

## Mid-Term report of Albania on the implementation of the recommendations received during the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

March 2017

In January 2014, Albania presented the national report on the human rights situation in the country in the context of the second cycle the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The review took place during the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council, on April 28, 2014. Albania received a total of 165 recommendations, which were assessed by the Government. Out of this number, Albania accepted 161 recommendations (3 recommendations were accepted partially, and one was noted).

The UPR Mid-term report provides an overview of the progress achieved from 2014 to 2016 in the implementation of the UPR recommendations issued during the second cycle. The report includes a mapping and classification of all UPR recommendations under the main areas and sub-areas of the UPR Report. Considering that some of the recommendation focus on the same issue or deal with more than one subject matter, they are organized and summarized to reflect all issues the UPR recommendations address in the following thematic areas, following an alphabetical order: Asylum-seekers – refugees; Civil Society; Corruption; Detention/Prohibition of Torture; Disabilities, Discrimination (general); Freedom of Expression and Access to Information; Freedom of the Press; Family; Human Rights Education and Training; International Instruments and Cooperation with Human Rights Mechanisms; Justice System and Legal Aid; Migrants Minorities; Recommendations on Minorities in General; Roma and Egyptian Minorities; National Human Rights Institutions; People Affected by Blood Feuds; Property Rights; Right to Education; Right to Health; Rights of the Child; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; Trafficking of Human Beings; Women’s Rights (Gender Equality and Fight against Discrimination; Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence).

This report was compiled based on consultations with institutions involved in the process of implementing the UPR recommendations and the drafting process was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Currently, the government of Albania, with the support of UN agencies (UN Women and UNFPA) is working towards the establishment of a UPR Action Plan and an online tracking mechanism, which include clear objectives and indicators to measure progress towards the implementation of all UPR recommendations.

No. of recommendation	UPR recommendation	Current status (2014-2016)
<b>Asylum seekers-refugees</b>		
<b>104.105 - Sierra Leone</b>	Improve the situation of asylum seekers and refugees through, inter alia, discontinuing the practice of detention of unaccompanied children, providing identification documents for refugees and ensuring their access to social assistance, implementing integration and housing programmes, as well as refraining from detaining asylum seekers, except as a last resort.	<p>The Law on Asylum in the Republic of Albania (121/2014) was adopted in 2014, guaranteeing the asylum seekers the right not be detained except for specific circumstances defined in the law and in accordance with the provisions of the criminal legislation. This law also prohibits the detention of unaccompanied children in penitentiary facilities and provides the issuance of identification documents for asylum seekers and refugees as well as access to social assistance and other services including education, housing and health.</p> <p>Identity and travel documents have started to be issued to refugees and the respective authorities are prepared to issue these documents also to people granted subsidiary protection.</p> <p>In September 2015, Albania prepared a contingency plan for a possible mass influx of migrants and asylum seekers, including an operational plan covering preparedness and response activities as well as related needs and gaps analysis.</p> <p>The Directorate for Asylum is adequately staffed (six people).</p>
<b>Civil Society</b>		
<b>104.24 - Angola</b>	Increase cooperation with civil society.	<p>Since 2014, a number of legal and political initiatives have been undertaken to increase the participation and involvement of civil society in policy and decision-making processes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Law on Notification and Public Consultations in 2014 (146/2014), which requires civil society to notify and held public consultation in the adoption process of draft laws, draft-national and local strategies, as well as policies which have a high public</li> </ul>

		<p>interest. This law creates many opportunities for civil society to participate in legal and policy making processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Policy Guidelines for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society in 2015.</li> <li>• The Law on the Establishment and Functioning of the National Council on Civil Society (2015), which is the State body in charge of supporting civil society.</li> <li>• Establishment of a number of mechanisms, which aim at increasing participation of civil society in policy-making processes, including the National Council on European Integration; the National Council of Civil Society, National Economic Council and National Labour Council</li> <li>• The Law on Social Enterprise was adopted in 2016</li> </ul> <p>Creating an enabling environment for civil society is one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Development and Integration, 2015-2020 (NSDI).</p>
<p><b>Corruption</b></p>		
<p><b>104.80-Belgium</b></p>	<p>Improve the effectiveness and transparency of efforts aimed at combating corruption.</p>	<p>A National inter-sectorial Strategy against Corruption (2015-2020) and Action Plan 2015-2017 were adopted in 2015. The strategy includes the costs and resources for the implementation of the relevant actions. The Strategy also includes a monitoring system on the implementation of relevant actions.</p> <p>An online portal for reporting cases of corruption was established in 2015 in the following sectors: Justice, Health, Education, Police; Customs; Taxation; Legalization of informal buildings; Property Registration; Cars Registration; Public Procurement; illegal constructions, and others</p> <p>The overall number of convictions at the appeal level involving junior or middle-ranking officials increased from 103 in 2014 to 286 in 2015. In the first half of 2016, there were 154 convictions at appeal level, compared to 132 convictions in the same period of the previous year.</p>

		<p>In 2015, the fight against corruption focused in the justice system as well, education, health and tax administration.</p> <p>In 2015, the Law on Whistle-blower was adopted.</p> <p>In 2016, the Law on Organizations and Functioning of Institutions in charge of Organized Crime and Corruption (SPAC) was adopted as part of the comprehensive reform of the justice system.</p>
<b>104.91-Italy</b>	Strengthen the institutional and administrative capacities of the civil service while expanding the action against corruption.	<p>A new Code on Administrative Procedures adopted in 2015 aims at increasing the oversight of public administration.</p> <p>A Crosscutting Public Administration Reform Strategy and Action Plan (2015 – 2020) was adopted in 2015, including a comprehensive monitoring and reporting system with performance indicators and targets.</p> <p>The system of information for human resources management of the civil service became operational in 2015 and it is currently being updated. The objective is to extend it to all institutions.</p> <p>A Commissioner for Oversight of the Civil Service was appointed by parliament at the end of 2014 as an independent monitor of the management of civil service.</p>
<b>Detention/Prohibition of Torture</b>		
<b>105.17 –Tunisia; 104.42 -Germany; 104.41 - United States</b>	Prevent all cases of torture and ill-treatment by police, law enforcement officials in places of detention and instruct police officers on an annual basis that any form of ill-treatment of detained persons is unacceptable and will be punished.	<p>The Law on the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees of 1998 was amended in 2014. The amendments aim at strengthening preventive and protection measures against physical, psychological and sexual violence in prisons and detention centers.</p> <p>With the support of the Albanian Helsinki Committee, around 200 staff of 5 petitionary centers in Albania received training on prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment.</p>

		<p>Since 2015, training sessions for the staff have been organized in all pre-detention centers.</p> <p>Provision of trainings on human rights and prohibition of torture and ill-treatment are included in the Annual Training Plan of the Albanian State Police.</p> <p>The Peoples Advocate in the role of the National Mechanism on the Prevention of Torture and in cooperation with civil society has organized a number of trainings and developed promotion materials focusing on police station, detention and pre-detention facilities to increase their knowledge on their human rights obligations.</p>
<p><b>104.42-Germany;</b> <b>104.75-France</b></p>	<p>Conduct effective, independent and impartial investigations in all cases of torture and ill-treatment in detention centers.</p>	<p>In 2015, the State Police has given provisional entry permits in detention to NMPT and 54 NGO representatives.</p> <p>From 2015-2016, the Albanian Government facilitated 18 verifications in different prison establishments by the Albanian Helsinki Committee and provision of legal advice in 150 cases of complaints for ill-treatment on this measure, a database was set up in the General Directorate of Police for the cases of inhuman treatments.</p> <p>15 recommendations issued by AHC were implemented during 2015-2016.</p> <p>The Ombudsman inspected 43 police units. The State Police responded to reports received by the Ombudsperson and implemented 103 out of 150 recommendations.</p> <p>The other recommendations were not Implemented due to lack of funds.</p> <p>From 2014 – 2015 the following investigations has taken place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 64 criminal charges against officers</li> <li>• 63 employees of the structures</li> <li>• 1 employee of the middle rank</li> <li>• 16 employees of the first rank level</li> <li>• 46 executive level employees</li> </ul>

		<p>The following sanctions were taken by the Directorate of Professional Standards for cases of abuse of power, violation of the rights of escorted / detained / arrested and nonperformance of duty by standard operating procedures are as follows:</p> <p>2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expulsion from the Police / 6 cases</li> <li>- Decrease of rank up to 12 months / 1 case</li> <li>- Suspension without pay for up to 30 days / 6 cases</li> <li>- Deferment of promotion up to 12 months / 4 cases</li> </ul> <p>2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expulsion from the Police / 10 cases</li> <li>- Suspension without payment up to 30 days / 3 cases</li> <li>- Deferment of promotion up to 2 years / 3 cases</li> <li>- Written warning / 5 cases</li> </ul> <p>January - March 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendation for soft measures / 3 times</li> <li>- Warning / 1 case.</li> </ul> <p>A mechanism for addressing prisoners' complaints has been established with the collaboration of the People's Advocate and the Directorate for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman Treatment: 200 post boxes have been installed offering a confidential way of posting letters of complaints on inhuman treatment and/or abuse by prison staff</p>
<b>104.42-Germany; 104.75- France</b>	The use of preventive detention should be exceptional and strictly regulated.	There is no provision in the Albanian criminal legislation, which allows for the use of preventive detention.
<b>105.25-Russian Federation</b>	Reform the penitentiary system with a view to ensuring humane conditions in detention, in line with the international standards.	Efforts to address overcrowding in the prison system took place with the release of 968 prisoners following the January 2016 Amnesty Law.

		<p>A policy paper on reducing overcrowding was drafted by the General Directorate of Prisons.</p> <p>Two new detention facilities were open in Fier and in Berat and the prison in Tirana was renovated.</p> <p>The use of alternatives measures to custody increased by 48 %, from 4 003 cases in 2014 to 5 927 in 2015. Use of electronic monitoring also increased, from eight cases in 2013 to 15 cases in 2015.</p>
<p><b>Disabilities</b></p>		
<p><b>104.74- United Kingdom</b></p>	<p>Improve facilities in places of detention for people with physical disabilities and improve access to adequate care for prisoners with mental health issues.</p>	<p>Amendments of “Law on the Rights of Prisoners” took place in 2014, which require the fulfillment of the specific needs for the habilitation rehabilitation of prisoners and detainees with physical disabilities.</p> <p>According to these amendments, prisoners and detainees with mental disabilities should be treated in accordance with the health standards applicable to other persons with mental disabilities. The law provides for the establishment of Special Health Sections for prisoners with mental disabilities.</p> <p>In 2015, 7 Special Health Sections have been established in 7 establishments of the penitentiary system.</p> <p>From January to December 2015, several trainings were provided for the prisons staff on the functioning of the Special Health Sections. A study visit of the Helsinki Committee representatives from Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia was also held in “Ali Demi” prison in 2015 for an exchange of experiences between the 4 countries in the adaption of the Special Health Sections and the treatment of prisoners with disabilities.</p> <p>In detention centers, measures are taken to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detention and treatment in separate rooms of detainees</li> </ul>

		<p>with disabilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing supervision by police and health personnel;</li> <li>• Provision of assistance and medical treatment in specialized centers.</li> </ul> <p>Currently, work is in progress to build hospital centers for persons with disabilities excluded from criminal liability but required by the Court to undergo compulsory medical treatment</p>
<p><b>104 90-Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;</b> <b>104.93-Maldives</b></p>	<p>Strengthen the social protection programmes and focus on the integration of persons with disabilities in the society.</p>	<p>Legislative and policy reforms are underway to implement the human rights of persons with disabilities in conformity with the CRDP. Important developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Law on the Inclusion and Accessibility of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014, which aims to implement the CRPD’s main principles and provisions, followed by a number of secondary legislation, which aims to: remove infrastructural and communication barriers for persons with disabilities, formalize the sign language for people with hearing impairments, and collection of aggregated data for persons with disabilities. In addition, the disability assessment process is being reformed to bring it in conformity with the ICF (WHO system of disability assessment) and the initiative is being piloted in two regions</li> <li>• A National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016-2020) was adopted in June 2016. It includes objectives and specific activities to be implemented in the areas of: accessibility, participation, equality, education, health, social protection, and international cooperation. The Action Plan includes the cost of implementation and a monitoring system.</li> </ul> <p>The social protection programs include disability assistance payments. The number of persons with disabilities and their care-takers benefiting social protection was 162 350 in 2014 and 157 434 in 2015. The majority of them (74 373) have a disability caused by work. The families where one of the members has a disability are</p>



		<p>dependent on the disability payment: 79% receive it in the form of the social transfer payment, which is about double of the number of families that do not have a member with disabilities. Social protection transfer include: disability payment, economic aid and subsidies for electricity bills.</p> <p>Persons with disabilities are entitled to benefit from social services. In Albania there are currently 28 social services, which include 12 residential centers (six public and six private); 14 day care centers (7 public and 7 non-public) and two non-public community centers.</p> <p>Since the ratification of the CRPD a series of trainings offered for the public administration and awareness raising campaigns on the rights of persons with disabilities are being organized with the support of donors and civil society.</p>
<p><b>104.91- Argentina;</b> <b>104.92- Malaysia</b></p>	<p>Take measures aimed at achieving inclusive education for persons with disabilities, mainly children with disabilities.</p>	<p>In recent years, efforts have been made to increase the number of children with disabilities enrolled in the public education systems.</p> <p>The Law on "Primary and secondary education" includes comprehensive provisions to ensure full access and inclusion to mainstream qualitative education for children with disabilities.</p> <p>Additional secondary legislation is being adopted to implement the law, including the establishment of Multidisciplinary Committees for the assessment of children with disabilities in all local education departments, as well as the obligation of private education system to ensure accessibility of children with disabilities as a pre-condition for obtaining the license.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education is making efforts to apply the recently adopted sign language in different education services.</p> <p>During the academic year 2014-2015, over 3,200 children with disabilities were enrolled in the regular primary and secondary education, or about 33% more than the previous academic year. 700 students were enrolled in specialized education institutions. The</p>

		<p>number increased to 3500 or about 10% during the 2015-2016 academic year. Among them, 394 children with disabilities were enrolled in the pre-school system; 1763 - in the primary education; 1034 - in the lower secondary education and 304 - upper secondary education.</p> <p>Ensuring qualitative and inclusive education for children with disabilities is one of the strategic objectives of the new the National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016-2020),</p>
<b>104.94-Saudi Arabia</b>	Continue communication with international human rights mechanisms in order to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.	<p>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified by the Albanian Parliament on November 2012 became effective for Albania on February 11, 2013. In May 2015 Albania prepared and submitted its 1<sup>st</sup> periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the implementation of this Convention by Albania.</p>
<b>Discrimination (General)</b>		
<b>104.37 Germany; 106.6- Switzerland – the first part of recommendation;</b>	Fully implement the Law on Protection from Discrimination and launch a national awareness campaign on the issue of discrimination and racism.	<p>The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (CPD) - the authority in charge of raising awareness against discrimination and implementing the anti-discriminatory law - has compiled and distributed several publications as well has organized awareness raising activities, trainings, meetings, workshops and informative events on anti-discrimination, involving central and local government institutions,</p> <p>During 2015, the Office of CPD has participated in 40 activities, which has been used as opportunities to raise awareness among different actors on the issue of discrimination. During the year 2016 are organized as well a large number of activities on anti-discrimination issues.</p>
<b>105.29 –Tunisia; 105.30 Togo</b>	Prevent more effectively racially motivated or xenophobic offences, investigate those cases and prosecute the perpetrators.	<p>According to the law "On protection from discrimination", the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination has the authority <i>inter alia</i> to receive complaints against state authorities, impose administrative sanctions and assist courts on cases of</p>

		<p>discrimination.</p> <p>During 2014, the CPD handled a total of 308 complaints, of which 180 submitted in 2014, and 128 carried over from 2013</p> <p>In 2015, the CPD handled a total of 288 complaints. Of these, 197 were submitted in in 2015 and 91 in process since 2014. The Commissioner issued a decision on 169 cases and imposed administrative sanctions (fine) in 14 cases, for non-compliance with its recommendations or non-disclosure of the information.</p>
<p><b>Freedom of Expression and Access to Information</b></p>		
<p><b>104.83 - Czech Republic</b></p>	<p>Ensure greater transparency and broader public access to government information and official documents.</p>	<p>The Law on Access to Information, adopted in 2014, guarantees to everyone the rights to access to public information, without the need to explain the reasons for requiring such information.</p> <p>The law grants the Commissioner on the Right to Information supervisory, monitoring and sanctioning powers for the right to information and protection of personal data.</p> <p>All State institutions are required to implement Transparency Programs, which include categories of information that should be available to the public without prior request. As of 2015, public authorities have appointed 198 coordinators on the right to information.</p> <p>In 2014, the Commissioner received 26 complaints and in 2015 the number increased to 274. The complaints were mainly about the refusal of State institution to provide access to public information to individuals and other entities.</p> <p>In 2015, the law “On public notification and consultation” was adopted, which regulates the public notification and consultation process of draft laws, draft national strategic documents at the central and local levels, as well as other policies which are of great public interest. According to the law, the respective state authorities</p>

		are required to initiate a process of notification and consultation with the public before the final draft is sent for approval to the parliament.
<b>Freedom of the Press</b>		
<b>104.84 - Lithuania</b>	Continue ensuring that impartial and effective investigations of attacks against journalists take place and that those responsible are brought to justice.	In 2015 and 2016 physical assaults on journalists were rare and police and respective authorities have reacted promptly, and investigations are ongoing.
<b>104.85 Lithuania</b>	Take measures to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference.	<p>The Albanian constitution guarantees freedom of the press. Defamation remains a criminal offense, though legal reforms enacted in 2012 eliminated prison terms as a punishment.</p> <p>Media ownership is formally transparent and accessible through the National Registration Centre.</p> <p>In general, the Albanian courts are included to be sensitive towards freedom of expression and in the majority of cases on defamation has ruled in favor of the media. (Monitoring report on defamation law, Albanian Media Institute, 2015).</p> <p>Amendments to the Electronic Commerce Law are being prepared to promote self-regulation of online media.</p>
<b>Human Rights Education and Training</b>		
<b>104.88 – Republic of Korea</b>	Strengthen the human rights education at the national level and through the school system.	<p>One of the key principles of the Albanian Law on Primary and Secondary Education of 2012, is the obligation of the system to respect, protect and promote human rights in general and in particular the rights of the child. Ministry of Education and Sports, in collaboration with other responsible bodies has provided concrete measures in order to include human rights in the school curricula, text books, etc.</p> <p>Human rights are part of the curriculum package of pre-university education and take an important position in:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning standards in pre-university education;</li> <li>• In the formal curriculum of the civic education subject, as well as in grades 1-12 of all pre-university education.</li> <li>• Issues on human rights are addressed in textbooks on the subject of civic education; various activities in school by implementing curricular objectives.</li> <li>• Cross curricular activities (integrated in subjects) and extracurricular (activities outside of school). Numerous publications by NGOs are supporting the development of these activities.</li> <li>• Various unified training and qualification programmes of civic education teachers on human rights.</li> </ul>
<b>International Instruments and Cooperation with Human Rights Mechanisms</b>		
<b>104.11 –Uruguay; 104.12 – Estonia</b>	Effectively integrate the Rome Statute and the on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Kampala Amendments in the internal legislation, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the ICC and to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts.	The Rome Statute offences - crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes are incorporated in the Albanian Criminal Code as serious crimes.
<b>104.11 - Uruguay</b>	Effectively integrate the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances in the domestic legislation.	Convention "For the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances" is ratified by the Republic of Albania on September 2007. The Penal Code was amended in 2013 to include “enforced disappearance” as a specific criminal offence in conformity with the provisions of the Convention on the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance.
<b>104.27 - Morocco</b>	Strengthen cooperation with human rights bodies, continue to cooperate with the United Nations special procedures and maintain the standing invitation to the thematic procedures mandate holders.	Albanian Government has extended open invitation for all special rapporteurs, to organise country visits in the framework of specific procedures. In this context, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Dissapearances (WGEID) paid a visite in Albania, on December 2016. The Working Group held constructive discussions

		<p>with national authorities, and other stakeholders. Following the request for a country visit, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, will conduct a visit in Albania, on May 2017.</p>
<p><b>Justice System and Legal Aid</b></p>		
<p><b>104.70 – Estonia; 104.71- Australia; 104.72-Netherlands</b></p>	<p>Increase efforts to ensure the independence, transparency and impartiality in decision-making of the judiciary.</p>	<p>Since 2014 a justice reform is under way in Albania, aiming to revamp the whole justice system.</p> <p>In 2015 a Strategy on the Reform of the Justice System and Action Plan were adopted, identifying the need for major legislative reforms in the following strategic areas: the constitutional provisions on justice and Constitutional Court; the judiciary; criminal justice; legal education; legal services and legal professions; measures against corruption in the justice system; financing support and institutional support of the system.</p> <p>In 2016, 7 organic laws, identified by the Albanian legislator as priority for the implementation of justice reform, were adopted. These regulate overall organization of the judiciary, the prosecution office, status of judges and prosecutors, Constitutional Court.</p> <p>In July 2016, constitutional amendments were adopted by the Parliament, paving the way to other major changes in the justice system, including the establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Prosecution Council, two structures located at the apex of justice and prosecution systems to ensure their efficiency and independence. A court and a special prosecutor for the fight against corruption and organized crime will also be established.</p> <p>As regards the legal framework, work is ongoing for the adoption of 27 draft-laws part of the second package of legislation that accompanies constitutional package for justice reform which will allow the system to function effectively.</p>

		<p>In addition to the legal framework work has started on the implementation of the justice reform by the initiation of the procedure for the establishment of the official bodies that will carry out the vetting process for around 800 judges and prosecutors in Albania.</p> <p>The law on “Transitional reassessment of the judges and prosecutors of the Republic of Albania” (the so called Vetting Law) in particular was adopted to introduce background checks on justice officials related to their professional preparation, moral integrity and the level of independence from organized crime, corruption and political power.</p> <p>A cross-cutting justice strategy 2017-2020 and its action plan were adopted in 2016.</p> <p>Work is in progress to establish the new institutions and initiate the assessment process of judges and prosecutors at all levels. The process of selecting the institutions in charge of evaluation of members of the judiciary and administration of justice has initiated and expected to be concluded in the following months.</p>
<p><b>104.73 - Belgium</b></p>	<p>Ensure prosecution and punishment with severe sanctions of those responsible for acts undermining the independence or impartiality of judicial proceedings.</p>	<p>One of the major developments in this area is the recent adoption of the Law on Organizations and Functioning of Institutions in charge of Organized Crime and Corruption” (2016), part of the comprehensive reform of the justice system.</p> <p>There has been further progress as regards the adoption of key pieces of anti-corruption legislation, and establishment of track record of investigations, prosecutions and convictions. There are increased efforts to ensure direct access to the databases for prosecutors and police in order to increase the efficiency of investigations. The number of investigations, prosecutions and final convictions in corruption cases of low-level or medium officials, is increased.</p>

		<p>The State Police has increased the number of corruption cases referred to the Prosecutor General's Office (223 in 2013; 409 in 2014; 1761 in 2015; 1882 in 2016). From 2013 to 2016, the number of cases referred to the Prosecutor General's Office has increased approximately 8 times.</p> <p>Another step is the implementation of the awareness campaign for denouncing corruption, launched in 2015 and the unified procedure for corruption complaints.</p>
<b>104.76- Republic of Moldova</b>	Enforce the provisions of the “Law on legal aid” and ensure that practical procedures to obtain free legal aid are enabling applicants to fully enjoy their rights of access to justice.	A reform of the legal aid system is envisaged under the ongoing justice system reform. A new draft law on legal aid has been prepared and is undergoing public consultations. The new law <i>inter alia</i> is expected to address the multiple challenges of the current system.
<b>104.77 -Saudi Arabia</b>	Eliminate or reduce the fees for litigation to ensure access to justice.	<p>An order of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance on tariffs of services offered by the administration of the judiciary system was adopted in 2014. According to the order, for claims with a value up to ALL 100,000, the judicial tax is ALL 3,000, whilst for claims with a value exceeding ALL 100,000, the judicial tax is 1% of the claim’s value. (this fee used to be 3%).</p> <p>According to the 2013 amendments to the existing Law on Legal Aid, one of the forms of legal aid is the exemption from the payment of the tax on the acts in the course of the civil and administrative judicial proceedings, as well as from the expenses incurred in the course of notifications and other judicial services.</p>
<b>Migrants</b>		
<b>104.104 -France</b>	Ensure the development of a human rights-based migration policy which guarantees respect of the rights of all migrants.	<p>Albania remains primarily an origin country and not very preferred as a transit or destination country for migrants.</p> <p>The National Strategy for Migration (2005-2010) and the Strategy for the Reintegration of Returned Albanian Emigrants (2010-2015) have not been renewed by new strategies. However, the National</p>



		<p>Strategy on Development and Integration (NSDI 2015-2020) includes the “Establishment of an effective system of migration governance” as one of its goals. The Strategy also includes a number a relevant strategic objectives and specific actions to ensure effective implementation of migration policies in order to ensure the equal treatment of national of other countries and their integration in Albania in accordance with international standards.</p>
<p><b>Minorities (General)</b></p>		
<p><b>104.95-Hungary; 104.96-Serbia; 105.2- Morocco; 106.21- Romania</b></p>	<p>Expand possibilities for the education of minorities, including learning minority languages, promoting identities and supporting minority cultures.</p>	<p>Law no. 69, dated 21.06.2012 "On pre-university education system in the Republic of Albania (Law on Pre-university Education) guarantees the rights of persons belonging to minorities to learn and be taught in their mother tongue as well as to learn their history and culture. This comprehensive law provides the right of education without discrimination based on ethnic affiliation. The education of minorities is provided within basic education system.</p> <p>There are 19 educational institutions with an average of 700 pupils belonging to greek minority. These institutions are managed by the Regional Education Directorate in Gjirokasta, Education Office in Saranda, and Education Office in Delvina. The numer of teachers is around 62, an average of 1 teacher/11 pupils. With relation of education of Macedonian minority, there are 6 educational instituions with an averge number of 147 pupils belonging to this minority. This educational institutions are managed by the Regional Education Office in Korça. The number of teachers is 22, with an average of 1 teacher/7 pupils. Reports of developing courses in these institutions are: 40% in Albanian and 60% in their native language while within primary school level this ratio is 90% in their native and 10% in Albanian language. Each year, Ministry of Education issues guidelines on the pre-university Education.</p> <p>Children belonging to minorities are learning new school curricula according to the new curricula textbooks. Children belonging to minorities have the opportunity to learn their mother tongue, besides the Albanian language since first grade, and starting from third grade they have the opportunity to learn a foreign language. In the</p>

		<p>framework of the project on School Community Center, are created the opportunities to promote the culture and traditions of minorities, by including as well their parents in these activities. In this context are provided possibilities to organise courses of minority languages, according to the legal framework. In the framework of the pre-university education reform, a new syllabus for the minorities (Greek and Macedonian) was developed, and the lesson program of the competency based curriculum, in accordance with this syllabus are prepared.</p> <p>The legal and strategic framework in relation with culture is improving in order to meet all the obligations arising from international instruments related to cultural rights and diversity of cultural habits. The new draft law on Cultural Heritage will provide specifically the promotion and protection of the culture, cultural diversity and cultural heritage of national minorities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture has undertaken the initiative to promote the culture of minority by organizing multi-cultural artistic activities. Constant contacts are being maintained with representatives of the minority associations, in order to develop short and long term concrete activities to preserve and promote the culture of these minorities, with their active involvement and as per their need. Ministry of Culture has increased not only its budget for the cultural activities and involvement of the public in them, but also the efforts to raise funds from various donors, with the aim of protecting and preserving the cultural identity and reviving cultural life in general.</p> <p>A series of measures related the inclusion of Roma children and youth in pre-university schools aimed at registration and enrollment of children in preschool and compulsory education; elimination of excluding and inferior attitudes towards Roma in the school community, by preserving and developing the cultural identity of pupils and students of Roma etc.</p>
<b>104.97-Macedonia</b>	While finalizing the new law on administrative and	The new law on “Administrative – Territorial division of the local gov

	<p>territorial division, take into full account the European Local Self Government of the Council of Europe and Article 108, para. 2 of the Albanian Constitution.</p>	<p>units in the Republic of Albania”, adopted in 2014 is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Constitution of the Republic of Albania;</li> <li>- Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities;</li> <li>- European Charter on Local Self-Government;</li> <li>- Law no. 115/2014 dated 31.07.2014 "On Administrative-Territorial Division of the Local Government Units in the Republic of Albania”;</li> <li>- Recommendation no. 349 (2013) of the Council of Europe</li> </ul> <p>The reform of the administrative-territorial division had as the main purpose the formation of capable and efficient local units to provide public services and empower them. The main concept applied is that of "functional areas", as well as a number of other criteria, such as the population, distance of the territory, territorial contiguity and the traditional links. In the framework of the Territorial Reform, it was aimed not to affect negatively the local government units, which in their composition have a substantial number of the population from the ethnic minorities. The application of the functional criteria have positive impact (increased functionality, economy of scale in public services, increasing the quality of services, integration in the respective societies as modern concept already applied in the European Union).</p> <p>The new administrative division maintained the demographic configuration of the local units where the majority of the population belongs to the minorities. The local government units composed in majority of residents representatives of the minorities, have the same functions, powers and funding as all other local government units in the Republic of Albania. Three new municipalities have been created based on this criterion, as: Pustec Municipality (Macedonian minority), Dropull Municipality and Finiq Municipality (Greek minority). For all other units of local government the criterion of functional areas has been applied.</p>
<b>104.98- Nicaragua</b>	Continue making efforts to integrate the rights of the	The rights of minorities, particularly of Roma minorities are being

	<p>minorities present in the country in its public policies and legislation.</p>	<p>integrated in all policies and legislation being adopted.</p> <p>National Strategy for Development and Integration (2015-2020) includes among one of its main priorities the elimination of all forms of discrimination and promotion of the rights of minorities, particularly in the areas of education, social protection, strengthening of civil society etc. <i>(For more information on Roma and Egyptian Communities see specific recommendations below).</i></p>
<p><b>104.99Serbia</b>  <b>106.18-Congo;</b>  <b>106.20 Greece;</b>  <b>106.21 – Romania</b>  <b>(second part of the recommendation)</b>  <b>106.22-Russia Federation;</b>  <b>106.23- the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p>	<p>Consider the adoption of a legal framework on national and/or ethno-linguistic minorities to address, inter alia, the legal criteria for recognition of minorities, the upholding of their identities; education in their language and structuring the dialogue with representatives of national minorities; and  Implement the recommendations contained in the 2014 resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe <i>(This formulation is a summary of a number of similar recommendations)</i></p>	<p>The Constitution and domestic legal framework guarantee the rights of persons belonging to minorities, the right to declare their ethnicity, to maintain and develop their national identity, the right of education in mother tongue, their culture, religion, fundamental freedoms and rights.</p> <p>Albanian institutions are committed to take concrete measures to improve legislation and policies for the protection of minorities, following a broad consultation process and taking into account the recommendations of Advisory Committee of Framework Convention on National Minority, the recommendations contained in the 2014 resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and commitments in the framework of EU integration process.</p> <p>In this context Albanian institutions are working on the preparation of a specific law on minorities, based on European standards, best European practices, and based on the international expertise, and taking into account the specific conditions and needs, in relation with minority issues.</p> <p>A comprehensive legislation on minorities (including a specific law) will improve the current domestic legislation, in order to guarantee and ensure the implementation of their rights in practice. In addition towards the improvement of the legal framework, Albanian institutions envisage to draft and adopt secondary legislation, in order to ensure the implementation in practice.</p>

		The broad consultation on the improvement of the legislation and implementation of institutional measures is taking place through the involvement of relevant and independent institutions, minorities' associations, civil society and international organizations.
<b>106.19 -Serbia</b>	Include in the future census a question on national ethnicity	The latest census in Albania, conducted in 2011 included an optional question on ethnicity, in accordance with the principle of self-declaration. This question offered the option to indicate one ethnic group or to declare the preference to not answer. According to census data, the percentage of persons belonging to minorities is estimated 1.4% of the total population residing in the territory of Albania.
<b>Minorities (Roma and Egyptian)</b>		
<b>104.100-Democratic Republic of the Congo;</b> <b>104.101 - Slovakia</b>	Continue the implementation of the national strategy Regarding the Roma and the National Action Plan relating to the Decade for the inclusion of the Roma.	The National Action Plan relating to the Decade of Roma Exclusion (2010-2015) was followed by a new Action Plan on the Integration of Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania, 2016-2020, adopted in December 2015. The new Action Plan establishes six priority sectors: Civil registration and access to information; education and promotion of intercultural dialogue; employment and vocational training; health care; housing and urban integration; and social protection The Action Plan includes also the planned budget for the relevant activities, as well as indicators to measure progress.
<b>104.102- Venezuela</b> <b>105.37- Austria</b>	Further strengthen the education measures and policies for the inclusion of Roma and Egyptian students in the education system, and intensify the literacy campaigns for its population	A variety of measures undertaken in the recent years by the Ministry of Education and CSOs including free textbooks and transportation, home visits, assistance with homework, language lessons and workshops for parents, have contributed to increasing the number of Roma and Egyptian children who attend school.  A 2015 decision of the Council of Ministers exempts the Roma and Egyptians children from the annual tuition fee for enrollment in public institutions of higher education in the first cycle of full-time studies, and 50% reduction of the fees for the second cycle. These communities also receive a number of allocated quotas for enrollment in the first and second cycle of higher education every academic year. In 2015-2016this number was 20 and it is increased

		<p>by 33% in 2016- 2017.</p> <p>In collaboration with civil society, the Ministry of Education and with the support of Roma Education Fund, Roma and Egyptian students in class 9 received 80 social scholarships (30 Euro/month for each student selected,300 Euro/year).</p> <p>In collaboration with international organizations and local NGOs, a number of programs have been implemented that aim to increase access to education to Roma and Egyptian communities, including the Second Chance programme , which has been assessed positively by Roma and Egyptian organizations and its extension to all schools with large numbers of Roma children is recommended. The Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2016-2020 includes a review of the Second Chance programme in order to facilitate the transition of its students back into regular classes and find other means for preventing segregation.</p> <p>Enrolment rates for Roma and Egyptian children increased slightly during the academic year 2015/2016. Their enrolment in pre-school education increased by 4.9 %, in elementary schools by 25 %, in middle school and high school by 27 % and in pre-university education by 22 %.</p> <p>Ensuring full access and inclusion in qualitative education without being subject to discrimination and segregation for Roma and Egyptians communities is one of the Strategic goals of the new Action Plan on the Integration of Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania (2016-2020). The Goal: By the end of 2020, 70% more boys and girls of the Roma and Egyptian communities complete all levels of education and 100% complete pre-school education.</p>
<p><b>104.103-Austria;</b> <b>105.12-Spain</b></p>	<p>Strengthen efforts to fight discrimination and to improve access to housing for Roma and Egyptian communities</p>	<p>Law No.9232/2004 "On the social housing programs for the inhabitants of urban areas" as amended, and bylaws for its implementation, are the legal grounds for solving the housing problems. This law defines the conditions and criteria for</p>

		<p>dealing with social housing programs, of the inhabitants who are in need of and can not afford to address the housing market.</p> <p>From 2014-2016, the Ministry of Urban Development financed s Projects for the Roma and Egyptian communities from which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 340 families benefited in 2014</li> <li>• 290 families benefited in 2015</li> <li>• 175 families were expected to benefit in 2016</li> </ul> <p>The National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptian Communities (2016-2020) includes the improvement of housing conditions for Roma and Egyptians on of its strategic priorities. Its main goals are: 80% of Roma and Egyptian families that have initiated legalization procedures successfully complete them by the end of 2020. 1500 Roma and Egyptian Communities are included in the direct and indirect housing programs by the end of 2020 and improvement of the actual housing conditions.</p> <p>A New Strategy on Social Housing (2016-2020) was adopted in 2016, which aims to offer affordable and qualitative housing solutions for vulnerable families, including Roma and Egyptian Communities.</p>
<p><b>104.103-Austria;</b> <b>105.12-Spain</b></p>	<p>Strengthen efforts to fight discrimination and to improve access to health services for Roma and Egyptian communities</p>	<p>Roma and Egyptian communities can benefit from the new public health referral system, which enables individuals who do not have health insurance receive free visits to the family doctor, as well as outpatient injections and surgical, upon the referral of the family doctor. In addition, average fees for patients in primary health care, outpatient and inpatient are reduced by 1/5.</p> <p>In 2017 the Albanian Government plans to introduce universal access to healthcare services, to be funded from general taxation.</p> <p>Ensuring accessible, affordable and equitable healthcare to Roma and Egyptians is one of strategic priorities of the Action Plan (2016-2020).</p>

		that by 2020, 100% of Roma and Egyptian community members are at the mainstream healthcare services.
<b>104.103-Austria; 105.12-Spain</b>	Strengthen efforts to fight discrimination and to improve employment opportunities for Roma and Egyptian communities.	<p>National Employment Service offers a package of employment programs, which are appropriate for the Roma and Egyptian Communities.</p> <p>From 2014 to 2016, the Ministry of Urban Development (MUDT) has financed a number of projects for the improvement of the infrastructure in around 20 several Local Governments Units in Albania. Many Roma and Egyptian communities (340 in 2014; 290 in 2015 and 175 in 2016) directly and indirectly benefited from these programs, and were also employed during the implementation phase.</p> <p>Providing equal opportunities for formal employment for Roma and Egyptian communities is one of the strategic priorities of the Action Plan (2016-2020). The Goal: BY the end of 2020, 80% more Roma and Egyptian men and women participate in Vocational Education Training (VET) and active employment programs will be integrated in the labour market. The public centers of vocational training (around), in different regions of the country offered free vocational training for 175 unemployed jobseekers from the Roma and Egyptian community which are certified in different professions, such as cooking, tailoring, plumbing, repair and maintenance of vehicles etc.</p> <p>A Law on Social Enterprise was adopted in 2016 which could create more employment opportunities for Roma and Egyptian Communities.</p>
<b>104.103-Austria; 105.12-Spain</b>	Strengthen efforts to fight discrimination and improve access to social services for Roma and Egyptian communities.	Increasing access to social protection programs for Roma and Egyptian community is one of the strategic priorities of National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptian Communities (2016-2020).



		<p>The Action Plan for Integration of the Roma and Egyptians 2016-2020 (adopted in December 2015), provides concrete measures to improve the conditions of the Roma and Egyptian communities. The drafting process of this Action Plan was developed through: 1) identifying the needs that the Roma and Egyptian communities really have; 2) the involvement of interest groups and representatives of the Roma and Egyptian communities, by having an important role; 3) addressing the specific needs, through concrete measures and activities with the focus: access to justice system; civil registration; education; promotion of intercultural dialogue; employment and vocational training education; health care; social protection; housing; creating the data base (including any existing data), and identifying the measures to improve the statistics for these communities. This Plan represents an escalation of the measures implemented and which are under implementation process, and foresees new activities for the integration of the Roma and Egyptians. The Action Plan was prepared in close consultation with the line ministries, representatives of the Roma and Egyptian communities and other stakeholders. The National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians, the fields and measures to address issues related to Roma and Egyptians include: 1) the field of education; 2) the field of housing and urban integration; 3) the field of health; 4) the field of social protection; 5) cooperation with the local government; 6) coordination, monitoring and assessment of policies. This Plan provides special funding from the government, donor funding and use of existing resources. The plan includes data in financial terms by providing the costing of measures and data on coverage from the state budget. In connection with these activities funds are provided for from the state budget.</p>
<p><b>National Human Rights Institutions</b></p>		
<p><b>104.13-Sierra Leone;</b> <b>104.14 –Tunisia;</b> <b>104.15–France;</b></p>	<p>Allocate the necessary financial and human resources for the Ombudsman and ensure compliance of this institution with the Paris Principles</p>	<p>In March 2014, the People’s Advocate Office was reconfirmed the ‘A’ status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for complying with the Paris Principles;</p>

<p><b>104.17- Republic of Korea;</b>  <b>104.18- Mexico;</b>  <b>104.21- Algeria</b></p>		<p>In November 2014, the Law on the People’s Advocate was amended, extending its mandate on human rights promotion and providing for a more transparent and inclusive selection of candidate commissioners, and creating two additional commissioner posts: the Children’s Commissioner and the Commissioner for the national mechanism for prevention of torture. These provisions have yet to be implemented.</p> <p>In November 2015, the Law on Budget included an increase in the budget of the People’s Advocate for the year 2016 to enable the hiring of 4 new staff increasing the number from 51 to 55 employees.</p> <p>The People’s Advocate regional offices have increased the number of staff working on a part-time basis - a step forward given that these offices were managed by volunteers.</p> <p>The budget of the institution of the People’s Advocate is supplemented with contribution offered by the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark through the project " Danish support for the People’s Advocate in Albania - closer to Local Communities, Civil Society and Media (2012-2016).</p>
<p><b>104.16 – Czech Republic</b></p>	<p>Strengthen the public impact of the People’s Advocate (Ombudsman) and his capacity to act effectively as the Mechanism of the Prevention of Torture.</p>	<p>The People’s Advocate, in the role of the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture (NMPT), monitors all institutions where individuals are deprived of their liberty. Members of the NPMT have the right to enter at any time, without restriction and without prior authorization in all these institutions. They are only required to inform the institutions about their visit.</p> <p>The NMPT operates as a section within the PA office with multidisciplinary structure consisting of five commissionaire assistants, part of civil service of the Republic of Albania, out of whom three legal experts, one psychiatrist and one clinical psychologist in the role of the mechanism leader.</p>

		<p>The People's Advocate in the role of the NMPT has been very active in the international and national levels, including close collaboration with Convention Against Torture, as well national specialized CSOs and Albanian Helsinki Committee to conduct joint inspections, with multidisciplinary teams and organize activities with wider audiences to discuss the findings of these monitoring visits.</p> <p>In 2015, the People's Advocate in the role of the Mechanism conducted 130 visits, out of which 83 monitoring visits based on the approved plan of inspections for the year 2015 and 47 re-inspections, controls with special thematic and administrative investigations, in all the institutions where the freedom of the individual is or may be deprived. The visits resulted in 67 recommendations addressed to relevant institutions.</p>
<p><b>104.20 -Uruguay</b></p>	<p>Review national legislation and take the necessary legislative measures to ensure that there is no overlap of functions between the Office of the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination and the Ombudsman</p>	<p>The People's Advocate operates primarily based on the Law on the Peoples Advocate and the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination based on the Law on Protection against Discrimination.</p> <p>The law on the Ombudsman, defines particularly the protection of human rights, freedoms and lawful interests of the individual. Within this wide margin of definition, the logic of the organic law, naturally included the right to protection from discrimination, which stems from the constitutional principle of equality of citizens before the law.</p> <p>On a narrow interpretation of the legal provisions it is mentioned that; regardless the wider competence of the Ombudsman in the protection of human rights, the specific definition of the competence of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, to ensure an effective protection against discrimination of any individual, provides this jurisdiction exclusively to the Commissioner and not the Ombudsman.</p> <p>In practice, the Ombudsman has excluded the cases related priori with discrimination, addressing only the issues which raise</p>

		<p>allegations for human rights violations of other human rights. Despite that, the Ombudsman may make recommendations as to any change or improvement of legislation with the object of protection from discrimination.</p> <p>In fact competencies are divided between the two institutions. This division is not in itself a matter of defined law but a matter of good practice work, placed between the two institutions.</p>
<b>People Affected by Blood Feuds</b>		
<b>104.40 - Sweden</b>	Collect and administer accurate data and statistics regarding the blood feud phenomenon.	In 2014, the Prosecution Office of Shkodra – an area of the country where blood feud phenomena is more present - was involved with the identification of cases involving people/families isolated due to blood feud. Around 200 families were contacted which were involved in conflicts. Bases on these direct communications, 25 families with 30 persons in total were registered.
<b>105.15-Turkey; 105.16-Saudi Arabia; 106.8- Italy 106.9- Congo</b>	<p>Take measures, including legislative to combat acts of vendetta/blood feud ensure that the perpetrators of such crimes are punished.</p> <p>Devote primary attention to the protection of the children involved in episodes of blood feud, so as to ensure the full protection and enjoyment of their rights.</p>	<p>In 2014, an Action Plan "On the prevention, detection, documentation and suppression of the criminal activity against criminal acts motivated by blood feud and revenge", was approved by General Directorate of Police. Based on this Plan, a Section against Crimes Motivated by Blood Feud and Vendetta, has been established.</p> <p>In March 2015, the Parliament of Albania approved a resolution and respective recommendations on blood feud, based on the findings of the People’s Advocate Special Report. The resolution urges the Coordinating Council on Prevention of Blood Feud established in 2005, to coordinate measures against blood feud. The Ministry of Education and Sports has implemented specific educational programs to provide access to education for secluded children.</p>
<b>Property Rights</b>		
<b>105.31-Romania</b>	Adopt legislation on the restitution of the properties confiscated during the communist period	A new law on property status and compensation of property confiscated during the communist era was adopted in December 2015 (Law no. 133/2015) and entered into force in February 2016.

		<p>The law aims at concluding the process of recognition of ownership titles and restitution or compensation of the properties confiscated during the communist period. The law establishes a national mechanism for compensations of properties, based on decisions taken during the last 23 years, as well as provides a compensation formula and the financial means to enforce the process. The entire process is expected to conclude within 10 years.</p>
<p><b>Right to Education</b></p>		
<p><b>104.89-Indonesia; 105.5- Czech Republic; 105.6- Germany</b></p>	<p>Continue implementing programmes to realize the right to education for all, including by increasing budget allocation for education and training programmes for all children in the country</p>	<p>The education system in Albania has undergone comprehensive reforms that have overall improved the quality of teaching and education.</p> <p>In collaboration with international organizations and local NGOs, a number of programs have been implemented that aim to increase access to education to children from margined communities, including Roma and Egyptian communities and children with disabilities.</p> <p>In 2014, a Strategy on Pre-University Education was approved for 2014-2020 making qualitative and inclusive education one the key strategic priorities.</p>
<p><b>105.34- Slovenia 105.35- Portugal</b></p>	<p>Take effective measures to reduce the high dropout rate in primary and secondary schools, in particular with regard to Roma children and girls</p>	<p>The legal framework on education system aims to guarantee the constitutional right to education for all, according to the relative legal framework for the functioning of pre-university education system in the Republic of Albania. Like all of other normative acts of this kind, the law is comprehensive. In this context, the law supports the education of all children without distinction, and in this respect, it supports also the education of Roma/Egyptian children, but also of the other differentiated layers of the society.</p> <p>The national school drop-out rate has decreased in the recent years. In 2003, the drop-out rate was 1.81%, in 2009, 0.81% and during the academic year 2014-2015 it went down to 0.57% (in primary education 0.46%; in secondary education 0.70%). The Ministry of</p>

		<p>Education in 2015 adopted a Guideline on the Monitoring of Children out of School System and Children at risk of dropout out.</p> <p>In order to improve the quality of service in schools, differentiated work and additional instruction continues for students, who come from the Roma communities. The organization of trainings continues in schools with parents of Roma children. The system of collecting statistical data to identify students coming from the Roma community, who drop out of school has improved. The areas where second chance might be functional have been identified. The clear documentation has been designed for the students attending any form of education, with a view to their integration in schools.</p>
<b>Rights of the Child</b>		
<b>104.25- China</b>	Continue to implement effectively the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child.	<p>The National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child was implemented from 2012 to 2015. According to the evaluation report of the Action Plan, about 62% of the planned activities were implemented and/or are ongoing because of long term nature, extending beyond the four-year term.</p> <p>Specifically, the proportion of measures implemented or in the process of implementation is: 70% of the activities in the area of social protection and inclusion; 70% of activities in the area of protection from violence, abuse and economic exploitation; 60% in the area of education; 70% in the health sector and 35% in juvenile justice.</p>
<b>106.10- Costa Rica</b>	Review national legislation to ensure that all persons under 18 have the protections accorded by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including clarifying the definition of the child	A new draft law on the rights of the child and protection mechanisms is being developed. The law underwent broad public consultation and it is currently (as of December 2016) being discussed by the Parliamentary Committee on Social Welfare. The Draft law provides a clear definition of the child to include every person under the age of 18.
<b>106.3- Switzerland</b>	Take the necessary measures and adopt the laws that are needed to allow better protection of children's	In 2016, a new draft law on the rights and protection of children was developed and is currently pending approval by the Parliament ( <i>see</i>

	rights	<p><i>above</i>). The draft law consists of two part: the first guarantees all rights of the child in accordance of the CRC and the second establishes a multi-sectorial child protection system, including mechanisms and procedures for protection of children’s rights.</p> <p>In December 2015, amendments to the Labour Code were approved, and entered into force in June 2016. The amendments aim at putting an end to child labor in Albania and regulating the terms of employment for children between 15 and 16 years old. In 2015, a comprehensive mapping of the child protection system was finalised. As a follow-up, a policy document outlining the government’s vision for the future integrated system was published in December.</p> <p>A national agenda for child safety online is being prepared.</p>
<b>105.6 – Germany</b>	Promote and strengthen child protection and monitoring mechanisms especially in rural areas	<p>At the central level, there are several line ministries, departments and agencies mandated with the task of protecting children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect and provision of education and health services (The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, the State Agency for the Protection of Children’s Rights (SAPCR)the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education)</p> <p>At the local level, Child Rights Units (CRU) are established at the regional level - Local Government Units - and Child Protection Units (CPU) at the Municipality level</p> <p>The child protection system is based on the principle of multi-disciplinary approach. At the top of the programmatic coordination sits the National Council for the Protection of Children’s Rights. There are also a number of Inter-Ministerial Working Groups (IMWG), including the IMWG on Social Care Reform which partially covers child protection. At the case management level, coordination is ensured by the Multi-Disciplinary Working Groups (MDWG) established through decision of the Council of Ministers at</p>

		the decentralised level to ensure an inter-sectorial approach when handling cases of child victims
<b>104.66-United States of America; 104.67-Mexico; 104.68-Qatar; 104.69 – Malaysia; 105.6-Czech Republic; 106.2-Sierra Leone)</b>	Take the necessary measures to effectively eliminate the worst forms of child labour and economic exploitation of minors.	<p>In December 2015, amendments to the Labour Code were approved, and entered into force in June 2016. The amendments aim at putting an end to child labor in Albania and regulating the terms of employment for children between 15 and 16 years' old.</p> <p>The State Labor Inspectorate is in charge of enforcing labor laws, including child labor laws.</p> <p><i>Actions related to child labor for children victims or at risk of being trafficked are included in the section on human trafficking and those on children in street situation</i></p>
<b>104.26-Egypt</b>	Pay particular attention to the conditions children in street situation in the context of its national policy on providing adequate protection for children	<p>A joint directive was adopted by four ministries in early 2015 has increasingly been applied to ensure cooperation between central and sub-national bodies on cases of children requiring protection measures.</p> <p>A Plan of Action for Children in Street Situation (2015-2017) was adopted as a Cooperation Agreement among three ministries (MSWY, MI, MES) to establish an effective cooperation for the proactive identification and protection of children in street situation, from all forms of abuse, labor exploitation and neglect, through a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated inter-sectional intervention.</p> <p>A Task - Force to help children and families in street situation is established at the central level, with representatives from all key relevant State institutions and NGOs that provide services to these children.</p> <p>At the local level "Terrain Units" are established in 8 municipalities (as of June 2016, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier Tiranë, Shkoder, Vlore and Korca) to monitor, identify and provide protection for children at risk as well as via cooperation, provide assistance and support to the</p>



		<p>families.</p> <p>A database with information on case management is established at the State Agency for the Protection of Child Rights (SAPCR), where Child Protection Units (CPUs) provide data on children identified in street situation and measures taken for the management of the situation.</p> <p>With the support of various international organizations and local NGO-s, a series of trainings have been organized with various actors, including members of CPU-s and the police on the work of the multidisciplinary group for the protection of children</p> <p>In 2015, 243 children living or working on the street and their families were taken under protection, as well as an additional 102 children in the first half of 2016. Services offered to the families included counselling, enrolment of children in schools, kindergartens and nurseries, applications for financial assistance, and medical care.</p>
<p><b>104.43-Philippines;</b> <b>104.53-Croatia</b></p>	<p>Continue to enhance programmes to protect children from all forms of violence or abuse including through awareness raising activities in both urban and rural areas</p>	<p>Physical or psychological abuse of the child by the person who is obliged to care for him/her is a criminal offence according to the Albanian Criminal legislation</p> <p>The draft law on the rights and protection of children strengthens the existing guarantees against child violence, including corporal punishment. According to the draft, which is expected to be approved by the Parliament in 2017, the staff of public and private institutions who are in contact with children are legally required to report any alleged case of child abuse to CPU or Police. Failure to comply with this obligation makes them liable for administrative sanctions.</p> <p>A number of NGOs offer services for children in street situation or at risk of being victims of violence and exploitation. A network of these organizations was established in 2016. SAPCR facilitates and</p>

		<p>supports events and meetings of the network on case management.</p> <p>An institutional agreement has been concluded between SCAPR and the Hotline 116 111 to facilitate the reporting of cases of children in street situation or at risk.</p> <p>Several campaigns have been organized around Albania in 2015 and 2016 to raise awareness about children in street situation, child labour and violence against children.</p>
<b>106.10 Spain</b>	Implement more efficiently the existing laws which prohibit the corporal punishment of children.	<p>The provision of the Criminal Code on physical or psychological abuse of the child applies also on cases of corporal punishment, when it constitutes a criminal offence.</p> <p>The draft law (on the rights and protection of children aims at strengthening the existing guarantees against child violence, including corporal punishment. According to the new law the staff of public and private institutions who are in contact with children are legally required to report any alleged case of child abuse to CPU or Police. Failure to comply with this obligation makes them liable for administrative sanctions.</p>
<b>104.79-Indonesia</b>	Continue efforts to ensure the implementation of the principle of the best interest of the child in the juvenile justice system, including by considering incorporating the restorative justice principle.	<p>A number of laws are being revised under the justice reform to bring juvenile justice into line with UN standards.</p> <p>A specific juvenile justice code and a children's justice strategy are being drafted.</p> <p>In 2015, 130 fewer children were sent to pre-trial detention than in 2014 and the average detention time was reduced.</p> <p>Recent improvements of the legislation on the treatment of prisoners include provisions related to the treatment of children in detention and pre-detention centers based on the principle of the best interest of the child.</p> <p>Since 2014, 22 local probation offices have been established</p>

		<p>throughout the country.</p> <p>The number of alternative measures has increased through the years (16% in 2014).</p>
<b>104.78- Austria</b>	Ensure that any reform of the juvenile justice system explicitly takes into account the differentiated needs of girls and boys	Women in pretrial and detention, including juvenile prisoners are accommodated in the women prison “Ali Demi” in Tirana, which is a considered one of penitentiary institutions with the highest standards in the country. Prison staff has been continuously trained on gender issues and differentiated treatment based on gender specifications was provided. At the same time, the social and health treatment programs are applied based on gender needs since 2014.
<b>Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</b>		
<b>104.38 - Argentina</b>	Strengthen measures to fight discrimination, in order to eradicate the trend and stereotypes that lead to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation	<p>In May 2015, the parliament approved a resolution on the protection of rights and freedoms of persons belonging to the LGBTI community, which calls for an action plan, legislative amendments and other measures in support of LGBTI persons and provided the Ombudsman with the responsibility of monitoring its implementation.</p> <p>In May 2016 an Action Plan on rights of LGBTI persons (2016-2020) was adopted.</p> <p>New amendments to the Labour Code, which entered into force in June 2016 include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds from discrimination, following recommendations of the PA</p> <p>The Criminal Code was amended to include in its article 50, sexual orientation as one of the aggravating circumstances, based on the PA recommendations.</p> <p>In February 2016, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and the shelter for LGBT</p>

		<p>persons, which is almost entirely donor supported.</p> <p>A number of events were organised in 2015 and 2016 around the international day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia and two pride events.</p>
<p><b>105.13- France</b> <b>105.14-Portugal</b></p>	<p>Intensify efforts in the fight against all forms of discrimination, in particular against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons by fully implementing the Law on Protection against Discrimination.</p>	<p>The National Action Plan for LGBTI persons in the Republic of Albania 2016-2020 defines a document drafted by the government under the coordination of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. This Plan is a new commitment to the 2016-2020 timeline, which defines the key directions in the areas of legislation and policy development, security and protection of rights and access to services.</p> <p>The Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination (CPD) has made a number of proposals for legislative amendments to bring the Albanian legislation in accordance with the Law on the protection against Discrimination and international treaties.</p> <p>CPD has issued specific recommendations to State institutors, including to the Ministry of Education and Sports to monitor continuously the measures taken by heads of educational institutions to prevent and combat discrimination in schools, the handling behavior and homophobic attitudes, stigmatization against students belonging to the LGBT community.</p>
<p><b>Trafficking of Human Beings</b></p>		
<p><b>104.6-Philiphine;</b> <b>105.23-France;</b> <b>105.24-Slovenia;</b> <b>105.25-Lithuania;</b> <b>106.12-Irland;</b> <b>106.13 – Mexico;</b> <b>106-14-Brazil</b></p>	<p>Strengthen and ensure effective implementation of the legislative measures and strategies to prevent and fight trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including due punishment of the perpetrators of such crimes.</p>	<p>In recent years, the framework for combating human trafficking was further developed, and sanctions were made harsher.</p> <p>A strategy on the fight against human trafficking (2014-2017) and accompanying action plan were adopted in November 2014.</p> <p>A regulation on the organization and functioning of the Authority responsible for the identification, referral, protection and</p>

		<p>reintegration of victims / potential victims of trafficking was adopted in 2015.</p> <p>In 2015, the Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Albanian state police signed a memorandum of understanding to set up a task force in charge of reviewing cases of human trafficking that were dismissed or not initiated.</p> <p>The free National Hot Line 116 006 and the application "Report! Save" were launched in 2014 for reporting suspected cases of trafficking.</p> <p>A number of awareness raising activities were organized in 2014 and in 2015, the Ministry of Internal Affairs allocated a special budget of 5.2 million ALL for the Department of Anti-Trafficking, which inter alia resulted in a national campaign for the prevention of trafficking, where state and non state institutions, national and international partners, participated in organizing awareness activities, in discussion forums, at local and national conferences, in marches and TV shows.</p> <p>The National Coordinator against Human Trafficking has signed a number of bilateral agreements with NGOs and International Organizations to institutionalize collaboration on prevention and fight against human trafficking.</p> <p><i>(For developments on measures against trafficking of children see relevant recommendations in the “Rights of the Child” session.</i></p>
<p><b>104.60-Philippines;</b>  <b>104.61-Poland</b>  <b>104.63 Croatia;</b>  <b>105.26-Lithuania</b></p>	<p>Enforce the legal framework to protect victims of trafficking, with due regard to the special situation of children and women regardless of whether they have agreed to participate in judicial proceedings</p>	<p>Amendments to the Law no. 108/2014 for State Police, Article 17 / expand the mandate of the State Police, on "the identification, protection and referral assistance to the relevant authorities for victims of trafficking and domestic violence, especially minors and women”;</p>

		<p>Special structures are established such as the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the identification, referral, protection and assistance of victims / potential victims of trafficking (NRM).</p> <p>The Office of Assistance for the Victims of different Crimes was established in 2016, which has a special focus on the victims who are minors or with people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, the victims of violence or sexual exploitation, trafficking of human beings and terrorism.</p> <p>In 2015, 109 persons were referred for protection of which 38 received the status of Victims of Trafficking and 71 Potential Victims of Trafficking among which 2 males, 87 females, 61 adults, and 48 children. (<i>Report on the Implementation of the Anti-trafficking Strategy MI, 2016</i>).</p>
<p><b>105.27-Republic of Moldova</b></p>	<p>Ensure early identification of victims of trafficking</p>	<p>The National Referral Mechanism for victims/potential victims of trafficking is established and the Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims / Potential Victims of Trafficking” are adopted.</p> <p>A Number of State Agencies are responsible for early identification of victims of trafficking including the Border and Migration Police, the State Police, Social Services, Labour Inspectorate, Employment offices, education and health services, Child Protection Units, etc.</p> <p>In 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, ASP and IShPShSh's was signed for the identification of the cases of forced labor and trafficking aiming working exploitation.</p> <p>The trainings provided to the Border Police include the Standard Operating Procedures for the identification of victims of trafficking.</p> <p>In 2016 inter-sectional training on identification, referral and assistance to victims of trafficking in 12 regions of the country.</p>

<p><b>104.64-Thailand; 105.27-Republic of Moldova</b></p>	<p>Provide adequate medical, legal and social assistance, including shelter to victims of trafficking</p>	<p>Based on 2014 and 2015 amendments to the legislation in economic aid, from January 2015, victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking benefit a financial aid in cash during their stay in the shelter and economic aid after they leave the shelter until employment. In 2005, 25 victims of trafficking benefited from these package.</p> <p>The NGO run shelters offer a package of reintegration services to victims of trafficking and potential victims of trafficking including immediate health assistance, negotiation/mediation with the family; legal aid, assessment and psychological counseling; assistance to continue education; vocational training, employment assistance, financial support on housing; information about community services; assistance and support to children of victims of trafficking, etc.</p> <p>Amendment to the Law on Legal Aid in 2014 provide for free legal aid to victims of trafficking.</p> <p>Since 2014, victims of trafficking receive free health care from the state budget funds. The expenses are covered by the Health Insurance Fund and until March 2016 a total of 44 victims / potential victims of trafficking acquired health cards.</p> <p>In 2015, a decision for granting free books to children, victims of trafficking, was approved.</p> <p>In 2016, an Action Plan for Social and Economic Reintegration of women and girl victims/potential victims of trafficking 2015 - 2017, was adopted.</p>
<p><b>104.62- Egypt</b></p>	<p>Continue strengthening its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including through regional and international cooperation</p>	<p>In 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Albania and the United Kingdom on the "identification, referral and assisted return of victims and potential victims of trafficking".</p> <p>On December 2014, an Additional Protocol with the Republic of</p>

		<p>Montenegro was signed "To intensify cooperation in combating trafficking in persons, to improve identification, referral and assisted return of victims/potential victims of trafficking".</p> <p>In the context of the migration crisis, Albania and Italy stepped up information exchanges and signed a memorandum of understanding to boost Albania's capacity to patrol its border, thus strengthening the fight against terrorism and human trafficking.</p> <p>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Transnational Cooperation and Case Management for the protection of victims and potential victims of trafficking with a special focus on children between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro, were endorsed at a trilateral meeting between the National Anti-trafficking Coordinators of the three countries held in Budva, Montenegro 31 October - 2 November, 2016.</p>
<p>Women's Rights</p>		
<p>Gender Equality</p>		
<p><b>104.28 Nicaragua; 105.11- the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p>	<p>Increase efforts to improve and raise the standard of gender equality</p>	<p>Over the last years, considerable steps have been taken to improve the legislative framework on gender equality and its implementation measures.</p> <p>A new Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020 was adopted in 2016.</p> <p>A Sector on Gender Equality is established in the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth.</p> <p>A network of gender equality officers has been established in 18 ministries, which work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth.</p> <p>The process of reactivation of the network of local gender equality officers is ongoing. As of 2016, gender equality officers, which also serve as local coordinators against domestic violence have been</p>



		<p>appointed in 44 municipalities. The objective is to establish this position in all 61 municipalities in Albania.</p> <p>There have been increased efforts to make gender equality central to planning and budgeting for national development and EU integration, introducing gender-responsive budgeting in nine ministries and initiating it in seven municipalities.</p>
<p><b>104.54 - United States of America;</b>  <b>105.8-Venezuela;</b>  <b>105.9 - Austria;</b>  <b>105.10-China;</b>  <b>105.19 Russia federation;</b> <b>105-20 Nicaragua</b></p>	<p>Fully Implement National Strategy on Gender Equality and Against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence</p>	<p>From 2001, the policy framework on gender equality and fight against gender-based violence consisted of the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011-2015.</p> <p>In 2016, a new Strategy was adopted for 2016-2020. The main goals of the new Strategy are: economic empowerment of women and men; effective and equal participation of women in public and political decision-making processes; reduction of gender-based and domestic violence; strengthening of the coordinating and monitoring role of the National Mechanism on Gender Equality. The strategy is also aligned with other sectorial strategies and includes information on the compliance of strategic priorities with mid-term budgetary planning.</p> <p>An evaluation report on the implementation of the 2011-2015 Strategy was developed, and its recommendations were reflected in the 2016-2020 Strategy</p>
<p><b>105.11 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;</b>  <b>105.32-Rwanda</b></p>	<p>Tackle gender stereotypes and discrimination on that ground</p>	<p>Efforts have been taken to combat discriminatory gender stereotypes and harmful practices by launching a number of awareness-raising campaigns.</p> <p>The Albanian Law on Measures against discrimination, includes gender-based discrimination as one of the grounds for discrimination.</p> <p>New Amendment to the Labour Code took place in 2015 and entered into force in June 2016, aiming to improve the position of women in</p>

		the labour market and provide stricter and more comprehensive measures against discrimination in the workplace, including defining and reversing the burden of proof in cases of sexual harassment.
<b>104.29 – Thailand; 104.31-Belgium; 104.32-Austria; 104.33-Turkey</b>	Ensure gender equality with regards to property and land rights, including gender revision of, and amendment, of all laws in this area	<p>The Albanian civil and family legislation recognize women’s equal property rights with men, which are also guaranteed by the Law “On the Registration of Immovable Property” and the strategy on "Property Rights Reform” 2012-2020".</p> <p>The legal framework of the procedures for the legalization of informal buildings by ALUIZNI, provide for the registration of legalization permit in accordance with the provisions of the Family Code on marital property regime, and the family certificate is required for the registration.</p>
<b>104.35-Italy</b>	Improve women’s access to entrepreneurship	<p>From 2014, a number of policies have been adopted in this area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2014-2020 Business and Investment Strategy - which sets out a number of targets for the improvement of the business climate in general and female entrepreneurship in particular.</li> <li>• 2014-2020 Action Plan in Support of Women Entrepreneurs, which introduces specific measures conducive to a friendly business environment for start-up businesses and collaboration with stakeholders for the development of women’s businesses. The plan is in line with the objectives of the Business and Investment Strategy and EU objectives/priorities on women’s entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• Fund in Support of Women Entrepreneurs, with an overall value of 26,500,000 ALL, to be implemented over a four-year term.</li> <li>• Change of procedures for financing projects for women entrepreneurs by providing bonus for all proposed projects by women entrepreneurs.</li> <li>• The Draft National Strategy on Gender Equality 2016-2020 includes as one of its strategic goals: the economic empowerment of women and men</li> </ul>

<p><b>104.35-Italy;</b> <b>106.4-Spain</b></p>	<p>Continue strengthening measures on the integration of women into the labour market without discrimination, in line with the measures established in the 2013 European Union Progress Report.</p>	<p>In 2014, the National Employment and Skills Strategy (2014-2020) was adopted, identifying and outlining policies for the promotion of employment and vocational training of the workforce of both men and women. The objectives of this strategy are also aligned with those of the new Strategy on Gender Equality (2016-2020),</p> <p>Measures have been taken to improve access of women and girls in the workforce through free professional and vocational trainings for all unemployed women under 25.</p>
<p><b>104.30-Qatar</b></p>	<p>Create employment opportunities for rural women in the context of rural development strategy.</p>	<p>The 2014-2020 Strategy on Rural and Agriculture Development integrates the gender equality principle.</p> <p>The 2014-2020 Action Plan in Support of Women Entrepreneurs includes as one of its key goals: The Improvement of women participation in rural economy. A number of activities from 2014-2020 are planned to achieve this goals.</p> <p>The 2016-2020 Gender Equality Strategy includes as one of its key objectives the economic empowerment of rural women, to be achieved through a number of activities.</p>
<p><b>134.4- Canada</b></p>	<p>Address the gender wage gap and guarantee that women enjoy equal pay for work of equal value, in accordance with the Labour Code, including through enhancing labour inspection measures and addressing the issue of ineffective implementation of the law, increasing awareness and favouring access to justice for affected women.</p>	<p>The 2015 amendments to the Labour Code, which entered into force in June 2016 include a comprehensive revision of article 115 – on equal pay, providing clear definition on what the concept of equal pay for equal job constitute.</p> <p>The 2016-2020 Gender Equality Strategy includes as one of its objectives the measurement of gender gap through the Earning Structure Survey)</p> <p>Regarding the cases of unequal treatment in the private sector, the inspectors of the National Labour Inspectorate carry out controls and in case of identification of such cases, they impose penalties to the employers who violate the law.</p>

<b>104.31 Belgium</b>	Take necessary measures to speed up gender equality with respect to housing rights.	<p>The legislation on social housing prioritizes the housing needs of divorced women with dependent children, women with disabilities, orphan girls and women (from leaving care age to 30), and returned migrant women</p> <p>A New Strategy on Social Housing (2016-2020) was adopted in 2016, which aims to offer affordable and qualitative housing solutions for vulnerable families such those where woman are head of families as well Roma and Egyptian Communities.</p> <p>A new law on social housing is being drafted and it currently undergoing a public consultation process.</p>
<b>104.31-Belgium</b>	Take necessary measures to speed up gender equality with respect to health services.	<p>Efforts in the health sector have aimed at improving and functioning of the primary, secondary and tertiary health care system as well as the strengthening of their financial and administrative autonomy.</p> <p>Women can benefit from the new public health care referral system, which enables individuals who do not have health insurance to receive free visits to the family doctor, as well as outpatient injections and micro-surgical, upon the referral of the family doctor.</p> <p>The average medical fees for patients in primary health care, outpatient and inpatient are reduced by 1/5.</p> <p>In 2017, the government plans to introduce universal access to free healthcare services, to be funded from general taxation.</p>
<b>104.36 - Republic of Korea; 105.32- Rwanda; 105.33-Sweden</b>	Increase the number of women in political and public life at both national and local levels and ensure that t the Parliament, the Government and all political parties take concrete steps to create a more enabling environment for women to advance in political and public positions.	<p>Following amendments to the Electoral Code in 2012, the percentage of women in Parliament has increased from 18% to 22.9% (32 women are MPs among 140 males).</p> <p>Further amendments to the Electoral Code took place in 2015 prior to the local elections, which provided for a 50 % gender quota</p>

		<p>requirement in candidate lists for municipal councils, and the rejection of lists which fail to meet this quota. As a result, women’s participation in the municipal councils increased to 34.6% from 12% in the 2011 local elections). Ten percent of mayoral candidates were women and 9 women (14.7%) were elected as mayors from 61 in total.</p> <p>The increase of women participation (40%) in public and political life and, particularly in the decision-making process at the central level are among the key objectives of the new Strategy on Gender Equality (2016-2020)</p> <p>Women’s representation in the government has increased to 42% (6 women), and 10 deputy ministers (or 34.4%).</p> <p>Women constitute 37% of the members of the judiciary system;</p> <p>Women represent 24% of Albanian Ambassadors and 59% of Albania’s First Secretaries in embassies around the world</p> <p>In the State Police, 1460 women are serving as police officer, or about 13% of the total number of police officers. State Police for the first time, in December 2015, elected as head of station (of Librazhd) a woman.</p> <p>In the academic field, women represent 31% of the professors with the title “professor”, 51% of the professors with PhDs title and 62% of lectures and professors.</p>
<b>Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence</b>		
<b>104.44 –Algeria; 104.45-Slovakia; 104.46-Turkey; 104.55-France</b>	Take action to effectively prevent and fight violence against women, particularly domestic violence.	Prevention and fight against gender-based violence and domestic violence was one of the strategic priorities of the National Gender Strategy (2011-2015) and continues to remain one of the main priorities in the new Strategy on Gender Equality (2016-2020);

		<p>Significant improvements have taken place over the years in legal framework related to the fight against domestic violence. Further improvements are expected to take place in the context of the justice reform in both criminal and civil legislation to bring the Albanian legislation in full compliance with the Council of Europe’s Convention on the on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).</p> <p>A number of State authorities address gender based and domestic violence. At the central level, they include the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Education. At the local level, municipalities are in charge of identifying cases of gender based violence and providing assistance to the victims of violence through the referral of cases to the institutions offering social, educational, employment, health and other services, according to the needs of the victims. An important inter-agency collaboration at the local level is the National Referral Mechanism comprised of representatives from the Police, the Prosecutor ‘s Office, the Court, the legal representative/lawyer; NGOs specialized in such issues; the Coordinator for Domestic Violence at the local government; the specialist in the Children Protection Unit at the municipality; and the school psychologist.</p> <p>An Electronic Online System for registration of cases of domestic violence has been established in 2014, and it currently operates in 29 out of 61 municipalities of the country. This system contains data on the perpetrators, and follows up the cases of domestic violence from the moment a case is reported until it finds final solution. Data shows a marked increase in reporting and case management, especially of the domestic violence cases.</p> <p><i>For more specific developments and challenges see recommendations below)</i></p>
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<p><b>105.22-Czech Republic</b></p>	<p>Raise public awareness of domestic violence as a criminal offence.</p>	<p>In collaboration with international organizations and civil society a number of national and local campaigns, media awareness activities, have been organized to raise awareness against domestic violence, including but not limited to “16 days of activism against gender based violence and domestic violence”, —He for She”, etc.) which have had an impact on raising public awareness for gender (in)equality and respect for rights, and have resulted in changes in traditional attitudes and increased reporting to the law enforcement institutions of cases of violence against women and domestic violence.</p> <p>Raising awareness about gender based violence in the education system is also a priority of the Ministry of Education through the formal and/or informal education curricula.</p> <p>A National Action Plan for Involving Men/Boys as Partners with Women/Girls in the Fight against GBV/DV (2014-2019), was adopted in 2014.</p>
<p><b>104.57 Slovenia; 104.58-United Kingdom; 104.59-Belgium; 106.11-Canada</b></p>	<p>Ensure that cases of domestic violence are properly investigated and prosecuted.</p>	<p>In 2014, the Police identified 4,121 cases of violence and other crimes committed in family relations. 1,699 cases of domestic violence and other domestic crimes were referred to the Prosecution Services for criminal prosecution. In 2,422 cases from the above the Police filed applications for immediate protection order/protection order. There were 17 domestic homicides, with 22 women as victims.</p> <p>In 2015, 3,866 cases of violence and other domestic criminal offences were identified, i.e. 255 fewer cases or 6.1% less than in 2014. In 2,148 cases an application for immediate protection order/protection order was filed. 1,719 cases of domestic violence and other domestic crimes were referred to the Prosecution Services. In 2015 there were 18 cases of domestic homicide, with 20 victims.</p> <p>In 2014, there were 1215 registered proceedings, with 1189 defendants accused on the crime of “Domestic violence”, article</p>

		<p>130/a of the Criminal Code. In 2015 there were 1206 penal proceedings with 1197 defendants.</p> <p>In 2015, the total judicial decisions on "Protection Order" and "emergency protection order", the subject of which were women, 106 (one hundred and six) issues were registered for execution, and which are executed entirely within the procedural deadlines</p> <p>516 perpetrators were punished in 2014, and 821 perpetrators were punished in 2015. The punishment varied from fines to five years imprisonment.</p>
<b>104.52 Hungary; 104.59-Belgium</b>	Undertake a deep analysis of protection orders for victims of domestic violence that were broken, in order to identify the root causes and take appropriate measures to secure the safety of the victims and protection of witnesses.	<p>With the support of international organizations and local NGOs, a number of studies and reports have been developed on gender-based violence and domestic violence. However, there is no specific analysis of protection orders to identify the root causes for violation of protection orders.</p> <p>In January 2016, the Office of Assistance for the Victims of Gender-based violence was established with a special focus on the minors, people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, the victims of violence or sexual exploitation, trafficking of human beings and terrorism.</p>
<b>104.47- Italy</b>	Address the factors which may still prevent women from filing complaints regarding episodes of violence.	A number of initiatives have taken place to support women submit complaints on gender-based and domestic violence, including improvement in the legislation for the protection of victims, adoption of mechanisms for coordinated community support (see recommendation below) and facilitation of reporting procedures through a 24-hour hotline is (phone no 129), at which anyone can report alleged violation of law, including cases of domestic violence. (However, this is not a dedicated line with staff trained on gender-based violence). There were 3777 registered calls for domestic violence in 2014 and 3827 in 2015.



<p><b>104.48-Australia;</b>  <b>105.22- Czech Republic</b></p>	<p>Take measures to raise awareness and ensure adequate training of law enforcement officials, lawyers and judges of the serious nature of domestic and gender-based violence.</p>	<p>In 2014, 224 police officers were trained on the topic: “How respond to domestic violence”. In 2015, 50 police officers were trained about specific legislation and relevant procedures on handling cases of domestic violence.</p> <p>During 2013-2014, the School of Magistrates, which is the authority in charge of organizing and providing professional trainings for the members of the judiciary, organized a series of trainings, where, 238 judges, prosecutors and judicial police officers were trained on amendments of the Criminal Code on gender-based and domestic violence. In 2015, the School of Magistrates provided trainings on different aspects of the legislation on domestic violence and gender based violence for around 120 members of the judiciary.</p>
<p><b>104.46-Turkey;</b>  <b>104.48 Australia</b>  <b>104.50-Ireland;</b>  <b>104.51-Lithuania;</b>  <b>105.21-Poland</b></p>	<p>Establish appropriate shelters and social services for victims of domestic violence, as well as a system of victim compensation, rehabilitation and reintegration.</p>	<p>The Albanian legal framework guarantees a wide range of services for victims/survivors of domestic violence, including short-term (emergency protection, safety, medical assistance, accommodation, transportation to safe accommodation, information on/assistance with obtaining protection orders, referral to further services) and long-term_(support employment, social assistance, accommodation, legal advice and assistance with divorce procedures, counselling and psycho-therapy, help with children, etc.).</p> <p>In practice some of these services are provided by public institutions, but NGOs remain primary actors in the delivery of services in support of the victims of domestic violence and gender based violence. NGOs have also set up consolidated networks to help, assist, and follow up the victims of violence in the Court, providing victims with free lawyer, free psychologist during the legal proceedings, but also more with reintegration services and economic empowerment of the victims of violence such as accommodation, employment, and vocational training through involving them in various vocational courses.However, the local government provides financial support to three main non-public shelters, providing respectively 40, 10% and 2% of their funding.</p>