



REPORT

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDRESSED TO ALBANIA

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES OF

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATTING

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(ISTANBUL CONVENTION)

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASP	Albanian State Police
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CLMB	Counselling Line for Men and Boys, Tirana (NPO)
CLWG	Counselling Line for Women and Girls, Tirana (NPO)
DCoM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
CPD	Commissioner for the Protection against Discrimination
CRM	Coordinated Referral Mechanism for reporting cases of domestic violence
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DV	Domestic Violence
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-based violence
GE	Gender equality
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics, Albania
MESY	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth
MFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MoI	Ministry of the Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NPO	Non-Profit (Non-Governmental) Organisation
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NSGE	National Strategy on Gender Equality
OMB	Office for Men and Boys, Shkodra (NPO)
PA	People's Advocate (Ombudsperson)
UN Women	United Nations entity on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
VaW	Violence against women

I. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Albania is honoured to submit this report on the implementation of recommendations the Committee addressed to Albania to the Committee of Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence¹. The report focuses its attention on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) which urge the taking of 'immediate' action or 'strongly encourage' Albanian Government to do so.

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) has been incorporated into the Albanian domestic legislation since 1 August 2014. Albania signed the Convention on 19 December 2011 and subsequently ratified it on 4 February 2013 (the second Council of Europe Member State to ratify the Convention without any reservations). A baseline evaluation on the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention by Albania was carried out in the course of 2017. The evaluation process started with the submission of a report by the Albanian authorities (16 January 2017) followed by a number of other steps until the final drafting and adoption the GREVIO Baseline Evaluation Report on Albania (12 October 2017, published on 24 November 2017)². In its fourth meeting (30 January 2018), the Committee of the Parties adopted a list of recommendations³ on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by Albania. The present report aims to set out the progress made in the implementation of those recommendations.

In accordance with the instructions provided, this report covers a three-year period (2018-2020); however, some information on the first half of 2021 has also been included due to the significance of some recent developments with regard to the implementation of the recommendations issued in the baseline report. The reporting follows the standard template adopted by the Committee of the Parties and focuses on eight priority areas. Also, in accordance with the instructions sent out by the Council of Europe on 20 January 2021⁴, the Albanian Government has not provided answers to questions 1 to 7.2 and 17 to 17.2, question 20, questions 25 to 27; and questions 28 to 28.3 of the standard questionnaire. The Annexes are an important component of the report; they provide more detailed information on the measures taken for the implementation of the recommendations for urgent action as well as some statistical data supplementing the information provided within the standard template.

The present report was prepared by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection on behalf of the Government of Albania, following a comprehensive consultation process with key line ministries, local self-government units and independent institutions. In addition, the information provided here includes the contributions of civil society organisations, academia, the media and international organisations, which were presented in online consultative roundtables⁵ part of the parallel processes aimed at improving the legal framework and key policies on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence.

In the period between 2018 and 2020, Albania held local elections (in 2019) and the related political electoral processes and developments resulted in the election of mayors. While this report was being

¹ In accordance with Article 68, paragraph 12, of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and as set out in document IC-CP(2018)6.

² See <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-first-baseline-report-on-albania/16807688a7>

³ As set out in document IC-CP/Inf(2018)3.

⁴ In conjunction with the standard reporting form, as described in document IC-CP(2020)12 rev.

⁵ Only in the period February-May 2021, seven consultative roundtables were organised in the framework of the evaluation of the implementation of the 2016-2020 National Strategy on Gender Equality and the drafting of the new 2021-2030 National Strategy on Gender Equality, which were attended by around 130 participants. In addition, written contributions were submitted by 19 central and local institutions, 18 civil society organisation and 11 international organisations. These were in addition to the responses in writing sent in by 18 central, local and independent institutions for the preparation of this report on the implementation of the recommendations addressed to State Parties by the Committee of the Parties.

prepared, Albania also held its general elections (in April 2021) which confirmed a third governing mandate for the Socialist Party. The civil emergency situation caused by the powerful earthquake (November 2019) and the considerable damage caused by it in several areas of the country, as well as the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, dictated a reorganisation and reallocation of resources in order to promptly respond to these situations in an effort to mitigate the consequences thereof. Nevertheless, the fight against violence against women and domestic violence remained a priority of the Government of Albania and special attention was paid to ensuring the safety and providing support to women and girls from vulnerable groups even as the country was grappling with these emergency situations.

The achievements and progress identified in this report notwithstanding, the Albanian authorities remain committed to continue with the fulfilment of obligations deriving from the Istanbul Convention and other international human rights instruments.

II. REPORTING PURSUANT THE STANDARD TEMPLATE PROVIDED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION

In accordance with the instructions provided by the Committee of the Parties of Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence [as outlined in document IC-CP (2020)12 rev, dated 20 January 2021], in the questionnaire form below, the Albanian Government has not provided answers to questions 1 to 7.2 and 17 to 17.2, question 20, questions 25 to 27; and questions 28 to 28.3. These fields have been left blank and highlighted in orange.

I. Fundamental rights, equality, and non-discrimination (Article 4)			
1	Have your authorities taken measures to ensure that the provisions of the Istanbul Convention are implemented without discrimination on any grounds listed in Article 4, paragraph 3, of the convention, including in terms of the availability of services and the protection by law enforcement agencies?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.1	If yes, please specify:		
1.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
2	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to prevent and combat violence against women who are or might be exposed to intersectional discrimination?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.1	If yes, please specify:		
2.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
3	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 4, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		
II. Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies implemented under the responsibility of an adequately mandated and resourced co-ordinating body (Articles 7 and 10)			
4	Have your authorities developed a long-term plan/strategy to prevent and combat violence against women?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> (a plan/strategy was already developed at the time of GREVIO's

			baseline evaluation)
4.1	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
5	Which forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention are addressed by the plan/strategy? Please offer a brief description specifically indicating the forms of violence not previously addressed in plans or strategies at national level.		
6	Was specific attention given to place the rights of women victims at the centre of all measures planned?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6.1	If yes, please specify how:		
6.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
7	Do the plan/strategy and the measures contained therein involve all relevant actors, such as government agencies, the national, regional and local parliaments and authorities, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1	Please specify the actors involved:		
7.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
8	Have the authorities assigned the role of co-ordinating body to one or more fully institutionalised entities?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a co-ordinating body was already established at the time of GREVIO's baseline evaluation)
8.1	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
9	Please specify the mandate, powers, and competences, as well as the composition, of the co-ordinating body/bodies: The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP): As of September 2017, in addition to its responsibilities in the field of healthcare, the MHSP is also in charge of developing policies addressing gender-based violence, violence against children, women, and other groups, gender equality,		

protection of the rights of children, non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity etc. This means that the responsibilities in relation to gender equality issues and fight against domestic violence were transferred from the former Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (September 2013-September 2017) to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (September 2017 to present). These responsibilities are carried out by the Section on Policy and Strategies on Social Inclusion and Gender Equality within the Department for Policy and Development of Health Care and Social Protection Directorate under the General Directorate for Policies and Development of Health and Social Protection. The amendments of the Law 9669/2016 “On measures against violence in family relations” applied in 2018 through the Law No. 47/2018, enabled a better integration of the principles and standards of the Istanbul Convention, as suggested from respective recommendations. These amendments inter alia expanded the mandate of the MHSP with regards to coordination, implementation and monitoring of policies related to prevention and fight against domestic violence.

Other important bodies:

The National Council on Gender Equality (NCGE - composed of new membership pursuant to Prime Minister’s Ordinance No.239, dated 13.12.2017) is an advisory body whose role is to lead, define and develop state policies on gender equality as well as to coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate policies and measures for preventing and combatting all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention. The Council is established by order of the Prime Minister and its composition is renewed once every four years. It is chaired by the Minister of Health and Social Protection and composed of nine representatives from line ministries at the rank of deputy minister or senior management, as well as three representatives from the civil society who are selected through an open competition and on the basis of criteria such as previous experience and past contribution in these matters.

The Parliamentary Sub-Committee “On Gender Equality and Preventing Violence against Women”, under the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Labour, Social Affairs and Health, was established pursuant to the Resolution “On Condemning Violence against Women and Girls and Increasing the Efficiency of Legal Mechanisms for its Prevention” (adopted by the People’s Assembly on 4 December 2017). In the framework of parliamentary oversight role, the sub-committee requests and receives information on the implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality, reports on the domestic violence situation, or on issues such as discrimination against women and holds hearings with interest groups and institutions.

The Office for Coordinating the Fight against Domestic Violence, established within the Ministry of Justice (on 25 November 2017), is tasked with coordinating institutional action at the central and local levels for the prevention, protection and support of victims of domestic violence, mainly women and girls, as well as aiding in intensifying institutional action in this respect. The Office is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Social Protection (the State Social Service) and the Ministry of the Interior (the Crimes Department under the Domestic Violence and Protection of Minors Section).

The Deputy Prime Minister was appointed national coordinator on gender equality (pursuant to Order of the Prime Minister No. 32/2018) and has a coordinating role in the strengthening of the national mechanism on gender equality.

Local and central government institutions are required by law to collaborate with the Minister in charge of gender equality issues, to exchange information and assist in the fulfilment of this function. This collaboration is facilitated by Gender Equality Officers (GEOs). At the central level, 11 GEOs have been appointed in the line ministries and the State Police and INSTAT have appointed contact points for the same purpose. At the local level, all 61 municipalities have appointed GEOs, who also serve as Local Coordinators for domestic violence issues.

	<p>Also at the local level, based on Law 9669/2016 "On measures against violence in family relations", as amended, there are established the Coordinated Referral Mechanisms of domestic violence' cases (CRM), led by municipalities (responsible authorities for establishing and empowerment of these mechanisms) and based on the philosophy of a coordinated multi-sectoral approach. CRMs have in their composition all local institutions responsible for the implementation of the legal framework related to violence against women and domestic violence (municipality and its social services, police, prosecution, court, forensic doctor, bailiff, health, education, state social service, employment, probation service, county prefect, etc.), as well as civil society organizations specialized in providing the necessary specialist support services for cases' management and intervention on prevention and awareness of entire society (organizations that provide sheltering services, psycho-emotional or legal counseling, rehabilitation and reintegration services, information and awareness, capacity building activities for professionals, etc.). In fulfillment of the legal obligation and as planned in the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020, CRMs have already been established in all municipalities in the country (61 municipalities). Meanwhile, work is underway to strengthen and increase their effectiveness and accountability in the way of handling cases according to the philosophy that characterizes them, as well as to perform all functions (not only that of case management in a multi-sectoral coordinated approach, but also functions related to coordination, prevention and information, training and capacity building of professionals, data collection, processing, and analysis, as well as documentation). To improve their intervention' effectiveness and the overall functioning of the CRMs, in June 2021, DCoM 327 dated 02.06.2021 "On the mechanism of coordination of work between the responsible authorities, for the referral of cases of domestic violence, and its functioning, for supporting and rehabilitating victims of violence", was approved. This DCoM abrogates DCM 334/2011 "On the coordination mechanism for the referral of cases of violence in family relations and its way of functioning". In addition to compliance with the legal framework and updated policies, this DCoM, among others, emphasizes the obligation to identify and report other cases of violence against women as specified in the Istanbul Convention, to address them through the CRM.</p>		
9.1	In particular, please indicate whether the co-ordinating body/bodies is/are responsible for:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-ordination of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women - 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: MHSP</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: MHSP at the central level and CRMs at the local level</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat violence against women 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: MHSP NCGE, the Parliamentary Sub-Committee "On</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

		Gender Equality and Preventing Violence against Women” and the Ombudsperson	
	- Co-ordination of the collection of data, analysis and dissemination of its results	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The co-ordination body responsible is: MHSP	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10	<p>Please specify the human and financial resources allocated to the co-ordinating body/bodies:</p> <p>Within the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP) the coordinating responsibilities are discharged by the Section on Policy and Strategies on Social Inclusion and Gender Equality within the Department for Policy and Development of Health Care and Social Protection Directorate under the General Directorate for Policies and Development of Health and Social Protection. The Section is composed of a Head of Section and four experts, (three women and one man) who are tasked with coordinating and monitoring a series of targeted actions focusing not only on gender equality and gender-based violence issues, but also on minority groups, diversity, children’s’ rights, etc., (as reflected in the name of the section). In terms of financial resources, there has been an increase in the budget, which mainly goes for staff salaries. Other activities, such as awareness-raising events, strengthening of capacities, monitoring and evaluation processes, are also supported by international organisations. In addition, the Section has also been supported with expert technical assistance, through regular expert secondments to the Section by the international organisations (primarily United Nations Agencies and the Council of Europe).</p>		
11	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Articles 7 and 10, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>Regarding Article 7: The 2021-2030 National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE), the fourth of its kind in Albania, is currently in the process of being adopted. The 2021-2030 NSGE is underpinned by the objectives of the Government Programme on gender equality and combatting gender-based violence and domestic violence, national legislation, as well as international obligations deriving from ratified conventions and agreements in the field, including the Istanbul Convention, with a particular focus on ensuring its alignment with European Union policies in the framework of integration processes. In addition, the European Commission Recommendations outlined in the Albania 2020 Report, which identifies the main issues for 2021, were also taken into account. In drafting of the Action Plan for the implementation of the 2021-2030 NSGE, care was taken to ensure it is in line with the EU GAP III, particularly in respect of strategic goals, specific objectives and performance indicators. The funds for Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy shall come from a number of sources, with the state budget, local self-government funds, and donor support remaining the three most important ones. It is expected that in the period 2021-2030, contributions from the state budget will cover 50.5% of the funds needed for the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan; 33.9% is expected to be covered from other sources and donors, with a funding gap of 15.6% yet to be covered. Current expenditures will comprise about 80.1% of total expenditures, while the remaining 19.9% will go towards capital expenditures. In financial terms, Policy Goal III (reduction of GBV & DV), is expected to receive the largest amount of funds in the strategy implementation, namely 63.8% of the total; with Policy Goal I (socio-economic rights) at 21.3%, and Policy Goals IV (gender mainstreaming) and II (political and public decision making) 11.9% and 2.9% respectively. The Strategy will undergo a medium-term review process in five years’ time (in 2025), in order to take stock of</p>		

	<p>the progress made in the implementation of the measures and update it in accordance with emerging needs and medium-term budgetary programmes of each institution for 2026-2028. In relation to the aspects of the strategy yet to be covered with funds, the responsible institutions will budget for those needs as part of their respective budgetary programmes in the framework of their medium-term and annual budget programme processes and will negotiate with various donors for the co-financing of certain activities.</p> <p>The drafting of 2021-2030 NSGE is also underpinned by the findings and recommendations contained in “Evaluation Report: Implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and its Action Plan 2016-2020”. This evaluation was carried out in the course of 2020 by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, on behalf of the Albanian Government, with the support and technical expertise provided by UN Women Albania. Following this evaluation process and the measurement of previously defined indicators, it was concluded that the Strategy implementation rate was 80%, with numerous meaningful achievements made in the areas of women empowerment, progress towards gender equality and reduction of violence against women and domestic violence. More concretely, Strategic Goal 1: Economic empowerment of women and men was realised 74.7%; Strategic Goal 2: Ensuring meaningful and equal participation of women in political and public decision-making: 75.57%; Strategic Goal 3: Reduction of gender-based violence and domestic violence: 84.8% and Strategic Goal 4: Strengthening of the coordination and monitoring role of the National Mechanism for Gender Equality, and raising awareness in the society regarding the advancement of gender equality: 81.25%. (More detailed information from the evaluation provided in the chart contained in Annex 2)</p>		
III. Financial resources (Article 8)			
12	Have your authorities allocated specific funds at the		
	- National	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- and/or regional	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- and/or local	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	levels of government for activities to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention?		
12.1	<p>If yes, what is the annual amount of these funds? If possible, please specify the percentage of the total national state budget that the amount represents.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health and Social Protection: In 2018, following a joint proposal by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Finance the Albanian Government established a Social Fund. Local Self-Government Units (LSGUs) whose social plans have already been adopted by their respective municipal councils, can apply to the Social Fund for additional support in meeting the needs of vulnerable groups for social services. About 80% of LSGUs have drafted their Social Plans with the support of international organisations and the State Social Service. These plans include measures in support of victims of violence and trafficking and other disadvantaged groups of women. The first call for applications to the Social Fund was announced in April 2019 and the winning applications were announced in November 2019 [14 municipalities won projects with a value of ALL 69,117,366 (about 690 thousand Euro) to be financed from the budget of the Ministry; these would go towards funding social services for a 12-month period]. One such winning project, whose implementation started in 2020, aimed to use the Social Fund money for the provision of emergency services to women victims of violence or domestic violence. In 2021, the total amount from the Social Fund allocated to four</p>		

municipalities to be used for the purposes of services to victims of domestic violence and persons at risk is 11,258,165 ALL (about 94 thousand Euro). More detailed information on these funds is provided in the table in Annex 3.

Regarding support for women who have been granted protection orders: monthly payments of 3000 ALL (about 25 Euro) each a month were received by 408 in 2018, 509 women in 2019, and 603 women in 2020. The number of victims of trafficking in receipt of monthly payments of 3000 ALL (about 25 euro) was 11 in 2018, 9 in 2019 and 10 in 2020.

In 2019, 4932 women benefitted from the Economic Assistance Scheme (AE). Due to the state of natural disaster declared in the country, about 63,510 families benefitted double the usual amount of Economic Assistance payments. In addition, 4,524 families who had applied for Economic Assistance benefits in the period between July 2019 and March 2020 and whose application for economic assistance had not been granted, received a payment of 16,000 ALL, even though, in principle, they were not eligible for the AE scheme. In 2020, the number of women heads of household in receipt of economic assistance payments increased by 32% (a total of 6,492 women beneficiaries in that year) and between March and June of the same year they received double the usual amount of economic assistance, in accordance with DCoM No. 254, dated 27 March 2020 "On establishing the procedures, documentation and amount of financial assistance benefits for persons employed in business entities with an annual turnover of up to 14 million ALL; economic assistance and unemployment benefit payments for the duration of the state of natural disaster proclaimed as a result of Covid-19".

In addition, the government adopted a DCoM pursuant to the Law on Social Enterprises, according to which an enterprise support fund in the sum of 249,760,000 ALL (about 2.81 million Euro) was adopted for the period 2019-2021, of which 37,000,000 ALL (about 308 thousand Euro) was allocated for the creation of new jobs; 7,776,000 ALL (about 65 thousand Euro) went towards covering the mandatory social and health insurance payments for employees of social enterprises belonging to disadvantaged groups, and the rest went towards supporting these enterprises, upon submission of a business plan. In order to be eligible for the subsidy, a business must employ at least 3 young persons from disadvantaged groups within 12 months from receipt of the subsidy. The allocation of subsidies is conditional upon the employment of persons from disadvantaged groups with a contract duration of no less than 2 years.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection also funds two specialist support services, at the national level, which provide long-term sheltering and treatment focused on reintegration, for victims of domestic violence and trafficking of human beings. Data on the planned and allocated budget for these two centers are presented in the following table:

Institution	Year 2019 (ALL)		Year 2020 (ALL)		Year 2021 (ALL)
	Planned	Allocated	Planned	Allocated	Planned
National Center for the Treatment of Domestic Violence Cases	22,860,000	22,297,826	22,840,000	22,735,294	21,530,000
National Reception Center for the Victims of Trafficking	20,910,000	20,742,116	20,920,000	20,854,580	22,350,000

The Ministry of Justice has allocated funds for:

- a) Free legal aid for women and girls in need, in the amount of, respectively, 11,000,000 ALL (about 92 thousand Euro) in 2018; ALL 18,000,000 (about 150 thousand Euro) in 2019; 18,000,000 ALL (about 150 thousand Euro) in 2020; and 28,000,000 ALL (about 233 thousand Euro) in 2021;
- b) Women convicts serving sentences in Institutions for the Execution of Criminal Decisions, in the amount of, respectively: 94,000,000 ALL (about 783 thousand Euro) in 2018; 94,000,000 ALL (about 783 thousand Euro) in 2019; 94,000,000 ALL (about 783 thousand Euro) in 2020; and 94,000,000 ALL (about 783 thousand Euro) in 2021;
- c) Convicted women on probation, in the amount of 15,047,000 ALL (about 125 thousand Euro), 15,047,000 ALL (about 125 thousand Euro), 15,047,000 ALL (about 125 thousand Euro) in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively; 15,047,000 ALL (about 125 thousand Euro) has been allocated in 2021;
- d) Protection orders granted to women, in the amount of, respectively: 5,402,000 ALL (about 45 thousand Euro) in 2018; 4,570,000 ALL (about 38 thousand Euro) in 2019; 3,195,000 ALL (about 26.6 thousand Euro) in 2020; and 4,492,000 ALL (about 37.4 thousand Euro) in 2021

In 2019, the Ministry of Justice signed a joint project with the UNDP “On expanding free legal aid services for women and men in Albania” in the amount of 1,000,000 (one million Euro) for the period 2019-2022.

The proper implementation of **Gender-Responsive Budgeting**, both at the central and the local self-government level, is of paramount importance in allocation of funds for activities aimed at preventing and combatting all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention. In the 2017-2019 Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP), the budgetary funds to which gender responsive budgeting is applied amounted to USD 90 million; in the 2018-2020 MTPB this went up to USD 120 million and in the 2019-2021 MTPB, USD 285 million (for more details, see table in Annex 4). The Law on Local Self-Government Financing (2017) has made it possible to effectively apply GRB at all stages of the local financial management cycles (annual and medium-term budget programming, monitoring and reporting, evaluation and auditing). LSGUs are required by law to address gender inequality issues and demonstrate full respect for gender equality in at least one of the programme policy objectives, by clearly identifying the related gender indicators and outcomes. In their reporting, LGSUs must also mandatorily indicate what percentage of their overall expenditures goes towards supporting policies for the promotion of gender equality.

In its 2020 budget, **the Municipality of Elbasan** allocated a fund amounting to 8,700,000 ALL (72,500 EUR) in support of abused women or women with social-economic problems, which demonstrates greater sensitivity on the part of the local authority and the members of the municipal council towards this social group. This fund is further subdivided into: the 2020 social fund, with a value of 2,000,000 ALL (16,667 EUR); the joint participation projects fund, with a value of 3,500,000 ALL (29,167 EUR); the gender equality fund, earmarked for addressing gender equality issues, with a value of 500,000 ALL (4,167 EUR), and the social assistance fund, drawn from municipality revenue, with a value of 3,200,000 ALL (26,667 EUR), of which social assistance payments for abused women who have been granted protection orders or emergency protection orders amount to 2,000,000 ALL (16,667 EUR). In the period September 2018-September 2020, as part of a joint project with the UNDP, the Elbasan municipality co-funded, with a contribution of 25,000USD, NPO activities both in Elbasan proper and in the surrounding areas, which focused, among others on domestic violence and gender-based violence. This project was part of the Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans (ReL0aD), funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in six countries of the Western Balkans. In 2020, the municipality of Elbasan and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy supported 117 families with social assistance payments. The total value of

	<p>payments was 14,794,394 ALL (123,287 EUR), of which the municipality contributed the sum of 4,173,553 ALL (34,780 EUR). Out of the 117 beneficiaries of the social assistance payments, 43 were women.</p> <p>As of 2018, the Municipality of Lezha has been allocating 500,000 ALL (4,167 EUR) for activities on preventing and combatting all forms of violence against women.</p> <p>In its 2021 budget, the Municipality of Devoll allocated the sum of 200,000 ALL (1,667 EUR) for activities on preventing and combatting all forms of violence against women.</p> <p>As of 2018, the Municipality of Korça has been allocating 424,900 ALL (3,541 EUR) of its budget for these issues, of which 288,000 ALL (2,400 EUR) go towards covering the needs of the emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and 136,900 ALL (1,141 EUR) go towards awareness raising activities.</p>		
12.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
13	<p>Have these funds increased since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report?</p> <p>The percentage of the total of budgetary expenditure in Medium-Term Budget Programmes has increased from 2.3% in the 2017-2019 MTBP to 6.3% in the 2019-2021 MTPB.</p> <p>As far as the funds allocated by the Ministry of Justice are concerned, these have increased as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Free legal aid for women and girls in need – a 10% increase in 2018 compared to 2017, an increase of 64% in 2019 and 56% in 2021; b) Women inmates serving sentences in Institutions for the Execution of Criminal Decisions, an increase of 4% in 2018 compared to 2017; c) Convicted women on probation, an increase of 1% in 2019, 3% in 2020, and 1% in 2021; d) Protection orders granted to women, an increase of 8% in 2018 compared to 2017, and an increase of 41% in 2021 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, by what amount: 4% for Gender Responsive Budgeting</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
14	<p>Have your authorities taken measures to foster long-term and sustainable financial support for non-governmental organisations working to support victims and prevent violence?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
14.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>The following specialised shelter services are supported by the state budget (Regions):</p>		

SERVICE CENTRES	FUNDS TRANSFERRED BY YEAR				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
“Të Ndryshëm and të Barabartë” (Different and Equal) Association, Tirana	9,804,597 ALL (81,705 EUR)	8,467,317 ALL (70,561 EUR)	9,054,487 ALL (75,454, EUR)	9,054,487 ALL (75,454, EUR)	9,091,458 ALL (75,762 EUR)
“Tjetër Vizion” (Other Vision) Association, Elbasan	5,792,615 ALL (48,272 EUR)	7,599,365 ALL (63,328 EUR)	7,982,615 ALL (66,522 EUR)	7,982,615 ALL (66,522 EUR)	9,034,794 ALL (75,290 EUR)
“Vatra” (Hearth) Center, Vlora	10,489,020 ALL (87,409 EUR)	10,729,920 ALL (89,416 EUR)	11,283,364 ALL (94,028 EUR)	11,283,364 ALL (94,028 EUR)	11,753,072 ALL (97,942 EUR)
<p>As of 2018, the Municipality of Tirana has been supporting the Counselling Line for Women and Girls (CLWG 116 117 - a national telephone line service managed by an NPO) in the sum of 474,000 ALL. During 2020, as a result of the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, an extra 922,725 ALL was allocated based on a special agreement signed between the Municipality of Tirana and the Counseling Line for Women and Girls, for the Strengthening of the Counseling Line for Women and Girls and the Counseling Line for Men and Boys in support of victims of domestic violence. The Municipality of Tirana has been financially supporting the ARSIS Initiative for years, which also offers emergency shelter for up to 7 days for categories in need, including women and girls who have been abused in family relations. The Municipality of Tirana has been cooperating for years (including the period 2018-2021) with the organization "Different & Equal" to care for the children of abused mothers or former victims of trafficking (care provided in the morning and afternoon). This childcare program contributes to the integration of victims of domestic violence and victims of trafficking in human beings through their employment. The Municipality of Tirana has made available to the organization a part of the facilities of the “Shkozë e Re” Kindergarten where children stay after returning from kindergarten or on Saturdays, while their parents are at work. During the stay, the children are fed, are under care and assisted by staff to complete their homework.</p> <p>Also, from 2019 the Counseling Line for Women and Girls (116 117) has been financed by MHSP in the amount of 2,926,125 ALL for 9 months of salary and social insurance for 5 employees; in 2020 in the amount of 3,901,500 ALL; while for 2021 it has been approved and financed for salaries and social insurance for 8 employees in the amount of 6,768,552 ALL. This financing is done within the Social Fund for specialized services in the regions. Pursuant to DCoM 150/2019, point 2) - “The process of implementation of financing procedures from the state budget of social care services, at local level, will be carried out both in the framework of the Social Fund and other transfers, including the financing of specialized and unique services provided by local self-government units at the county level, as well as national hotlines for women and children, which have cooperation agreements with the ministry responsible for social affairs... Point 30) - ... «Exception from the rule defined in points 28 and 29 of this decision, are the national social care centers, the centers that provide specialized and unique services, at the county level, and the national hotlines for women and children, who have cooperation / agreements with the ministry responsible for social affairs.</p>					
14.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:				

15	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 8, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>In the context of the preparation of the 2021-2030 National Strategy on Gender Equality, the breakdown of the costs for the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan is as follows: The total cost of the implementation of the 2021-2030 NSGE is 3,358,697,259 ALL (or 27,086,268 Euro). The funds for the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan shall be drawn from a number of sources, the main ones being the state budget, LSGU funds and donor funding support. It is expected that in the period 2021-2030, contributions from the state budget will cover 50.5% of the total funds needed for the implementation of the Strategy and its plan; 33.9% is expected to be covered by other sources and donors, with a funding gap of 15.6%. Current expenditures will comprise about 80.1% of total expenditures, while the remaining 19.9% will go towards capital expenditures. In financial terms, Policy Goal III (reduction of GBV & DV), is expected to receive the largest amount of funds in the strategy implementation, namely 63.8%.</p>		
<p>IV. Non-governmental organisations and civil society (Article 9)</p>			
16	<p>Have your authorities taken measures contributing to further recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating all forms of violence against women covered by the Istanbul Convention, including in terms of funding and co-operation?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
16.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>As already stated previously, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection collaborates closely with civil society organisations. These organisations also have an active presence in advisory and monitoring bodies (such as the National Council on Gender Equality). The recognition, encouragement, and support that the MHSP provides to civil society organisations is also reflected in the fact that the Ministry regularly invites them to participate in various processes focusing on gender equality and combatting gender-based violence and domestic violence (for instance, in the consultation and endorsement processes for the 2016-2020 NSGE Evaluation Report, consultations on priority areas and key measures and actions of the under 2021-2030 NSGE; consultations and seeking their opinion in the preparation of the present report, etc.). This collaboration is particularly evident in the organisation of information and awareness raising activities and campaigns at the national and local level. For years now, Albania has been organising awareness-raising activities on legislative matters, protection mechanisms and services, as part of the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (25 November-10 December) and the contribution of civil society organisations in these campaigns has been significant.</p> <p>Regarding non-profit organisations providing legal services: following the adoption of Law No. 111, dated 14 December 2017, “On legal aid guaranteed by the state”, the adoption of DCoM No. 55, dated 06 February 2019, “On determining the procedures and documentation for authorising non-profit organisations providing primary legal aid guaranteed by the State” and the adoption of DCoM No. 110, dated 06 March 2019, “On determining the procedures and rules for the selection of non-profit organisations authorised to provide primary legal aid guaranteed by the State, in receipt of funds from the state budget, and the manner of their funding”. On this basis, on 10 September 2019, a total 12 (twelve) civil society organisations were</p>		

selected to provide legal services covered by the legal aid scheme⁶. In addition, an online platform has been set up (juristionline.al), a collaboration between the Ministry of Justice and the Open Society Foundation for Albania (OSFA). The platform provides information, primary legal assistance and legal advice online, in a timely and efficient manner. Legal advice and information can also be received by calling the free hotline 08001010.

Regarding non-profit organisations providing specialised support services in emergency or long-term accommodation centres, as already described in the answer to question 14.1 – there is state support for these organisations and the State recognises and appreciates the essential role played by these organisations. The same can be said about organisations providing counselling services to adults and children, accommodation services for groups experiencing multiple discrimination, such as members of the LGBTI+ community, etc.

Public social services are provided in 30 residential centres and 119 community/day care centres, while non-public social services are provided by NPOs or religious organisations in 86 community/day care centres and 41 residential centres; in total 276 service centres of different types. Non-public centres provide about 46% of social services, compared to 54% of the total provided by public centres, while community/day care centres provide about 74% of social services versus 26% provided by residential centres. In 2019, the number of beneficiaries of public residential and day care services, provided by the state, was 1716 and the number of children benefiting from alternative foster care and non-residential services increased by 13%, while the rate of population accessing the basic social services package is 0.5%. In 2019, the total amount allocated for funding social services in municipalities and regions was 149,195,353 ALL. In 2019, a total of 12 specialised services in 6 regions, with a total value of 62,000,000 ALL.

Excellent collaboration with civil society organisations providing specialised support services also exists at the local self-government level, particularly in the framework of the work of Coordinated Referral Mechanisms against cases of domestic violence. In all the LSGUs where such organisations operate and depending on the extent of the intervention services they provide; they are invited to be part of these CRMs with equal membership rights. In some of the LSGUs, the services are co-financed, or the local authorities provide the premises for the services, etc.

Below are some statistics on the important role of civil society organisations as partners and collaborators in the provision of specialised support services tackling violence against women and domestic violence:

The National Counselling Line for Women and Girls 116-117 is a 24/7 service that operates pursuant to Istanbul Convention standards. In 2018, the service received 2540 phone calls and conducted 708 face-to-face counselling sessions; in 2019 it received 3014 phone calls and conducted 861 face-to-face counselling sessions; in 2020 it received 5597 phone calls and conducted 650 face-to-face counselling sessions, while it also has provided legal assistance and support during the court procedures for 750 cases. The Counselling Line continued to operate during the lockdown imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The forms of violence reported were psychological abuse (57%), physical abuse (42%), economic abuse (31%) and sexual abuse (7 cases); often these were combined. Sexual violence reporting rates remain low.

⁶ “Qendra e Këshillimit për Gra dhe Vajza” (Counselling centre for women and girls) Tirana, “Mbrojtja e të drejtave të gruas qytetare dhe fshatare” (Protection of the rights of urban and rural women) Berat, “Qendra e shërbimeve dhe praktikave ligjore të integruara” (Centre for integrated legal services and practices), Tirana, “Intelektualët e rinj shpresë” (Young intellectuals – Hope), Shkodra, “Qendra për Mbrojtjen e të Drejtave të Fëmijëve në Shqipëri” (Centre for the Protection of Children’s Rights, Albania – CRCA, “Forumi i Gruas” (Women’s Forum) Elbasan, Shërbimi Ligjor Falas TLAS (Tirana Legal Aid Service), Tirana, “Të ndryshëm dhe të barabartë” (Different & Equal), Tirana, “Albanian Legal and Territorial Institute – ALTRI”, Tirana, “Qendra për Nisma Ligjore Qytetare” (Centre for Civic Legal Initiatives), Tirana, “Shërbimet shqiptare për refugjatët dhe migrantët” (Albanian services for refugees and migrants), Tirana, and “Qendra Konsumatori Shqiptar” (Albanian Consumer Centre, Durrës.

	<p>Abused children can phone ALO 116111, a specialised free-of-charge service, available 24/7, run by a non-profit organisation which is supported by the state budget. ALO 116111 received 2212 phone calls and made 1034 referrals in 2018; 4765 phone calls and 979 referrals in 2019, and 34,912 phone calls and 983 cases of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and bullying reported to this service and referred to the relevant institutions, in 2020. In 3570 calls, children received psycho-social support from the centre's counselor.</p> <p>Counselling services for abusive men and boys are provided by the Counselling Line for Men and Boys (CLMB) operating in Tirana and Shkodra. The Tirana branch of the CLMB treated 90 cases in 2018, 110 cases in 2019 and 98 cases in 2020. Of these, 78 cases in 2018, 76 cases in 2019 and 44 cases in 2020, had a legal obligation to attend the rehabilitation programme for perpetrators.</p> <p>The Ombudsman's Office has also established close collaboration with civil society organisations with a focus on the protection of women's rights and gender equality. Pursuant to Article 30 of the Law on the Ombudsperson, the Ombudsperson's Office organises consultative meetings with civil society organisations involved in the areas of women's rights and fight against violence against women in Albania, where information on and opinions about the situation of human rights and freedoms in the country are discussed.</p> <p>The Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination works closely with relevant non-governmental and civil society organizations, providing ongoing assistance especially to groups suffering from multiple discrimination. In this regard, we can mention that in the Law "On Protection from Discrimination", the definition of "multiple discrimination" has been added, as a form of discrimination. The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination also provides cooperation with civil society organizations focusing on the protection of women's rights and gender equality.</p>			
16.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:			
V. Data collection and research (Article 11)				
17	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have new sectors of the administration started the collection of data in accordance with the requirements of Article 11, paragraph 1?</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have new sectors of the administration started the collection of data in accordance with the requirements of Article 11, paragraph 1?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have new sectors of the administration started the collection of data in accordance with the requirements of Article 11, paragraph 1?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
17.1	If yes, please specify which sectors:			
17.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:			
18	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have sectors of the administration improved their data collection?</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have sectors of the administration improved their data collection?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
In implementation of the recommendation addressed to your authorities, have sectors of the administration improved their data collection?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
18.1	<p>If yes, please specify which sectors and how, in particular whether new data categories were added:</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention and in the Albanian legislation, every five years, INSTAT, UN Women and UNDP conduct the Survey "Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania". The third periodical survey was held in 2018. It included questions on additional forms of violence and for the first time it featured questions about social norms, attitudes and behaviours related to violence against women and girls. The data collected and</p>			

	<p>the publication itself are publicly available on the official INSTAT website, in fulfilment of Article 11, point 4⁷. The Survey “Violence against women and girls in Albania” measures five forms of violence: intimate partner violence, violence in a love relationship, non-partner violence, sexual harassment and stalking. The types of abuse measured are psychological, physical, sexual, economic abuse and controlling behaviour. The 2018 Survey introduced two additional forms of abuse compared to the previous survey (violence in a love relationship, sexual harassment and stalking) and more types of abuse were measured.</p> <p>INSTAT obtains data on domestic violence cases (Article 130/a), and on suspects or defendants which are reported to the police, and from law enforcement agencies and the courts; it also collects data on criminal cases and on domestic violence related convictions from the courts⁸. An example of such data is given in Annex 5 of this report.</p> <p>For the first time ever, the 2019 Statistical Bulletin of Ministry of Justice included a chapter dedicated to domestic violence, with information gathered from all the courts in the Republic of Albania. This chapter contains new information, such as: place of residence, age, gender, civil status, number of children, level of education, employment status, applications for protection orders, and relationship with the abuser. The Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council drafted and adopted Joint Instruction No. 9, dated 07 June 2020, “On determining the rules for the establishment of a dedicated database on domestic violence cases in courts and a unified system of data registration”. Pursuant to this Instruction, work is under way for the collection of relevant data.</p> <p>The Ombudsperson’s Office and INSTAT have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a view to establishing cooperation and strengthening data collection, (disaggregation), dissemination and analysis, in light of human rights considerations and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In this context, the publication “Men and women in Albania 2020⁹”, which is published annually and presents data from various areas of life disaggregated by gender with the aim of capturing a snapshot of the main issues encountered in society with a view to achieving gender equality, included a chapter dedicated to human rights indicators. The human rights statistics consist of data on human rights violations disaggregated by gender and type of violation that were dealt with by the Office of the Ombudsperson.</p> <p>The REVALB system, a specifically designed system for this purpose, has an important role to play in the collection of data on the cases identified and managed through a multi-sectoral approach by Coordinated Referral Mechanisms at the local level. During the reporting period, a number of improvements were introduced in the system and work was done in parallel for the training of local coordinators in order to continue with the regular data entering and updating. The system enables the collection of data on the number of cases managed, as well as the performance of various institutions, protection orders issued by courts and their monitoring, etc. A section on the monitoring of protection orders and violations thereof has been added to the system, in accordance with the respective recommendation of the Committee of the Parties. Examples of how data are identified through the REVALB system are provided in Annex 6 of this report.</p>
18.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:

⁷ This publication is available at: <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6123/publication-violence-against-women.pdf>

⁸ The data are available at: <http://databaza.instat.gov.al/pxweb/en/DST/?rxid=39215f95-a5cb-4284-982c-b7fdec668c08>

⁹ This publication is available at: <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/7376/burra-dhe-gra-2020.pdf>

19	Does statistical data collection by law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary enable cases of violence against women to be tracked in order to indicate:		
	- Conviction rates	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Types of sentences	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Attrition rates	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Time-barred proceedings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
20	As regards population-based surveys, please indicate any survey conducted since the publication of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report, while specifying the forms of violence covered:		
21	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 11, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		
VI. Custody, visitation rights and safety (Article 31)			
22	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that incidents of violence covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention are taken into account in the determination of custody and visitation rights of children, notably by judicial authorities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
22.1	<p>If yes, please specify how this has been done (by legislative amendments or other means)</p> <p>Article 6/c of the Law No. 9669/2006 "On measures against violence in family relations", as amended in 2018, highlights the obligation of the main responsible body to develop policies and monitor any measures taken for the elimination of abuse of children by parents or legal guardians or, in cases where children live in families where parents or legal guardians abuse each other, by placing them in alternative care arrangements or granting them emergency protection measures pursuant to the legislation on the protection of the rights of the child in force. In addition, Article 10, "Measures for the protection against domestic violence", paragraph (j), provides for the temporary removal of the perpetrator's parental responsibilities or, where appropriate, of their guardianship over the minor, a person with disabilities, or a person whose legal standing has been removed or limited by the Court. Where the judicial authorities decide to remove the parental responsibility of both parents, or a single parent, the child is placed in temporary custody pursuant to the rules provided in the Family Code and the procedural law in force. Paragraph 2 of Article 11, "Effect of the protection order", also clearly states that a protection order or emergency protection order issued by the judicial authorities, or the cessation thereof shall not permanently affect property or custody rights.</p> <p>Article 53, "Child protection", of Law No. 18/2017 "On the rights and protection of the child" provides that: Child protection is realized through protection measures, interventions to ensure respect for the rights of the child and provision of services, where necessary, aiming at [ensuring] the development and well-being of the child in the family environment, or by placing the child in alternative care, in cases where the child has been temporarily or permanently removed from parental care and protection, or where, due to considerations of the best interests of the child, the child cannot be entrusted to parental care. These concepts are further elaborated in other articles focusing on the protection of the child from all forms of violence and abuse. This means that child custody and visitation rights are determined based on the child's situation in relation to his or her parents or legal</p>		

	<p>guardians. Where it is established that one of the forms of violence defined in the Convention has been committed against the child, the courts impose restrictive measures, keeping the best interest of the child in mind, including the placement of the child in alternative care.</p> <p>In addition to all the above being incorporated in the legal framework and the respective legislative updates, these fundamental principles are also enshrined in the instruments developed for facilitating the implementation of the legal framework in practice, including the protocols on a coordinated multi-sectoral approach and management of domestic violence cases” (which were developed in the course of 2020)</p>
22.2	<p>If yes, please specify how the above obligation is implemented in practice, including by providing data indicating to what extent judicial authorities consider all issues related to violence against women in their decisions on custody and visitation rights.</p> <p>The above obligation is implemented in practice by the courts, based on the information received from different institutions, according to the respective roles assigned to them in emergency interventions, in the framework of the Technical Interdisciplinary Core Team of the Coordinated Referral Mechanism at the local level. These actors include the local coordinator against domestic violence, the police, health care services, the state social service, and specialised CSOs dealing with emergency cases. From the moment a risk assessment is conducted, and steps are taken for applying for one of the emergency protections measures (Order for Preliminary Protection Measures or Emergency Protection Order), the paperwork for the application is prepared, including a description of the extent to and manner in which the violence between parents has a bearing on the visitation rights and custody of the child. The measures imposed subsequently are based on this description. In the application for an emergency protection order pursuant to Article 10, paragraph (j), among the measures considered are temporarily depriving the perpetrator of their parental rights or where applicable, of child custody rights, guardianship over a person with disabilities. Where the judicial authorities decide to remove parental responsibility from both parents, or a single parent, the child is placed in temporary custody pursuant to the provisions of the Family Code and the procedural law in force.</p>
22.3	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
23	<p>Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that visitation rights do not jeopardise the rights and safety of the victim or children?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
23.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>As set out in the protocol for the management of domestic violence cases using a coordinated multi-sectoral approach, the measures included in an Order for Preliminary Protection Measures, Emergency Protection Order, or Protection Order make clear reference to the full respect for rights and safety of the victim or the children. In addition, the functioning of the Coordinated Referral Mechanism in practice is based first and foremost on the principle of safety and protection of the victim and her children (the main principle is “Safety is essential!”). The measures imposed in this respect are based on the legislation in force.</p>
23.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
24	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 31, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:

	Another GREVIO's recommendation addressed to Albania in relation to Article 31 focuses on the monitoring of courts' practises in relation to the safety of the children. In the context of ongoing the justice reform in Albania starting in 2016, and specifically based on the Law 115/2016 "On governing bodies of the justice system", the High Inspectorate of Justice (HIJ) has been established. This institution <i>inter alia</i> can undertake institutional and thematical inspections on every aspect of the courts' practice. HIJ started to exercise its functions in January 2020.		
VII. Immediate response, prevention and protection (Article 50)			
25	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to improve the prompt and appropriate response of law enforcement agencies, in particular:		
	- Enhancing training of law enforcement officials on the gendered nature of violence against women and its consequences	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Ensuring a sufficient number of female police officers	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Setting up premises designed to establish a relationship of trust between the victim and the law enforcement personnel	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Ensuring the efficient collection of evidence so that the reliance on the victim's testimony is lessened	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
25.1	If yes, please specify:		
25.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
26	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to enable the identification and careful analysis of any failure of protection?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
26.1	If yes, please specify what kind of measures, and if further preventive measures were adopted to remedy this situation:		
26.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
27	In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Article 50, which were not covered by the questions above, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:		
VIII. Emergency barring, restraining or protection orders (Articles 52 and 53)			
28	As regards emergency barring orders, have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure that the competent authorities are granted the power to order, in situations of immediate danger, a perpetrator of domestic violence to vacate the residence of the victim or person at risk, and to prohibit the perpetrator from entering the residence of or contacting the victim or person at risk.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

28.1	If yes, please indicate which authorities have the power to issue emergency barring orders:	
28.2	If yes, please indicate the length of time for which emergency barring orders may remain in force:	
28.3	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:	
29	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the availability of restraining or protection orders to victims of the following forms of violence against women?	
	- Domestic violence	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	- Stalking	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Sexual violence	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Sexual harassment	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Forced marriage	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Female genital mutilation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Forced abortion	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Forced sterilisation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
29.1	<p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Law No. 9669/2006 “On measures against violence in family relations”, as amended, provides for the issuance of Orders for Preliminary Protection Measures (OPPM), Emergency Protection Orders (EPO), or Protection Orders (PO) against all forms of domestic violence and for the protection of all family members at risk of being abused. In addition, a risk evaluation before issuing a protection order is considered essential and has been included in the provisions/updates to the primary legal provisions and secondary legislation (orders, instructions, etc.). In addition to the above, one of the positive developments of the 2018 amendments to this law is the inclusion of intimate partners violence, despite cohabitation in a residence, and the issuance of protection orders in these cases.</p> <p>Domestic violence and forms of domestic violence are also defined as criminal offences in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania. In 2020, the Criminal Code was amended with Law 35/2020, namely by amending Article 130/a which now states as follows: “Beating as well as any other act of physical or psychological violence exercised against a person who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, close relative (progenitor, descendant, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandsons, granddaughters, nephews, nieces), or close in-laws (father-in-law, mother in law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, stepson, stepdaughter, stepmother, stepfather), or who is or has previously been in an intimate relationship with the perpetrator of the criminal offence, resulting in the violation of their physical, psycho-social, and economic integrity, shall be punished with imprisonment of up to four years. Intentional injury committed against a person who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, close relative (progenitor, descendant, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandsons, granddaughters, nephews, nieces), or close in-laws (father-in-law, mother in law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, stepson, stepdaughter, stepmother, stepfather), or who is or has previously been in an intimate relationship with the perpetrator of the criminal offence, resulting in their temporarily being unable to work for a period</p>	

	<p>of over nine days, shall be punished with a custodial sentence of up to five years. The same offences, committed repeatedly or in the presence of children, shall be punishable with one to five years imprisonment.” The above-mentioned forms of violence, namely domestic violence, stalking, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, forced marriage, forced abortion and forced sterilisation, are crimes under the Criminal Code and are prosecuted. The prosecution does not prevent the issuance of an EPO/PO, particularly where these criminal offences occur in the family environment. Other forms of violence against women are also prosecuted under the relevant articles of the Criminal Code. Female Genital Mutilation is not an issue in Albania and until now no steps have been taken to address this form of abuse in the legislation and the relevant protection measures needed. Nevertheless, FGM is regularly discussed in the meetings and information and training sessions, where the causes and consequences of such practices are explained, including the consequences that the absence of legal provisions addressing this form of abuse in the legislation may have.</p> <p>As far as harassment and sexual harassment are concerned, in fulfilment of the GREVIO recommendation on the strengthening of the role of the Ombudsperson and the Commissioner Against Discrimination as defenders of victims of violence against women, on 11 July 2019, the Office of the Ombudsperson, with the support of UNDP, organised a consultative roundtable with representatives of the public administration, the private sector, civil society and the trade unions, entitled “Principles, policies and standards of a safe working environment”. The discussion focused on the development of political and procedural documents against harassment and sexual harassment by various public institutions and private entities, with a view to helping ensure a safe working environment. Based on the recommendations of this meeting, the Office of the Ombudsperson is now collaborating with the Department of Public Administration for drafting a document on “Public Administration policies and practices for the elimination of abuse, harassment and sexual harassment in the working environment”.</p> <p>Regarding "Sexual Harassment", it is added to Law no. 10 221 dated 04.02.2010 "On protection from discrimination" the concept of "Sexual harassment", as a form of discrimination that occurs in the case of unwanted behavior, verbal or non-verbal, of a sexual nature, which has the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of the person and the creation of an intimidating, hostile, contemptuous, humiliating or offensive environment for her/him, in line with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Recent changes have also added new forms of discrimination, such as: cross-sectoral discrimination, multiple discrimination, structural discrimination, hate speech, incitement or aid to discrimination, the declared purpose of discrimination, etc. It should be noted that already, any discriminatory behavior that is motivated by more than one cause, when committed more than once, when it has lasted for a long period of time, or when it has brought particularly harmful consequences for the victim constitutes a form serious discrimination. Regarding “Forced Abortion”, in 2018, the Commissioner participated in the hearing held by the Committee on Labor, Social Affairs and Health, together with the Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Prevention of Violence against Women, the Subcommittee on Human Rights and other stakeholders where it was discussed the implementation of legislation regarding sex-selective abortion. The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination raised the concern of gaps in data and reports from state institutions.</p>		
29.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:		
30	Have your authorities taken measures contributing to ensure the effective enforcement of barring, restraining or protection orders?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
30.1	If yes, please specify:		

The 2018 amendments to Law No. 9669/2006 “On measures against violence in family relations” (Law No. 47/2018) provide for a new protection measure - order for immediate emergency protection order – issued by the State Police, when the risk assessment indicates that the committed violence poses a risk to the life, health and liberties of the members of the family. This order is immediately enforced and asessed within 48 hours by the Court, which could impose an emergency protection order. In addition, the 2018 amendments include a number of provisions on the effective eforcment of Emergency Protection Orders and Protection Orders.

Article 19, paragraph 2 – The Court **shall not deny issuance of an emergency protection order because of the existence of any other pending judicial proceedings** involving any party.

Article 19, paragraph 2/1 – The Court **shall issue a protection order even in cases where the parties claim that the conflict has been resolved or** should be resolved by a process of reconciliation or mediation.

Article 19, paragraph 6 – The Court decision issuing an emergency protection **order is an executive order and cannot be appealed**. The decision is executed with immediate effect by the police, in collaboration with the bailiff service and the social services of five of the local self-government unit where the victim and other persons referred to in the order reside permanently or temporarily.

Article 23, paragraph 1 - The judicial decision issuing the protection **is final and constitutes an executive order that comes into effect on the day it is pronounced by the Court**. In addition to the emergency protection order, the Court also issues an order for its execution. The decision is executed **with immediate effect by the State Police bodies, in collaboration with the bailiff service and the social services of five of the local self-government unit where the victim and other persons referred to in the order reside permanently or temporarily**.

Article 23, paragraph 3/1 – For the entire duration of judicial decision on EPO/PO, **the social services office of the local self-government unit shall monitor the compliance of the parties with the terms of the order** and prepare a report every 60 days, which, in every case, shall also be made known **to the State Police**. The parties referred to in the judicial decision collaborate to ensure home visits by representatives from the social services office of the local self-government unit and the responsible institutions, as ordered in the Court decision issuing the emergency protection order/protection order, also providing the necessary relevant information.

Article 23, paragraph 6 - In case of voluntary non-execution by the parties or in case of obstructing the execution of protection orders by enforcement bodies, as provided for in the provisions of this law and/or in the court decision, **the provisions of the Criminal Code apply to persons responsible for acts committed** in violation of the court decision vis a vis the duties specified in the protection orders.

The 2020 amendments to this Law (Law No. 125/2020) addressed the situation created as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, Article 13/1 was amended as follows (paragraph 3/1) – where a state of emergency is declared throughout the territory of the country or a part thereof, the head of the responsible State Police structure shall be in charge of issuing orders for preliminary protection measures for emergency protection order, pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article, in all cases where a finding of use of violence has been made. During the entire period in which the state of emergency is in force, in submitting an application to the Court for the evaluation of the preliminary protection measures, as imposed in the order on preliminary measures for immediate protection, **the police shall ask the Court to issue a protection order, without first asking for the issuance of an emergency protection order.**”

All of the above are also clearly reflected in the protocol for the management of cases of domestic violence by members of the Coordinated Referral Mechanism, as well as in the Standard Operating Procedures for health care and social services professionals in their capacity as members of the

	Coordinated Referral Mechanism, to be applied in dealing with cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence. These matters are also regularly discussed in all the activities on the strengthening of capacities of professionals involved in the management of such cases.
30.2	[Optional question: if not, please specify the reasons]:
31	<p>In case your authorities have taken further measures contributing to the implementation of recommendations in relation to Articles 52 and 53, which were not covered by the questions above, in particular in relation to the collection of data on the number of orders issued and their violations, please report on these measures [word limit: 1000 words]:</p> <p>As already explained in the answer to question 18.1, data in relation to the number of orders issues and non-compliance cases are collected by INSTAT and the REVALB system.</p> <p>Data provided by the State Police in relation to the reporting period:</p> <p>In 2018, a total of 4951 cases of abuse and other domestic crimes were reported. 1914 case files were forwarded to the prosecution office, of which 1373 pursuant to Article 130/a “Domestic violence”, and 608 perpetrators were arrested in flagrancia. In 3037 cases of domestic violence applications were made for or Emergency/Immediate protection orders or Protection orders. There were 11 incidents of domestic murders, with 20 victims, of which 11 women/girls, out of whom 4 were spouses.</p> <p>In 2019, a total of 4629 reported cases of abuse and other domestic crimes were reported. 1793 case files were transferred to the prosecution office, of which 1341 pursuant to Article 130/a “Domestic violence”, and 535 perpetrators were arrested in flagrancia. In 2836 cases of domestic violence applications were made for or Emergency/Immediate protection orders or Protection orders. There were 14 incidents of domestic murders, with 17 victims, of which 12 women/girls, out of whom 8 were spouses.</p> <p>In 2020, a total of 4701 reported cases of abuse and other domestic crimes were reported. 1886 case files were transferred to the prosecution office, of which 1505 pursuant to Article 130/a “Domestic violence”, and 615 perpetrators were arrested in flagrancia. 2816 cases of domestic violence applications were made for or Emergency/Immediate protection orders or Protection orders. There were 6 incidents of domestic murders with 7 victims, of which 6 women/girls, of which 3 were spouses.</p> <p>In 2021 (January-March), a total of 1174 reported cases of abuse and other domestic crimes were reported. 447 case files were transferred to the prosecution office, of which 365 pursuant to Article 130/a “Domestic violence”, and 107 perpetrators were arrested in flagrancia. 727 cases of domestic violence applications were made for or Emergency/Immediate protection orders or Protection orders. There were 3 domestic murder incidents with 3 victims, of which 1 woman/girl, of which 1 was a spouse.</p> <p>The Office of the Ombudsperson has sent out specific recommendations “On taking the necessary measures for the identification, management, referral and prosecution of domestic violence cases” to the relevant institutions. In response to the recommendation made, we have been informed that the responsible institutions addressed are taking the Ombudsperson’s recommendations into account and are implementing them. Where instances of violence are a repeated occurrence, the abuse has been repeatedly reported and responsible institutions have failed to undertake the necessary actions within the timeframe provided in the law, the Office of the Ombudsperson has recommended that the Prosecution Office immediately take action for conducting investigations and taking the appropriate measures to stop the violence against the person reporting it and prevent any further violent events against her in the future.</p>

Specific Recommendations

32 Please report on measures taken by your authorities contributing to the implementation of the recommendation to set up rape-crisis centres and/or sexual violence referral centres in the framework of a multi-sectorial response targeting the community at large, aiming at breaking the existing taboos in regard to sexual violence and encouraging reporting (Recommendation A.9, IC-CP/Inf(2018)3).

LILIUM, the first crisis management centre for sexual violence cases, was established on 3 December 2018, in response to recommendations by CEDAW, the Committee of the Parties and the GREVIO Baseline Report on Albania. The centre provides one-stop emergency services, available 24/7, and short-term services (24-72 hours), for victim survivors of sexual violence and their family members. The establishment of the service was preceded by an assessment of the situation, familiarisation with international best practices and study visits to other countries, which were conducted in parallel with the drafting of the operational standards of the centre. LILIUM operates according to the social health care model, with an interdisciplinary team of forensic medicine professionals, gynaecologists, paediatricians, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, social workers, representatives from the police, prosecutor's offices, lawyers and nurses. Long-term treatment needs are addressed through a collaboration with Coordinated Referral Mechanisms. The renovated and repurposed premises of the centre meet the service standards. During the COVID-19 pandemic the centre drafted and instituted an enhanced operational protocol.

A victim can be accompanied to the LILIUM Centra by a police officer if the victim first reports to the police station; by the local coordinator, if she presents herself to the municipality, or any other professional who comes into contact with the victim in the course of their work, always on the basis of the informed consent by the victim. The victim is brought to the centre following prior notification and confirmation by the manager of the centre (who confirms to the authorities whether the centre has available reception capacities at that moment). The victim can also present herself to the centre in person, if she has had prior information about its existence and work. In each case, the staff of the centre, who act on the basis of a preliminary assessment of the urgent needs of the victim (in cases where the victim has been referred by a member of the Multidisciplinary Technical Team and such a report is available), conduct an assessment of the short-term, medium-term and long-term needs of the victim, in accordance with the coordinated services that the centre provides.

The LILIUM Centre provides primary services, such as health care, forensic medicine services, psychosocial support, clothing, food, further referrals, statement taking, initiation of criminal justice procedures, as well as psychological counselling to help the victim cope with the situation. The LILIUM Centre is conceived as an emergency centre, i.e., a centre where the above-mentioned services are provided for a period of up to 72 hours, after which the victim cannot continue to stay at the centre and is referred to another specialised support services centre. After obtaining the informed consent of the victim, the centre assists with the process of evidence collection, starting with a physical examination, which is carried out as soon as practically possible, and the collection of evidence by the forensic clinician. These processes go hand in hand with the provision of psycho-social support services and sheltered accommodation for a period of up to 72 hours.

A coordinator at the crisis management centre for sexual violence cases is a professional who goes through the reception procedures with the victim, notifies the multi-disciplinary team and is responsible for the identification of the victims' immediate needs, referral, and the management of the case for the duration of the stay in the centre, i.e., for up to 72 hours. He or she works closely with the local coordinator at the municipality, with a view to arranging the referral and further management of the case following their reception and treatment at "Lilium".

The Centre Coordinator and the victim draft an individual plan of assistance with a view to addressing the victim's urgent needs during the 72 hours of their stay at the centre, based on any prior needs assessments and the extent of coordinated services provided at the centre. The victim's needs assessment is carried out immediately after the victim presents herself at the centre, taking into account any prior assessments by other members of the Technical Multidisciplinary Team who were the first to come into contact with the victim, where such reports exist. The assessment is carried out in collaboration with the victim and in coordination with the local coordinator, where it is assessed that the victim will need further support after leaving the LILIUM Centre. Where an application for Protection Order is made, or where the victim intends to seek damages in a criminal or civil court, the case assessment is one piece of evidence that is added to the rest of the evidence.

At the Crisis Management Centre for Cases of Sexual Violence priority is given to the health care assistance given to the victim, because in cases of sexual violence the physical injuries can be serious and can present a risk to the victim's life. Thus, the safety, health and wellbeing of the victim are of paramount importance. The centre is located within hospital premises, which enables the provision of emergency health care services even in cases where the victim presents with acute health problems, including injuries, head wounds, etc., which require emergency medical treatment.

Clinical forensic services. If the sexual assault, sexual violence or rape which is reported within three days from the incident, clinical forensic services such as: evidence collection, taking of statement, initiation of criminal justice proceedings are decisive in the process of victim support and punishment of the perpetrator. Delays in access to this service may lead to alterations in the physical evidence (e.g., healing of wounds); loss of forensic material (e.g., proof of contact with the assailant, including blood and sperm), etc.

The psychological service aims to restore confidence and the feeling of safety, to help the victim overcome the trauma and the effects of the sexual assault and restore the emotional and functional balance of the individual. This service is offered during the time of the victim's stay at LILIUM, by a clinical psychologist who has a collaboration agreement with the Centre. The clinical psychologist is experienced in working with victims of sexual violence, children, women and men and abides by the code of professional conduct in the field.

Legal services. During their stay at the centre, victims of sexual violence are offered legal assistance by legal professionals who collaborate with the centre or by another organisation providing legal assistance, such as specialist NPOs, legal clinics operating at higher education institutions, lawyers admitted to the list of counsel approved by the Bar Association, etc. The legal services offered are professional, high quality, effective and efficient services. Legal aid is provided, irrespective of the income or property owned by the victims/survivors, as victims of sexual violence fall in the special categories of persons entitled to receive legal aid.

Victims of sexual violence are informed of their legal rights pursuant to both the administrative and civil law against all forms of gender-based violence and the criminal procedure code. It is the duty of the manager of the centre to put the victim in contact with a lawyer.

Support with clothing, food, etc. Where appropriate, victims of sexual abuse are supported with food, clothing and medication. The Centre can also dispense emergency medication due to it being part of and located within the premises of a health care institution; while food and clothing are provided as part of the general service package provided by the centre. The provision of medium-term and long-term services after the victim's discharge from LILIUM Centre, are the responsibility of the members of the Coordinated Referral Mechanism.

Other services: The above-mentioned services are all provided in a situation of emergency and for a period between 24 and 72 hours only. The members of the local CRM are notified of the victim's discharge from the centre and contact is made with the local coordinator for domestic violence issues so that the case is followed up by them. The victim treated at the Centre may choose to return to her family. In such a case, the LILIUM Centre collaborates with the CRM for the provision of medium-term and long-term services. If the victim's decision is not to go back home, medium- and long-term services such as referrals to shelters for survivors of violence, psychosocial support, vocational training, employment, childcare, return of children to school, etc., can only be realised through a close cooperation between the Centre and the CRM, thus ensuring long-term support through cooperation with specialised public and non-public institutions. In any case, it is important to note that the assistance and support provided to the victim is not dependent on her willingness to report the abuser or whether the victim has made an application for a Protection Order of Emergency Protection Order. The Centre retains and protects the victims' details pursuant to the legislation in force.

Accessibility. The LILIUM Centre ensures that the services are accessible to all categories of victims of sexual violence or who belong to various marginalised groups, such as persons from the Roma or Egyptian communities, disabled persons and children, persons from rural areas, immigrants, asylum seekers, persons from the LGBTI+ community etc. The list of "on call" professionals who work for the centre includes several professional interpreters, including sign language interpreters, for people who need this type of service. In the case of victims living in remote areas, far removed from the Centre, collaboration with the local CRM is advised to facilitate the victim's travel to the LILIUM Centre. Where it is established that the victim of sexual abuse has serious mental health problems, is an alcoholic or has an addiction to other substances, the Centre collaborates with specialised national or local services. Where the victim is a foreign national, a visitor or asylum seeker, or is someone needs an interpreter for any other reason, interpretation services are provided making it possible for the victim to fully avail themselves of the services of the centre. The Centre provides tailored services to children in an appropriate environment, with special child interviewing facilities (e.g., glass-panelled rooms or CCTV). In collaboration with the local coordinator for domestic violence issues, the Centre facilitates referrals to other additional services, such as accommodation in residential centres, long-term psychological services, medical services and legal services.

Number of cases treated at the Lilium Centre during the reporting period (a total of 84 cases):

	0-6 years old	7-12 years old	13-18 years old	19-25 years old	26-46 years old	47-60 years old	over 60 years old
2019							
Girls/women	0	4	19	4	2	2	0
Boys/men	2	1	3	2	0	0	0
2020							
Girls/women	0	10	11	2	1	0	0
Boys/men	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

33 Please report on measures taken by your authorities contributing to the implementation of the recommendation to amend the definition of rape so that it is based on lack of freely given consent, does not require demonstration of use of force or resistance and in the case of rape involving children between 14 and 18, does not depend on whether or not the victim has reached puberty; criminalise the non-consensual sexual behaviour described

in paragraph 1, indents b and c of Article 36 of the Convention; take the necessary measures to ensure that any act of sexual violence between former or current spouses or partners as recognised by internal law is criminalised (Recommendation A.12, IC-CP/Inf(2018)3).

The legislative measures necessary for the fulfilment of this recommendation are yet to be introduced. However, the working instruments used by members of the Coordinated Referral Mechanism, such as Standard Operating Procedures or protocols on the management of domestic abuse cases or sexual abuse cases by members of the Coordinated Referral Mechanisms, highlight the importance of “informed consent” and “free consent”. The Ministry of Justice is committed to consider taking steps towards improving the legal framework and properly addressing this recommendation of the Committee of the Parties.

ANNEX 1. SUMMARY OF MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR URGENT ACTION:

The progress made in the implementation of recommendations for urgent action is as follows:

Urgent recommendations 2, 14 and 15 have been successfully fulfilled through amendments to Law No. 9669/2006 "On measures against violence in family relations", as amended in 2018 and 2020. These improvements consist mainly in **the alignment of the definition of domestic violence with that of the Istanbul Convention** and the addition of the intimate relationship concept; expansion of the categories benefitting from support and improvements to other definitions in this law; improvement of the existing protection measures by better defining procedural deadlines; the addition of a new type of protection order, namely, the **Order for Preliminary Protection Measures** which is issued on the basis of a **mandatory risk assessment procedure**; further clarification of the obligations and responsibilities of implementing institutions based on the issues encountered during the implementation and enforcement of the existing law in practice; a provision on the obligation of state bodies to make available all expert services in domestic abuse cases free-of-charge; increased free legal assistance in courts; **increased specialised support services focusing on specific forms of violence against women, such as sexual violence**, increased participation of perpetrators in targeted rehabilitation services with a special focus on abusers who are alcoholics, drug addicts or have mental health issues; the immediate removal of the abuser from the family home and prohibiting his return until a further court decision; taking into account of state of emergency situations (such as the Covid-19 pandemic) and accelerated actions and procedures for the emergency protection of women and children abused in a domestic environment, etc. The Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination has also played an important role in this regard. Through letter no. 615 Prot., dated 26.05.2020, the CPD has recommended that in article 1 "Purpose" of Law no. 9669/2006 "On Measures against violence in family relations", to add the term, **"women"**: "Guaranteeing the protection with legal measures and other necessary measures of family members who are victims of domestic violence, paying special attention to children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, **women**, as well as to any individual, subject to this law, according to its article 3, which presents special protection needs. " The CPD has also recommended that in Article 21 of this Law, in "Appeal" which provides that: "Against the decision of the court to issue a protection order and the confirmation of the immediate protection order can be appealed. The appeal is submitted within 5 days from the announcement of the decision or from the day of notification", to remove the term "from the day of announcement of the decision" because according to the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedures the start of appeal deadlines, according to 2017 changes is made by the next day of the notification of the reasoned decision and not from the moment of the announcement. Whereas the proposal to add the definition of "violence against women", which means: "As a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women that implies all acts of gender-based violence that lead or may lead to harm or physical suffering, sexual, psychological or economic harm to women, including threats to commit such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life" was not reflected in the new legal changes.

Work is under way for the correct implementation of this legal framework in practice, and the **Decision of the Council of Ministers on the functioning of the Coordinated Referral Mechanism against domestic violence cases at the national level, which was adopted very recently at the beginning of June** (and which repeals the previous DCoM), further emphasises the need to prioritise tackling all forms of violence against women through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach. This will help the fulfilment of **urgent recommendation 1**, in relation to tackling all forms of violence against women and girls. In this context, a number of consultative roundtables were organised with key independent bodies such as the Ombudsperson, Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination, the Bar Association, representatives of the academia and the civil society, where, among others, there was discussion on a new comprehensive law against violence against women.

More specifically, at the local level, the responsibility for the prevention, protection, support and rehabilitation of victims of domestic violence, rests with the Coordinated Reference Mechanisms (CRM), already established in all 61 municipalities in the country. The CRMs were set up pursuant to Law No.

9669/2006 “On measures against violence in family relations”, as amended, which is underpinned by the principles of Istanbul Convention and other international conventions and treaties (Article 3/1). The CRM functions on the basis of a coordinated multi-sectoral approach and is composed of a network of local institutions, such as the municipalities, the police, the courts, prosecutor’s offices, the bailiff service, forensic experts, health care, education, and employment services, the state social service, social care services, civil society organisations providing specialised support services, etc. Each of the institutions/organisations involved in the CRM structure, appoints an expert to the Interdisciplinary Technical Team (ITT) responsible for the direct management of cases of domestic violence and violence against women. The Local Self-Government Units (municipalities) are in charge of setting up their CRM and appointing the Local Coordinator (LC), which is a full-time position. Information about reported cases and their management within the CRM is held in an electronic system (REVALB) which is now operational in all 61 municipalities in the country and regularly updated by the LCs. A new DCoM regulating the functioning of the CRMs was adopted in June 2021. It contains more extensive references to the Istanbul Convention and addresses all forms of violence against women.

The adoption of the Criminal Justice for Children Code was a step forward towards the fulfilment of **recommendation 17**, while amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code which address issues such as the rights of victims of crimes in the criminal procedure, including the rights of minors or sexually abused victims, or the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings, are measures taken in response to **recommendations 17 and 18**.

An important achievement regarding **recommendation 9**, is the establishment in December 2018 of the **first centre for the examination and treatment of sexual violence cases** in Albania, which operates in accordance with approved standards. In 2019 and 2020, the centre managed 84 cases, who were offered medical and forensic examination, the necessary health and psycho-social services, food, clothing and sanitary services, and further referral to other specialised services for longer term treatment. In addition, the centre has also drafted rules on the functioning of the centre in situations of public health emergencies or natural disasters (following the situation created as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic). The members of the Coordinated Referral Mechanism have also received a protocol on the management of adult sexual abuse cases, based on a coordinated multi-sectoral approach.

There have been several positive achievements in relation to **urgent recommendation 3**, with a focus on promoting a clear understanding within the society of the gendered nature of violence against women and its unacceptability under any circumstances. Worthy of mention in this respect are the public awareness campaigns held annually in the context of “The 16 days of activism”, the coordination of campaigns focusing on tackling gender stereotypes and harmful traditional practices, and the publication of the second National Survey on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence in June 2019.

Important achievements were also made regarding the implementation of **urgent recommendations 4, 5 and 6**. The relevant DCoM regulating the organisation and functioning of the NCGE now contains additional provisions on its monitoring role. Since the legislative amendments introduced during 2016 and 2017, including on the inclusion of gender-responsive budgeting as a legal obligation at the central and local self-government levels, 36 out of 75 budget programmes have effectively included gender-responsive budgeting in their forecasts of budgetary expenditures at the central level at the end of the first phase of the drafting of the 2020-2022 MTB. Also, in addition to the provision of public specialised support services, the state budget also provides partial support to NPOs offering specialised services in the areas of and counselling and accommodation.

In relation to **urgent recommendation 7**, the data entry system for cases of domestic violence managed at the local level (REVALB) has been improved and work is still ongoing for the coordination of data systems in general across institutions. A joint instruction of the Ministry of Justice and the High Council of Justice on the collection of data on domestic violence cases issued in 2020, is another indicator of the progress made towards the fulfilment of this urgent recommendation .

In response to **urgent recommendation 8**, the work focused initially on the adoption of a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures package which entered into force in February 2020. As of March 2020, training sessions based on accredited modules are being provided to health service and

social services professionals. In addition, the Coordinated Referral Mechanism model, which was positively evaluated by GREVIO, is now established in all 61 municipalities in the country and work is being done to strengthen this mechanism, including by offering accredited training courses to professionals members of this mechanism. This also addresses **urgent recommendations 10 and 13**.

Similarly, progress has been made in respect of **urgent recommendation 19**, in the form of improvements to the free legal aid system with a view to ensuring better protection from all forms of violence against women. The adoption of the Law “On free legal aid provided by the state” in 2017 and its entry into force in 2018, as well as the opening of several legal clinics free of charge, are important first steps for the implementation of this urgent recommendation.

The Ministry of Justice is presently working to fully address **urgent recommendation 12**, regarding changing the legal definition of rape in the case of children 14 to 18 years of age.

ANNEX 2. FINDINGS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC GOALS 3 AND 4 OF THE 2016-2020 NSGE

The following table presents a summary of the findings from the evaluation of Strategic Goals 3 and 4 of the 2016-2020 NSGE. Please note that the percentages indicating rate of the realisation of each objective in numerical terms are based on the measurements of each indicator or indicators under the relevant objective; they do not imply, however, that there is no need for further intervention and progress in the areas identified by each specific objective or strategic goals as a whole.

Strategic Goal 3: Reduction of gender-based violence and domestic violence = 84.8%	
Specific objective 3.1: Raising awareness in the society not to accept and not to tolerate gender-based violence and domestic violence.	
Objective indicator: At the end of 2020, the number of persons in the country who believed that gender-based violence and domestic violence are unacceptable and should not be tolerated increased by 30%.	
Realisation of the objective: NEARLY FULLY REALISED (92%).	
Outcomes expected to be achieved by 2020	Situation as at end 2020
1. At the end of 2020, the number of individuals in the country who believed that gender-based violence and domestic violence are unacceptable and should not be tolerated increased by 30%.	The next national periodic survey on violence against women and girls is not due until a couple of years from now; such a survey will enable a true measurement of the perceptions regarding zero tolerance towards gender-based violence. However, according to the 2018 survey: three out of four women, or 75.4%, reported that violence against women is a major problem in Albania and 70.8% stated that sexual violence against women and girls is a major problem in Albania. In addition, two out of three women, or 69.9%, reported that sexual harassment of women and girls is a major problem in Albania and two out of three women, or 68.4%, stated that the stalking of women is a major problem in Albania. 83% of women aged 18-74 believed it is very important for Albania to have laws that protect women from violence within the marriage or in their family and 81.9% stated that it is very important for Albania to have laws protecting women and girls from sexual assaults and rape. It can be concluded from the above that the number of individuals in our society who believe that gender-based violence and domestic violence are unacceptable and should not be tolerated, has increased by nearly 30%.
Specific objective 3.2: Strengthening referral mechanisms and increasing/improving specialised support services for protecting and addressing gender-based violence and domestic violence.	
Objective indicators:	

<p>(i) By the end of 2020, the number of municipalities with established and functioning Referral Mechanisms shall have increased by 52.5% (i.e., from 29 municipalities with established referral mechanism in place in 2015, to 61 by the end of 2020):</p> <p>(ii) By the end of 2020, the number of specialised support services shall have increased by 53.8% (i.e., from 13 specialised support services in 2015 to 20 specialised support services by the end of 2020).</p>	
<p>Realisation of the objective: NEARLY FULLY REALISED (92.5%).</p>	
Outcomes expected to be achieved by 2020	Situation as at end 2020
<p>1. By the end of 2020, the number of municipalities with established and functioning Referral Mechanisms shall have increased by 52.5% (i.e., from 29 municipalities with established referral mechanism in place in 2015, to 61 by the end of 2020).</p>	<p>There have been positive developments and the objective has been achieved, but these developments need to be long-term and sustainable.</p> <p>The MHSP, in partnership with international organisations (particularly UN Agencies) has continued working for setting up Coordinated Referral Mechanisms throughout the country. The cooperation agreements that are signed for this purpose have been updated and were sent out to the municipalities with established CRMs, for their consideration and re-signing. The CRMs have already been established set up in 58 municipalities of the country and the three remaining municipalities have pledged to set up theirs very soon. Efforts must continue to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of these CRMs throughout the country, by providing the necessary human resources, infrastructure and funds.</p>
<p>2. By the end of 2020, the number of specialised support services shall have increased by 53.8% (i.e., from 13 specialised support services in 2015 to 20 specialised support services by the end of 2020).</p>	<p>There have been positive developments and the objective has been achieved, but these developments need to be long-term and sustainable.</p> <p>The number of specialised support services is currently 22: More specifically, in the course of the implementation of 2016-2020 NSGE, the following services were added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 emergency shelters - 1 national counselling line (116 117) - 1 Centre for the treatment of cases of sexual assault crises ("Lilium") <p>However, it should be noted that some of these services are dependent on donor financing, and they operate under a number of constraints in terms of their human and financial resources, infrastructure, proper application of international standards, etc. Of the total number of the specialised support services, two national shelters are fully funded, and another six specialised services are partially funded by the state budget. These services operate a database of all the cases managed over the years.</p>
<p>Specific objective 3.3: Punishment of perpetrators and providing opportunities for their rehabilitation through specialised programmes.</p>	
<p>Objective indicator:</p> <p>(i) By the end of 2020, criminal law on gender-based violence and domestic violence shall be aligned with ratified international instruments.</p> <p>(ii) By the end of 2020, the number of punished and rehabilitated perpetrators shall have increased by 30%.</p>	
<p>Realisation of the objective: PARTIALLY REALISED (70%).</p>	
Outcomes expected by the 2020	Situation as at end 2020
<p>1. By the end of 2020, criminal law on gender-based violence and domestic violence shall be</p>	<p>Further improvements are needed in the area of criminal legislation.</p> <p>Law No. 35/2017 "On some changes and supplements to Law No.7905, dated 21.03.1995, The Criminal Procedure Code, as amended, contains new legal provisions which considerably improve</p>

<p>aligned with ratified international documents.</p>	<p>the position of victims in criminal proceedings. It also contains special procedural rights for minor victims, victims of sexual abuse and trafficking in human beings. Law No. 35/2020 "On an amendment to Law No. 7895, dated 27.01.1995, The Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania" as amended, introduces the criminalisation of psychological violence and expands the categories of protected persons, providing for the necessary protection of persons in an intimate relationship or former intimate relationship. The wording of this Article is aligned with Article 3 of the Istanbul Convention and the legal amendments introduced in 2018 to the law on domestic violence. In addition, the law provides for harsher punishments for some forms of this criminal act. However, there is a need for further improvements to the criminal law, in order to fulfil GREVIO's urgent recommendation 12, paragraph 139.</p>
<p>2. By the end of 2020, the number of punished and rehabilitated perpetrators shall have increased by 30%.</p>	<p>There has been an increase in the number of punished and subsequently rehabilitated perpetrators; however, a thorough evaluation of the existing services should be carried out, which will serve as a baseline for future calculations. In the period 2016-2020, the Counselling Line for Men and Boys provided counselling services to 366 persons who voluntarily opted to participate in the program. Another 23 individuals who participated in the programme were referred to the Counselling Line by the courts and their participation in perpetrator rehabilitation programmes was mandatory. The Probation Service reports that it made 10 referrals to the Counselling Line for Men and Boys in the period January-December 2018. Of those, 6 men agreed to participate and received individual treatment at the service. Two of them have now completed the programme, one is attending the follow-up programme, while a fourth participant decided to stop attending. In 2019, only 15 men benefitted from treatment and special counselling programmes offered by this centre; all of them participated in the programme voluntarily. In 2018, the Office for Men and Boys in Shkodra launched an IT-assisted remote counselling programme with perpetrators from the municipalities of Vau i Dejës and Malësi e Madhe. In addition, a mobile service is also provided in these areas. Those perpetrators who are unable to attend sessions at the centre or remotely can meet with the counsellors in their local municipality office. Between 2016 and 2020, the Office for Men and Boys in Shkodër provided counselling services to a total of 157 male perpetrators of domestic violence, as well as to 137 boys who were referred by the school psychological counselling services. They received individual and group counselling (reflection groups for aggressive boys). In the period between January and October 2020 such services were offered to 67 men and boys perpetrators of violence or who displayed gender-based aggressive behaviour.</p>

Strategic Goal 4:

Strengthening of the coordinating and monitoring role of the Coordinated Mechanism on Gender Equality and raising the awareness of the society for the advancement of gender equality = 81.25%.

Specific objective 4.1: Improving the Gender Equality Sector, in line with its role as laid down in the legislation in force, international conventions and recommendations from international documents.

Objective indicator: By the end of 2020, a strengthened Gender Equality Sector at the former Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (with a consolidated and efficient organisational structure), in line with its coordination and monitoring role.

Realisation of the objective: PARTIALLY REALISED (85%).

Outcomes expected to be achieved by 2020	Situation as at end 2020
<p>1. By the end of 2020, a strengthened Gender Equality Sector at the former Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (with a consolidated and efficient organisational structure), in line with its coordination and monitoring role.</p>	<p>In addition to the health sector, the MHSP is also responsible for the development of policies addressing issues of gender-based violence, violence against children, women and other groups, gender equality, protection of the rights of children, non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity and minority group, etc. These responsibilities are discharged by the Section on Policy and Strategies on Social Inclusion and Gender Equality within the Department for Policy and Development of Health Care and Social Protection Directorate under the General Directorate for Policies and Development of Health and Social Protection.</p> <p>The Section is composed of the Head of Section and four experts, but not all the job descriptions of these experts include duties and responsibilities focusing on gender equality issues, gender-based violence and domestic violence</p> <p>The experts (three women and one man) and the head of section have the task of coordinating and monitoring a series of targeted actions focusing not only on gender equality and gender-based violence, but also on minorities, diversity, children's rights, etc. (as reflected by the name of the section). In terms of financial resources, there has been an increase in the budget, but that has only gone for staff salaries. In the meantime, other activities related to awareness-raising events, strengthening of capacities, monitoring and evaluation processes, are mainly supported by international organisations. The technical assistance through regular expert secondments to the Section is considered essential.</p>
<p>Specific objective 4.2: Consolidation of the network of gender civil servants both at the central and local government level and ensuring their sustainability.</p>	
<p>Objective indicators:</p> <p>(i) By the end of 2020 – there will be a one hundred% increase in the number of full-time gender employees fully dedicated to the implementation of the legislation on gender equality at the central level [i.e., from 0 full-time gender employees appointed in 2015 (or 0%), to 18 full-time gender employees appointed by the end of 2020 (or 100%).]</p> <p>(ii) By the end of 2020, the number of full-time gender employees in local self-governments to increase by 28% [i.e., from 44 full-time gender employees at the local self-government level in early 2016 (or 72%), to 61 full-time gender employees at the end of 2020 (or 100%), namely an increase of 17 gender employees by 2020 (or 28%).]</p>	
<p>Realisation of the objective: NEARLY FULLY REALISED (90%).</p>	
Outcomes expected to be achieved by 2020	Situation as at end 2020
<p>1. By the end of 2020 there will be a one hundred% increase in the number of full-time gender employees fully dedicated to the implementation of the legislation on gender equality at the central level</p>	<p>At the central level, one full-time expert in each institution is also tasked with the responsibilities and duties of a gender equality employee, i.e., they do not deal exclusively with gender issues, but their job descriptions include the duties and obligations of a gender equality employee, pursuant to the Law on Gender Equality in Society. In addition to the 11 GEEs in the line ministries, the State Police and the Ombudsperson's Office have each appointed contact persons in the role of the GEE (although this is not a legal obligation).</p>
<p>2. By the end of 2020, the number of full-time gender employees in local self-</p>	<p>58 out of 61 municipalities have already submitted to the MHSP information on the full-time employee covering the duties of a GEE, as well as information on local coordinators for Gender Equality Issues and Child Protection Experts. Three municipalities have attempted to create</p>

governments to increase by 28%	separate positions for each; however, at the moment, due to the situation the country is in and problems with LSGU funding, the further separation of these roles is not deemed feasible. In 2020, the PLGP/USAID Project conducted an analysis of the Gender Equality Employee positions at the local level and emphasised the necessity to have a full-time position dedicated exclusively to gender equality issues. It also contained a detailed analysis of improvements that need to be made to the legal framework in order to highlight the importance of their role and ensure more support for GEEs in Local Self-Government Units.
Specific objective 4.3: Application of gender responsive budgeting in implementation of the legislation in force, as well as gender-sensitive planning at all levels, in policy making and decision-making.	
Objective indicator: By the end of 2020, gender responsive budgeting and gender sensitive planning in policy and decision-making are applied at all levels of government.	
Realisation of the objective: NEARLY FULLY REALISED (90%).	
Outcomes expected to be achieved by 2020	Situation as at end 2020
1. By the end of 2020, By the end of 2020, gender responsive budgeting and gender sensitive planning in policy and decision-making are applied at all levels of government.	Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) is part of the 2015-2020 National Strategy for Development and Integration. GRB has also been incorporated in the management of the budgetary system, by introducing amendments to the relevant law (2016). The Law on Local Self-Governance (2017) has created the possibility to effectively incorporate GRB throughout the local financial management cycles (annual and medium-term budget programming, monitoring and reporting, evaluation and auditing) by the LSGUs. LSGUs are required by law to address gender inequality issues and demonstrate full respect for gender equality in at least one of the programme policy objectives, by clearly identifying the related gender indicators and outcomes. In their reporting, LGSUs must also mandatorily indicate what percentage of their overall expenditures goes towards supporting policies for the promotion of gender equality. In 2020, there were 37 budget programmes at the central level which had effectively incorporated GRB.
Specific objective 4.4: Awareness-raising in the society for the acceptance of gender equality as a prerequisite for development.	
Objective indicator: By the end of 2020, the number of individuals in our society who believe that gender equality is a necessary condition for the development of the country shall increase by 30%.	
Realisation of the objective: PARTIALLY REALISED (60%)	
Outcomes expected to be achieved by 2020	Situation as at end 2020
1. By the end of 2020, the number of individuals in our society who believe that gender equality is a necessary condition for the development of the country shall increase by 30%.	As a result of the constant interventions through information and awareness-raising campaigns, the number of individuals in our society who believe that gender equality is a necessary precondition for the development of the country has increased; however, there is as yet no baseline study or a comparative nation-wide study to determine the percentage by which this number has increased.

ANNEX 3: DATA FROM MUNICIPALITIES WHOSE PROJECTS ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WERE SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIAL FUND IN THE COURSE OF 2021

NO	MUNICIPALITY	PROJECT	VALUE OF THE FUND	BENEFICIARIES
1	Gjirokastra	“Provision of services to victims of gender-based violence”. (Second year of implementation)	For 2020 it has been financed in the amount of 6,400,138 ALL (in the first year of implementation). 4,120,396 ALL (about 34 thousand Euro) in 2021.	During 2020, this center has treated: - 40 unaccompanied children (from foreign countries); - 40 adult (women); - 3 children aged 7-11 years; - 25 families with food packages
2	Berat	Rehabilitation and establishment of the Strehëza Centre.	3,087,000 ALL (about 26 thousand Euro) in 2021	50 victims of domestic violence; 15 children of victims of domestic violence; 40 children with social and financial problems.
3	Kukës	Establishment and running of the emergency centre for abused women and girls living in rural areas.	3,181,245 ALL (about 26.5 thousand Euro) in 2021	Girls and women facing issues at home, victims of domestic violence
4	Maliq	An emergency centre for children in a situation of immediate danger.	869,524 ALL (about 7 thousand Euro) in 2021	Children aged 0-18 facing an emergency situation.

ANNEX 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING OVER THE YEARS

Year	No of budget programmes	No of budget programmes that include GRB	No of objectives	No of outcomes	Budgetary funds for GRB (in million USD)	% of the total of budget expenditure
2017-2019	84	24	32	33	90	2.3%
2018-2020	84	28	41	41	120	2.4%
2019-2021	74	33	52	52	285	6.3%

ANNEX 5: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATA PROVIDED BY INSTAT

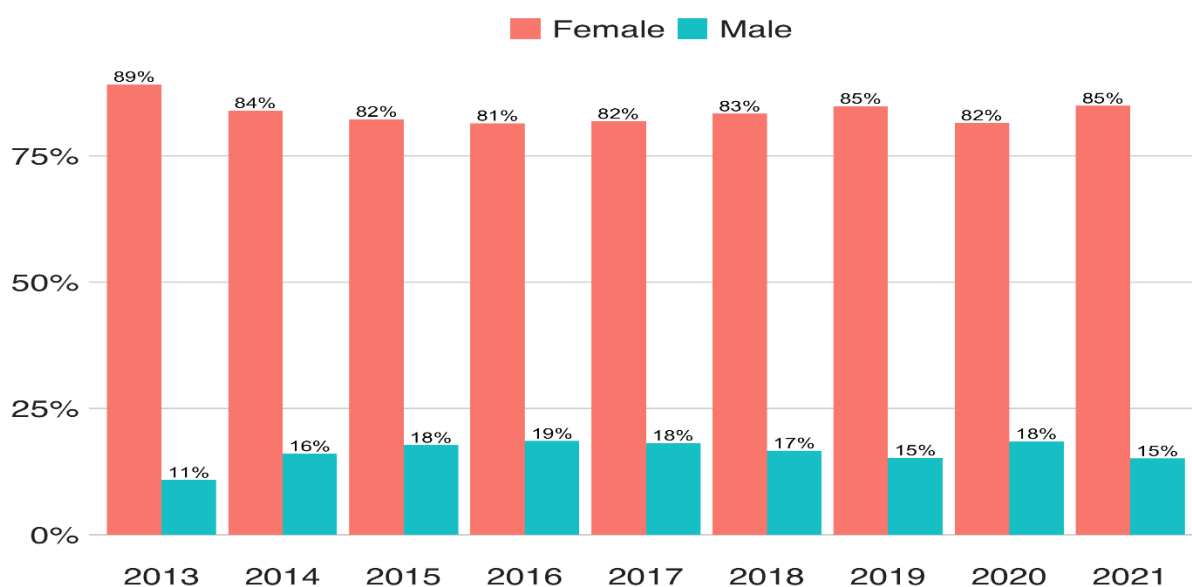
Table 1: Domestic violence by year

	Domestic Violence			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of cases identified by the police	4005	4411	4177	4321
Of which, deaths:	13	19	17	11
Applications for protection orders	2593	3037	2836	2816
Perpetrators	4166	4562	4323	4443

ANNEX 6: DATA GENERATED FROM THE REVALB SYSTEM

Gender Violence in Albania

Percentage of cases by gender



Source: Ministry of Health and Social Protection Albania, REVALB



Table 1: Requests for EPO/POS and their monitoring – The REVALB system

Year	Cases	Request for Emergent Protection Order	Requests for EPO towards the % of total cases	Requests for EPO approved	Approved EPO in % towards the number of requests for EPO	Request for Protection Order	Requests for PO towards the % of total cases	Requests for PO approved	Approved PO in % towards the number of requests for EPO	PO monitored	PO/EPO violated	PO timeframe in months	Maximum timeframe of a PO issued (in months)
2013	350	1	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0		0	0		
2014	604	11	2%	11	100%	2	0%	2	100%	0	0	12	12
2015	546	6	1%	6	100%	3	1%	3	100%	0	0	8	11
2016	867	5	1%	5	100%	10	1%	7	70%	0	0	6	11
2017	975	25	3%	23	92%	23	2%	13	57%	0	0	6	12
2018	895	24	3%	24	100%	11	1%	10	91%	3	0	9	12
2019	796	136	17%	135	99%	77	10%	69	90%	51	1	8	12
2020	974	339	35%	327	96%	190	20%	180	95%	107	0	8	15
2021	384	158	41%	154	97%	75	20%	70	93%	7	0	8	12

Table 2: Number of coordinated meetings - REVALB system

Year	Steering Committee meetings	Technical Group meetings
2013	1	13
2014	7	15
2015	7	18
2016	6	29
2017	10	34
2018	8	47
2019	17	48
2020	29	100
2021	14	35

ANNEX 7. TRAINING MODULES OFFERED BY THE ALBANIAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (ASPA)

At the end of 2018 ASPA developed six training modules in the areas of gender justice and non-discrimination. The objectives of these training modules were:

- To provide participants with knowledge on gender-responsive budgeting (concepts and means) and raise their awareness on its importance;
- To equip participants with the necessary skills in order for them to get involved in various stages of gender budgeting for the promotion of gender equality in the future;
- To contribute to developing positive and supportive approaches and attitudes towards gender responsive budgeting, both at the level of the individual and at an institutional level;
- To improve understanding in relation to discrimination in the Public Administration;
- To raise the awareness of the participants in relation to the equal treatment of all individuals in the course of discharging their functions, etc.

More specifically, the following modules were developed:

The training module “Gender analysis and gender mainstreaming in the Public Administration” is offered to all employees in the Public Administration, irrespective of the positions they hold. Prior knowledge of gender concepts and issues is not a prerequisite for participation. This is a two-day (12-hour) training module.

The training module “Gender equality in the provision of services by the Public Administration” is offered to all specialist-level civil servants in charge of providing services to citizens, with the aim of changing some aspects of their behaviours, perceptions, and attitudes regarding gender issues. This is a one-day (6-hour) training module. No prior knowledge in the field is required.

The training module “Discrimination and the burden of proof in the Public Administration” is offered to all civil servants and employees, irrespective of their status in the PA, with a view to familiarising them with the concepts and types of discrimination on the one hand and the administrative burden of proof in cases of discrimination. This is a one-day (6-hour) training module.

The training module “Gender equality in decision-making: gender quotas” is offered to all civil servants in the Public Administration or as a special training course for employees of the election administration. This is a one-day (6-hour) training module.

The training module “The principle of equality and non-discrimination in the Public Administration” provides the participants with the general concepts which every civil servant must be familiar with in relation to their rights and obligations in the context of the effective application of this principle as well as the legal remedies available in case of discrimination. This is a one-day (6-hour) training module.

The training module “Gender equality principles and responsive gender budgeting” provides participants with the general concepts of gender equality, how to include gender equality in budgeting, techniques of applying gender budgeting in public policy and budget planning. This is a two-day (12-hour) training module.

In 2018 a group training on “Gender equality and gender-responsive budgeting” was held, with the support of a project implemented by UN Women.

“Promoting Gender Responsive Policies in South East Europe and Republic of Moldova”, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) aimed at contributing to the implementation of the commitments made by the central and local authorities in the context of gender equality. The project provided support to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the line ministries in building their staff capacities in two main areas:

- a) The training package on the Law “On gender equality in society”
- b) Gender responsive budgeting.

The training was attended by the gender focal points at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and all the gender focal points (gender employees) in the line ministries and the coordinators at the State Police. At the conclusion of the training, ASPA and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection issued certificates of successful completion to 15 employees from 12 institutions.

In 2019, ASPA provided training to 201 participants on a variety of topics related to the Istanbul Convention. **In 2020**, ASPA trained 1136 participants on thematic areas related to the Istanbul Convention. **In the period January – 24 June 2021**, ASPA trained 576 participants on thematic areas related to the Istanbul Convention.

Table 1: Data on trainings related to the Istanbul Convention for 2019

No	Training topic	Training module	Trained persons	Females	Males
1	Gender mainstreaming at the local level	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	35	3	32

2	Gender Equality in the provision of services in Public Administration	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	15	2	13
3	Discrimination and the burden of proof	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	17	0	17
4	Gender Equality in Decision Making / Gender Quotas	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	14	0	14
5	Gender analysis and Gender Mainstreaming in Public Administration	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	17	4	13
6	Gender analysis and Gender Mainstreaming in Public Administration (for leadership)	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	26	5	21
7	Gender Equality and Gender Responsive Budgeting	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	77	3	74
Total			201	17	184

In 2020, ASPA trained 1136 participants on topics related to the Istanbul Convention.

Table 2: Data on trainings related to the Istanbul Convention for 2020.

No	Training topic	Training module	Trained persons	Females	Males
1	Protecting the rights of civil servants at European level	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	28	21	7

2	Domestic violence and the role of responsible authorities	Domestic violence and the role of responsible authorities	28	26	2
3	Gender quotas in decision-making bodies	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	22	19	3
4	The burden of proof in cases of discrimination in public administration.	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	45	37	8
5	Gender responsive budgeting in the local government budget program	Gender responsive budgeting in the local government budget program	30	24	6
6	Cycle of gender analysis of public budgets	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	14	10	4
7	Child protection services - Kukës region	Child protection services	12	11	1
8	Child protection services - Tirana region	Child protection services	23	23	0
9	Child protection services - Korça region	Child protection services	20	19	1
10	Child protection services - Vlora region	Child protection services	12	11	1

11	Child protection services - Kukës region	Child protection services	7	6	1
12	Public Expenditure Management Cycle, MTBP drafting and approval and annual local draft budget	Local government finances	52	42	10
13	Public Expenditure Management Cycle. Drafting and approval of the MTBP and the annual local Draft Budget	Local government finances	161	138	23
14	Notions and concepts of "gender", "gender mainstreaming", "Social justice" and "Gender responsive budget"	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	50	44	6
15	Child protection services	Child protection services	36	35	1
16	Gender analysis' steps	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	24	22	2
17	Differences and impact of gender issues	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	20	19	1
18	Child protection services	Child protection services	57	55	2
19	Gender Responsive Budgeting	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	55	43	12

20	The role of Municipal Councils in monitoring gender-based violence	n/a	29	22	7
21	Prohibition of discrimination and the burden of proof in public administration	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	102	72	30
22	The role of Municipal Councils in monitoring gender-based violence	n/a	61	52	9
23	The role of Municipal Councils in monitoring gender-based violence	n/a	31	27	4
24	Domestic violence and the role of responsible authorities	Domestic violence and the role of responsible authorities	18	16	2
25	Understanding childhood and children's needs	Understanding childhood and children's needs	102	91	11
26	Principles of gender equality and gender responsive budgeting	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	31	28	3
27	Legal framework on gender budgeting, budget as a reflection of central and local policies. Budget implementation, monitoring and reporting	Local government finances	66	43	23
Total			1136	956	180

Table 3: Data on trainings related to the Istanbul Convention for the period January - 24 June 2021

No	Training topic	Training module	Trained persons	Females	Males
1	Development of gender sensitive indicators	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	12	1	11
2	Gender Responsive Budgeting at the local level	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	82	37	45
3	Revenue forecasting and expenditure tracking under gender approach	Financat e vetëqeverisjes vendore dhe buxheti i përgjigjshëm gjinor në PBA	123	90	33
4	Innovations of the Electoral Code in the field of gender equality	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	43	8	35
5	Use of the European Court of Human Rights by public servants	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	56	13	43
6	Use of state resources in the election campaign	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	33	15	18
7	The burden of proof in cases of discrimination in public administration	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	104	21	83
8	The notion of discrimination in public administration	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	51	11	40
9	Procedures for prosecuting cases of discrimination in public administration	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	58	9	49
10	Gender indicators	Gender Equality and Non-discrimination	14	3	11
Total			576	208	368

Table 4: Data on trainings related to the Istanbul Convention for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and January-24 June 2021

Trainings conducted by ASPA related to the Istanbul Convention	
Year	Number of participants
2018	15
2019	201
2020	1136
January -24 June 2021	576