Border and Migration Department at the MoI has processed all the requests for readmission received by States with which Albania has concluded readmission agreement. Six of these requests have been refused due to insufficient information or because of the fact that the person was not Albanian.</li> <li>• For the return to the country of origin of foreign citizens with illegal stay in Albania, the following travel documents have been used: travel documents persons possessed while staying in Albania; border crossing permits issued by their diplomatic representations in</li> </ul>	<p>Completion of construction of the closed centre and making it operational before the end of 2008.</p> <p>Improvement of the admission conditions for the returned people in those BC where no specific or sufficient premises have been put in place.</p>
--	---	--

	<p>Tirana as well as in one case the type document foreseen in the Readmission Agreement between Albania and European Community.</p> <p>With regard to the admission of the citizens of third countries in Albania, since January 2006, 16 foreign citizens of Nepalese, Indian and Moldavian nationality have been admitted.</p>	
<p><b>B. VISA FACILITATION AGREEMENT:</b></p>	<p>The agreement is being implemented although the perception from the public is that it has changed little from previous practices.</p> <p>Main problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- insufficient human resources at the consular sections of the EU States that receive the majority of the increased number of applications have led to delays in processing the applications;</li> <li>- number of documents requested by consular services has not been reduced</li> <li>- The rate of refusal remains high;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal records of Bona Fide travellers should be taken into account;</li> <li>- Procession of applications should be speeded up</li> <li>- Albanian Entry tax of 1 or 10 Euro should be abolished. The Ministry of Finances is studying different options (for instance establishing an accommodation tax for foreigners staying in Albania; taxes included in the flight tickets etc).</li> </ul>
<p><b>BLOCK 1: Document Security</b></p>	<p>A concession contract has been concluded with the winner of the International Concession Bid, Sagem Securite and the Albanian-American Fund for Enterprises.</p>	<p>Implementation of the contract shall be monitored and the implementing company shall be offered the entire necessary assistance and support for abiding by the determined standards and time frame.</p>
<p><b>Passports/travel documents, ID cards and breeder documents</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• issue machine readable biometric travel documents in compliance with ICAO and EC standards; and gradually introduce</li> </ul>		

<p><b>biometric data, including photo and fingerprints;</b></p>		
<p>→ state of play and report on timing of introduction of machine-readable biometric travel documents</p>	<p>The current Albanian passports are of the type MRZ (machine readable zone) in the page containing the data, but they do not contain any electronic chip. The new biometric passport will have an Electronic Chip. It will contain it in addition to the photo the holders' fingerprints.</p>	<p>According to the contract concluded with Sagem Securite and Albanian-American Fund for Enterprises, the system shall be in place and ready to work in December 2008. This implies that the application of the citizens for Identity cards and Biometric Passports shall start in December 2008, while the individualisation and distribution shall start after receiving the applications in January 2009.</p>
<p>→ specify planning for phasing out of current travel documents</p>		<p>The Albanian Government will take a decision which will make sure that within June 2011 the entire necessary legal and by-law framework for the cancellation/taking out of circulation the current travel documents and their replacement by the new biometric passports.</p>
<p>→ report on compliance of travel documents with ICAO and EC standards</p>	<p>The new biometric passport is in full compliance with the ICAO standards in all parameters in form, contents, production, individualisation, testing and distribution. The new passport shall abide by the CE directives on the travel documents, such as the recommendation on the data website from poli-carbonal to the individualisation way of Laser-Engrave as the safest method.</p>	
<p>→ specify security features contained in travel documents (biometric photo, fingerprints)</p>	<p>The passport shall be provided with all required levels of security in accordance with the ICAO standards and CE directives. It will contain security elements, discerned through bare eye, visible through facilitating media, as well as security elements of third line, recognised only by the producer and the Albanian authority. The passport Electronic Chip will be processed through the best cryptographic methods. The Chip shall contain, in addition to demographic data of the holder (which are printed in the data page) the holders' biometric photo and its flat</p>	

	fingerprints.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>adopt and implement appropriate administrative measures ensuring the integrity and security of the personalization and distribution process;</b></li> </ul>		
<p>→ <i>report on organization of personalization and distribution of travel documents</i></p>	<p>The concessionary company shall be responsible for the collection of applications, personalisation and distribution of documents. The MoI shall monitor the process in every step and it will have a key role in granting the authorisation of personalisation of each document. Applications will be accepted by a representative of the MoI and a representative of the concessionary. The transport from the centre of personalisation to the point of distribution shall be done by the concessionary under safe transport procedures (armoured car, escorted by armed guards).</p>	
<p>→ <i>specify administrative measures taken including control mechanisms to ensure integrity and security of personalisation and distribution of travel documents</i></p>	<p>The necessary by-law acts, such as the Order of the minister, the Regulation for streamlining the entire procedures are underway. By-law acts shall cover the application process, personalisation, distribution and handover of the identification documents.</p>	<p>Approval of bylaw acts, regulations for the regulation of the application procedures, personalisation, distribution and handover of the identification documents, within December 2008.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>establish training programmes and</b></li> </ul>		

<p><b>adopt ethical codes on anti-corruption targeting the officials of any public authority that deal with visas, passports;</b></p>		
<p>→ <i>report on establishment of training programmes on anti-corruption</i></p>	<p>Training by TAIEX, (CE project) on the methods of investigation of corruptive acts, conducted in Tirana, on 1-2.07.2008.</p>	<p>Drafting of the anti-corruption topics in cooperation with the Police Academy, for the training of the police employees.</p>
<p>→ <i>specify content and scope of training programmes</i></p>	<p>Introduction of similar experiences of EU countries in connection with the application of the special investigation techniques.</p>	<p>The employees shall be trained in these programs, specifically in terms of their anti-corruption conduct in line of duty, identification of different sectors of high risk and indicators bringing about corruption.</p>
<p>→ <i>report on adoption of ethical codes on anti-corruption</i></p>	<p>Sent for approval to the Assembly of Albania, the draft-law "On Internal Intelligence Service (SHKB)", approved by the Government upon CMD no 1043, dated 16.07.2008).</p>	<p>Approval of the new law on SHKB by the Assembly as well as of other by law acts for its implementation.</p>
<p><b>• report to Interpol/LASP data base on lost and stolen passports;</b></p>	<p>Interpol Tirana, as a member of the International Organisation on Criminal Police, has access to the databases and archives of the General Secretary of Interpol – Lyon/France. In the system I-24/7, in the search system e-ASF2 in one of its sections, there are the identification/travel documents, being lost or stolen. They have been registered in this archive following the report from the National Offices of Interpol of participating countries. Interpol Tirana has transmitted a number of cases to be registered in this archive and attempts are focused on implementing in the future the Order of Director General of State Police for including in this archive the</p>	

	<p>entire Albanian lost or stolen documents.</p> <p>In case of receiving information on the loss of identification or travel document registered in the national system, Interpol Tirana shall transmit the data to the Interpol system (IPSG-Secretary General in Lyon/France), who proceeds with registration in the system.</p> <p>Since 1 January 2004 until 25.08.2008, Albanian Police authorities have received 57218 complaints concerning most passports. For only for a small number of them there are doubt that they have been really lost. Out of this number 2297 passports have been seized and declared invalid.</p> <p>For 132 cases of declared lost passports a national search procedure has been applied while the international search procedures has been applied for 16 lost passports.</p> <p>The declaration of international search by the National Office of Interpol Tirana is done once the local police structures throw doubt that these passports may be used abroad. A written request is addressed to Interpol to further determine the circumstances of theft or loss of document.</p> <p>Starting from January 2008, there has been required for all lost travel documents, such as passports or other documents, that the information has to be filed to the office of Interpol in order to stop their international search.</p>	
→ report on reporting to Interpol/LASP data base	Interpol Tirana has access to the system I-24/7, in the search system e-ASF2;	
→ specify regularity of reporting lost and stolen passports	<p>In case of lost or stolen passports, (national, service or diplomatic), the holder (law no 8668, dated 23.11.2000, Article 9 “On provision of Albanian citizen with passport for travelling abroad”) acts as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He reports the loss or theft of passport to the police;</li> </ol>	

	<p>2. He applies for passport renewal to police (for ordinary passport) or to MFA (for service and diplomatic passport).</p> <p>3. In case of lost diplomatic or service passport, the Consular Department in MFA informs, by verbal note, all Albanian Embassies abroad and the foreign Embassies in Tirana about the cancellation of the lost or stolen passports (CMD no 335, dated 02.09.1997 “On issue of diplomatic and service passports”). The MFA informs also the MoI, which informs immediately all BC.</p> <p>Interpol Tirana, based on the information provided by the Director General of State Police transmits immediately the data of lost and stolen passports to IPSG-Secretary General in Lyon/France.</p>	
<p><b>• Ensure a high level of security of breeder documents, including the civil registry as well as ID cards and define strict procedures surrounding their issuance.</b></p>		
<p><i>→ report on completion of the civil registry</i></p>	<p>Entering of data has presently been completed, as well as their verification and certification in the entire Albania.</p> <p>In cooperation with the Technical Assistance Project of OSCE and Statistics Norway, a new software is operating concerning the updating of the data.</p> <p>An agreement has been signed with the MoI of Austria for adopting the Austrian system in the Albanian Civil Register. The contract has been concluded with the winning company of the tender of communication network and within 30 September 2008, every registry office in Albania shall be</p>	<p>Updating of data in the system by the civil registry offices shall be monitored.</p> <p>Implementation of the communication network at national scale shall be monitored.</p> <p>Abiding by the deadlines set in the agreement with the Ministry of Interior of Austria for making the system operational shall be monitored.</p> <p>Efforts shall be focused on the implementation of the addresses system in cooperation with the</p>

	part of the national communication network.	Technical Assistance Project of OSCE. Civil Registry System shall be ready, functional and online on 31 October 2008.
<i>→ report on procedures for issuance of breeder documents</i>	The concessionary shall preserve comprehensive data on the blank documents, personalised documents, cancelled documents for different reasons during personalisation, disseminated documents, documents reported lost in the course of transport, documents reported lost, stolen, damaged by the citizens, as well as documents taken out of circulation due to expiry. All these data shall be reported to the Albanian authorities (MoI) in accordance with the procedure and regulations to be approved to this effect.	Approval of bylaw acts, regulations for reporting the documents by the concessionary, within December 2008.
<i>→ specify security standards of breeder documents</i>	The Albanian identification documents meet all the ICAO standards for the travel documents and of the CE directives for the identification documents (identity cards). These standards have been determined in the tender documentation as specific requirements, and the winning company has been committed to meet all these requirements.	MoI shall monitor the implementation of the concessionary contract, especially as concerns the meeting of the requirements established for meeting the ICAO and CE standards.
<i>→ report on storage of breeder documents</i>	Storing and preserving the documents in the centre of personalisation and offices of application shall be accomplished under strict security measures determined in the respective regulation.	MoI shall take all the necessary, including by adopting the necessary by-law acts before the end of this year.
<i>→ specify security procedures in place</i>		The approval of bylaw acts, regulations for the documents, within December 2008.
<b>BLOCK 2: Illegal migration, including readmission</b>		
<b>Border management</b>		



<p>→ update on progress made in preparing, adopting and implementing legal and regulatory aspects/normative acts on movement of persons at external borders taking into account EU best practices/norms</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Order of DGSP for the production and using the new seals of BCPs</li> <li>2. Order of GDSP on the registration procedures of citizens and vehicles in PKK where the TIMS system has been installed.</li> <li>3. Order of MoI on keeping statistics.</li> <li>4. Joint regulation with the customs.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Order of MI for the setting up and functioning of the Joint regional and central Commissions for the resolution of the incidents at the border and commissions for maintaining the border line and signs with the neighbouring countries.</li> <li>2. Instruction of MoI on the approval of the procedures on the control and supervision of the state border.</li> </ol>
<p>→ report on progress made in preparing, adopting and implementing legislation on the organisation/functions of border authorities and its operational effectiveness</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Order of GDSP “On administrative breakdown of the structures of BMP;</li> <li>2. Order of the GDSP “On distribution of assets among the State Police structures”;</li> <li>3. Order of GDSP on the categorisation of criminal offences to be investigated by the State Police;</li> <li>4. Order of GDSP on the setting up and functioning of the operational halls.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instruction of MI on making functional the closed Centre for foreigners with irregular stay in the territory.</li> <li>2. Order of GDSP on the approval of the administrative procedures of closed Centre for foreigners with irregular stay in the territory.</li> </ol>
<p>→ update on the IBM action plan and its results, including information on border controls (checks, surveillance, manuals)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No updating of the Action Plan implementing the strategy of IBM;</li> <li>2. An analysis has been accomplished on the attainment of objectives and activities, which result accomplished.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updating the action plans IBM and its outcome, including the information on the control and monitoring of borders.</li> </ol>
<p>• <b>take necessary budgetary and other</b></p>	<p>The budget of the Border and Migration Directorate is independent and separate from the budget of State Police.</p>	<p>For the upcoming years, a separate item has to be planned for the expenses on the readmission</p>

<p><b>administrative measures ensuring efficient infrastructure, equipments, technology at the external borders; IT at the</b></p>	<p>This financial year has been planned on the basis of an average calculated for the expenses to cover the eventual activities during 2008.</p>	<p>of the foreign citizens, as well as more budget for the operations at the border.</p>
<p><i>→ report on infrastructure and equipment, including budgetary resources and investment</i></p>	<p>BMP services have been presently provided with equipment and resources for the control and monitoring the state border, mainly heavy duty vehicles, surveillance equipment for day and night circumstances, navigation vessels, radar system etc.</p> <p>The national system of surveillance of the sea area is close to completion, financed by the Albanian government with a value of round 22 million USD, which is expected to be completed within 2008.</p> <p>The procedures for the purchase of two fast navigation vessels are pending. This is an IPA project 2009 provision.</p> <p>All the BC with EU have been provided with personal equipment for the control of the travel documents, mini-labs and 5 main BC s have been provided with a modern lab for full examination of the travel documents.</p> <p>The 7 BC with EU where the system TIMS has been installed have been provided with scanners for the on line finger prints identification of the persons.</p> <p>The entire BMP is equipped with a radio communication system, while at the border with Greece the draft Fiche for the installation of TETRA system has been installed, which is expected to be financed by the IPA project 2009.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchase of fast patrolling vehicles at sea border, financed by the CARDS 2006 project;</li> <li>2. Improvement of PKK infrastructure through CARDS 2006 Project;</li> <li>3. Improvement of infrastructure in the Border Police Stations supported by CARDS 2006 Project;</li> <li>4. Improvement of the infrastructure in the temporary centres of admission in PKK' s for the reception of readmitted persons, from IPA 2009;</li> <li>5. Ensuring equipment for the control of drugs in PKK, from the state budget 2009.</li> </ol>

<p>→ report on IT systems, border data management and communication infrastructure, including budgetary resources and investment</p>	<p>Out of 9 BC that are being modernised through EU financing, 7 of them have the TIMS system installed and operational. 2 BC are still under process, but they make up only 0.02% of the annual entry/exit influx.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Setting up the National register on foreigners, part of which shall be the online system of visas, with assistance by ICITAP;</li> <li>2. Completion of installation of TIMS system in all the BC, before the end of 2008.</li> </ol>
<p>→ outline priorities defined on infrastructure, equipment and IT technology</p>	<p>Priorities for investments in equipment and infrastructure have been determined as follows:</p> <p><u>In equipment:</u> Equipment for border control and surveillance. Fast vehicles for patrolling of the sea area. Equipment for the control of narcotics in BC. Mobile border surveillance equipment.</p> <p><u>In infrastructure:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improvement of infrastructure of BC, through CARDS Project 2006.</li> <li>2. Improvement of infrastructure in the temporary reception centres in BC for the reception of the readmitted persons, through IPA 2009.</li> </ol>	
<p>• <b>establish training programmes and adopt ethical codes on anti-corruption targeting the border guards, customs and other officials involved in the border management;</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Code of Ethics of State Police has been drafted and approved where an important part is made concerns anti-corruption measures.</li> <li>2. A Joint Regulation between the Police and Customs authorities has been approved, according to which the control at the border shall be done jointly.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning and conducting the joint training with the Coast Guard;</li> <li>2. Expansion of the joint training fields with customs.</li> </ol>

<p>→ report on curriculum and training programmes planned, adopted and delivered</p>	<p>The entire BMP personnel, in line with the levels and functions during 2007 until to date have received 1-2 basic trainings in the field of control of documentation and use of infra technology, implementation of the readmission agreements, ethics of State Police, cooperation among the agencies and cross border cooperation.</p>	<p>Setting up a training system with the Border and Migration Directorate:  1. During 2008, the entire BMP staff shall receive 1-2 basic trainings in accordance with the role and position;  2. Joint trainings with the neighbouring countries and FYROM shall be held for:  - joint patrolling of the border;  - guarding in joint points of border crossing.</p>
<p>→ specify the (planned) number of border guards, customs and other officials involved in border management trained on ethic values and anti-corruption</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2008, based on the planning done and in line with the obligations of the law “On State Police”, 10% of the personnel shall be in training during the entire year;</li> <li>2. Joint training with customs have been conducted and planned to be conducted, specifically:  - for the joint use of equipment;  - for the reciprocal recognition of the basics and specifics of the other service.  There have been held joint training sessions with the Security Structures of Durres Port.</li> </ol>	<p>Joint trainings shall be organised with the other structures connected to the aspects of ethics, according to the functions and levels.</p>
<p>• <b>conclude a working arrangement with FRONTEX.</b></p>		
<p>→ report on progress made in negotiations on a working arrangement with FRONTEX</p>	<p>During 2007, 2 informal meetings have been held and we have asked for establishing cooperation and signing an agreement to this effect. Participation in a meeting in FRAN (close to FRONTEX).</p> <p>FRONTEX high officials payed a visit to Tirana on 25-27 August 2008. During that visit they were briefed on the situation in Albania and they also presented a draft-agreement of cooperation between PKM (Border and Migration Police) and FRONTEX. Albanian relevant</p>	

	<p>authorities have started the internal procedures for signing the agreement.</p>	
<p><b>Carriers' responsibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Albania should adopt and implement legislation on carriers' responsibility defining sanctions.</b></li> </ul>	<p>In Article 95 of the law “On foreigners”, the responsibilities for the transporters and in Article 101 the sanctions in case of failure to abide by them have been foreseen</p> <p>The current law “On foreigners”, no 8492, dated 27.05.1999, there is foreseen “The person having, at variance with the provisions of this law, affected the entry of a foreigner into the Republic of Albania, shall be obliged to pay the expenses for the return of the foreigner to the state of origin, to the state having issued the passport, to the state from where he was transported or to another state where the foreigner has the necessary permit to enter from the authorities of that country.</p> <p>The owner or the possessor of the means of transport shall not be granted a license, or, in case he has it, it shall be lifted, as long as he does not perform the above mentioned obligation within 6 months since the moment of notification. Such an obligation shall be cancelled if the foreigner is provided with a stay permit or with the refugee status.</p> <p>The owner or possessor of a means of transport shall be obliged to submit to the Ministry of Public Order the full and accurate list of the foreign persons he is transporting.</p> <p>Article 77 “Administrative contraventions”, point 13 “Transporters not reporting or not submitting in full and accurately the list of personnel and travellers”. The administrative sanction for this violation has been foreseen in the CMD no 439, dated 04.08.2000 and it imposes a penalty from 30000 up to 50000 lek.</p> <p>The provisions of this law have been implemented in every case where the violation of thee provisions was established.</p> <p>In Article 95 of the new law “On foreigners” the responsibilities of the transporters and in Article 101 the sanctions for failing to abide by these obligations have been</p>	<p>Publication of the new law “On foreigners” in Internet.</p>

	determined. In this law, the administrative measures for the transporters violating the provision of this law amounts to 400 000 lek. The new law enters into effect on 1 December 2008.	
<i>→ update on progress made in preparing, adopting and implementing the relevant legislation</i>	The law “On foreigners” no 9959, dated 17.07.2008, has been approved.	The drafting and approval of all the by-law acts necessary for the implementation of the law will be carried out within November 2008.
<i>→ describe monitoring arrangements for implementation of the legislation</i>		
<b>Asylum policy</b>		
<b>• adopt and implement legislation in the area of asylum in line with international standards (1951 Geneva Convention with New York Protocol) and the EU legal framework and standards;</b>	Albania has currently become party to the International conventions (Geneva Convention 1951 and New York Protocol 1967) in the field of asylum. Albania has managed to put in place the basic legislation and specifically law no 8432, dated 14.12.1998 “On asylum in RA” (it has affected the changes to this law and approximation to the EU legislation), law no 9098, dated 3.7.2003 “On integration and family union of persons having gained the status of refugee” as well as the Instruction of Minister of Interior no 1085, dated 12.6.2006 “On the procedure to be implemented by the state police for selection of irregular foreigners at the border”	
<i>→ report on progress made in preparing,</i>	There has been issued the Order of Minister of Interior no 762, dated 04.06.2007 “On setting up the Work Group for the amendment of the law no 842, dated 14.12.1998 “ON	Based on this Order, work has been completed within the deadline and the amended draft of this law has been sent to line ministries for

<p><i>adopting and implementing the law laying down the grounds of international protection (including subsidiary protection) in accordance with the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees and taking into account Directive 2004/83/EC</i></p>	<p>Asylum in Republic of Albania”.</p>	<p>feedback. Taking into account the suggestions from the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Integration, the working group reviewed this draft and reflecting their suggestions. The final draft has been sent to the CoM for decision.</p>
<p><i>→ report on progress made in preparing, adopting and implementing procedural rules on examination of applications for international protection taking into account Directive 2005/85/EC</i></p>	<p>An Order of Minister of Interior, no 762, dated 04.06.2007 “On setting up the Work Group for the amendment to the law no 8432, dated 14.12.1998 “On Asylum in the Republic of Albania”, has been issued.</p>	<p>Based on this Order, work has been completed within the deadline (December 2007). MoI is gathering feedback from the Ministry of Integration and the line ministries.</p>
<p><i>→ report on progress made in preparing, adopting and implementing the</i></p>	<p>Work has started for drafting the Order of Minister of Interior to set up work groups which shall prepare the bylaw acts to the law no 9098, dated 03.07.2003 “On integration and family union of persons having benefited asylum in Republic of Albania”.</p>	<p>1. Bylaw act to the law “On integration and family union of the persons having benefited the status of refugee in the Republic of Albania” regulating the social assistance to these persons. Work has</p>

<p><i>provisions defining the rights granted to asylum seekers taking into account Directive 2003/9/EC (including inter alia access to education and access to the labour market)</i></p>		<p>started for the preparation of the Order of Minister of Interior for the setting up of the work group.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Bylaw act to the law “On integration and family union of the persons having benefited the status of refugee in the Republic of Albania” regulating the health assistance to these persons. Work has started for the preparation of the Order of Minister of Interior for the setting up of the work group.</li> <li>3. Bylaw act to the law “On integration and family union of the persons having benefited the status of refugee in the Republic of Albania” regulating education of these persons. Work has started for the preparation of the Order of Minister of Interior for the setting up of the work group.</li> <li>4. Bylaw act to the law “On integration and family union of the persons having benefited the status of refugee in the Republic of Albania” regulating housing of these persons. Work has started for the preparation of the Order of Minister of Interior for the setting up of the work group.</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>provide adequate infrastructure and strengthen responsible bodies, in particular in the area of asylum procedures and reception of asylum seekers.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Basic facilities of infrastructure have been provided</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) National centre for reception of asylum seekers with a reception capacity of 200 persons in Tirana;</li> <li>b) Reception facilities at the border are in 11 main border points; experience has been gained how to manage the reception points of asylum.</li> </ol>	

<p>→ report on the establishment of the relevant administrative framework devoted to the assessment of the claims for international protection</p>	<p>A specific department namely the “Department for citizenship and refugees” dealing with the procedures of asylum and reception of the asylum seekers functions at the MoI.</p>	<p>Staffing in accordance with the law no 8432, dated 14.12.1998 “On Asylum in Republic of Albania”.</p>
<p>→ report on the establishment of an independent judicial appeal body (meeting the requirements of an effective legal remedy for claims for international protection)</p>	<p>In every case and at every level of procedure for being granted the asylum status, the seekers shall be dealt with free of charge by their legal representative, who for the moment is supported through UNHCR budget. First instance courts review, upon the request of the interested parties, the administrative acts taken by the authorities responsible for granting asylum.</p>	
<p>→ overview of human and financial resources and facilities to meet the needs of asylum seekers (including health care, housing, legal and material assistance)</p>	<p><i>The Department for Citizenship and Refugees</i> is responsible for the reception, granting and removing the right to asylum, as a first instance, as well as to implement the necessary measures for the protection and assistance to the refugees. After considering all the documents, facts, materials submitted by the asylum seeker, as well as after the interviews conducted with her/him, <i>the Department on Citizenship and Refugees</i> takes the decision. Upon taking over responsibility on the National Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Babrru, the Department does the monitoring and it has a staff of 15 members with this Centre. <i>National Commission for Refugees</i> is a body consisting of 8 members appointed by 8 central institutions. This</p>	

	<p>commission examines the requests on appeal filed in connection with the decisions made by the Department of Citizenship and Refugees. In case of massive influx it has exclusive powers. The members of the National Commission for Refugees convene based on the appealed cases of the first instance decision. This commission functions on the basis of an internal Regulation, approved by the eight members in December 2004.</p>	
<p>→ report on appropriate measures to ensure adequate training for the authorities involved in the reception of asylum seekers</p>	<p>With the financial contribution of UNHCR, training courses have been organised with the staff of the Department and National Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Babrru, with regard to the application of the reception standards of the asylum seekers. The staff of the Department for the Citizenship and Refugees has participated in the training organised by ITAP or other organisations.</p> <p>The Department of Citizenship and Refugees has been trained by Swedish experts in the context of a Project financed by European Commission, ICMPD, Swedish Board of Migration and Danish Board of Migration “Institutional Strengthening and Unified Approximation in AMV (Asylum, Migration, Visa) in the countries of Western Balkans.</p>	
<p>→ statistics on asylum trends (application, refusal and acceptance rate)</p>	<p>In 2007, 27 decisions on the determination of the Refugee Status have been taken. Out of these, 7 decisions are for granting the status, 5 decisions are refusals, 4 decisions are for temporary protection and 11 decisions are for termination of procedure.</p> <p>The seekers, to whom granting of Refugee Status is refused by the Department for Citizenship and Refugees, have the right to appeal this decision with the National Commission for Refugees (as explained earlier). During 2007, there were 4 appeals and the Commission has taken 3 decisions.</p> <p>The Department for the Citizenship and Refugees follows up the cases of asylum seekers to whom the Status of Refugee has been rejected in the first instance and in the second instance they have approached the court. In 2007, there</p>	

	has been just one case brought to the Appeal Court, Tirana. The case is still going on.	
<b>Migration management</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>set up and start to apply a mechanism for the monitoring of migration flows defining a regularly updated migration profile for Albania, with data both on illegal and legal migration, and establishing bodies responsible for collection and analysis of data on migration stocks and flows;</b></li> </ul>		
<p>→ <i>report on the adequate administrative structure/ mechanism dealing with migration flows</i></p>	<p>In the Department of Policies of Migration at the MLSAEC and Regional and local labour Offices, the following registers are kept with the data on migrating influxes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register on Foreigners, at local or central level. There are included data on the number of employment permit and exclusions from the employment permit issued to foreign citizens coming for employment purposes to Albania;</li> <li>- Register on Emigrants, at central and local level. There are included data on the three categories of people: potential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Entering into an agreement among the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Chances for the exchange of data in the field of migration – depending on the response of foreign partners.</li> <li>- Undertaking a study for the compilation of the map of Albanian emigrants in the world;</li> </ul>

	<p>emigrants; people already in emigration and those returned; At the same time, in accordance with the measure no 58 of the Action Plan of the National Strategy of Migration, there have been submitted to the MoI the data on emigrants to be included in the civil register.</p> <p>The Border and Migration Department registers the information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residential permits for the foreigners</li> <li>- Albanian citizens returned in the country (in both cases if there is or not any Readmission Agreement in force with the country concerned)</li> <li>- Extradition orders for the foreigners.</li> </ul> <p>On the other side, 8 Regional Departments register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residential permits issued</li> <li>- Extradition orders issued for the foreigners</li> </ul>	<p>- Continuation of the updating of data for the migrants in the register of foreigners and for the emigrants as well as preparation of periodic reports about the tendency of these influxes.</p>
<p>→ <i>overview of human resources for collecting and analyzing the available data</i></p>	<p>The Office of Analysis and Risk in the Department for Border and Migration, in cooperation with the Sector of Investigation and the Department of Migration and Readmissions, monitors and analysis the migrating influxes. At the same time, each Regional Department for Border and Migration has counterpart structures for carrying out such analysis according to the territory they cover.</p>	
<p>→ <i>report on the updating of the migration profile</i></p>	<p>Albania has drafted the Profile of migration and updates it on a yearly basis.</p>	<p>Better cooperation with non-governmental organisations, local and foreign, involved in this field, for updating the migrating influxes.</p>
<p>→ <i>report on (improvement of) data collection methods</i></p>	<p>DBM has updated the methodology for the collection of the data on migration approximating to the EU standards the categorisation of data and type of data it collections.</p>	<p>Exchange of data or products of analysis of data with local and foreign institutions being committed to the migration issues.</p>

<p><i>(including harmonization of data collection and analysis, accessibility of data to relevant authorities, cooperation with Eurostat and other WB countries and taking into account Regulation 862/2007 on migration statistics)</i></p>	<p>At the same time there is an office for analysing these data and issue conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) calculates only the number of the emigrants every year, through the projections of population (approximately).</p>	
<p><i>→ statistics on migration trends, including border crossings, data on residence permits (applications/issued permits, according to the category), data on return, on naturalization and on undocumented migration (apprehension rate)</i></p>	<p>DBM collects statistical data on the entire activity being conducted at the border with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- legal and illegal crossing of border;</li> <li>- returns at the border;</li> <li>- Readmissions;</li> <li>- Stay permits being granted;</li> <li>- Stay permits being refused;</li> <li>- Refused visas;</li> <li>- Sending back at the border (refusal of entry), etc.</li> </ul> <p>The collected data format and methodology of analysing them is equal to that of FRONTEX.</p> <p>During 2007, 1 126 514 foreign citizens have entered Albania while 1 009 945 left Albania through BC. For the the period January – July 2008, these figures are respectively 766576 and 643130.</p> <p>4923 foreign citizens applied for stay permit in Albania for the period 2006 – first half 2008. 4812 foreign citizens were granted a permit of stay. 111 applications were rejected. for them repatriation orders were issued and they have been expelled from the territory of RA.</p>	<p>The exchange of statistics and data and analysis with foreign and local institutions which deal with migration issues.</p>

	<p>The benefiting categories for the permits of stay are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for employment 2804;</li> <li>- for religious grounds 1338;</li> <li>- for humanitarian ground 71;</li> <li>- for family union 549;</li> <li>- for asylum 28;</li> <li>- for studies 22.</li> </ul>	
<p>• <b>implement the National Migration Strategy and its Action Plan, adopted in May 2005, including sustainable financial and social support;</b></p>	<p>MLSAEC and other main responsible institutions for the implementation of the strategy, such as MFA and MI have worked for the implementation of the measures and activities of the strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drafting and approval of the Action Plan of Remittances has been done;</li> <li>- The National Action Plan of Migration asks for the approval of Conventions and law for emigrants and foreigners.</li> <li>- Drafting a cooperation agreement in the field of labour with Italy.</li> </ul> <p>Follow up of the implementation of the projects aiming at the implementation of some measures of NAPM. The project “Promotion of implementation of National Strategy for Migration in Albania” is financed by the European Commission, co-financed by the Italian government and it is implemented by the International Organisation for Migration in Tirana (IOM). The project aims at the implementation of the 16 measures of National Strategy of Migration and its NAPM.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation and coordination of the work for the meeting of Inter-Ministerial Committee for Migration;</li> <li>- Approval and start of functioning of the Coordination and Monitoring System for the Implementation of the National Strategy of Migration.</li> <li>- For all the parts for which reporting is required, they are closely connected to the approval of the coordination system which shall prepare periodic reports on the measures and activities of the Action Plan of National Strategy of Migration.</li> </ul>
<p>→ <i>report on the implementation of the strategy and action plan (including an outline of priorities/first results)</i></p>	<p>A functioning system of coordination for the implementation of the NSM and NAPM is very important for the coordination of the work in carrying out commitments within NSM/NAPM.</p> <p>Another project is “Setting up Capacities, Boosting the Scale of Information and Awareness for Promoting Regular Emigration in Western Balkans”. This project is financed by</p>	<p>Two important documents for the implementation of NAPM implemented in the framework of this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project/Strategy of Information and Communication for the Migration Issues, as well as Project/Action Plan for its implementation;</li> <li>and</li> <li>- System of Coordination and Monitoring for the</li> </ul>

	<p>AENEAS Program 2006 of European Union and by the Governments of Germany and Switzerland. The project made possible the implementation of a measure of NSM/NAPM, that of setting up “Migration Counters”. 36 information packages have been drafted and distributed to the Regional and Local Offices of employment, where this structure is thought to be installed.</p> <p>Capacities in the Department of Policies of Migration at MLSAEC have been boosted through an expert attached to them on the migration law and a permanent person has been added to deal with the re-integration (measure of NAPM).</p> <p>For implementing NAPM efforts are focused also in the context of the projects “Promotion of implementation of National Strategy of Migration in Albania”, “Boosting capacities, Boosting the Scale of Information and Awareness for Inciting the Regular Emigration in the Western Balkans”, “Fight against irregular migration in Albania and region: Support intended for the setting up of capacities in the context of the support to Albania for readmission”, “Employment possibility and professional training and migrating policies measures for the prevention and reduction of trafficking of women in Albania, Moldavia and Ukraine”.</p> <p>What can be highlight regarding NSM/NAPM implementation:</p> <p>1- The evaluating report on emigration in the rural areas is being finalised as well as the identification of the emergency zones for promoting the agricultural sector. It consists of the first activity of the measure 2 of NAPM “Taking of measures to the effect of reducing the influx of migration in the rural zones through ensuring the facilities for inciting the agricultural sector in the country”.</p>	<p>implementation of National Strategy of Migration.</p> <p>Both documents are expected to be approved in the next meeting of the inter-ministerial committee for migration. WHEN,</p>
--	--	--

2- Measure 3 of NAPM “Evaluation of concrete possibilities offered by the Strategy for Employment and Professional Training for the returned emigrants” has been implemented. Its first activity “Compiling an evaluation report on the opportunities of the professional training offered currently for the returned emigrants and existing needs and shortcomings”, is being completed. In the meantime, the requirements of NSM and NAPM in the Sector Strategy of Employment and Professional Training, 2007-2013, approved by CMD 751, dated 7.11.2007. are taken into consideration.

3- In line with measure 4 of NAPM “Taking of measures for ensuring the fundamental conditions of living and inciting the investments in the zones affected by high emigration rates”, the first activity: “Undertaking a study for the identification of measures affected by high emigration rates”, is being implemented and is expected to be finalised soon.

4- In line with measure 39 “Developing an information policy on migration which shall be addressing each category of migrants and not only the emigrants for employment purposes”, the internet website [www.migrantinfo.gov.al](http://www.migrantinfo.gov.al) is being re-activated.

5- In line with measure 40 “Setting up and determination of Migration Counters in the capacity of the institution dealing with making available information on migration”, the personnel who will to deal with providing information available has been appointed. The personnel is being trained and provided with information material on the appropriate procedures of emigration to main destinations. At the same time, in the context of the project “Building capacities, Increasing the Information and Awareness Scale for the Promotion of Regular Emigration in the Western Balkans”, ZRVP’ s have been provided with 36 information packages concerning the emigration procedures in 36 different countries as well as with information on their

	<p>labour market requirements.</p> <p>6- In line with measure 43 “Review of existing measures on migration for seasonal employment to Greece and Italy”, the framework of employment agreements with these states will be negotiated.</p> <p>7- In line with measure 57 “Ratification of International Instruments in the Field of Migration”, a number of conventions in the field of migration of labour have been ratified, such as the Convention no 97 of International Organisation of Labour on Migration for Employment (reviewed) and its Recommendation no 86; convention C143 for Migrant Workers (Complementary Provisions), 1975 and respective Recommendation R151, International Convention of UNO on “Protection of rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families”; European Convention on Legal Status of Migrant Workers, Strasbourg, 24, XI.1977.</p> <p>8- In line with measures 58 and 59 of NAPM “Approval of new legal acts and amendment to existing legal acts in the field of migration for the extension of the protective sphere of emigrants in line with the international standards”, have been drafted and approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the new law “On emigration of Albanian citizens for employment motives”, 18.12.2006,</li> <li>- the new law “On foreigners”, July 2008, reflecting the requirements of the European Union legislation on migration.</li> </ul> <p>9- Measure 60, “Drafting of practical manuals connected to the migration issues and making them available to the officials dealing with the practical implementation of the legislation on migration” has been implemented. In this framework, the manual “On migrant legislation” and the training modules for the officials to deal with the migration issues have been drafted.</p> <p>10- In line with measure 65 of NAPM, MLSAEC has cooperated closely with the local expert contracted by IOM to draft a system of monitoring and coordination. The draft</p>	
--	--	--

	provides for setting up of the coordination and monitoring system of NSM. NAPM has been completed and consulted with the ministries implementing the NAPM.	
<i>→report on the sustainability of the human and financial resources allocated</i>	MLSAEC operates through the structures of Labour State Inspectorate.	
<b>• define and apply methodology for inland detection and take measures improving the capacity to investigate cases of organised facilitated illegal migration;</b>		
<i>→ report on the establishment of an administrative structure/methodology to deal with the detection and investigations of illegal migration, including cooperation between relevant authorities</i>	As stated earlier, BMP collects statistical data on the entire activity at the BC such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- legal and illegal crossing of border;</li> <li>- cases of immediate expulsion at the border;</li> <li>- readmissions;</li> <li>- issuance of permits of stay;</li> <li>- refusal of permits of stay;</li> <li>- refusal of entry into Albania etc.</li> </ul> The format of the data collected and the methodology of their analysis are the same as that of FRONTEX.	
<i>→ overview of human resources and capacities to</i>	DGBM at the central and regional level functions as a specific structure of investigation.	

<i>detect and investigate illegal migration</i>	At the headquarter level: 3 employees and at the regional level: 40 employees.	
→ <i>define a framework enabling cooperation between the authorities and the victims of human trafficking</i>	<p>Cooperation Agreement for the Setting up of a National Referral Mechanism for the Identification and Improved Assistance for the Victims of Trafficking of Human Beings, signed by the authorities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Issues and Equal Chances/ Directorate General of State Social Service, National Reception Centre for the Victims of Trafficking, Ministry of Interior/Directorate General of State Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Directorate of Consular Services, Non-profit Making Organisation “Vatra”, non-Profit Making Organisation “Other Vision” and International Organisation on Migration (IOM) determines a clear framework for the cooperation between the key stakeholders in the fight against the trafficking of human beings; it determines the responsibilities of the parties involved in the identification, referral, accommodation, assistance and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. All the signatory parties offer services, which if they are well-coordinated; they yield good results in the interest of the victim.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A National Anti-trafficking Unit has been set up;</li> <li>2. A National Referral Mechanism has been put in place for the victims of human beings traffic;</li> <li>3. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed among the state and non-governmental structures of cooperation in this field.</li> <li>4. A joint data bank has been set up on the trafficking of human beings among the structures dealing with this issue.</li> </ol>	The National Coordinator Office shall continue to ensure full performance of obligations of parties in the agreement. Implementation of the National Mechanism of Referral shall be ensured even in the framework National Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings 2008-2010, where MKR is a key part of the strategic and operational framework.
• <b>adopt and implement a law on the admission and stay of third country nationals, defining</b>	New legislation (referred to earlier) on foreigners has been drafted in line with the directives and recommendations of European Union in the field of migration. The new law enters into force December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2008.	<p>Bylaw acts are being drafted to the law no 9959, dated 17.07.2008, covering the entire aspects of entry, stay and employment of foreigners in Albania.</p> <p>Drafting of the draft CMD “On granting of labour permit to foreign citizens”;</p>

<p><b>rights and obligations for the persons concerned (including family members of third country nationals);</b></p>		<p>Drafting the draft CMD “On labour permit fees for foreign citizens”;</p> <p>Drafting of National Strategy on Immigration.</p>
<p><i>→ update on progress made in preparing, adopting and implementing the relevant law (with rules defining conditions of entry and stay for third country nationals for any purposes, rules on rights granted to legally residing third country nationals, rules on conditions for granting a stable, permanent status for third country nationals legally residing for a long time as well as the rights attached thereto and rules on sanctions for persons assisting illegal entry, stay, transit and employment of third</i></p>	<p>The new law “On foreigners” has been approved, where all these issues have been dealt with in line with the EU standards.</p>	<p>Drafting and approval of the necessary bylaw acts regulating the required technical aspects.</p>

<i>country nationals)</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ensure effective expulsion of illegally residing third country nationals from its territory.</b></li> </ul>		
<p>→ <i>report on the procedure for returning illegally staying third country nationals</i></p>	<p>In the event of illegal stay in the territory by a citizen of a foreign country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Order of expulsion is issued, implying his voluntary departure;</li> <li>- In the event of failure to leave voluntarily, within the time period determined in the expulsion order, an expulsion order through coercion shall be issued. The individual shall be detained in a closed centre until the expulsion order is enforced; this period can last up to 6 months and for good reasons it can be extended to 6 other months.</li> </ul>	
<p>→ <i>report on already concluded readmission agreements as well as on agreements which are currently under negotiations</i></p>	<p><b>Agreements and protocols having been signed</b></p> <p><b>Agreement:</b> Italy, Switzerland, Hungary, Belgium, Rumania, Bulgaria, German Federal Republic, Croatia, Great Britain, Macedonia, European Community, Denmark.</p> <p><b>Protocols through the Agreement with EU:</b> Benelux, Austria;</p> <p><b>Pending agreements and protocols:</b></p> <p><b>Agreements and protocols:</b> Moldavia, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Island</p> <p><b>Protocols through the Agreement with EU:</b> Italy, France,</p>	<p>Conclusion depending on the response of proposed parties.</p>

	Slovenia, Slovakia and Greece.  <b>Protocols with regional countries:</b> Croatia.	
→ report on facilities allowing the necessary control over the third country nationals awaiting expulsion	Financed by EU, work as started and a closed centre for the irregular foreigners being in the territory is under process, with a capacity until 100 persons and augmentation possibility of capacity for another 100.	
<b>BLOCK 3: Public order and security</b>		
<b>Preventing and fighting organised crime, terrorism and corruption</b>	<p>Law no 9284, (30.09.2004) “On prevention and fighting organised crime”, has led to the setting up and functioning of prosecution office, of the Court for Serious Crimes, of the Joint Investigation Unit (Task Force), of the Agency for the Management of the Confiscated Assets, of the Department of fight against Financial Crimes. These functioning structures have brought concrete results in terms of fighting organised crime, confiscation of the properties of the criminal groups, as well as criminal organisations and individuals. Many cases are under investigation. In the context of the obligations foreseen in Articles 1 and 4 of the Decision of Legal Framework of CE Council – 13 June 2002, on the fight against terrorism, Albania has amended the law for the fight against terrorism (law no 9686, dated 26.02.2007) “On some addenda and changes to the law no 7895, dated 27.01.1995 “Criminal Code of Republic of Albania”, as amended.</p> <p>Albania has ratified and implemented the Convention on the Suppression of International Terrorism, 1999. It has approved and is implementing the law no 9258, 15.07.2004 “On Measures against the Financing of Terrorism”.</p> <p>During 2008, SHKB (Interior Auditing Service) has carried</p>	<p>Measures shall be taken for strengthening the capacities of work within SHKB, planning and implementing a separate budget, specifically the special fund, which shall be functional in the fight against corruption, for the application of special techniques of investigation and rewarding the informants.</p> <p>Trainings shall be planned and implemented with the SHKB employees, specifically in applying the best techniques and tactics of investigation against corruption.</p> <p>Cooperation with other agencies shall be boosted in the fight against corruption, specifically with the state police and prosecution office.</p> <p>Cooperation with the other regional operational structures shall be increased.</p> <p>Participating in the meetings and sharing their experiences shall be anti-Corruption Agencies of other European countries, in the context of EPAC (European Anticorruption Partnership).</p> <p>The draft strategy for the fight against terrorism</p>

	<p>out preliminary investigations in 42 cases with regard to the criminal offences of corruption and sent for criminal prosecution 71 police officers, out of which:  10 cases of passive corruption, 5 of whom have been arrested in flagrante;  32 cases of abuse of office, out of whom 8 officers have been arrested in flagrante;  2 cases of assisting the illegal crossing of border;</p> <p>During 2007, for the criminal offences of corruption, 48 cases against 84 police officers have been investigated;  9 cases of passive corruption,  35 cases of abuse of office,  4 cases for providing assistance to illegal crossing of the border against 12 police officers, out of whom 11 have been arrested in flagrante;</p> <p>The number of cases investigated in connection with the criminal offence of corruption during 2007-2008 have increased as compared to the previous years.  For the first time, in the course of these two years, the special techniques of investigation such as interception and simulated acts are being applied.  Cooperation with the other agencies of law enforcement has improved, specifically with the state police and prosecution office. It is worth highlighting the good cooperation with the Prosecution Office of Serious Crimes, and the Joint Investigation Unit (Task Force) with the Prosecution Office of Tirana.</p>	<p>is in the phase of the consultation with foreign specialists. It is expected to be approved in June 2009.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>adopt and implement the draft Strategy to fight organised crime (in particular cross-border aspects), by adopting and</b></li> </ul>	<p>On 30.09.2004, the Assembly of Albania approved the law no 9284 "On Prevention and attacking the organised crime". This law aims at establishing some very important normative rules with regard to the responsible institutions, powers, procedures and criteria which should be implemented as regards the confiscation of properties of suspects as participants in the organised crime and</p>	

<p><b>implementing an action plan including a timeframe, measures to strengthen institutional capacity and inter-agency coordination and sufficient human and financial resources;</b></p>	<p>terrorism, but also in some other forms specifically in serious criminal forms such as trafficking, kidnapping of persons etc.</p>	
<p><i>→ report on the development/adoption of the strategy and action plan</i></p>	<p>The Inter-Sector Strategy of the Fight against Organised Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism has been approved by the Decision of Council of Ministers no 1140, 30.07.2008.</p> <p>The inter-ministerial work group for drafting the following up the implementation of the inter-sector strategy of the Fight against Organised Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism was established following PM's order dated 27.07.2007. This group is chaired by the Minister of Interior and includes the Deputy Ministers of Defence, Finances and Justice. Heads of other institutions can be invited to attend such as the State Intelligence Service (SISH), Anti-Trafficking Unit, State Police and the Ministry of Integration. The financial resources allocated do not yet fully mach the needs for the implementation of the strategy but progress is evident. The main mechanism of the implementation is the Medium Term Budget Process (PBA) through the submission of the requests of every ministry for implementing the measures foreseen in this inter-sector strategy, thus not only by the Ministry of Interior, but also other institutions involved. The other mechanism is donnors assistance through different projects. The International Consortium in its last meeting of the sector</p>	<p>With the approval of the strategy, the inter-ministerial work group shall convene to do the assignment of tasking and drafting of work plans for every institution and implementation of measures foreseen in the strategy. The estimation of financial needs during the budget cycle of PBA by the Ministry of Interior and the other involved institutions. Negotiations, meetings and talks for planning the projects financed by donors in this sector.</p>

	work group was informed by the Department against the Organised crime in State Police about the considerable needs of this sector for financing.	
→ provide the strategy and action plan (including an outline of priorities/first results)		The action plan shall be processed and detailed further in the next meeting of the Work Group.
→ overview of administrative capacity for the implementation of the strategy/action plan, including human and financial resources		
→ statistics of trends in organised crime, including investigations, indictments and convictions	<p>During this 6 month period, the Albanian police has dismantled 37 criminal groups involved in organised crime, out of which 19 criminal groups of trafficking and distributing narcotics with 78 persons criminally prosecuted and 18 criminal groups involved in other illegal trafficking, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 criminal groups for “Assistance for illegal crossing of state border”.</li> <li>• 4 criminal groups for “Trafficking of motor vehicles”;</li> <li>• 3 criminal groups for “Trafficking of military weapons and ammunition”;</li> <li>• 1 criminal group for “Exploitation of women for prostitution”.</li> </ul>	
• <b>adopt and implement the draft Strategy to combat trafficking in human beings as well</b>		

<p><b>as an action plan indicating timeframes and sufficient human and financial resources;</b></p>		
<p>→ <i>report on the development/adoption of the strategy and action plan</i></p>	<p>The strategy of the Fight against Trafficking of Persons 2008 – 2010, as well as the national strategy for the fight against trafficking of children and protection of child victims of trafficking 2008-2010 has been approved in the Decision of Council of Ministers 1083, dated 23.07.2008, as part of the Inter-Sector Strategy against Organised Crime.</p> <p>The Office of National Coordinator for the fight against the trafficking of human beings has drafted “<i>The Report of Evaluation of Implementation of National Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings 2005-2007</i>”. This is a broad document for the evaluation of the national attempts for anti-trafficking of Albania within the time period July 2005 – December 2007.</p>	
<p>→ <i>provide the strategy and action plan (including an outline of priorities/first results)</i></p>	<p>The State Committee of the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings has convened periodically. The last meeting of the State Committee convened on 6 June 2008, where the National Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings 2008 – 2010 was approved.</p>	
<p>→ <i>overview of administrative capacity for the implementation of the strategy/action plan, including human</i></p>	<p>The financial and human resources used for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings 2005 – 2007 have been the existing resources of the responsible institutions.</p> <p>The administrative capacities involved in drafting and</p>	<p>The approval of the Strategy and its Action Plan 2008-2010 requires from all the responsible stakeholders full commitment to ensure the implementation of the tasks contained in this document and which are in their respective responsibility, including ensuring the resources</p>

<p><i>and financial resources</i></p>	<p>implementing this strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Anti-Traffic Coordinator who is the Deputy Minister of Interior;</li> <li>• Anti-Trafficking Unit at the Ministry of Interior depending from the National Coordinator for the fight against Trafficking of Human Beings.</li> <li>• “Responsible Authority” consisting of Ministry of Interior, MLSAEC and MFA;</li> <li>• State Committee for the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings;</li> <li>• National Task-Force on Anti-Trafficking;</li> <li>• Regional Anti-Trafficking Mechanism;</li> <li>• Local referral Mechanism.</li> </ul> <p>Financial support through the funds for this inter-sector strategy is ensured through the PBA and different donors.</p>		<p>required by the respective PBA.</p> <p>The main agencies shall assume responsibility for implementing their respective activities, including budgeting for each activity. If an activity provides for joint responsibilities of two or more stakeholders, the joint budget obligation is determined in the Action Plan.</p>												
<p>→ <i>statistics of trends in trafficking in human beings, including investigations, indictments, convictions, as well as on victims</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Years</th> <th>Trafficking of females</th> <th>Trafficking of minors</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>30</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>24</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>12</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Years	Trafficking of females	Trafficking of minors	2005	30	7	2006	24	4	2007	12	3	<p>During the period 1 January – June 2008, Anti-Trafficking Structures and those of Border and Migration Police have pointed out 54 cases of providing assistance for illegal crossing of border, with destination Greece and Italy; 11 cases of trafficking of females, and 4 cases of trafficking of children.</p> <p>The Sector against Illegal Trafficking has dismantled 11 criminal groups:  10 criminal groups for “Providing assistance for illegal crossing of the state border”  1 criminal group for “Exploitation of women for prostitution”.</p>	<p>Presently, the data are being collected for the victims of trafficking by the respective structures for the period January – June 2008.</p>
Years	Trafficking of females	Trafficking of minors													
2005	30	7													
2006	24	4													
2007	12	3													

	<p>During 2007 – 2008, the Prosecution Office for Serious Crimes has investigated and sent for trial structured groups which have been involved in the illegal trafficking of human beings through the border. During 2007, there have been conducted investigations on 264 criminal cases with 214 defendants for the criminal offence of illegal crossing of the border. 123 cases with 164 defendants have been sent to trial and the proceedings have been completed, and 134 defendants have been convicted.</p>	
<p>• <b>adopt and implement a national strategy for the prevention and fighting of money laundering and financing of terrorism; adopt and implement a law on the prevention of financing of terrorism; implement relevant legislation on confiscation of assets of criminals (including the provisions addressing cross-border aspects);</b></p>	<p>In the framework of the implementation of the Strategy against organised crime, trafficking and terrorism, and of the twinning project with German FIU (Department General for Preventing the Money Laundering), a Action Plan is being drafted for preventing money laundering, which is foreseen to be completed in September 2009. DPPPP has drafted a new draft law on PP/FT, this being a law which was approved by the Albanian parliament on 19 May 2008. This law is in full compliance with the community acts and it is the most important step of the latest years in the field of the fight against PP/FT.</p> <p>The fight against PP/FT shall be conducted by the Department General for Money Laundering at Ministry of Finances. Albania has approved the law no 9917, dated 19 May 2008 “On Preventing Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism”. This law incorporates the latest developments of 40+9 reviewed recommendations of FATF (Agency for Preventing Money Laundering) reviewed in 3 Directives of European Union, obligations from the international instruments, such as Vienna, Strasbourg, Palermo Convention against international terrorism. The is approximated to the legislation against money laundering and financing of terrorism with EU countries and latest</p>	<p>A work group presided by the General Directorate of Money Laundering is drafting the strategy against the money laundering and financing of terrorism. It should be ready within 2009.</p> <p>Drafting of bylaw acts for the implementation of the law no 9917, dated 19.05.2008 “On prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism”.</p>

	international standards in this field. The law upgrades the responsibility of the control surveillance authorities. It strengthens the care and preventive measures of money laundering at the moment of licensing of financial institutions. It regulates the role of the National Committee "On preventing money laundering and financing of terrorism".	
→ <i>report on the development of the strategy</i>	Reports have been held, not in the framework of the strategy, since it is being drafted. In mid 2007, there was reported the progress made in the field of AML/CFT to the Committee Moneyval of Council of Europe.	Next reporting shall take place in summer 2009, in accordance with the planning of Secretariat Moneyval.
→ <i>provide the strategy (including an outline of priorities/first results)</i>	The only authority which approves and discusses on PP/FT, as part of the Strategy of the Fight against Organised Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism is the national committee on the coordination of the Fight for Preventing Money Laundering. There is drafted a National Program for the Control of moment of cash, where there were set the obligations for intelligence and law enforcement agencies in the framework and prevention of PP/FT.	This committee shall be presided by the Premier and the meeting is convened following the proposal of the Director General for Prevention of Money Laundering. The next meeting is expected to be in the fall of 2008. In this meeting, there is foreseen to consider the measures taken in the context of the National Program by the Albanian institutions, for reducing the circulation of the cash in RoA.
→ <i>overview of human and financial resources used/planned</i>	The structure and organigramme of the Directorate General for Prevention of Money Laundering has been approved upon the order of Premier No 10, dated 24.01.2006 "On approval of the structure and organigramme of the Department General for Preventing Money Laundering. Being broken down into two departments. To date, GDSPPP has a personnel of 22. With the assistance of the American Treasury Department, it has been made possible to train the new personnel immediately, in June 2006. The training of the personnel have been organised also with assistance from other international organisations, such as IMF and OSCE.	Presently, no structural changes are expected.
→ <i>report on</i>	7 bank accounts, belonging to Medicare (amount 532981	Next reporting shall be in accordance with the

<p><i>planning/implementation of the law on prevention of terrorism financing</i></p>	<p>lek) and Karavan (amount 88 392 Euro + 37 926 lek) companies (in co-ownership with the Foundation FLS and Mr. Abdyl Laftif Saleh) have been frozen,.</p> <p>Early June 2008, there was reported of performance in DPPPP to the Parliamentary Committee of National Security, about the activity of this department and the results achieved.</p> <p>.</p> <p>With regard to the measures against financing of terrorism, (as mentioned earlier) law no 9258, dated 15.07.2004, "On measures against financing of terrorism", determines the measures against financing of terrorism, powers and relationship among the authorities tasked with the proposal, approval, control and implementation of measures. The Prosecution Office of Serious Crimes has followed up during 2007 a criminal proceeding pertaining to hiding the funds and other properties financing terrorism. Subject to investigation was the citizen Hamzeh Abu Rayyan, who has been sent to trial".</p>	<p>requests of parliamentary committees or other high ranking initiatives of the state.</p>
<p><i>→ report on the implementation of the confiscation of assets legislation, including the provisions addressing the cross-border aspects</i></p>	<p>- Albania has approved and implemented the law no 9284, dated 30.09.2004 "On preventing and attacking organised crime", where there have been foreseen the measures for the attachment and confiscation of assets stemming from the criminal activity.</p> <p>- There has been set up and functions with the Ministry of Finances the Agency of Management of attached and sequestered Assets;</p> <p>- There has been set up and made functional since September 2007 the Department against Financial Crime and Task Force against financial crime and corruption, with the Prosecution Office of Judicial Circle Tirana, which are investigating the cases of proceeds of criminal activities.</p> <p>For sequestering and confiscation of proceeds of organised crime, there has been set up with the Prosecution Office of</p>	<p>- Strengthening of State Police structures operating in the fight against the money laundering in the entire directorates of the regional police.</p> <p>- Deadline of accomplishment 2009.</p> <p>- In cooperation with the Prosecution Office General, Task force for the fight against economic crime, corruption and prevention of money laundering shall be set up in some other regions of the country, to the effect of deepening the fight in these aspects.</p> <p>- Deadline of accomplishment 2009</p>

	<p>Serious Crimes since 2005 the sector of attachments and confiscations of proceeds stemming from the organised crime. There have been appointed 2 prosecutors dealing with the pointing out, attaching and confiscating the assets of persons involved in serious criminal activities, such as different trafficking, terrorist acts, criminal organisations etc. For preventing the illegal crossing of cash in the border, the Prosecution Office, following the referral done by police, ha conducted in 2007 and first semester of 2008, 4 proceeding cases pertaining to 4 defendants. For the criminal offence of non-declaration at the border of the money and value objects, there have been sent to trial 3 criminal cases with three defendants; there have been convicted 6 defendants.</p>	
<p>→ <i>statistics on trends of money laundering and confiscation of criminal assets, including investigations, indictments and convictions</i></p>	<p>The Department against Financial Crime at the General Directorate of State police has investigated in 2008 into 13 cases of criminal offence of laundering the proceeds of criminal offence.</p> <p>Since the moment of foundation of the Prosecution Office of Serious Crimes and in line with the law no 9284, dated 30.09.2004 “On prevention and attaching organised crime”, the Court has, for 23 cases, decided the sequestration of assets, out of which, for 8 cases it has decided confiscation. The confiscated assets are transfered to the agency for the management of these assets. The value of the sequestered assets is round 7 million Euro.</p> <p>These assets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assets of Mr. Abdyl Latif Saleh in the cadastre zone 2315, surface 15.2 m2 and 98.9 m2;</li> <li>- assets of the company “Loxhall” shpk, a two story house at Selita e Vogwl, a sweets shop at Rruga e Duresit, a shop at Rruga e Elbasanit, Stores 1-8 in Lapraka, a land surface of 11 m2 in the village Yzberisht.</li> <li>- properties of the Foundation “Taibah” and “Al</li> </ul>	<p>With reference to the increase of number of reporting, there is expected the increase of cases sent to authorities for enforcing the law pertaining to PP/FT.</p>

	<p>Haramanin” have been sequestered.</p> <p>In the first half of 2008, 25 cases of possible money laundering have been referred to the state police for further investigation. 11 other referrals for criminal prosecution have been brought to the prosecution office. During this period, 28 bank accounts of individuals suspected of committing money laundering have been frozen.</p> <p>During 2007 and first semester of 2008, out of the sequestered assets there were confiscated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10 different vehicles;</li> <li>2. two housing apartments in Tirana with a surface of 73 and 104 m2, plus two garages for sheltering cars;</li> <li>3. Business premises 48 m2 in Saranda;</li> <li>4. Bank account at the amount of 22 000 Euro;</li> <li>5. Bank account at the amount of 20 000 Euro;</li> <li>6. Bank account at the amount of 2 000 000 Lek;</li> <li>7. Lagoon of Karavasta in Divjaka with a surface of 11 792 m2, which has been a fishing habitat, property of Lushnja Gang. Within the lagoon there have been confiscated 8 buildings with a total surface of 1216 m2, fishing boats, nets and accessories which were inside the lagoon.</li> </ol> <p>Site service 470 m2 in the town of Lushnja. Within this surface, there was a store room 48 m2 and a garage of 24 m2.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>implement the 2004-2010 National Strategy against Drug Trafficking and National Drug Action Plan; make the information on drug</b></li> </ul>	<p>The National Anti-Drugs Strategy has been approved by Decision of Council of Ministers no 292, dated 07.05.2004 and the Action Plan has been approved by the Order of Premier no 156, dated 23.09.2004. The strategy and the Action Plan provide for activities aiming at reducing the demand and offer for drugs.</p>	

<p><b>seizures and persons involved accessible at border crossing points; further develop cooperation and information exchange with relevant international bodies in the drug field;</b></p>		
<p>→ <i>report on the implemented measures of the strategy and their results</i></p>	<p>The national anti-drugs strategy 2004-2010 is a multi sector strategy. An action plan has been approved and is being implemented according to the Strategy. Main actions taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upon the Order of the Minister of Health no 390, dated 19.09.2007, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for licensing the entities trading narcotic and psychotropic substances has been set up. This commission is composed of are representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Agriculture.</li> <li>- An Agreement Act between the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Science “For prevention of distribution of drugs in the school and university premises”, registered respectively by no 268/3, dated 18.03.2008; no 134/3, dated 24.03.2008, and no 1834, dated 18.03.2008; has been concluded and is being implemented</li> <li>- A new Joint Instruction Among the Prosecutor General, the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Health “On treatment of narcotic and psychotropic substances”, (Nr 469/2, April 2008) has been approved and is being implemented. The central store for keeping drugs sequestered by the police has become functional.</li> </ul>	<p>The implementation of the measures foreseen in the action plan of strategy against trafficking of drugs shall continue.</p>

<p>→ <i>statistics on trends in drug trafficking, including drug seizures, investigations, indictments and convictions</i></p>	<p>During the period January – June 2008, 189 criminal offences were identified in the field of drugs, out of which 56 cases of heroine, 11 cases of cocaine, 87 cases of marijuana, 1 case of methadone, 2 cases of ecstasy, and 31 cases of cultivation of cannabis. 268 perpetrators have been charged for these cases, out of whom, 224 have been arrested in flagrante. 19 criminal groups dealing with trafficking and distribution of narcotic substances have been dismantled. 78 persons have been prosecuted with criminal charges. (Annex 1).</p>	
<p>→ <i>report on the accessibility of drugs information at BCPs</i></p>	<p>Cooperation between the anti-drugs service and the Border Crossings for the exchange of information occurs directly from the respective offices in the regions, as well as through the use of the Memex system for those officials authorised to enter the system.</p>	
<p>→ <i>report on international cooperation and its results (including in the areas of supply and demand)</i></p>	<p>During 2008, the international cooperation was intensified further. Concretely, we have very good cooperation relations with the regional countries such as Macedonia/FYROM, Turkey, Italy, Greece, Montenegro, UNIBM Police and SHPK of Kosovo etc, but also with other countries like Switzerland and Germany. Substantial assistance in exchanging information and realisation of joint operations were provided by Interpol, SECI Centre in Rumania and contact officers operating in the respective countries. Albania has contact officers in SECI Centre in Bucharest, Romania, Turkey, Italy, Greece and Kosovo, while in Albania the Italian Liaison Office Interforce is operating as well as contact officers and police attaches from Greece, France, Northern countries, and lately Germany, etc. Office of DEA in Rome plays also an important and active role in exchanging information as well as for the training of Albanian police officers. During this year, there were conducted 4 international operations in cooperation with the police and judicial authorities in these countries.</p> <p>With the international organisations such as INODC and</p>	

	<p>INCB, we have very good cooperation relations. UNODC has assisted in aid and equipment and training boosting the capacities of the Sections for the Fight against Drugs. There have also been carried out some training courses in the Albania and abroad, as well as there has been set up a modern control centre for the control of the vehicles in BC Qafe Thane.</p> <p>The implementation of the system TIMS is going on, as well as the installation of the analytical program MEMEX is continuing. Training courses on the use of MEMEX program have been providing</p>	
<p>→ report on alignment with EMCDDA information collection standards</p>	<p>EMCDDA (Project EMCDDA_CARDS) launched in 2008 the mission in the countries of the Western Balkans, in the framework of their SAA process with EU, for obtaining an updated and detailed picture as concerns drugs in each country.</p> <p>The main aim of the Project EMCDDA-CARDS is the Information System for Drugs in each of these counties. The Institute of Public Health is the national centre for collecting this information.</p> <p>For activating the Information System on Drugs and Production of Respective Indicators in accordance with EU norms, there are needed the data of Drug-Demand and those of Drug-Supply. The EMCDDA started in February 2008. It has contacted various responsible stakeholders for collecting the respective data.</p>	<p>EMCDDA will come back again in September – October 2008. The practical aspects of functioning of the information system about drugs and periodic evaluation of its quality will be the focuss.</p>
<p>• <b>implement the 2007-2013 National Anti-Corruption Strategy on preventing and fighting corruption. Adopt and implement an Anti Corruption</b></p>	<p>The issue of corruption is a priority issue for the Albanian government. In the framework of the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2007-13(NSDI), there has been set up the Inter-ministerial Work Group, being presided over by the Deputy Premier and it has in its composition one deputy minister from each Ministry. The Inter-Ministerial Work Group (Political Group) is assisted by Technical Group consisting of experts and specialists of the</p>	

<p><b>Action Plan, to include a timeframe, as well as measures to strengthen institutional capacity, inter-agency coordination and sufficient human and financial resources;</b></p>	<p>depending ministries and institutions, as well as by and Advisory Group consisting of representatives of the civil society, media and business community. WG has been extended lately even by representatives from prosecution Office, High State Audit, Inspectorate for disclosure and Control of Properties, High Council of Justice.</p> <p>WG has drafted and approved the “Inter-Sector Strategy for Preventing, Fight against Corruption and Transparent Governance”, being part of the NSDI. In accordance with the methodology of drafting, implementing, monitoring and reporting of NSDI, Inter-Ministerial Group carries out the periodic review of the strategy, coordinates the work for its implementation, supervises the implementation and prepares reports. The Internal Audit Administrative and Anticorruption Department attached to the Premier serves as a technical and coordinating secretariat of WG.</p> <p>Implementing NSDI, each ministry, at the beginning of the year approves the Inter-Ministerial Integrated Plan (MIP), which is the annual Action Plan. Within this Action Plan, the ministries include all the measures planned to be undertaken for implementing the objectives stemming from each sector and inter-sector strategy, part of NSDI. Since the fight against corruption is a priority, the anticorruption measures are listed in a special chapter of MIP of 2008.</p> <p>The Inter-Ministerial Group has presently concluded the review of the anti-Corruption Strategy and the Action Plans of ministries which shall be sent for approval to the Council of Ministers within September. The reviewed version of the strategy has served for its improvement with other objectives in response to the development dynamics.</p> <p>The review of the Action Plan has been done to the effect of harmonising the measures and putting in place a Unique</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>Action Plan, which is going to facilitate the coordination of attempts for the implementation, monitoring, evaluating the indicators and reporting.</p> <p>The implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy continues and the state police has taken some measures like: there has been upgraded at department level the Sector of the Fight against the Financial Crime, within the Department of Investigation of Crime there has been created the Sector for the Fight against Corruption at the Centre and in 12 Sections of the Fight against Corruption at the Police Directorates in Regions.</p> <p>- The cooperation among agencies fighting against corruption has been strengthened and in September 2007, the Joint Investigation Unit against Corruption and Economic Crime has been set up. It comprises 10 selected officers. This organisation and this new structure has proved successful in fighting against corruption of the officials of medium and high ranking levels.</p>	
<p><i>→ report on the implemented measures of the strategy, including prevention, and their results</i></p>	<p>In this first phase of implementation of anti-corruption strategy (part of NSDI), government has reached important successes in the measures of preventive character and in strengthening the capacities for the detection, investigation and punishing the corruption.</p> <p>Among the most important successes is a list of laws for the approximation of legislation to the European civil and criminal convention standards against corruption and UNO convention. Worth mentioning is the law on the criminal liability for legal entities, law for the protection and rewarding the citizens denouncing corruption, new law on commercial companies etc.</p> <p>Important reforms have modernised the administration and improved the transparency in its functioning. There has</p>	

been determined the electronic procurement; registration of business is presently an administrative procedure (not judicial), which is done within a single day; there has been establishing the system of disclosure and payment on-line of taxes for big businesses; there has been drastically reduced the number of licenses, from 200 to 60 licenses; there have been simplified the procedures for the remaining licenses by 25%, etc.

As a consequence of a better and efficient cooperation of institutions fighting against corruption, only last year it was possible to detect and arrest more than 120 persons involve in suspected corruptive affairs and 30 of them have been convicted by justice authorities. The Administrative and Anticorruption control Department has performed more than 300 inspections and it has proposed administrative measures for more than 400 persons and it has made denunciations at the prosecution office for almost 200 persons (in two years).

Since September 2004 the criminal code has been amended and improved. It now contains 13 provisions dealing with the fight against corruption, such as the passive and active corruption by public employees, high ranking officials, locally elected people and the corruption in the private sector. The changes are in line with the conventions against corruption which have been ratified by Albania.

During 2007, 113 cases of criminal offences of theft through abuse of office, abuse of office and corruption with 224 perpetrators and out of these 53 have been arrested in flagrance. For the criminal offences of corruption, there have been highlighted 19 cases with 51 perpetrators and out of these 30 of them have been arrested in flagrance and detained.

	During the period January – 30 June, 232 criminal offences of theft through the abuse of office, abuse of office and corruption with 377 perpetrators and out of them 61 have been arrested and detained. Only for the criminal offences of corruption, there have been registered 45 cases involving 97 perpetrators and out of them 38 have been arrested and detained.	
<i>→ report on the adoption of the action plan</i>		The Action Plan and the Strategy for the Prevention, Fight against Corruption and Transparent Governance is being reviewed. It is expected that early September, the strategy and the action plan be approved by the Council of Ministers.  Action Plan of the Strategy shall be detailed and complemented further at a later stage.
<i>→ provide the action plan (including an outline of priorities and timeframes)</i>		Action Plan of the Strategy shall be detailed and complemented further at a later stage.
<i>→ overview of administrative capacity for the implementation of the strategy/action plan, including human and financial resources</i>	The main institutions of the fight against corruption are the Administrative and Anticorruption administrative Internal Control Department attached to the Premier, Department against Economic Crime and Corruption at Ministry of Interior, Inspectorate for declaration and control of properties of officials, Joint Unit of Investigating into the Economic Crime and Corruption, which is an operative Task Force presided over by the Prosecution Office where Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, State Intelligence Service are cooperating.	

	<p>By PM's order no 195, (14.08.2006), the Inter-Ministerial Group for drafting and following up the implementation of the inter-Sector Strategy for Preventing, Fight against Corruption and Transparent Governance was set up.</p> <p>This group is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and comprises a Deputy minister from all the line ministries, the Director of the Department of the Internal Administrative and Anti-Corruption Control at the Council of Ministers, advisor to the Premier for anti-corruption issues and the Director of Department for Coordination of the Strategies and Coordination of Foreign Aid. Representatives from the Public Procurement Agency, Directorate General of Internal Auditing at Ministry of Finance, Directorate General of Customs, Directorate General of Taxes, Central Office of Registration of Immovable Properties, Directorate of Internal Control Service at the Ministry of Interior and from the Albanian Electrical Company (KESH) shall participate when necessary.</p> <p>The Group has coordinated the work for the drafting of the Strategy for Prevention, Fight against Corruption and Transparent Governance, in accordance with the strategic provisions of Anti-Corruption Task Force.</p> <p>At the same time, a Steering Technical Team with representatives of the cabinet of PM, cabinet of DptyPM, Department of the Internal Administrative and anti-Corruption Control and Department of Coordination of Strategies and Coordination of Foreign Aid, responsible for the coordination of the work and finalisation of the strategy as well as the periodic follow up of reporting and implementation, has been set up.</p> <p>A technical Group brings together directors from line ministries and is responsible for the implementation of the strategy at ministerial level and for reporting on the measures taken in the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial high level Work Group. This activiti of the technical group is</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>coordinated by the Technical Steering Group.</p> <p>Department for internal administrative and anticorruption Control is acting as the Working Group Secretariat.</p> <p>Main mechanism for the implementation of the strategy is the medium-term Budget Process (PBA), part of which are all the line ministries. Since the strategy for the prevention, Fight against Corruption and Transparent Governance is an inter-sector strategy affecting many ministries, each ministry shall, in the preparation of its budget demands, shall include also demands for the necessary funds for the implementation of the measures foreseen in this strategy. Another mechanism is the demand for financing from donors through the different projects.</p>	
<p>→ <i>outline measures to strengthen institutional capacity and inter-agency coordination</i></p>	<p>Measures have been taken for setting up and functioning of a Task Force against the crimes in the economic field and corruption in cooperation with the Prosecution Office of Tirana, the Sector against economic crimes and corruption with the State Police, the State Intelligence Service etc. The results of this task force for the one year period should be extended to the other regions of the country.</p>	
<p>• <b>implement relevant UN and Council of Europe conventions, as well as GRECO recommendations and other international standards in the areas listed above and on the fight against terrorism.</b></p>	<p>Albania has signed and ratified 12 international conventions and Protocols of United Nations against terrorism. With regard to their implementation, as well as the respective resolutions of the Security council, Albania cooperates very closely with the respective Committees of CE, reporting continuously about the measures taken at national level. The measures at national level deal primarily with the improvement of the legislation in the field of fight against terrorism, financing of terrorism and money laundering, strengthening the border regime and cooperation with the respective agencies of the neighbouring countries. Albania is committed to implement the consolidated list of the Security Council connected to Al-Qaeda and Taliban and in this respect it has taken strict</p>	

	<p>measures against individuals of this list, having economic activity in Albania, attaching their immovable properties and freezing their bank accounts.</p> <p>At the same time, there have been ratified the conventions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The CE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism</li><li>- The CE Convention on Trafficking of Human Beings</li><li>- The CE Convention on Money Laundering and Financing of terrorism</li></ul> <p>Implementation of resolution 1267 of UNO SC: Albania has joined the international community on condemning the individuals and entities that help/finance/cooperate with the Al Qaeda and Talibans as well as other threats to the international peace and security. The Consolidated list of the 1267 committee has been turned into a national list of banned individuals, groups and entities. The MFA transmits immediately to the relevant authorities the updated list as soon as it has been updated by the 1267 committee. The Council of Ministers, MoFin, Min of Just, Min of Interior, Min of defence, Customs Directorate, Border Police, Intelligence Agency, General Prosecutor, Bank of Albania and second level bank system, Counter Money Laundering Directorate have been informed immediately about the updated list.</p> <p>Albania has taken the appropriate measures for the implementation of the requirements of the Resolution no 1540 of UNO Security Council, connected to the massive destruction weapons.</p> <p>Albania joined the Global Initiative for fighting the nuclear terrorism in June 2007.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>Albania is a party of the following international relevant acts against terrorism:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Montreal Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, accession by Law no. 8197, date 6.3.1997, has entered into force for the Republic of Albania on 20 November 1997.</li> <li>2. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14.9.1963, accession by Law no. 8197, date 6.3.1997, has entered into force for the Republic of Albania on 1 March 1998.</li> <li>3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16.12.1970, accession by Law no. 8197, date 6.3.1997, has entered into force for the Republic of Albania on 20 November 1997.</li> <li>4. International Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings has entered into force for the Republic of Albania on 21.02.2002.</li> <li>5. Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, included Diplomatic Agents, has entered into force for the Republic of Albania on 21.02.2002.</li> <li>6. Convention Against the Taking of Hostages has entered into force for the Republic of Albania on 21.02.2002.</li> <li>7. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, entry into force in September 17, 2002).</li> <li>8. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the</li> </ol>	
--	--	--

	<p>Continental Shelf, entry into force in September 17, 2002).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 5 April 2002 the date of its entry into force for the Republic of Albania.</li> <li>10. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 29 May 2002 its entry into force for the Republic of Albania.</li> <li>11. International Convention for the suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, (entry into force for Albania – 10 may 2002).</li> <li>12. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the purpose of detection, Montreal on 1 March 1991 (approved by the Albanian Assembly- its instrument of accession will be deposited in a few days with the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization).</li> <li>13. European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism concluded at Strasbourg on 27 January 1977, (entry into force for the Republic of Albania on 22.12.2000.</li> <li>14. The European Convention on extradition and its additional protocols, entered into force on 17.8.1998.</li> <li>15. The European Convention on mutual assistance in criminal matters, and its additional protocols.</li> <li>16. The European Convention on the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters, entered into force on 5.7.2000.</li> </ol>	
--	---	--

	<p>17. European Agreement on Transmission of Application for Legal Aid (ratified 2001).</p> <p>18. European Convention on Money Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (ratified 2000).</p> <p>The following conventions have been signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International Convention on Cyber Crime (signed 2001);</li> <li>2. Second Additional Protocol of European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Cases (signed 2001);</li> <li>3. Additional Protocol of European Agreement on Transfer of Procedures of Criminal Cases (signed 2001).</li> </ol> <p>Albania is one of the 42 member states acceding to GRECO – Group of States against Corruption. Becoming a member in 2001, it has been represented by one member from the High Court/Ministry of Justice and two representatives from the Council of Ministers.</p>	
<p><i>→ report on the implementation of the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its 3 Protocols</i></p>	<p>In connection with the implementation of UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its 3 Protocols, Albania cooperates closely with the respective structures of UNO, reporting continuously on the measures taken at national level. The measures at national level are related to the improvement of legislation in this field, strengthening the border regime and cooperation with the respective agencies of the neighbouring countries.</p>	
<p><i>→ report on the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption</i></p>	<p>Albania has ratified the UNO Convention against corruption on 13.3.2006, through the law no 9492.</p> <p>Law no 9492, dated 13.3.2006, identifies the Internal Control and Anti-Corruption Department with the Council of Ministers as the central authority for the implementation of the convention.</p>	

<p>→ report on the implementation of the following Council of Europe Conventions: Criminal Law Convention on Corruption; Civil Law Convention on Corruption; Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings; Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism</p>	<p>The government has signed and ratified the conventions mentioned under this section since many years. The standards established in these documents in the fight against corruption have been implemented satisfactorily. The amendments to the Criminal Code and Civil code have included in the internal legislation the obligations of the criminal and civil conventions of the Council of Europe. We can mention the regulations of Criminal Code and including corruption as a crime in all its forms of expression; provisions about the specific facilities of investigation into the criminal offences provided for a s corruption, legal regulation for the protection of witnesses and denouncers, legal regulation for the responsibility of the legal entity, legal regulation for liability of the accounting experts etc.</p> <p>Government has set up effective structures of fight against corruption for strengthening the inspecting, auditing, as well as implementing and investigating capacities.</p> <p>GDSPPP Controls the list of financing of terrorism in accordance with the consolidated list of UNO Security council as well as decisions of Council of Ministers for the list of persons declared as financers of terrorism. Verifications have been made with the reporting entities and law enforcement entities even the new UNO list declared in April 2008, as well as the lists of Resolutions 1591, 1596, 1737, 1747 and 1803.</p>	<p>Continuation in implementation</p>
<p>→ report on implementation of the GRECO recommendations</p>	<p>Latest GRECO report (January 2008) on fulfilment of recommendations for Albania from the Second Round of Evaluation (December 2004) confirms that 11 out of 23 recommendations in total were met. Government is also committed to meet the two remaining recommendations which referred to i) methodology and training for identification of the crime of money laundering, ii)</p>	

	methodology and training for accounting experts and identification of corruption crime.	
→ report on implementation of the standards foreseen in the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF);	Department General for Prevention of Money Laundering (GDSPPP) has drafted the new law “On prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism”, which has been approved by the Albanian parliament on 19 May of this year and it has been decreed by the President of Republic, on 9 June 2009. The new law no 9917 “On prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism”, enters into effect on 10 September 2008. This law has incorporated in, inter alia, 40+9 Recommendations of Task Force of Financial Action, approximating in this way the Albanian legislation to the international standards of the fight against the money laundering and financing of terrorism.	Continuation in implementing these standards in drafting the various instructions, as well as in the drafting of these bylaw acts.
→ report on implementation of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business.	In the law no 9917, dated 19.05.2008 “On prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism”, the notion of Persons Politically Exposed have been incorporated for the first time. The review of the full list of these persons (PEP), as well as their categorisation to the clients on whom extended vigilance should apply is foreseen.	Continuation in implementing these standards.

<b>Judicial co-operation in criminal matters</b>		
• <b>implement of international conventions concerning judicial cooperation in</b>		

<b>criminal matters (in particular Council of Europe Conventions);</b>		
→ <i>report on the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Add Protocol to the CoE Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance (entered into force in Albania on February 2004 )</i>	Albania has ratified this Convention by the law no 8883, dated 18.04.2002 and on the basis of Article 122 of the Constitution, the convention applies directly.  The necessary amendments to legislation for the implementation of the Convention have been made.	
• <b>take measures aimed at improving the efficiency of judicial co-operation in criminal matters of judges and prosecutors with the EU Member States and with countries in the region;</b>		
→ <i>report on implementation/ speed of rogatory letters</i>	A foreign rogatory letter may be enforced successfully by the Albanian justice authorities within an average period of 3 months, while it turns out that the requests of our authorities sent abroad are enforced by the respective authorities sometimes even after one or several years.	
→ <i>report on</i>	The RoA is party to the “European Extradition Convention”,	

<p><i>effectiveness of extradition procedures, MLA, execution of foreign court decisions, including statistics</i></p>	<p>that has entered into force on 17.08.1998. Albania has implemented this convention strictly. Albania is also party to the “Additional Protocol for the European Extradition” as well as to the “Second Additional Protocol to the European Extradition Convention”, since 17.08.1998.</p> <p>On 3 December 2007, an “Agreement between the Republic of Albania and Republic of Italy, as an addendum to the European Extradition Convention of 13 December 1957 and of the European Convention for legal assistance in criminal matters, dated 20 April 1959, aiming at facilitating their implementation” was signed. The Agreement facilitates the extradition procedures and legal assistance, providing for the extradition of Albanian citizens from Italy and it is in full compliance with the EU standards as provided for in “European Arrest Warrant”. The agreement also provides for streamlined procedures for granting legal assistance in criminal matters.</p> <p>In 2006, 70 Albanian citizens have been subject to extradition to Albania, as well as 5 foreign citizens from Albania to other countries. In 2007 these figures are respectively 82 and 5. For 2008 (to date): 30 Albanian citizens to Albania and 1 foreign citizen from Albania to other countries.</p> <p>At the same time, the Albanian judiciary, upon request of the Ministry of Justice, as the central authority, has recognised and executed numerous decisions of foreign courts regarding Albanian citizens, since Albania is a party to the “European convention on international validity of criminal decisions” since 2004. Albania has concluded the following bilateral agreements with countries in the region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Albania and the government of Macedonia for the reciprocal</li> </ol>	<p>A similar agreement was proposed to Greece, which welcomed this proposal and its content shall be determined at expert level, while there us a clear will for its conclusion at the political level.</p>
--	---	---

	<p>enforcement of the judicial decisions in criminal matters, signed on 15.01.1998.</p> <p>2. Convention between the Republic of Albania and Republic of Greece for the reciprocal implementation of judicial decisions in criminal matters, signed on 17.05.1993.</p> <p>3. Convention on legal assistance in civil, commercial and criminal matters between the Republic of Albania and Republic of Turkey, signed in 1995.</p> <p>In 2005, 2006 and 2007, 143 requests for the recognition of the foreign criminal decisions have been examined by the Albanian courts. They regard the following criminal acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- trafficking of narcotics, as in Article 283/a of Albanian Criminal code;</li> <li>- production and sale of narcotics, as in Article 283 of Albanian Criminal code;</li> <li>- exploitation of prostitution, as in article 114 of Criminal code;</li> <li>- Exploitation of prostitution under aggravating circumstances, as in Article 114/a of the Criminal code;</li> <li>- Theft, as in Article 134 of Criminal Code,</li> <li>- Premeditated murder, Article 76 of Criminal Code;</li> <li>- Trafficking of women, Article 114/b of Criminal Code,</li> <li>- Trafficking of Weapons and Ammunition, Article 278/a of the Criminal Code;</li> <li>- Illegal crossing of border, Article 297.</li> <li>- illegal production and possession of military weapons and ammunition, as in Article 278 of Criminal Code;</li> <li>- Trafficking of weapons and ammunition, as in Article 278/a of the Criminal code,</li> <li>- Forced Sexual intercourse with adults, Article 102/1 of the Criminal Code.</li> </ul>	
<p>→ overview of responsibilities/ human</p>		

<i>resources</i>		
<i>→ overview of relevant training provided</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>develop working relations with Eurojust mainly through the Eurojust contact point.</b></li> </ul>		
<i>→ update on relations with Eurojust</i>	Despite the absence of an official contact, Albania is making serious efforts to meet some of the requirements of Eurojust for the conclusion of an agreement which would make possible the participation of Albania. In this context, this authority would examine the Albanian legislation on data protection.	
<b>Law enforcement co-operation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>take necessary steps to ensure efficiency of law enforcement co-operation among relevant national agencies - especially border guards, police, customs officers -, as well as cooperation with the judicial</b></li> </ul>	<p>A joint Regulation for the cooperation between the BMP and customs has been signed.</p> <p>A Joint Order has been signed by the Director General of State Police and the director General of Customs “On the use of facilities and equipment to the effect of boosting security at BCPs”</p>	

<b>authorities;</b>		
→ <i>describe the mechanism of inter-agency cooperation</i>	<p>Based on the approved acts, inter-agency cooperation takes place through the following mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint controls of passengers, through one-stop control;</li> <li>• Communication and exchange of information including joint risk analysis, as long as it is possible, taking into account the specific nature of the control by each structure;</li> <li>• Joint use of premises and equipment to the extent this is possible;</li> <li>• Joint Task Force Teams;</li> <li>• Contact persons;</li> <li>• Joint training activities;</li> <li>• Joint contingency and emergency plans;</li> <li>• Other forms of cooperation agreed jointly.</li> </ul>	
→ <i>steps taken and planned (including timetable) to improve inter-agency cooperation and progress achieved</i>	<p>The pilot implementation of the Regulation has been foreseen for one BCP and later other BCPs.</p> <p>Pilot project of online visas with three embassies has been implemented (Embassy of Greece, Italy and Croatia).</p>	<p>The new Regulation on cooperation between the Customs and Border shall be implemented later this year.</p> <p>National Register on foreigners shall be put in place and operational among BMP, MFA and MLSAEC, part of which shall be the online system of visas.</p>
• <b>improve exchange of information between national agencies by setting up an adequate coordination mechanism;</b>		

<p>→ <i>evaluation of exchange of information between agencies</i></p>	<p>The BMP exchanges information related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicion on the entry into Albanian territory of illegal loads, presence of trafficking etc;</li> <li>• The most frequent methods and techniques used for committing crimes and criminal or administrative contraventions;</li> <li>• Techniques and methods of trafficking human beings, as well as illegal materials and those affecting the security of the country and well-being of the population;</li> <li>• Information on the expected periodicity of trafficking;</li> <li>• Information on the illegal shipments that have final destination Albania or are transiting through;</li> <li>• Any other possible information which is received and might be considered valuable, based on the relevant legislation.</li> </ul>	
<p>→ <i>planned measures to define the coordination mechanism</i></p>	<p>The Inter-Ministerial Group for monitoring and implementing MIK and its Action Plan has been set up and is operational.</p>	<p>The first meeting of this inter-ministerial group shall be held in September this year. This inter-ministerial group meeting will take into consideration the progress regarding the implementation of the Action Plan and it also will determine the modalities for updating the Action Plan for each agency.</p>
<p>• <b>reinforce regional law enforcement co-operation and implement bilateral and multilateral operational cooperation agreements, including by sharing on time relevant information with competent law</b></p>	<p>International and regional cooperation has been intensified with countries in the region, such as: Italy, Turkey, Greece, Montenegro, the FYR Macedonia, as well as Germany and Switzerland. The results of this cooperation in the fields of joint operations and of exchange of information are tangible.</p>	

<p><b>enforcement authorities of EU Member States;</b></p>		
<p>→ report on results of regional law enforcement cooperation</p>	<p>Albania has ratified the convention on Police Cooperation among the countries of the South Eastern Europe and has started its implementation.</p> <p>Albania has signed with the neighboring countries, Montenegro and the FYR Macedonia the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreement on the joint border patrolling. The implementation of this agreement with the FYR Macedonia has started.</li> <li>- Protocol on organising joint meetings at all levels among the managers of BMP. A series of meetings have been already held.</li> </ul> <p>The Contact Points of the BMP with all the countries in the region have been set up and are functional;</p> <p>An agreement with Montenegro has been signed for setting up of a Joint Border Crossing Point (JBCP) with Montenegro; Construction work has started. We are negotiating with Macedonia for a JBCP.</p> <p>A draft Memorandum of Cooperation among the regional countries (WB) "On early warning on illegal migration and cooperation on the statistical data on the illegal migration has been prepared.</p>	<p>Until February 2009 the following protocols shall be signed:</p> <p>Protocol on BCP Muriqan – Sukobine with Montenegro;</p> <p>Protocol for setting up a joint office for immediate exchange of information with Montenegro;</p> <p>Protocol for performing joint border operations with the FYR of Macedonia and Montenegro;</p> <p>Agreement for the building a BCP with the FYR of Macedonia.</p>
<p>→ report on implementation of operational cooperation agreements</p>	<p><b>International operations:</b></p> <p>In cooperation with prosecution offices and judicial authorities of other countries, in the period 2007-2008, there have been carried out 4 international operations and 4 perpetrators have been criminally prosecuted; In details: 2 operations with Italy; 1 with USA and Germany; 1 with Germany</p> <p>As a result of the cooperation with the customs authorities of countries in the region it was possible to:</p>	

	<p>Identify 3 cases with 13 Afghan citizens hidden in containers entering Albania through Greece (contribution of customs).</p> <p>Identify 412 cases of smuggling in BCP and outside BCP (contribution of BMP).</p>	
<p>→ report on concrete measures and cases of information exchange with EU Member States and their results</p>	<p>There have been exchange of information and some joint border patrolling operations with Greece.</p> <p>Regular meetings are organised and conducted with the Greek border police officers at local, regional and central level.</p>	
<p>→ describe planned measures to reinforce co-operation (including timetable)</p>	<p>In cooperation with the countries of the region it is under consideration the signing of the Memorandum on Early warning and exchange of data on illegal migration and its supporters.</p> <p>Albania will be in charge of collecting such information from and distributing to the countries of the region.</p>	<p>Signing of the Memorandum until november 2008.</p> <p>The implemetation of the Memorandum.</p>
<p>• <b>improve the operational and special investigative capacity of law enforcement services to tackle more efficiently cross-border crime;</b></p>		
<p>→ describe steps taken and planned to improve operational and investigative capacity of law enforcement services, including types of equipments used, training of staff etc.</p>	<p>As of 2009, TETRA system will be installed along the Albanian-Greece border, supported by IPA-2009 Program.</p> <p>In all PKK (Border Checking Points), there are in use optic equipments designed for day and night, vehicles designed for difficult terrain, equipments for travel document examination, on-line examination based on the finger prints, equipment for vehicle checking, and equipment for</p>	<p>Implemetation of the TETRA system with the intention to install it along the rest of the border.</p> <p>Improvement of the needed equipement, especially maritime one.</p> <p>PKK Staff training will continue.</p>

	<p>drugs and dangerous materials detection.</p> <p>PKK staff has been trained 1-2 times during 2008 on effectively using those equipments and on checking and patrolling techniques.</p> <p>In the course of this year, the national radar system for maritime space surveillance will be in place.</p>	
<p>→ report on results of successful cases where special investigative techniques have been used</p>	<p>In the period 2007-2008, 34 operations implementing the special techniques of investigation have been successfully carried out, of which 20 for anti-drugs, 9 against illegal trafficking; 3 against economic crime and corruption, 1 of task force against corruption and one in cooperation with foreign counterpart services.</p>	
<p>• take the necessary steps to prepare for the conclusion of an operational cooperation agreement with Europol with special emphasis on data protection provisions.</p>		
<p>→ report on progress made</p>	<p>The requirements for the conclusion of an operational agreement with Europol have been met: the questionnaire sent from Europol has been answered and the relevant structures in the State Police have been set up.</p> <p>Approval of the law “On personal data protection”, in March 2008.</p>	
<p><b>Data protection</b></p>		
<p>• implement the Personal Data Protection Law, adopted in March 2008 on</p>		

<p><b>the protection of personal data and implement its provisions including setting-up of an independent data protection supervisory authority with sufficient financial and human resources ;</b></p>		
<p><i>→ update on progress made in implementing the necessary legislation in line with the acquis, in particular Directive 95/46/EC</i></p>		
<p><i>→ update on which data protection legislation is covering automated databases containing personal data in the area of criminal records and state security</i></p>	<p>The Centre for Processing and Protection of Data has been set up In the Ministry of Interior. The Centre is responsible for the entire data base systems held by State Police. This centre operates based on the law no 8792, dated 10 May 2001 “On setting up the data processing centre”, and is located at the Ministry of Interior.</p> <p>For the security of information and IT system, there have been installed firewalls, antivirus and proxy servers, as well as other certified equipment.</p>	<p>Amendment to the law “On setting up the Centre for Processing Data”, as result of the implementation of the new law on protection of data, as well as bylaw acts.</p>
<p><i>→ report on progress made in setting up the supervisory authority and on measures taken to make it operational (human and financial resources, training)</i></p>		
<p><b>• sign, ratify and implement relevant international conventions, such as the</b></p>		

<p><b>Additional protocol of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Automatic Processing of Personal Data.</b></p>		
<p>→ <i>update on progress made</i></p>	<p>"Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data" has been signed by the Republic of Albania on 9/6/2004, ratified on 14/2/2005, entered into force on 1/6/2005.</p>	
<p><b>BLOCK 4: External Relations and fundamental rights</b></p>		
<p><b>Freedom of movement of Albanian nationals</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure that freedom of movement of Albanian citizens is not subject to unjustified restrictions, including measures of a discriminatory nature, based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.]</li> </ul>		

<p>→ report on legal provisions on freedom of movement, including mechanisms for handling incidents/citizens' complaints in areas mentioned above</p>	<p>The Constitution of the Republic of Albania guarantees the principle of equality for all Albanian citizens in front of the law and prohibits the unfair discrimination for reasons such as gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, political, religious or philosophical convictions, economic, educational, social situation and parental affiliation. At the same time, it provides the opportunity to apply positive discrimination by taking specific favouring measures and treatment or support to the individuals or categories of individuals or groups, in case of a reasonable and objective legitimacy.</p> <p>In addition to the constitutional guarantees, the observation and protection of rights of certain groups mentioned above is guaranteed by the effective legislation, which is being improved and complemented continuously, in accordance with the commitments undertaken by Albania in the framework of the process of Stabilisation and Association with EU.</p>	
<p>→ indicate reported cases/difficulties with specific groups</p>	<p>There are no reported cases.</p>	
<p><b>Conditions and procedures for the issue of identity documents</b></p>		
<p>• <b>ensure full and effective access to travel and identity documents for all citizens including women, children, people with disabilities, people belonging to minorities and other vulnerable groups;</b></p>	<p>Albanian authorities have taken all the necessary measures for assisting certain social groups, based on the law no 8668, dated 23.11.2000 “On provision of Albanian citizens with travel passport”, and on the Instruction of the Minister of Public Order no 1627, dated 22.01.2002 “On procedures for the provision of Albanian citizens with travel passport”. The documents required for the provision with a passport, are submitted by the citizens to the Police Commissariat where he/she has the civil status registration or to our</p>	

	<p>diplomatic representatives abroad, where they temporary reside. The requested documents shall be presented at the Regional Police Directorate and the citizen gets the passport back in the same location.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- The offices receiving the documents are located to Police Commissariats or to our diplomatic/consular posts abroad;</li> <li>2- based on the law, the citizen shall be provided with a passport within one month and he/she shall submit the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a request in writing;</li> <li>• birth certificate with a photo;</li> <li>• four pieces of photos 4 x 5 cm, frontal place, with rounded corners.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3- The citizens under 16 years of age can not apply for themselves; the parents apply for them, or the custodian or the legal representative, who has to prove that by legal acts.</li> </ol> <p>For the children under 16 years of age the following documents are requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth certificate with a photo and a family certificate;</li> <li>• four pieces of photos 4 x 5 cm, frontal place, with rounded corners;</li> <li>• request in writing by the legal representative;</li> <li>• In case that the parents are divorced, the request and submission of documents shall be made by the parent (father or mother) or custodian, who, based on a court decision has the right of parental custody.. In those cases, in addition to the request and documents requested for by law, attached should also be the court decision, stating that he has the custodian right for taking care of the child.</li> <li>• Power of attorney issued by the legal representative of the child.</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<p>For the children being adopted by a foreign citizens, the following additional documents are requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• request made by the Adoption Committee;</li> <li>• Decision of court about adoption of the child;</li> <li>• Request and photocopy of the passport of the citizen adopting the child.</li> </ul> <p>The documents submitted by the citizens requesting a travel passport shall be verified through the police authorities.</p> <p>In case the documents are found out to be irregular, the passport shall not be produced and the documents shall be blocked and sent for further processing by the prosecution office.</p> <p>The citizens under 16 years of age shall be provided with a passport valid for 5 years, while those above 16 years with a passport valid for 10 years.</p> <p>In all the cases, the validity of passport can be extended only once, for one year.</p> <p>The passports issued during the last years have been entered into the system and it has been made possible to have a better control of entries and departures from Albania, reaching considerable results in apprehending the wanted persons or those having committed criminal offences.</p>	
<p>→ indicate most difficult target groups  → report on positive actions/specific efforts foreseen for specific target groups</p>	<p>In addition to existing police stations, there has been foreseen the establishment of 100 mobile stations, where the citizens might apply for a passport. These mobile stations shall assist the rural inhabitants, Roma population, people not being able to travel, persons serving the sentence, as well as other groups in need.</p>	
<p>• ensure full and effective</p>		

<p><b>access to identity documents for refugees.</b></p>		
<p>→ <i>report on legal arrangements</i></p>	<p>The Republic of Albania is a party to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees. In compliance with these international legal instruments, Law no 8432, dated 14.12.1998 “On asylum in Republic of Albania” has been approved. Based on these instruments, respectively Article 28 of the 1951 convention and Article 12 of the law “On asylum in Republic of Albania”, refugees are entitled to apply and obtain a travel document.</p>	
<p>→ <i>report on procedures in place</i></p>	<p>The travel document, provided to the refugees, shall be issued by the Department of Citizenship and Refugees, MI. This Department ensures the document from UNHCR representatives in Tirana.</p> <p>This document comes in two languages, English and French.</p> <p>It is called TRAVEL DOCUMENT / TITRE DE VOYAGE.</p> <p>Dark blue, with measurements 10 – 15 cm in a rectangle form.</p> <p>This document contains 32 (thirty two) pages, excluding the cover.</p> <p>On page 2 (two) of this passport, the holder may add up to 4 (four) children. This travel document shall be issued for a period of 1 (one) or 2 (two) years. It is the possible to extend for up to 4 (four) years the validity of this document. This travel document replaces the passport of the country the refugee has left from and has refused his/her protection, and it can be used for travelling to other countries (having the visa if it is needed). Republic of Albania guarantees to the refugee the same treatment, rights and obligations as the Albanian citizens, with the exception provided in the Constitution of the Republic of Albania.</p>	
<p>→ <i>provide statistics (number</i></p>	<p>According to our legislation, all the refugees shall be</p>	

<p><i>of refugees who applied/ received/refusals and grounds for refusal)</i></p>	<p>provided with a Travel Document.</p> <p>There have been no cases of refusal.</p>	
<p><b>Citizens' rights including protection of minorities</b></p>	<p>The protection and continuous improvement of fundamental human rights and freedoms, constituent part of which are also the rights of minorities, constitutes a permanent commitment of Albania. A clear expression of this commitment is the ratification of or the accession in almost all international conventions of this realm, in particular the ratification without any reserve of the Framework Convention "On protection of National Minorities".</p> <p>The Framework Convention, after the ratification has become part of the internal Albanian legislation, guaranteeing the protection of minorities in Albania.</p> <p>The Constitution of the RA defines minorities as integral part of the Albanian society, recognising and guaranteeing to them all the rights, same as other Albanian citizens, and providing the conditions to preserve and develop their national, educational, cultural and religious identity.</p>	
<p><b>• adopt and enforce legislation to ensure effective protection against discrimination;</b></p>	<p>The Constitution of the Republic of Albania guarantees the principle of equality for all Albanian citizens in front of the law and prohibits the unfair discrimination for reasons of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, political, religious or philosophical convictions, economic, educational, social situation and parental affiliation. At the same time, it provides the opportunity to apply positive discrimination through specific favouring measures and treatment or support to the individuals or categories of individuals or groups, in case of a reasonable and objective legitimacy.</p> <p>In addition to the constitutional guarantees, the observation and protection of rights of certain groups mentioned above</p>	

	<p>is guaranteed by the effective legislation, which is being improved and complemented continuously, in accordance with the commitments undertaken by Albania in the framework of the process of Stabilisation and Association with EU.</p> <p>With the approval of the law no 9686, dated 26.02.2007 “On some changes to the law no 7895, dated 27.01.1995 “Criminal Code of Republic of Albania, as amended” (Article 6), crimes for racial motives or other discriminating motives are established as a separate criminal offence in the Criminal Code. This law considers as aggravating circumstance the use of discrimination as a motive for committing a crime”.</p> <p>One of the main objectives of the national strategy “On improvement of the living conditions of the Roma minority” is the elimination of any form of discrimination against the Roma minority, aiming at improving the living conditions and eliminating differences with the rest of the population.</p> <p>Protection from discrimination is provided also by the law no 9749, dated 4.06.2007 “On state police” and the law no 8291, dated 25.2.1998 “Code of Police Ethics”, which elaborate the cases of illegal acts and behaviour committed by the police forces, as well as complaining procedures.</p> <p>The law on State Police, which states the requirements and parameters for admissions in the police structures, makes possible a broad participation of persons belonging to minorities.</p> <p>The structures of Ministry of Interior and State Police are maximally committed to observe the implementation of human and minorities’ rights.</p> <p>In this context it is found out that the cases of discrimination are not evident, this is partially due to the ethnic, cultural, lingual or religious identity.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>At the same time, we have attached a great importance to the training of police forces, in order to know and protect the human rights, giving priority to the rights of national minorities.</p> <p>The Electoral Code guarantees the normal conduct of elections and a full and free participation of minorities in the elections.</p> <p>At the same time, the law “On gender equality” promotes and guarantees equal possibilities for all citizens, including the minorities, for participating in public life, as well as for eliminating the direct and indirect discrimination based on gender.</p>	
<p>→ overview of legislation in place and planned legislation</p>	<p>Observation and protection of rights of minorities is guaranteed by the Constitution and present improved legislation.</p> <p>The present legal framework guarantees the observation and protection of rights of minorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Constitution of Republic of Albania sanctions the universal principles of human rights and “<i>pluralism, national identity and national inheritance, peaceful religious co-existence, as well as living together and good-understanding between Albanians and minorities</i>”, and considers those as the fundamentals of the Albanian state.</li> <li>➤ “Code of Administrative Procedures of Republic of Albania” (approved by law no 8485, dated 12.05.1999) establishes that enrolment in the public administration is led by the principle of equality in the sense that none can be privileged or discriminated due to gender, race, religion, ethnicity,</li> </ul>	

	<p>language, political, religious or philosophical conviction, economic, educational, social or parental situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania (approved by law no 7895, dated 27.1.1995) as well as the respective amendments to it, provide for the elimination of every form of discrimination against the minorities and for the protection of minorities living in Albania, as well as for sanctions against discriminating acts. At the same time in the law no 9686, dated 26.02.2007 “On some changes to the law no 7895, dated 27.1.1995 “Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania, as amended”, (Article 6) crimes for racial motives or other discriminating motives are established as a separate criminal offence in the Criminal Code.</li> <li>➤ “Code of Civil Procedure of the Republic of Albania”&lt; (approved in the law no 8116, dated 29.3.1996) guarantees the use of mother tongue for the persons who do not know Albanian during all the phases of proceedings.</li> <li>➤ Law no 7952, dated 21.06.1995 “On pre-university educational system”, amended by the law no 8387, dated 30.07.1998 “On some changes to the law no 7952, dated 21.06.1995, “On Pre-University Educational System”. In accordance with this law, the persons belonging to the national minorities have the possibility to learn and be taught in their mother tongue; learn about their history and culture, in accordance with the educational programs.</li> <li>➤ Law no 8145, dated 11.09.1996 “On the Right to Assembly” guarantees the right for public gathering for all the citizens, without any distinction due to sex, race, colour, language, belief, ethnicity, economic, financial, educational and social</li> </ul>	
--	---	--

	<p>situation, political beliefs, parental affiliation or any other personal circumstance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Law no 8239, dated 3.9.1997, “On a change to the law no 7756, dated 11.10.1993 “On press”. The persons belonging to the minorities have the right to start their own written media in their mother tongue.</li> <li>➤ Law no 8410, dated 30.09.1998 “On public and private radio and television in Republic of Albania”, guaranteeing access to written or electronic media for the programs in the language of minorities.</li> <li>➤ Law no 8580, dated 17.02.2000 “On political parties”, guarantees for minorities their constitutional right to participation in public life.</li> <li>➤ Law no 9087, dated 19.06.2003 “Electoral Code of Republic of Albania”, with the respective amendments, guarantees the normal conduct of elections, as well as participation of minorities in the electoral process.</li> <li>➤ Law no 9029, dated 13.03.2003 “On some addenda to the law no 8950, dated 10.10.2002 “On Civil Status” and law no 9929, dated 9.06.2008 “On some amendments and changes to the law no 8950, dated 10.10.2002 “On civil Status” provide the change of nationality by judicial decision.</li> <li>➤ CMD no 396, dated 22.8.1994 “On 8 year education in mother tongue for minority persons”. This decision aims at providing the conditions for the expression and preservation the linguistic and cultural identity of persons belonging to minorities.</li> <li>➤ CMD no 502, dated 5.8.1996 “On an addendum to the Council of Ministers Decision no 396, dated 22.08.1994 “On 8 year education in mother tongue for minority persons”.</li> <li>➤ National strategy of development of pre-university education 2004 – 2015, approved by CMD no 538,</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<p>dated 12.08.2004, where education is ensured to all the citizens of the Albanian society, including minorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ At the same time, in the field of education there are a series of acts, such as bylaw acts or decisions and instructions, orders etc, determining the criteria for opening private schools for the minorities.</li> <li>➤ CMD no 127, dated 11.03.2004 “On setting up the State Committee for Minorities”.</li> <li>➤ CMD no 633, dated 11.03.2004 “On approval of the National Strategy “On improvement of the living conditions of Roma minority”.</li> <li>➤ CMD no 437, dated 8.4.2008, “On Accession of Council of Ministers of RA to the Declaration “Decade of Roma”.</li> </ul>	
<p>→ <i>evaluation of the enforcement of the legislation in place</i></p>	<p>Ratification of the Framework Convention “On protection of national minorities”,  First National Report for the protection of minorities (2001),  Second National Report for the protection of minorities (2007),  Memorandum of cooperation and Understanding between the Central authorities and Local Authorities “On cooperation in the field of protection and observation of rights of minorities in Albania (27.07.2006).</p>	
<p>• <b>specify conditions and circumstances for acquisition of Albanian citizenship;</b></p>	<p>The conditions for acquisition of Albanian nationality are established by law no 8389, date 5.8.1998 “On Albanian citizenship”, law no 8442, dated 21.01.1999 “On some amendments to the law no 8389, dated 05.08.1998 “On Albanian citizenship”.</p> <p>Joint instruction of Minister of Public Order no 925, dated 03.03.1999, Minister of Foreign Affairs no 337/1, dated 25.03.1999 and Minister of Finance no 583/3, dated 05.03.1999 “On procedures to be followed for obtaining the Albanian citizenship through naturalisation”;</p>	

	<p>Instruction of Minister of Public Order no 3583, dated 27.11.2001 and Minister of Foreign Affairs no 6252, dated 10.12.2001 “On procedures and documentation for obtaining, re-obtaining and abandoning the Albanian citizenship”;</p> <p>Joint instruction of Minister of Interior no 5212/2, dated 17.09.2007 and Minister of Foreign Affairs no 10452/2, dated 26.09.2007, for some addenda and changes</p>	
<p>→ describe legislation and procedures in place</p>	<p>In accordance with the law no 8389, date 5.8.1998, Albanian citizenship can be obtained through:</p> <p>a. birth; b. naturalisation, c. adoption.</p> <p><b>Acquisition of citizenship through birth</b></p> <p>A child obtains the Albanian citizenship by birth if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. both his parents were Albanian citizens at the moment of the birth of the child;</li> <li>2. one of the parents is, at the time of birth, Albanian citizen and the child was born within the territory of Republic of Albania. Cases when parents jointly decide for the child to obtain the other citizenship are excluded;</li> <li>3. was born outside the territory of republic of Albania and one of the parents is Albanian citizen, while the other parent is of unknown or without citizenship;</li> <li>4. was born outside the territory of republic of Albania and</li> </ol>	

one of the parents is Albanian citizen, while the other parent has another citizenship, but both parents agree that the child obtain the Albanian citizenship.

Albanian citizen is obtained by:

1. A child born or found within the territory of the Republic of Albania if he/she was born from unknown parents, and as a consequence the child would remain without citizenship.

In case the parents of the child are known before the child turns 14 years old, and they are of foreign citizenship, the Albanian citizenship may be lifted upon the request of the legally recognised parents, provided that the child does not remain without citizenship as a consequence of this action.

2. A child born within the territory of the Republic of Albania, from parents of other citizenship, who are legal residents in the territory of Republic of Albania, can obtain the Albanian citizenship with the consent of both parents.

**Acquisition of citizenship by naturalisation**

A foreigner having filed a request for obtaining Albanian citizenship by naturalisation obtains it if he meets the following conditions:

1. being 18 years old;
2. Having resided legally in the territory of Republic of Albania continuously, not less than 5 years;
3. Having a shelter and possessing sufficient income;
4. Being without criminal record in his own country or in the Republic of Albania or in any other third state for criminal offence, concerning which the law provides for not

	<p>less than 3 years deprivation of liberty. Exception from this rule can be made only where it is established that the conviction has been imposed for political motives;</p> <p>5. having at least basic knowledge of Albanian;</p> <p>6. His admission as Albanian citizen should not affect the security and defence of Republic of Albania;</p> <p>7. Foreigners having turned 18 years old may be granted citizenship by naturalisation even if conditions of this law are not met, with the exception of point 6, where Republic of Albania has a scientific, economic, cultural and national interest.</p> <p>In case the person is without citizenship, conditions of point 1, 3, 4 and 5 of this Article are not taken into account.</p> <p>If the foreigner establishes that he is of Albanian origin up to the second degree, be it only through one parent, the time of stay in the Republic of Albania, mentioned in point 2 of this Article should be at least 3 years. All the other conditions for acquiring Albanian citizenship indicated in this article remain unaffected.</p> <p>Albanian citizenship can be acquired by a foreign citizen married to an Albanian citizen for no less than 3 years, if he wishes he can be granted the Albanian citizenship by naturalisation even if he does not meet conditions of points 2 and 5. In this case the foreigner should have resided continuously and legally in the territory of Albania at least one year.</p> <p>Albanian citizenship may be acquired by a person whose both parents obtain the Albanian citizenship by naturalisation, if he/she is less than 18 years of age, as</p>	
--	--	--

long as he/she lives with his/her parents. Citizenship is acquired upon request of parents with the consent of child, as long as this is within 14-18 years of age.

In case one of the parents obtains the Albanian citizenship, his child under 18 years of age becomes Albanian citizen, if this is requested by both parents, or by one of the parents where the other parent is without citizenship and the child has his residence in the Republic of Albania.

**Acquisition of citizenship through adoption**

In two parents of Albanian citizenship adopt a minor of another citizenship or without citizenship, the minor obtains Albanian citizenship.

The adopted minor obtains Albanian citizenship even if one of the parents is Albanian and both parents, at the moment of adoption, reside in the territory of Republic of Albania, as well as in every other case where the child risks remaining without citizenship, as a consequence of adoption.

Documents that a foreign citizen has to produce for the acquisition of Albanian citizenship:

*- By birth:*

For children born in the territory of Republic of Albania from parents of foreign citizenship, but both being legal residents in Republic of Albania:

- Request of parents addressed to the President of Republic;  
*the request shall contain the full identity of the applicants (name, surname, date of birth, place of birth, citizenship),*

	<p><i>address of their permanent residence and address and phone number for receiving information about the processing of the application, reasons the application for the acquisition of Albanian citizenship. The request shall be signed by name, surname and signature of the applicant;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Birth certificate of child;</li> <li>- Photo of child, three pieces;</li> <li>- Certificate proving the citizenship of both parents;</li> <li>- Notary statement of both parents, containing their consent to the acquisition of Albanian citizenship by the child.</li> </ul> <p><i>- By naturalisation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request of foreign citizen addressed to the President of Republic;</li> <li>- Written opinion of the civil servant accepting the documents about the level of knowledge of Albanian language (this is compiled by the respective specialist);</li> <li>- Birth certificate;</li> <li>- Permit of stay in the Republic of Albania, according to the criteria of law on citizenship (certified copy), if living in Albania;</li> <li>- Act of ownership of the home or rent contract (certified copy);</li> <li>- Employment contract for employees or certificate by the tax office for the self-employed or investors (certified copy);</li> <li>- documents establishing possession of sufficient financial resources for living, such as bank guarantee, savings card, official certificate on revenues (certified copy);</li> <li>- Criminal record certificate issued in the country of origin</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<p>and in the country where the applicant has legally resided in the last six months;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Document establishing his/her being asylum beneficiary, as appropriate (certified copy);</li> <li>- Photos of applicant, 3 pieces (in case he has children under 14 years of age, photo for each of them);</li> <li>- Certificate (as appropriate) to establish the Albanian origin of the applicant, up to two degrees, be it only for one parent;</li> <li>- Written opinion of local police commissariat about the conduct during the stay of the applicant in the Republic of Albania (compiled by the criminal police sector);</li> <li>- Marriage certificate;</li> <li>- Payment receipt.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>Request addressed to the President of Republic;</p> <p>The request is personal; it should contain the name, surname, date of birth, place of birth, permanent address, temporary address, address for receiving information on the processing of application, reasons for the request of Albanian citizenship, the year he/she came to Albania, profession while in the foreign state and profession in Albania. Applicants have to explain all the activity of their life, describing it clearly. The request is signed by name, surname, signature and date by the applicant.</p> <p>A written opinion of the civil servant that accepts the documentation about the level of Albanian language</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>knowledge:  Level of knowledge and communication in Albanian is expressed. If the applicant is married to an Albanian citizen, the law excludes the production of this document.</p> <p>Certificate of birth;  It must be from the country where he/she was born, certified in original by the diplomatic or consular representation of Albania in the state where it has been issued, translated and certified. Only documents in original shall be accepted.</p> <p>Stay Permit in the Republic of Albania;  - Permit of stay of a foreigner should establish the stay in the Republic of Albania legally and continuously (permit issued by the Directorate of Regional Police), in accordance with the provisions of the law;  - 5 year permit of stay for all the foreign citizens applying for acquisition of Albanian citizenship;  - 3 year permit of stay, for those foreigners establishing their Albanian origin up to two degrees, be it for only one parent.  - 1 year stay permit for those foreigners being married to an Albanian citizen for no less than three years (in this case, the marriage certificate is also required).</p> <p>Ownership act or rent contract for the home;  Every foreigner living in Albania should establish the ownership of a home of his own or its renting (where the</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>foreigner is married to an Albanian citizen, this is established also by the ownership of spouse).</p> <p>Employment contract; Every foreign citizen should produce an employment contract or certificate by the office of tax office for the self-employed or investors. The document needs to be a certified copy.</p> <p>Documents establishing the disposal of financial means; Every foreign citizen shall produce an Albanian bank document establishing that he has sufficient financial resources for living. The document should be in original issued by the head of the branch.</p> <p>Criminal Record certificate; The document should be filled in for all its modalities; for the married applicants surname should be written after marriage, in case he/she has changed it. This should not be issued earlier than 2 months from the moment of reception of documentation. Only original documents shall be accepted.</p> <p>Criminal certificate; This document shall be obtained in the country of origin. It should be translated, certified and legalised in the original, by the representative of our country in the country where it has been issued.</p> <p>Certificate to establish the Albanian origin;</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>Origin (nationality) up to two degrees is required to be Albanian.</p> <p>Marriage certificate; This document is required where there is a marriage act and it is obtained in the country where marriage has been concluded. In case the marriage has been concluded in a foreign state, the original document shall be legalised by the diplomatic or consular representations of our state where it has been issued, translated and certified. The document should contain the surname after the marriage of the spouses. In cases where the marital status “divorced” is written down, there shall be required the judicial decision on the divorce (certified copy). This shall not be issued earlier than 2 months from the reception of documentation. Only original documents shall be accepted.</p> <p>Photos, 3 (three) pieces Colour photos, of measurements 4x5cm done in the frontal plane, straight, appearance up to the chin should make up 70%. In case where he is applying for the child up to 14 years of age, there is needed also only 1 photo for the child.</p> <p>Payment receipt; The application fee is of 5000 lek. The payment receipt should contain the surname and name of applicant and date of payment. Only original document shall be accepted.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ensure investigation of ethnically motivated incidents by law enforcement officers in</b></li> </ul>	<p>There are no reported cases.</p>	

<p><b>the area of freedom of movement, including cases targeting members of minorities;</b></p>		
<p>→ describe procedures on investigation of incidents</p>	<p>The procedures are the same as for the rest of the citizens.</p>	
<p>→ provide list of cases</p>	<p>There are no reported cases.</p>	
<p>→ outline follow-up to ombudsman/NGO reports</p>		
<p><b>• ensure that constitutional provisions on protection of minorities are observed;</b></p>	<p>Albanian legislation, the Constitution of Albania and other legal acts, guarantee the implementation in practice of the rights of minorities, in compliance with the Framework Convention on National Minorities.</p> <p>The institutional framework for the protection of the national minorities is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State Committee for Minorities;</li> <li>- Sector for Minorities at Directorate General of Multilateral Relations at the MFA;</li> <li>- Sector for Monitoring the Implementation of Strategy for Roma Minority;</li> <li>- Department of Elementary Education at the Ministry of Education and Science;</li> <li>- INSTAT.</li> </ul>	
<p>→ describe provisions in place</p>	<p>The National Plan for the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement determines the priorities and short term and medium term policy objectives of the Albanian government in relation to the observation of minorities rights. An important role is taken up by the launching and implementation of the legal and institutional initiatives for guaranteeing and observation of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individuals and specifically the</p>	<p>As it is foreseen in the National Plan for the implementation of Stabilisation and Association Agreement and in accordance with the international instruments, in the field of protection of minorities, the Albanian government is committed to implement and reach the standards required in relation to the observation of rights of all the minorities living in</p>

	<p>rights of minorities.</p> <p>Of priority shall be considered the implementation of the National strategy “On improvement of the living conditions, education and employment of the Roma minority”.</p>	Albania.
→ describe implementation of the provisions	<p>For implementing the priorities and objectives determined in the national plan for Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, there have been set the measures, activities and responsible institutions in accordance with the fields of their activity.</p> <p>NPISAA has foreseen a series of activities to be implemented by the Sector for Minorities, which aim at promoting and strengthening the dialogue with representatives of minorities.</p>	
→ outline follow-up to Council of Europe /NGO/Ombudsman reports	<p>The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities has been signed by the Republic of Albania on 29.06.1995, ratified in 1996 and entered into force on 01.01.2000.</p> <p>Albania has submitted to the Council of Europe in 2001 the first Report on the implementation of the Framework Convention in Albania.</p> <p>The measures taken by Albania for implementing the Framework Convention and the level of their implementation were examined by the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention on the basis of the First official Report and the information collected during the visit of this committee in Albania (May 2002). The findings of the Advisory committee were reflected in drafting an Opinion approved by the Advisory Committee in September 2002.</p> <p>In February 2003, the Republic of Albania prepared the comments to the Opinion of the Advisory Committee, which were the result of the dialogue and consultations with representatives of the civil society, associations of minorities, as well as structures dealing with the minority</p>	

	<p>issues in Albania. After examining the Opinion of the Advisory Committee and the Comments of the Albanian Government, the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe approved the Resolution on the implementation of the Framework Convention by Albania. The opinion and the Resolution highlighted that Albania has made admirable efforts with regard to the implementation of the Framework Convention and highlighted fields, with regard to which further improvements can be made. In September 2005, in the process of implementing the recommendations of the first cycle of monitoring the Framework Convention for Albania, ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cooperation with Council of Europe organised the Meeting on the evaluation of the implementation of the Framework Convention “On protection of national minorities” by Albania. This meeting closed the first cycle of monitoring for Albania.</p> <p>The second official report of Albania was submitted to the Council of Europe in May 2007. This Report was drafted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the State Committee for Minorities and central and local institutions. At the same time, for drafting this report, there were consultations with organisations of representatives of minorities and civil society, which are active in the field of rights of minorities.</p> <p>Based on the procedure of monitoring the Framework convention on Minorities, in the context of examining the report submitted by Albania, as well as for receiving further information on the implementation of this convention, a delegation of experts of Advisory Committee of Framework convention visited Albania (4-7 march 2008).</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>implement relevant policies regarding all minorities, including Roma.</b></li> </ul>		

<p>→ <i>describe provisions/policies/data collection methods in place</i></p> <p><i>legal</i></p>	<p>Law no 8496, date 03.06.1996 “On ratification of Framework Convention for protection of national minorities”;</p> <p>Law no 9929, dated 9.6.2008 “On some changes and addenda to the law no 8950, dated 10.10.2002 “On civil status”;</p> <p>CMD no 633, dated 18.09.2006 “National strategy on improvement of the living conditions of Roma community”;</p> <p>CMD no 437, dated 8.4.2008 “Decade of Involvement of Roma”.</p> <p>Measures in the field of legislation undertaken by the Ministry of Education:</p> <p>CMD no 538, dated 12.08.2004 “On National strategy for Development of Pre-University Education 2004-2015”;</p> <p>MES – Instruction no 34, dated 08.12.2004 “On implementation of the project “second chance” for education of pupils having abandoned school and self-isolated pupils due to blood feuds”;</p> <p>MES has issued Order no 321, dated 11.10.2004 “On experimenting psychological service in the pre-university educational system”;</p> <p>Instruction no 30, dated 11.10.2004 “On implementation of Order no 321, dated 11.10.2004 of Minister of Education and Science, for experimenting the psychological service in the educational pre-university system for the academic years 2004 – 2005 and 2006 – 2007, ensuring the possibility of offering the psychological service for all the pupils, specifically the Roma.</p> <p>CMD no 616, dated 4.12.2002 “On determining the special categories benefiting from the law no 8872, dated 29.03.2002 “On education and professional training in Republic of Albania”;</p> <p>MLSAEC – Instruction o Minister no 2222, dated 31.10.2002 “On advising and orienting professional training”.</p>	<p>Draft CMD “On setting up the specific fund for financial support to the development projects of national and cultural identity of national minorities”;</p> <p>Draft law “On an amendment to the Criminal Code” which introduces a new provision against the exploitation of children for labour and other forced services and sale of children;</p> <p>Paving the way for drafting the action plan of “Decade of Roma Involvement”.</p>
---	--	---

	In Order no 782, dated 04.04.2006 “On professional training system”.	
→ <i>overview of implementation</i>	Ministry of labour Social Affairs and Equal Chances has been committed to implement the priority specific measures for the social protection provided for in the National strategy for Improvement of the conditions of Roma Minority”.	Integration of Roma children in the normal life; Assistance and support to the Roma for applying for and benefiting from economic assistance for poor families; Stimulation and support to the Roma associations as representatives in different aspects of their life.
→ <i>report on the implemented measures of the strategy on Roma and their results</i>	<p>By Order no 213/2, dated. 22.06.2004, the Sector for Monitoring the Strategy “On improvement of living conditions of Roma Community” was set up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This secretariat follows up and coordinates the work of ministries for the implementation of the strategy with respect to access to education, professional training, employment etc;</li> <li>- In the ministries and other responsible institutions, there is a contact person reporting on the progress in relation to sectoral objectives.</li> <li>- In the framework of the objectives of the strategy, it has been achieved: i) better awareness of institutions, regional and local government structures, ii) coordination with representatives of Roma minority and NGOs representing this minority; iii) boosting capacities of the sector and institutions of central, regional and local level through donations.</li> </ul> <p>Entry into effect on 1 June 2007 of the law no 9669, dated 18.12.2006 “On measures against domestic violence” ensured: i) setting up separate sector for preventing and fighting against domestic violence; ii) training the police members to deal with the cases of family violence;</p> <p>Progress report of strategy for 2003 – 2007.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transfer of this secretariat under the authority of Secretariat General of MSAEC;</li> <li>- contact and cooperation with the network of Roma NGOs, in the framework of institutionalising the relations, coordination of their work and cooperation for boosting capacities, offering services and awareness on negative phenomena;</li> <li>- Boosting capacities of the Sector for monitoring the implementation of the strategy for Roma;</li> <li>- Preparing, distribution and processing of questionnaires in nine prefectures for pointing out the living conditions of Roma minority;</li> <li>- Implementing the UNDP project for strengthening the vulnerable communities and support for the implementation of Roma strategy;</li> <li>Organisation of a round table on the implementation of the national Strategy for Roma;</li> <li>- Organisation of a national conference on the occasion of the World Day of Roma, 8 April;</li> <li>- Implementation of service standards for social care for children, PAK, aged, trafficked persons;</li> <li>- Awareness of legislation on the right to benefit for NE and PAK by Roma families;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Increasing the incomes for families receiving less than 1 USD per day per person;</li><li>- Evaluation and processing of statistical data related to the monitoring indicators for the social protection programs.</li></ul>
--	--	--

Annex 1: **Data of fight against drugs over the years:**

<b>Sector Statistics</b>							
<b>Year 2005</b>							
<b>Type</b>	<b>No of cases</b>	<b>Detected:</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Perpetrators</b>	<b>Arrested/detained</b>	<b>At large</b>	<b>Searches</b>
Heroin	67	67	40945.1 gr	116	107	3	
Cannabis-Cultivation	458	226	332186 plants	227	31	181	
Cocaine	6	6	2847.8 gr	11	11	0	
Marijuana/Hashish	117	110	6322010.4 gr	171	145	5	
Stretcher	0	0	22000 gr				
Hashish Oil	2	2	7 liter	2	2		
<i>Total 2005</i>	650	411		527	296	189	
<b>Year 2006</b>							
<b>Type</b>	<b>No of cases</b>	<b>Detected:</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Perpetrators</b>	<b>Arrested/detained</b>	<b>At large</b>	<b>Searches</b>
Heroin	90	88	120041.4 gr	169	157	9	
Cannabis-Cultivation	145	56	74052 plants	56	29	24	
Cocaine	8	8	3857.3 gr	23	22	1	
Marijuana/Hashish	199	177	6764207.1 gr	296	255	17	
Methadone	4	4	22.3 gr	4	4		
Poppy-Cultivation	7	7	580 plants	7	3	3	
Hashish Oil	1	1	0.95 litre	4	3	1	
<i>SHUMA 2006</i>	454	341		559	473	53	

<b>Year 2007</b>							
<b>Type</b>	<b>No of cases</b>	<b>Detected:</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Perpetrators</b>	<b>Arrested/detained</b>	<b>At large</b>	<b>Searches</b>
Acetone	0	0	12.5 liter				
Acid Hydrochloric	1	1	5 litre	1	1		
Ether Etilik	0	0	10 litre				
Seeds Cannabis	2	2	1921.4 pieces	3	3		
Fentanyl	1	1	13 portions	2	2		
Heroin	97	97	126758.7 gr	171	151	8	
Cannabis-Cultivation	271	73	177074 plants	84	44	31	
Cocaine	15	15	12864.6 gr	19	17	1	
Marijuana/Hashish	121	110	7100600.8 gr	199	172	12	
Methadone	1	1	3 tablets	1	1		
Stretcher	6	6	1960992.6 gr	11	11		
Poppy-Cultivation	9	8	874 plants	10	4	5	
<b>Amount 2007</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>314</b>		<b>501</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>57</b>	

During the period January – August 2008, there have been conducted **20 operations**, out of which **5 international** ones, with **224 arrested persons, 47 kg sequestered Heroin, 813 gr cocaine, 2.027 kg hashish** and **80.950 damaged plants**.

**In the meantime, the statistics of Italian Police** indicate that there have been caught only **6.5 kg heroin, 3.2 kg cocaine and 4 kg marijuana**, coming from Albania, which consists the minimum on record not comparable to 2007 and previously.

- In 2003, 2004, 2005 sequestered quantity in Italy has been 3 up to 4 tons.
- In 2007 only 100 kg

Among the Albanian police actions, we highlight:

- **February 2008** – “Lighted candle” operation, trafficking of weapons, narcotics extending over Kavaja, Lushnja, Rrogozhina, sequestered 278 kg narcotics, automatic weapons and ammunition & explosives.
- **July 2008** - *Operation “Mountain wind”*, extinguishing parcels with narcotic plants in the zone of Gjirokaster, Lazarat.