

EU builds law enforcement capacity in a candidate country

When EU leaders in mid-2014 granted Albania the status of a candidate for European Union membership, it was recognition of the country's progress in reform – including, crucially, in law and order. The credit for that progress is due in part to a long-running programme of support to Albania's police – support that the EU is still delivering.

BRINGING ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONALISM TO POLICING

The police assistance mission of the EU to Albania, PAMECA, is bringing the country closer to EU standards in public order and security, border management, and the fight against corruption and organised crime. It is helping develop credible, ethical and professional law enforcement, and judicial services that provide safety and security to all its citizens.

This is essential for Albania if the country is to make further progress in its bid to become an EU Member State. For the EU, it is also important that the countries on its borders operate in line with the rule of law – to ensure fair dealings in trade, to safeguard EU citizens travelling there, and to control the risk that the activities of organised criminals will spill across borders.

PROMOTING A COMMON CULTURE AMONG POLICE, PROSECUTION AND JUDGES

This is the fourth phase of PAMECA, and its goal is improving the efficiency and consistency of police operations, with management changes that gear the police and judicial services as a whole towards providing a safe and secure environment to citizens. This is backed by assistance in lawmaking, and by

promoting a comprehensive approach that builds a common culture among police, prosecution, and judges. It also includes winning the trust of the population.

The assistance comes in many forms, at both the strategic and technical levels – from new investigative skills and advice on policy and law-making, to providing necessary material, like fluorescent vests for the traffic police, and from training in community policing methods to study visits to Sicily for prosecutors implementing anti-mafia legislation. It has also generated cooperation with Europol and Frontex, and fostered participation in EU-wide crime-busting operations. Stronger legal powers and confiscation of proceeds of crime are helping to combat trafficking in people and drugs, money laundering, cybercrime, and environmental and financial crimes.

The General Director of the Albanian State Police Artan Didi, says: "With the reforms undertaken so far, the Albanian State Police has undergone significant changes. PAMECA IV has lived with the concerns and



Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Albania

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN RULE OF LAW.

the challenges faced by the police organisation, and has given advisory support at a strategic level, in human resources, logistics and police education.”

Saimir Tahiri, Minister of Internal Affairs, says that PAMECA has “been of direct benefit, ranging from policy and strategic advice to specialised training in the field, and to community outreach activities.”

POLICING BACKED UP BY INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

In the sector of home affairs, the EU has invested more than €17 million on training, coaching, equipment and infrastructure. It has also funded new border crossing points and upgraded police stations and provided high-speed patrol vessels for police and customs.

PROJECT DETAILS –

PAMECA-IV “Consolidation of the Law Enforcement Capacities in Albania”

Partners:

Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Italy (main partner)
Ministry of Interior of France
Federal Ministry of Interior of Austria
Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Hungary

Main beneficiaries:

Albanian Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Albania; Albanian State Police;
General Prosecutor’s Office, Albania

Further beneficiaries:

Customs and Tax authorities, Ombudsman, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Ministry of Education and Sport

Total cost in €:

4 million

EU Contribution in €:

100%

Start date:

June 2013

End date:

October 2016

Results:

Reformed structure and appropriate training for police; set up of the unified 112 emergency number; reviews of legislation; assessment reports on crime; improved treatment of persons in custody

Techniques:

Strategic advice, training, manuals, seminars, workshops, study visits

Project website:

<http://pameca.org.al/>

