

NEWSLETTER

Covering March 2026

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SCPA Program 3rd Steering Committee Meeting with Program Stakeholders

On 4 March 2026, the SCPA Program organized its third Steering Committee Meeting, bringing together key institutional stakeholders involved in the implementation of program activities.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Dhimitraq Ziu, Director of the Public Order and Security Department at the Albanian State Police, and Mr. Erik Illes, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden in Albania.

Participants included representatives from the management of the Albanian State Police in the areas of public security and police training, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Albania, the Civil Society Support Agency, and the National Association of Albanian Municipalities.

In his remarks, Mr. Ziu emphasized the continued commitment of the Albanian State Police to implementing the community policing philosophy and strengthening cooperation with communities to enhance public safety.

He highlighted ongoing program-supported activities in areas such as community policing implementation,

improvement of public order statistics, traffic policing, domestic violence prevention, youth awareness in schools, and improving police services based on survey findings.

Mr. Erik Illes underlined Sweden’s long-standing support to the Albanian State Police in strengthening public safety and community policing, noting the importance of adapting program results to support Albania’s progress toward European Union accession.

Mr. Ansi Shundi, SCPA PMT Team Leader presented the program’s progress during the third semester and planned activities for the upcoming period. Steering Committee members discussed the importance of continued inter-institutional cooperation and unanimously approved the Program Progress Report, reaffirming their commitment to further collaboration in strengthening public safety in Albania.



MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- ◆ SCPA Program 3rd Steering Committee Meeting with Program Stakeholders
- ◆ Training of the General Patrol Officers and Command and Control Room Staff on Community Policing Implementation – Lezha Local Police Directorate
- ◆ Workshop on Improving Public Order Statistics System
- ◆ Grants’ Scheme Activity – LCPS & Local Safety Measurement System – Shkodra
- ◆ Grants’ Scheme Activity – Trafficking in Human Being – Fier
- ◆ CPOs Youth Educators Continue Awareness Efforts in Schools



Training of the General Patrol Officers and Command and Control Room Staff on Community Policing Implementation – Lezha Local Police Directorate



Between **11–13 March, 18–20 March, and 24–26 March 2026**, three successive groups—comprising **General Patrol Officers and personnel from the Command and Control Room** of the Lezha Local Police Directorate—participated in a structured training program.

The training was organized and facilitated by the SCPA Program Management Team and conducted within the premises of the Lezha Local Police Directorate.

In total, **66 police** employees attended the sessions, ensuring broad participa-

tion across operational and command staff.

During this training the trainees were introduced to both theoretical and practical exercises and group work by focusing on CP philosophy and implementation of its elements into the daily routine of ASP officers.

In addition, they were presented with situations/practical exercises to be handled with and solved by them as they work in groups with the aim of providing measures to be taken proactively in order to implement the CP elements. Special attention was given

to the theoretical and practical treatment of cases of **Domestic Violence**.

In order to provide a comprehensive training module on CP SCPA cooperated with **Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)**, whose experts provided interactive lecturing on Countering Violent Extremism.

Best EU practices on CP philosophy implementation were shared with the ASP officers. At the end of such training the ASP officers are able to enhance their knowledge and capacities on implementation of CP.

Workshop on Improving Public Order Statistics System



On **11th March 2026**, the SCPA Programme Management Team (PMT), in cooperation with representatives of the Albanian State Police (ASP), organized the fifth session of the workshop series entitled “**Improving the System of Statistics Produced and Used by Public Order Structures**”.

The Working Group members continued to work closely with the aim of

establishing public order and safety statistics system.

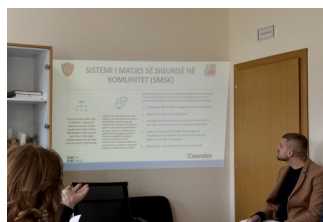
During this session the participants concentrated on the data useful to the police by reviewing the relevant statistics forms and sharing experience and information on the enhancement of the content of the public order statistics forms.

The Working Group will continue its

cooperation with the aim of enhancing the accuracy, reliability, comparability, and effective use of public order and safety statistics.



Grants' Scheme Activity – LCPS & Local Safety Measurement System – Shkodra



On March **10, 2026**, in the Prefecture of Shkodra Region, a working meeting was held within the framework of the SCPA Program, in cooperation with the organization “Woman to Woman.” The meeting, chaired by the Prefect of the County and the program expert, focused on presenting the legal and practical framework for the functioning of Local Council for Public Safety s (LCPS). Participants included representatives of the Region's municipalities, the State Police, Municipal Police, civil society organizations, and local institutions. Discussions centered on the role of the prefect and municipalities, the

composition of the LCPSs, and the importance of cross-institutional coordination on community safety issues. This activity was considered a concrete step toward the effective operationalization of LCPSs and the strengthening of community policing.

On March **18, 2026**, in the Municipality of Vau i Dejës, the first functional meeting of the LCPS was held after its establishment in December 2025. The meeting included representatives from the police, education, healthcare, civil emergencies, food authorities, protected areas, as well as the NGO “Woman

to Woman.” Discussions were based on the results of the Community Safety Measurement System (CSMS), which highlighted concerns such as the presence of individuals under the influence of alcohol in public spaces and citizens’ fear for their property.

It was decided that the next steps would include a detailed analysis of the results, drafting concrete plans to address the issues, and actively involving the community in decision-making. This meeting laid the foundation for structured and sustainable cooperation among local actors.

Grants' Scheme Activity – Trafficking in Human Being – Fier



On 11 March 2026, an informational and awareness-raising meeting on the risks of trafficking and exploitation of children in Roma and Egyptian communities was held at Shkolla e Bashkuar/ United School of Grabian.

This activity was organized in the framework of the project “Public Safety Team 2 – Partner for a Safe Community”, part of the Grants Scheme of the SCPA Programme.

The meeting was organized in cooperation with the Local Police Directorate of Fier, in the framework of the action plan for implementing the recommendations issued by the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Con-

vention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, aimed at strengthening measures against trafficking in human beings.

The purpose of the meeting was to increase the awareness of students, parents and teachers regarding the risks of trafficking and exploitation of children, particularly within Roma and Egyptian communities, as well as to provide guidance on protection and reporting suspected cases. The activity was attended by representatives of the Local Police Directorate of Fier, social service staff from the Municipality of Divjaka, the School Security Officer, representatives of the school psycho-

social service, as well as parents and children from the community.

During the meeting, several important topics related to awareness-raising and prevention of trafficking in human beings were addressed. Participants were informed about what trafficking in human beings is and the forms in which it may occur, as well as the risks it poses to children and young people. The important role of family and community in preventing such phenomena was also emphasized. The discussion also covered how to identify cases at risk, the importance of cooperation between the school and the community, as well as the procedures and mechanisms for reporting suspected cases.

CPOs Youth Educators Continue Awareness Efforts in Schools



In implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Interior, as well as in accordance with the Order of the General Director of the State Police No. 1076, dated September 14, 2022, on the implementation of the "Youth Safety" Program in both public and private nine-year schools, Community Policing Officers for Education and Youth Work have continued their activities with dedication throughout **March 2026**

The primary objective of this program is to raise youth awareness against drugs, alcohol and smoking. Road Safety and online security ,especially bullying and cyber bullying.

As part of this initiative, CPOs (Community Policing Officers for education and work with youth) have worked closely with local coordinators from Local Education Offices (LEO), jointly developing a detailed monthly schedule to implement various topics in nine-year schools within their respective police zones.

In March 2026, special attention has been given to awareness against drugs, alcohol and smoking.

Additionally, other topics related to citizenship education have been addressed, based on the educational community's requests and the specific conditions of each zone.

Through the online activity monitoring platform, an increased engagement has been observed among CPOs operating in police commissariats in the cities of **Tirana, Shkodra, Lezha, Durres Fier, Lushnja, Korca, Pogradec, Berat, Permet, Kukës , Gramsh and Saranda.**

These units have displayed high work intensity, conducting numerous meetings and distributing awareness materials through social media and online forums.

In total, **185** materials and activities have been posted, which have been interactively viewed by **2093** users, demonstrating strong public interest.

Furthermore, **48** comments have been

registered on these posts, most of which were positive, supportive, and appreciative of the dedication shown by State Police specialists.

This indicates that the program is not only being successfully implemented but is also receiving strong community support and approval.

