

# NEWSLETTER

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## Representatives of the Swedish Embassy and the SCPA Program meet with senior leaders of the Albanian State Police

On November 6, 2024, Ms. Linda Gjermani, Program Officer at the Swedish Embassy, and Mr. Ansi Shundi, Team Leader of the Swedish Program for Strengthening Community Policing in Albania (SCPA), held a meeting with the Executive Leader Mr. Ilir PRODA, General Director of the Albanian State Police.

During the meeting, Ms. Gjermani highlighted the fruitful cooperation and partnership established with the State Police and other beneficiary institutions of the Community Policing Program, emphasizing the tangible results achieved through this collaboration.

General Director Mr. Proda commended the ongoing cooperation with the Swedish Government and the assistance provided, noting that in recent years, Sweden has been one of the main funding supporters of the Albanian State Police, particularly in the field of community policing (CP).

He also stressed the importance of prevention in creating safe communities and increasing public trust in the police force.

Furthermore, Ms. Gjermani informed the State Police leadership that, in ad-

dition to the SCPA Program, the Swedish Embassy plans to fund another project – a bilateral cooperation initiative between the Swedish Police and the Albanian State Police. This project, set to begin in early 2025, will focus on enhancing investigative skills at crime scene, improving forensic policing, and addressing issues related to sexual and gender-based violence.

Mr. Shundi provided updates on activities carried out during the initial period of the program's third phase, which began in June 2024.

The program aims to improve the effectiveness of community policing implementation, strengthen accountability, enhance coordination between police and local stakeholders, and boost the preventive capabilities of the police.

Key areas of focus include the "Safe Schools" program and road safety initiatives.

At the end of the meeting, both parties expressed their appreciation for the successful and productive collaboration over the past twelve years and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing this partnership in the future.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ Representatives of the Swedish Embassy and the SCPA Program meet with senior leaders of the Albanian State Police
- ◆ The SCPA program starts its third phase.
- ◆ Brief history of SCPA program.
- ◆ Meetings of SCPA program during inception phase
- ◆ Coordination meeting in Elbasan District on Local Councils for Public Safety



## The SCPA program starts its third phase.

Phase 3 of the SCPA program officially began on June 20, 2024, with a planned duration of five years.

It builds on a solid foundation of cooperation between Sweden and Albania in the area of community policing and continues to address key strategic objectives outlined by the Albanian Government.

This phase aims to further institutionalize community policing practices and aligns with the Intersectoral Strategy on Community Safety (2021-2026).

Its focus areas include strengthening police structures for community policing (CP), enhancing the capacities of Community Policing Officers (CPOs), increasing public awareness on safety issues, and improving cooperation among all stakeholders involved in community safety.

The SCPA program will deliver support across three intercon-

nected components:

### I. Support for Community Policing – Enhancing the Effectiveness of Community Policing Implementation

This component focuses on consolidating and expanding the adoption of community policing by the State Police as an approach.

### II. Community Policing Analysis and Accountability – Strengthening Police Accountability and Coordination, along with Enhancing the Capacity on Community Policing Analysis .

The second component continues to develop a data-driven approach to community policing across the Albanian State Police (ASP), while strengthening ties between government entities responsible for ensuring public safety, particularly local governance and Local Councils for Public Safety (LCPS).

In this way, it ensures that the ASP

makes decisions based on a clear understanding of community priorities and is able to leverage the full range of government capabilities to support the improvement of community safety.

### III. Enhancing police responses to community priorities, including domestic violence.

This component focuses on ensuring that the ASP has sufficient capacity to address specific police topics such as domestic violence, road safety, and youth engagement.

### Grant Scheme

As in previous phases, the program will feature a cross-sectoral grant component aimed at enhancing community participation and influencing the development of community policing approaches.

## Brief history of SCPA program

Since 2012, Sweden has supported the Ministry of Interior (Moi) and the Albanian State Police in developing community policing through the Swedish Program for Strengthening Community Policing in Albania. SIDA and the Swedish Embassy in Albania have provided support for this program in two previous phases.

### Phase 1 (2012-2015):The SACP program, "Swedish Support for Moi/ State Police in Community Policing," aimed to:

The objectives of the program were to improve the ability of the State Police to provide security in accordance with the principles of service delivery; and to increase the trust and willingness of individuals and the community to interact and cooperate with the State Police in order to reduce crime levels. The SACP program offered assistance through three interconnected components:

#### I. Performance Management

#### II. Partnership and Youth

#### III. Domestic Violence

The program worked closely with its beneficiaries to achieve a policing service that fully embraced the philosophy of Community Policing. This involved creating partnerships and syn-

ergies among various groups, fostering community support for the State Police's new role, and developing expertise within the Moi to continue improving the performance management system.

**Phase 2 (2017-2022):**The second phase was designed to support Community Policing in Albania, with the Ministry of Interior and the State Police as its primary beneficiaries.

Building on the results of the first phase, Phase 2 aimed to strengthen mutual trust and partnership between the police and communities, aligning with the core goal of the Community Policing Philosophy.

The program provided assistance in three interconnected components:

#### I. Support for Community Policing in Regional Police Directorates

#### II. Support for Strategic Management

#### III. Support for Domestic Violence Cases

The program has collaborated with its beneficiaries to contribute to the enhancement of partnership and the level of interaction between various actors and communities for security and order within the community.

SCPA has worked with all structures in

the LPD, particularly with Community Policing Officers (CPOs).

The program has supported ASP in implementing the strategic management system, enabling the organization to track its performance and strategically allocate appropriate resources effectively and efficiently, based on the development of monitoring and evaluation capacities.

It has also supported ASP in enhancing its capacity to better respond to cases of domestic violence and has developed coordination with other stakeholders involved in addressing domestic violence.

Based on the interest expressed by the program's beneficiary party and an external evaluation, the Swedish Government allocated funds for the third phase of the program with the aim of providing continued support for community policing reforms, emphasizing the need for behavioral and cultural changes within the police force and the gradual building of trust within the community.

**The third phase** of the SCPA Program began on June 20, 2024, with a planned duration of five years.

## Meetings of SCPA program during inception phase

During the initial phase, the Program Management Team (PMT) conducted extensive consultations with various institutions and stakeholders to ensure clear direction and alignment with the needs of stakeholders and the structural changes within the Albanian State Police (ASP)

Meetings were held with different sectors of the ASP to address the concept of the Police Zone, personnel organization, and improvements in work processes.

Discussions included enhancing job descriptions and planning interventions for Community Police Officers, addressing the challenges and advantages of the new model.

The program collaborated with the Ministry of Interior (MoI), OSCE, and other organizations to ensure that

planned interventions were appropriate and compliant with the law. Additionally, during this period, the PMT assisted the MoI in drafting a Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) regarding the structures of the Local Councils for Public Safety (LCPS). This DCM was approved at the end of October 2024, establishing a legal framework for municipalities and prefectures.

The program supported the development of a public safety monitoring and reporting system, standardizing data and improving decision-making processes. Meetings and consultations were held with ministries and organizations to address issues related to domestic violence (DV), the protection of women, minors, and vulnerable groups. The consultations highlighted the need for new training for

DV specialists due to personnel reorganization. Awareness-raising activities in schools and road safety initiatives were also discussed.

EMP has also organized meetings with foreign organizations and agencies such as the OSCE Presence in Albania, and recently with representatives of the Swedish Police, who are developing a project in support of the State Police, focused on enhancing skills for crime scene investigation and forensic policing, as well as addressing issues of domestic violence and gender-based violence.



### Coordination meeting in Elbasan District on Local Public Safety Councils



Program Team Leader Mr. Ansi Shundi and Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Ms. Eldisa Zhebo, participated in the meeting initiated by the Ministry of the Interior and organized on November 18th, 2024, in the premises of the Elbasan District Prefecture.

This meeting was organized in the framework of the approval of the CoM Decision on Local Public Safety Councils (LCPS), with the participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Elbasan District Prefecture, municipalities and police commissariats, SCPA Program and the OSCE Presence in Albania. Following more than 8



years of collaboration and cooperation on the organization and functioning of the LCPS, the SCPA Program and the OSCE Presence in Albania congratulated the approval of the CoM Decision on LCPS.

In this framework, a round of meetings has been initiated in all the districts to emphasize the importance of establishing the LCPS. In the municipalities where the LCPS has been operational the legal basis is now in force, whereas in the municipalities in which LCPS do not exist, it is mandatory to establish the LCPS within 3 months upon approval of the CoM



Decision on LCPS. This meeting is deliberately organized in Elbasan, considering the successful experience of LCPS in the municipalities of Elbasan, Cërrik and Belsh. The SCPA program reiterated its ongoing support on LCPS and public order and security in this region.

At the end of the meeting, the representatives of the Ministry of Interior and Elbasan District Prefecture expressed their appreciation on the cooperation and support provided to date by the international partners and their interest in the continuation of such useful cooperation.