

Probation in Albania



Probation in Albania

- Probation Service was established in 2009
- Key legal changes in 2008
- EU Twinning working with English Probation
- 10,000 cases in past five years
- **Values:** respect for human dignity, individual opportunities for change and growth, being fair and impartial
- **Mission:** to protect the community and prevent re-offending. ... by counselling and assisting offenders during reintegration and rehabilitation by implementing methods and instruments to overcome the difficulties for social reintegration and bringing positive changes in their lives.

Purposes

- Implementation of alternatives to imprisonment to protect the public interest
- Prevention of criminal conduct
- Assisting offenders to fulfil obligations and compliance with court orders
- Co-operation and presentation of information and reports to the prosecutor and the court
- To fulfil these goals, the Probation Service, where necessary, cooperates with state institutions, central or local and with the local community, as well as with other institutions and NGOs for the best implementation of alternatives to imprisonment.

Main tasks

- Assessment report / PSR
- Attendance at Court
- Psycho-social support
- Intervention plan
- Referring offender to NGO as necessary

Assessment report / PSR

- Analysis of the offence
- Analysis of the offender's circumstances (e.g. health, finances, education, work, use of drugs or abuse of alcohol, attitude towards the offence, understanding of the victim's position)
- Assessment of risk assessment and criminogenic need
- Possible methods of intervention

Supervision

- The offender's needs and motivation to change
- Risk / RNR prominent in general approach
- Importance of negotiating the initial program with the offender
- Regard to standards and procedures for ensuring the offender meets obligations
- Methods include home visit, 'inter-action with the working place', cooperation with NGOs.

Working with NGOs and others

- Mediation and Conflict Resolution Agency
- Since 2012, 285 cases of which 225 were judged to be successful
- OSCE
- Komuniteti Emanuel
- Scientific Forum of Albanian Universities in Europe



Electronic Monitoring

- Law passed in 2012
- March 2013 pilot project started - 12 Probation Officers and the Head of Sector
- Eligible offenders are those sentenced to < 5 years who consent
- 8 offenders (usually under an arrest order or a house arrest investigation) have been supervised so far
- Probation involved together with the offender, his / her family and defence lawyer, but also with the Ministry of Justice, the Court, the Prosecutor (who can request electronic monitoring), the State Police (who respond to violation)

Challenges

- Timing of PSRs
- Relationship with prosecutor with regard to PSR
- Timing of mediation
- Very little public awareness of probation
- New assessment methods for young offenders?