

IPA 2009 National Programme for Albania
Project Fiche N° 1
Support to Blue Border Management

1. Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number: 2009/021-642
1.2 Title: Support to Blue Border Management
1.3 ELARG Statistical code: 01.24
1.4 Location: Albania
Tirana, Durres, Vlora and Coastal Regions

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Contracting Authority (EC): Delegation of the European Commission to Albania.

1.6 Implementing Agency: Delegation of the European Commission to Albania.

1.7 Beneficiary:
Ministry of Interior
General Directorate of State Police
Department for Border and Migration

Project Manager: Mr. Pëllumb NAKO,
Deputy General Director of the Albanian State Police (ASP)
Director of the Border & Migration Police,

Address: Drejtoria e Pergjithshme e Policise
Bulevardi Bajram Curri
Tirana
Albania

Telephone: +355 4 2247866

E-mail: nakop@mrp.gov.al

Other Beneficiaries

- Albanian Coast Guard;
- Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC);
- Ministry of Transport - Harbours Office;
- Ministry of Environment – Fisheries;
- Ministry of Finance – General Directorate of Customs;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food – Phyto-Sanitary Service.

Financing:

1.8 1.8.1 Overall cost (VAT excluded)¹: EUR 5.12 million

¹ The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated (see Section 7.6)

1.8.2 Albanian Contribution

Albanian State Budget:

EUR 900.000 (nine hundred thousand) for building which will incorporate the premises of the worksite for the control and maintenance of the police vessels and the training classrooms.

EUR 70.000 (seventy thousand) as annual running costs an annual cost for the maintenance of the police vessels to be provided out of the State Budget.

1.8.3 Other MS contribution

Guardia Di Finanza:

EUR 150.000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) for the design and implementation of training for police personnel assigned to Blue Border Management tasks.

1.9 EC contribution: EUR 4 million

NB: This does not include the existing budgets for PAMECA III (IPA 2007) and the CARDS 2006 addendum for PAMECA III, which are used to fund a full time adviser for Integrated Border Management (Blue Border). This adviser will play a considerable role in establishing inter-service cooperation and laying the correct institutional framework for the sustainable absorption of the supply component of this project.

1.10 Final date for contracting:

Two years following the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement.

1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:

Two years following the end date of contracting (works contracts are included in the activities). These dates apply also to national co-financing.

1.12 Final date for disbursements:

One year following the end date for the execution of contracts.

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective

Strengthening Blue Border Security by enhancing the capacity of the Albanian State Police (ASP) to police the blue border and improve cooperation between agencies in charge of blue border management. This project will also aim at strengthening the capacity of the Coast Guard to carry out border surveillance tasks which imply the utilisation of civilian, judicial police powers via training activities and specialisation. For the purpose of this project, Blue Borders must be intended as Maritime Borders, which are the main focus of the activities herein envisaged.

2.2 Project Purpose

This project seeks to strengthen the overall maritime security by supplying the Albanian Border Police (BP) and Coast Guard with technical equipment, as well as technical assistance for its utilisation, with a view to establish closer cooperation and asset sharing mechanisms between relevant institutions such as the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) and the Albanian Border Police. The applicable law already prescribes that the Coast Guard (art. 5 par. 2 of the Law on Coast Guard of 20002 as amended in 2007) shall, in internal waters, "...offer assistance...to the Border Police...". The project, through the ongoing assistance carried out by the Police Assistance Mission of the European Community to Albania (PAMECA III), will further ensure that a clear division of tasks between Coast Guard and Border Police is established. The project shall also ensure that operational protocols and cooperation mechanisms are developed to avoid overlaps, duplication of efforts and lack of coordination.

2.3 Link with AP / NPAA / EP / SAA

The need to strengthen Blue Border Surveillance by providing adequate infrastructure is expressly mentioned in the **Albania 2008 Progress Report published by the European Commission** on 5 November 2008 (p.45).

The Report further states that:

- The **Law on the Coast Guard**, adopted in 2007, includes separation of tasks between the Border Police and the coast guard and is being implemented, albeit slowly. Civilian command of the coast guard, in line with Ohrid commitments, is still pending. A joint operations centre to coordinate sea operations has not yet been established. The administrative and operational capacity of the coast guard remains weak. Equipment to patrol the blue border needs upgrading. Specialised training and closer coordination between the border police and customs authorities are needed. Overall, Albania continues partially to meet its objectives in the field of border control, but the human resources remain insufficient to carry out these tasks efficiently.

Furthermore, the **Visa Liberalisation Road Map** published on 5 June 2008 clearly states, among other issues, that Albania should:

- Adopt and implement legislation governing the movement of persons at the external borders, as well as law on the organisation of the border authorities and their functions in accordance with the National Strategy of Integrated Border Management (NSIBM) and its Action Plan, adopted in September 2007;
- Take necessary budgetary and other administrative measures ensuring efficient infrastructure, equipments, IT technology at the external borders.

In the **European Partnership document** of 18 February 2008, several priorities linked to blue border management are identified. The most significant issues on which the Albanian government must deliver can be summarised as follows:

- Conclude and implement agreements with neighbouring countries and ensure effective implementation, notably on cross Border cooperation, the fight against organised crime, trafficking and smuggling, judicial cooperation, Border management, readmission, the environment, transport and energy.

- Improve maritime safety conditions, particularly the detention rate of Albanian ships under the Paris Memorandum of Understanding.
- Implement the integrated Border management strategy and action plan, paying particular attention to cooperation at the Border between customs and the Border police.
- Ensure that Border management at all Border crossing points, in particular at the ports of Durres and Vlora complies with EU standards.
- Implement the EC/Albania readmission agreement and negotiate readmission agreements with the countries of origin of transiting migrants.
- Ensure prosecution of serious crimes, especially organised crime, with particular attention to cross-Border cooperation mechanisms.
- Achieve significant results in improving Maritime safety conditions, including port State control facilities and performance of the register of shipping pursuant to the Paris memorandum of understanding.
- Implement all international commitments undertaken by Albania in the area of Border management.
- Continue to bring police services up to European standards, most notably by means of adequate training and equipment.

2.4 Link with Multi-Indicative Planning Document

Item 2.3 of the MIPD 2009-2011 document indicates under Criteria 3 (“Ability to assume the obligations of membership”) the following expected results and indicators for **Visa, border control, asylum and migration** :

- Centralised IT network for administration of visa established;
- Integrated border management strategy and action plan implemented;
- Legislation on asylum and migration and related action plans implemented;
- Effective combat against trafficking of human beings established.

It has to be noted that the Integrated border management action plan has been approved in 2006 (see chapter 2.5) and is currently being implemented.

2.5 Link with National Development Plan (NDP)

The following strategic documents contained in the NDP, relevant to Integrated Border Management activities, are listed below:

- National Strategy of Integrated Border Management and the Plan of Action approved in November 2006;
- Action Plan for the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with particular reference to its chapters on Democracy and the Rule of Law, as well as Cooperation in Justice and Domestic Affairs.

2.6 Link with National / Sectoral investment plans

In an effort to respect the priorities identified in a number of strategic documents, the government acts in accordance with the conclusions and requirements resulting from, *inter alia*, the following instruments:

- Conclusions and Recommendations resulting from the final report “Defining of the Management System of the Blue Border in Albania” prepared by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and financed by the European Commission under CARDS 2003;
- The Road Map for Visa Liberalisation agreed by the European Commission in 2008;
- The European Commission Annual Progress Report 2008;
- The Ohrid Commitments resulting from the Regional Conference on Border Security held in 2003.

3. Description of Project

The project will strengthen Blue Border Security through the combined actions of its component activities, and notably:

- In synergy with other ongoing technical assistance projects, this project aims at institutionalising the cooperation between the Coast Guard and the Border Police, and will help setting up the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre;
- The design and implementation of a sustainable training scheme for the services responsible for border checks and border surveillance at the maritime borders, i.e. Border Police and Coast Guard;
- The refurbishment of the facilities of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC);
- The supply of vessels to the services responsible for border checks and border surveillance at the maritime borders, i.e. Albanian Border Police and Coast Guard;
- The reinforcement of the Albanian State Police maintenance and logistical capacities.

3.1 Background and Justification

Albania has, for many years, been unable to police its own maritime borders in a sustainable manner. Illicit Trafficking activities originating or transiting through the country have constituted a security threat for Albania as well as for its immediate neighbours. While a strong international presence at sea, coupled with the Government's own efforts, has indeed greatly improved the situation, the sustainability of Albanian capacity to patrol its own Blue Borders is still a major concern. While illicit activities still take place at sea, albeit at a reduced rate, a Ban on speedboats has helped diminish the impact and dimension of blue border related crime. However, Albania still lacks a comprehensive strategy and set of activities plan to ensure maritime security in the long run. The unclear division of tasks and responsibilities between agencies operating at sea (and notably the Customs Service, the Albanian State Police and the Coast Guard among the main actors) is a serious concern. Overall civilian control of maritime law enforcement, in line with the 2003 Ohrid Commitments, is still pending. This project is a step along the route of making Albania's Blue Border Management mechanisms more effective and sustainable.

The Albanian blue sea border has got a basic sea line of 316km and includes an overall sea line of 472km. The lake border is 72 km altogether, including Shkodra Lake with 38km border line, Ohrid Lake with 24km border line and Prespa Lake with 10km border line. Control and surveillance of the blue border is the task of the Department of Border Police and Migration, an autonomous department within the Albanian State Police, in cooperation with other services. However, there is

no tradition or set of methodologies for training Blue Border Police Personnel, and reliance on bilateral donorship is dominant. Institutional cooperation between services is extremely weak.

The capacity of the Police fleet is weak, both in terms lack of sustainable vessels as well as in terms of maintenance and logistics facilities. Radar resources are also scarce and outdated.

The Border Police personnel amounts to 142 officers and their service structure is as follows:

Organic structure:

Nr.	Name	Sum
1.	Commander of the vessel	29
2.	Motorman (engine man)	34
3.	Radar operator of the vessel	16
4.	Service troop in the vessel	31
5.	Radar operator installed at the stations premises	28
6	Technicians for the maintenance of the vessels	4
Sum		142

The number and type of police vessels, as well as their personnel, is detailed below:

Nr.	Type of the vessel	Quantity
1.	Speedboats	7; 11 police staff
2.	Motovedetë	1; 4 police staff
3.	Launch boats	3; 3 police staff
4.	Speedboat	7; 7 police staff
5	Workshop (Worksite) for the repair /maintenance	1; 4 employees
Sum		18; 29 employees

Other agencies operating at sea and with which the Border Police cooperates are as follows:

- Ministry of Defence – Coastal Guard (Currently part of the Albanian Navy);
- Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, Telecommunication and Territory Adjustment – Harbour Offices;
- Ministry of Environment – Directorate of Fishing Policies;
- Ministry of Finance – General Directorate of Customs;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food – Phyto-Sanitary Service.

Those agencies operate on the bellow legal basis

- Law nr. 9251, dated 08.07.2004 “Naval Code of the Republic of Albania”;
- Law nr. 9861, dated 24.01.2008 “On State Border Control and Surveillance”;
- Law nr. 8875, dated 04.04.2002 “On the Albanian Coastal Guard”;
- Law nr.7908, dated 5.4.1995 “On fishing and aquaculture”;
- Law nr. 8449, dated 27.01.1999 “Customs Code of the Republic of Albania.”;
- Law nr. 8663, dated 18.09.2000 “On the registration, classification, mode of operation and the control of the naval vessels with the carrying capacity in tons under 20 NT”.

A concrete activity to institutionalise the cooperation between agencies operating at sea space is the setting up of an Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC), staffed by Coast Guard/ Border Police/ Harbour Offices/ Fishing Authority, under civilian command. It is expected that this will, when realised, enable civilian control of maritime law enforcement even in the case that the Coast Guard maintains its military status as part of the armed forces. A precondition for the implementation of this project will be the establishment and definition of clear tasks for the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) for 1st Quarter 2010. When carrying out Border Surveillance tasks, control of operations shall be in any case turned to the Civilian Authority as per EU standards and Best Practices. Additionally, the Centre shall guarantee the constant flow of operational information to the Border and Migration Police Directorate of the Albanian State Police, which is the body mandated to implement Border Control and Surveillance on behalf of the Ministry of Interior (Law on State Border Control and Surveillance, 2008).

However, based upon an objective evaluation of the current state of affairs, a solution to the below issues is still pending:

- The exact delineation of tasks between Police and Coastguard has not yet been established, although efforts in this direction are currently underway.
- The introduction of a coastal radar system in 2008 allows for the first time total surveillance of the blue border and tracking of all vessels. However, this system is under the operational control of military forces and there are not yet protocols in place allowing the Border Police or other agencies to access to the system.
- No system and infrastructure for training police staff operating at the blue border is yet in place.
- No defined curriculum for training blue border police personnel is in place.
- No logistic facility for the maintenance of police vessels is available to the Border Police;
- The current maintenance budget does not meet the requirements and standards.
- Premises for Border Police staff in Saranda have not yet been realised, and officers currently operate from three offices located in the 'regular' Police Commissariat.

3.2 Assessment of Project Impact, Catalytic Effect, Sustainability & Cross Border Impact

The project will provide for much more effective policing of the blue border, this will have a significant impact on reducing crimes committed using the blue border (trafficking of people, drugs, etc.). This will allow for relaxation and eventually lifting of the current ban on speedboats, which will in turn enhance the potential for tourism. Similarly improved coordination of blue border agencies and the improvement in Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities will lead to improvements in safety and quality of life for Albanian Citizens.

A system of inter-ministerial coordination among the state agencies operating at sea is currently underway through the creation of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC). Before procurement of vessels is undertaken, the beneficiary shall be prepared to demonstrate that operational agreement for the use of the IMOC are in place between mainly the Border Police and the Coast Guard for the 1st Quarter 2010, and shall accept this as a condition before procurement is commenced.

The provision of a full time blue border adviser within the PAMECA III Project will assist in the preparatory phase of this project and will ensure greater sustainability: linked activities to strengthen Command, Control and Operations Planning functions are already being implemented by PAMECA and will be further strengthened through the allocation of EUR 0.5

million (allocated through CARDS 2006) dedicated to reinforcing the Integrated Border Management component of PAMECA. Details are more clearly highlighted in section 3.6 below.

While the project is aimed primarily at the border police, the activities will have a knock-on effect on the other blue border agencies as they will be included in some training as well as sharing the use of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC).

To ensure the projects' sustainability, the GoA is committed to adequately resourcing the blue border management activities. Ongoing running costs for a fleet of fast craft are considerable, both in terms of in fuel costs and maintenance. Before procurement of vessels is undertaken, the beneficiary is prepared to demonstrate during the 1st Quarter of 2010 that it has made sufficient budgetary provision to sustain the fleet in the long term, and will accept this as a condition before procurement is commenced.

The Border Police and MoI have shown lately an overall commitment and have taken measures for a professional surveillance of the blue border and on strengthening of the capacities for the management of the sea space, according to the standards requested by EU. Some of these measures recently taken are as follows:

- Under the framework of the general reconstruction of the SOG-s premises with EU funds (it is an overall fund of EUR 1.9 million has already been committed), the premises of 5 Border Police Stations situated along the sea line (such as in Borshi, Divjaka, Spille, Dhërmi and Triport) will be refurbished or reconstructed;
- A system of an inter-ministerial coordination among the state agencies operating at sea is currently underway through the creation of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC). (See previous section).

The current resources and capacities of the Albanian Border Police and Migration, as well as the will expressed by the Albanian state actors for the strengthening and modernising of these resources and capacities is another guarantee for the achievement of the requested standards and for an integrated management and a professional safeguard of the sea space.

Finally, with more effective blue border security, neighbouring countries will benefit from less crime originating from Albanian blue borders, and this will result in greater integration potential for Albania.

While this project primarily aims at Maritime Borders, there would be an additional beneficial effect with regard to lake borders. If the Border Police gain access to the new coastal radar system and the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) operates effectively, this will free up the police radars currently deployed at sea for use on the lakes, where the existing radar systems are not of a sufficient standard.

3.3 Results & Measurable Indicators of Success

- **For the Establishment of a sustainable training program for the Border Police and Coast Guard, including maritime surveillance activities (Activity 1)**

Expected Results

- Improved standards of maritime safety and professionalism by Border Police and Coast Guard staff;
- Modernisation of technical and professional capabilities of the services operating in maritime border surveillance;

- Increased levels of interdiction of vessels involved in criminal activities and trafficking;

Measurable Indicators of Success

- A structured training program in place for all Border Police and officers from services responsible for border checks and border surveillance at the maritime borders;
- Demonstrable increase in the numbers of vessels and persons interdicted, and increase in the number of criminal activities disclosed and prosecuted.

- **For the strengthening of the logistical and maintenance capacities (Activity 2)**

Expected Results

- Clear policies and doctrine developed on the type of equipment and craft required to control the blue border and the associated support functions (maintenance, training etc);
- Effective budgetary systems adopted, allowing sustainable development of maritime surveillance activities and maximum utilisation of craft;

Measurable Indicators of Success

- Full real-time access for the Border Police through the IMOC to the newly operational Ministry of Defence Coastal Radar System, allowing the Border Police to make use of the relevant functionality of the system;
- The existence of a Policy & Doctrine Document on the procurement and use of maritime surveillance Vessels;
- Maintenance facilities opened with staff trained;
- Budgetary systems in place that allow for the sustainability of maritime border surveillance activities and maximum utilisation of skills and resources, including sufficient budgetary provisions.

- **For the supply of equipment and Works (Activity 3)**

Expected results:

- Modernisation of technical and professional equipment available to the services operating in Blue Border Management;
- Increased logistic and operational capabilities for the Border Police to effectively contribute to Integrated Blue Border Management operations.

Measurable Indicators of Success

- The Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre is equipped and able to coordinate Blue Border Management operations;
- The peripheral Control Rooms of the Border Police are equipped and adequately linked to the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre;
- Suitable premises are provided for the Border Police Commissariat in Saranda.

- **Supply of vessels & Ancillary equipment (Activity 4)**

Expected Results

- 20 appropriate new craft provided for the Border Police and Coast Guard and related support;

Measurable Indicators of Success

- Delivery of vessels to the Border Police in line with the development of clear policies regarding the type of equipment and skills craft required to police the blue border, and the associated support functions (maintenance, training etc).

3.4 Activities

Activity 1: Establishment of a Sustainable Training Program for the Border Police, including blue border

This component will be led by Albanian State Police in cooperation with the Italian Guardia di Finanza, which is the financing body for this activity and which will carry out the implementation of Blue Border Training in collaboration with the PAMECA project (Police Assistance Mission of the European Community to Albania, funded under IPA 2007) for the parts already contained in their Work Plan). The Guardia di Finanza's financial contribution is set at EUR 150.000 ; Technical Assistance provided by PAMECA is covered under Contract 2008/156-267 (EUR 5.518,790), which will be further strengthened by means of an Addendum featuring activities destined to reinforce the Integrated Border Management Capacity of PAMECA (EUR 0.5 million), due to be concluded in April 2009.

Sub-Activities (Guardia di Finanza/PAMECA)

- 1.1 Developing the curricula of the blue borders component, including training for Coast Guard officers with regard to Judicial Police powers, Border Control duties and risk analysis, primarily through PAMECA technical assistance;
- 1.2 Renovation and equipment of training premises in Durrës and Vlora;
- 1.3 Training of Trainers in Blue Border Identification;
- 1.4 Establishing Joint Training with other Blue Border Agencies to maximise efficiency, with particular emphasis on joint training activities for Border Police and Coast Guard;
- 1.5 Delivery of technical naval training provided by the Guardia di Finanza as follows:-

Nr.	Type of training	Beneficiaries	Time (hours)
1.	Knowledge on the Integrated System of the Surveillance of the Sea Space. Effective usage of this System on gathering, processing and transmission of the info.	Stations Heads, Specialists of Commanding and Controlling rooms. Operators	30 hours
2.	Knowledge on the techniques and systems under use at the Control and Commanding rooms.	Stations Heads, Specialists of Commanding and Controlling rooms. Operators	30 hrs
3.	Knowledge on the legislation, navigation and sea maps; Planning, organising, directing and accomplishing of the operational missions; Commanding and controlling rooms' activity on the management and recording of the events.	Stations Heads, Specialists of Commanding and Controlling rooms	30 hrs
4.	Navigation knowledge; direction of the vessel; role and usage of the equipment; manoeuvring; knowledge on cartography and meteorology.	Commanders of police vessels;	30 hrs
5.	Elements of the Sea Engines and Anti-fire Systems.	Motormen (engine men)	30 hrs
6.	Radar technique and kinematics.	Radar operators;	30 hrs;

Activity 2: Strengthening of the Logistical and Maintenance Capacities

This component will be implemented by the Albanian State Police, which will fully finance the activities foreseen under this heading, with a total sum of approximately EUR 0.9 million.

This activity will necessitate a thorough identification work in order to establish what are the concrete technical needs of the Border Police in terms of types of vessels as well as their logistic and maintenance needs, in accordance with operational requirements and legal mandate (as enshrined in the Law on State Border Control and Surveillance).

In order to fulfil this component a naval workshop will be established in Vlora. The premises will make possible the setting up of the worksite and of the training environments. The costs will be met from the Albanian State Police budget with a total cost of 111.500,000 ALL equivalent to approximately EUR 0.9 million. The number and nature of national contracts required to achieve this cannot be identified at this stage of the programming cycle.

Sub-activities

- 2.1 Technical assistance to ensure the new maintenance base (to be paid for by GoA funds) is designed to modern standards and to define equipment needs;
- 2.2 Specialist technical assistance to develop budget planning specifically for the service and maintenance of the naval vessels;
- 2.3 Human resource assistance to ensure that the correct technical staff with the proper qualities for the maintenance vessels are employed and retained;
- 2.4 Technical assistance in developing a long term maintenance program for Border Police vessels.

Activity 3 – Supply of Equipment and Works

This activity will be implemented by the European Commission Delegation to Albania, which will finance the supply of equipment to the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre and peripheral Border Police Control Rooms with a total sum of EUR 420.000 to be disbursed through (one or several) Supply contract(s), as well as the refurbishment of the Saranda Border Police Commissariat with a sum of EUR 380.000 through a Works contract.

The supply of Equipment will be subordinated to the accomplishment of the aspects mentioned in the previous paragraph (Component 3), and to the establishment of an Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) which will operate in line with the principle of Civilian Control of the State Borders. The draft being circulated in April 2008 states that the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) is an inter-institutional structure responsible for coordination, organisation, planning and management of blue border operations in compliance with national and international law.

Sub-Activities

Tendering and supply equipment according to the final equipment needs analysis performed in activities 1-3, provisionally as follows:-

- 3.1 Equipment and Furniture to equip the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC)
- 3.2 Technical equipment to link the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) to operational blue border units by purchasing equipment for peripheral Border Police control rooms along the sea shore
- 3.3 Work Station (professional computers) with all the necessary accessories;
- 3.4 Equipment to ensure a consistent power supply for the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC)
- 4.5 VoIP Telephones
- 3.5 Rehabilitation of the Saranda Border Police Commissariat

Activity 4 - Supply of Vessels & Ancillary Equipment

This component will be led by the European Commission Delegation to Albania which will finance the supply of Vessels and Ancillary Equipment destined to the Border and Migration Police Department of the Albanian State Police.

The Albanian Government has earmarked a sum of EUR 70.000 for maintenance and fuel costs over one year.

The supply of Equipment will be subordinated to the accomplishment of the aspects mentioned in the previous paragraph (Component 3), notably the principles of Civilian Control and Separation/Integration of tasks between Police and Coast Guard.

Indicative Vessel and Equipment technical specifications:

- 10 (ten) fast sea going craft 10 metres + in length, speed 50 mph;
- 10 (ten) sea going vessels, 4+ metres, 30 mph;
- Maintenance equipment (boat hoist);
- Mobile light maintenance facility.

3.5 Conditionality & sequencing

Activities 3 & 4 of this project will be conditional on certain criteria been fulfilled for 1st Quarter 2010 before the process of tendering can begin in 2nd Quarter 2010. These are listed below:

- The Government of Albania has met its Ohrid commitment to bring the coastguard under civilian authority for the 1st Quarter 2010;
- The establishment and running of one Inter-Institutional Operational Maritime Centre (IOMC) under civilian command to coordinate and control blue border surveillance and operations for the 1st Quarter 2010; The responsible authority for blue border surveillance should be the Border and Migration Police, having the lead of the operations related to border control tasks;
- Roles and responsibilities are agreed and formalised between blue border agencies especially between the border police and coastguard for the 1st Quarter 2010; Issues such as the investigation of cross-border crimes should belong to the competence of the Border and Migration Police;
- The Border Police have real time access to the costal surveillance radar, making maximum use of its functionality, especially tracking data (via the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC)); The border Police is granted access to all kind of operational information.

- The ASP/Border Police has demonstrated sufficient budgetary resources are allocated for ongoing running costs (fuel & maintenance plus other associated costs) for the 1st Quarter 2010;
- There is a demonstrably stable staff environment.

3.6 Linked Activities

There is an already on going Technical Assistance activity provided by the Police Assistance Mission of the European Community to Albania PAMECA (Contract 2008/156-267 - EUR 5.52 million). The amount of this ongoing contract will be increased with EUR 0.5 million in order to reinforce the activities destined to the strengthening of Integrated Border Management Capacities. PAMECA III is providing support to Visa-Liberalisation and SAA-related activities through the contribution of 2 International Long Term Experts specialised in Integrated Border Management (respectively Green and Blue Borders).

Among other activities, the latter Long Term Expert will assist the Border Police in creating the correct environment for the sustainable implementation of this assistance under IPA 2009.

Specifically, **activities** within this PAMECA component will consist of:

- Review of the existing legal and instructional framework;
- Amendment of Laws to ensure compliance with Ohrid Commitments;
- Development of a joint agreement on division of roles and responsibilities and action plan;
- Development of operational doctrine for the Border Police;
- Assistance in developing equipment needs and specifications, including assistance to EU consultants contracted for this purpose;
- Full training needs analysis and training plan;
- Development of the existing Joint National Operations Centre (Coastguard/Border Police/Harbour Offices/ Fishing Authority) into a national control centre under civilian command (a key requirement);
- Development of an Agreement with the Ministry of Defence on the common use of the Integrated System of the Surveillance of the Sea Space (Radar resources);
- In collaboration with the Main Harbour Office and the Sea Register, setting up of a database aiming at coordinating the administrative registration and the control of vessels.

Concrete operational results stemming from this linked activity will have a direct impact on this project's overall sustainability. The **expected results** of this activity will in fact be:

- Clear lines of communication and responsibilities between structures that exercise their activity on the blue border (Primarily Navy, Coastguard, Customs & Border Police) established;
- Increased collaboration between structures that exercise their activity on the blue border, including joint control and Search and Rescue (SAR) and coastal monitoring capabilities making effective and integrated use of State Assets;
- An effective command control and monitoring system for all border police developed, including the blue border;
- Increased levels of interdiction of vessels involved in criminal activities and trafficking.

It is expected that, by combining this PAMECA component with the other activities featured in this project fiche, the **following success indicators** will be achieved:

- Agreement between the Navy/Coastguard and Border Police detailing roles & responsibilities with the aim of avoiding of the duplication of parallel responsibilities and investments in relation to the management of assets and other resources;

- Full real-time access for the Border Police through the IMOC to the newly operational Ministry of Defence Coastal Radar System, allowing the Border Police to make use of the relevant functionality of the system;
- The functioning of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre, operating under Civilian control in line with the Ohrid Commitments;
- A Command Control and Monitoring Centre(s) established for the Blue Border Police, adequately co-located and linked to the IMOC;
- Better coordination with foreign maritime administrations in the field of maritime surveillance;
- Demonstrable increase in the numbers of vessels and persons interdicted, and increase in the number of criminal activities disclosed and prosecuted.

Other Linked Activities

- The Maritime Nucleus of Guardia di Finanza in Durres has organised 12 training activities with the participation of 153 employees from the Albanian blue border police units. The Program of these training activities was mainly focussed on International Legislation, on manoeuvring techniques, on astronomic and geographic knowledge, on cartography, on the electrical installations and equipments of the vessels, etc.
- The Albanian Government has approved a sum of 111.500.000 ALL (approximately EUR 900.000) for building of a Centre in Vlora which will incorporate the premises of a maintenance worksite for the police vessels, as well as the classrooms for training activities organised by the Border Police.
- A sum of EUR 150.000 has been planned by the Italian Guardia di Finanza for the design and implementation of training of blue border police personnel.
- Under CARDS 2003, the European Commission had supplied two vessels for use on the Shkodra and Ohrid Lakes.
- The Ministry of Defence (MOD) Radar System, based upon the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the American Corporation “Lockheed Martin Global INC (LMGI)” “On the setting up of an Integrated System of the Surveillance of the Sea Space”, signed in Tirana on 15 March 2005, is currently being implemented along all the Albanian seashore through 7 (seven) radiolocation stations and 3 (three) main antennas. This system will be shortly finished and will be taken under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence in December 2008.

Negotiations are currently underway to provide the Border Police access to this radar system in real time through the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) referred to in the previous sections; access to this resource for 1st Quarter 2010 will be a condition for the provision of equipment. The latest draft (April 2009) of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) Council of Minister's Decision clearly states that the Centre will have direct access to information provided through the Maritime Space Surveillance System.

- **United States EXBS**

The US Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance Program provide a full time adviser to the Agencies operating on the Blue Border, most notably, the Coastguard and navy with lesser input to the Border Police.

- **Port security (ICITAP)**

The blue border police employees are also trained by ICITAP on “Ports security and anti-terrorism”; there is a full time ICITAP adviser for port security.

- **Regional project in the Western Balkans**

IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme 2007 - Regional support to the update, implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Border Management strategies and related Action Plans and development of regional and cross border initiatives.

3.7 Lessons Learned

Integrated Border Management represents a major element of Albania's commitment towards meeting the Political Criteria objectives set forth in the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The term Integrated Border Management (IBM) refers to the coordination and cooperation among all the relevant authorities and agencies involved in border security and trade facilitation to establish effective, efficient and integrated border management systems, in order to reach the common goal of open, but controlled and secure borders.

In recent years, the European Community has been actively supporting the creation and development of sustainable institutions in Albania. Special emphasis has been given to Security Institutions, and within this broad sector, particular attention has been paid to strengthening Albania's capacity to efficiently manage its borders in accordance with the EC IBM Guidelines. In addition to the supply of regular and specialised equipment and the strengthening of infrastructures, the EC has also been actively supporting the Albanian government in developing a long term strategic vision on Border Management, which culminated in the adoption of the Integrated Border Management Strategy in November 2006. Other EC funded programmes such as the Police Assistance Mission of the EC to Albania have included wide range technical assistance to the IBM sector. A strategic vision on Blue Border Management has however, for a series of reasons including the necessity to implement urgent action to curtail illicit trafficking originating from Albania in the 1990s and early 2000s, somehow been neglected in favour of capacity substitution.

Experience has shown that added emphasis must be placed now on implementation of concrete action, and on the 'Integrated' aspects of Integrated Border Management. Inter-institutional cooperation, improved dialogue between national agencies, real and effective sharing of information is in fact a fundamental pre-requisite to implement the IBM approach.

Future activities will therefore necessary need to focus on the implementation of Albania's security commitments vis-à-vis its citizens and its international partners with regard to full implementation of the IBM action plan. For this reason, the Delegation is planning to support the activities envisaged through this project in order to enhance Albania's capacity to exert control over maritime borders in coordination with other responsible agencies and ministries such as the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, the Ministries of Transport, Tourism, Environment, and other related agencies.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					OTHER MS CONTRIBUTION	
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	IN V (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	%(2)	Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/ Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
Activity 1												
TA contract 1.1 (Naval Training operated by Guardia di Finanza)	X		150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0		150,000	3
Activity 2												
contract 2.1 (Maintenance Facilities and Training Classrooms)		X	900,000	0	0	900,000	18	900,000	0	0		
Activity 3												
Works contract 3.1 Rehabilitation of Saranda Commissariat)		X	380,000	380,000	7	0	0	0	0	0		
Supply contract 3.2 (Equipment for IMOC and Border Police)		X	420,000	420,000	8	0	0	0	0	0		
Activity 4												

Supply Contract 4.1 (Supply of Vessels and ancillary equipment)		X	3,200,000	3,200,000	63	0	0	0	0	0		
Contract 4.2 (Fuel and maintenance costs for vessels)		X	70,000	0	0	70,000	1	70,000	0	0		
TOTAL IB			150,000	0	0		0				150,000	3
TOTAL INV			4,970,000	4,000,000	78	970,000	19					
TOTAL PROJECT			5,120,000	4,000,000	78	970,000	19				150,000	3

NOTE: DO NOT MIX IB AND INV IN THE SAME ACTIVITY ROW. USE SEPARATE ROW

Amounts net of VAT

- (1) In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV
- (2) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule*

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of Contract	Project Completion
Contracts 3.1, 3.2	2 nd Quarter 2010	4 th Quarter 2010	1 st Quarter 2012
Contract 4.1	2 nd Quarter 2010	1 st Quarter 2011	1 st Quarter 2012

* The indicative implementation schedule refers only to EC financed contracts.

6. Cross Cutting Issues

6.1 Equal Opportunities

Wherever human resource policy is part of the project (around training, selection etc), full cognisance will be given to equal opportunities and the equal opportunities policy of the ASP

6.2 Environment

During the selection process for vessels, factors such as fuel efficiency will be considered though this cannot be allowed to hinder the operational effectiveness of fast, intercept craft.

6.3 Minorities

Based on the fundamental principles of promoting equality and combating discrimination, the project will encourage participation to project activities, as well as the implementation of sustainable inclusive strategies, within the relevant project components and through linked technical assistance such as PAMECA III.

ANNEXES

- Annex 1** Log frame
- Annex 2** Amounts Contracted & Disbursed per quarter over the full duration of the programme
- Annex 3** Description of the institutional framework
- Annex 4** Reference to laws, regulations and Strategic Documents
- Annex 5** Details per EU funded contracts

ANNEX 1: Logical Framework matrix in Standard Format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX For Project Fiche	Programme name and number: IPA 2009		
	Contracting period expires: three years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement	Disbursement period expires: One year after the end date for the execution of contracts.	
	Total budget: EUR 5.12 million	IPA budget: EUR 4 million	
Overall Objective	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	
To enhance the capacity of the Albanian State Police (ASP) to police the blue border and improve cooperation between agencies responsible for securing the blue border	Blue Borders are managed according to a clear institutional framework of cooperation between relevant institutions, and the Albanian State Police (ASP) is equipped to patrol its blue borders	GoA Crime statistics EU Advisers reports	
Project Purpose	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To ensure the safety of sea users	Increased Number of Search and rescue Operations, and the number of persons/craft rescued	GoA Statistics	
To tackle criminality on the blue border	Demonstrable increase in the numbers of vessels and persons interdicted and increase in the number of criminal activities disclosed and prosecuted	GoA Crime statistics EU Adviser reports	
Functioning of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) with improved cooperation between agencies responsible for securing the blue border with increased shared use of existing resources	Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre equipped, established and operating with working doctrine for all the agencies	GoA reports Reports from EU advisers	Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) agreed; The organisational changes required from ECD ensuring clear

			cooperation mechanisms between Police and Coast Guard in compliance with the principle of Civilian Control of Albania's Borders are made in time;
Improving security of the blue border so that law nr. 9509, date 3.4.2006 "For the Proclaiming of the Moratorium for the motor navy vessels of the Republic of Albania" can be revoked	Revocation of the law or an action plan developed to allow for revocation	GoA Reports	Legal Framework approved within time fashion
Results	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Clear lines of communication and responsibilities between structures that exercise their activity on the blue border (Primarily Navy, Coastguard, Customs & Border Police) established	Agreement between the Navy/Coastguard and Border Police detailing roles & responsibilities with the aim of avoiding of the duplication of parallel responsibilities and investments in relation to the management of assets and other resources.	GoA reports EU Advisers	Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) established; Organisational changes are made
Increased collaboration between structures that exercise their activity on the blue border, including joint control and Search and Rescue (SAR) and coastal monitoring capabilities making effective and integrated use of State Assets	The functioning of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre, operating under Civilian control in line with the Ohrid Commitments Better coordination with foreign maritime administrations in the field of maritime surveillance	GoA reports EU Advisers	Political and financial Commitment from GoA
An effective command control and monitoring system for all blue border policing operations developed	A Command Control and Monitoring Centre(s) established for the Blue Border Police, adequately linked and co-located with the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) Full real-time access for the Border Police through the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC) to the newly	GoA reports EU Advisers	

	operational Ministry of Defence Coastal Radar System, allowing the Border Police to make use of the relevant functionality of the system.		
Clear policies and doctrine developed on the type of equipment and craft required to police the blue border and the associated support functions (maintenance, training etc)	The existence of a Policy & Doctrine Document on the procurement and usage of Blue Border Vessels	GoA reports EU Advisers	
Effective budgetary systems adopted, allowing sustainable development of blue border activities and maximum utilisation of craft.	Budgetary systems in place that allow for sustainability of blue border activities and maximum utilisation of craft including sufficient provision in the state budget for fuel etc.	GoA reports EU Advisers ASP Reports	Financial Commitment from ASP
20 appropriate new craft provided for the Border Police and related support	Delivery of water craft to the Border Police in line with policies development of clear policies on the type of equipment and craft required to police the blue border and the associated support functions (maintenance, training etc)	GoA reports EU Advisers EU Contracts	
Improved standards of marine safety and professionalism by Border Police staff and related agencies	A structured training program for all Border Police and officers from other Blue Border Agencies such as the Coast Guard	GoA reports EU Advisers	Availability of staff for training
Increased levels of interdiction of vessels involved in criminal activities and trafficking	An increase in prosecutions for crimes detected on the blue border	ASP crime statistics	
Contemporary technical and professional capabilities of the units operating in this sector acquired for a successful management of the institutional tasks through the usage of the technology, of the means and of the maintenance capacities.	Maintenance facilitates opened with staff trained	ASP reports	Trained staff in their positions
Activities	Means (also includes the means available under the separately funded but integrated PAMECA III Blue Border activities funded under IPA 2007 and CARDS 2006)	Costs	Assumptions
Activity 1: Establishment of a Sustainable Training Program for the Border Police, including blue border			That the GOA, and ASP fully support the project
Sub-activities - Developing the curricula of the blue borders component, including training for Coast Guard officers with regard to Judicial Police powers, Border Control duties and risk analysis, primarily through PAMECA technical assistance Renovation and equipment of training premises in Durrës and Vlora.	Border Police Department ASP Guardia De Finanza Sea Nucleus PAMECA Blue Border Adviser (CARDS 2006 & IPA 2007)	EUR 900.000 GoA funds (training premises)	That staff trained under this project remain in post for sufficient period of time.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of Trainers in Blue Border Identification - Establishing Joint Training with other Blue Border Agencies to maximise efficiency, with particular emphasis on joint training activities for Border Police and Coast Guard - Delivery of technical naval training provided by the Guardia di Finanza 	STEs under (CARDS 2006)		
Activity 2 : Strengthening of the Logistical and Maintenance Capacities			
Sub- activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical assistance to ensure the new maintenance base (to be paid for by GoA funds) is designed to modern standards and define equipment needs; - Specialist technical assistance to develop budget planning specifically for the service and maintenance of the naval vessels; - Human resource assistance to ensure that the correct technical staff with the proper qualities for the maintenance vessels are employed and retained; - Technical assistance in developing a long term maintenance program for Border Police vessels. 	GoA Funds PAMECA Blue Border Adviser (CARDS 2006 & IPA 2007) STEs under (CARDS 2006) EC Funds under this project (IPA 2009)	EUR 900.000 GoA funds (maintenance and logistics facilities)	That the ASP remains fully committed to fund the implementation of this project
Activity 3 Supply of Equipment and Works			
Sub-Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment and Furniture to equip the <u>Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC)</u> - Technical equipment to link the <u>Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC)</u> to operational blue border units by purchasing equipment for peripheral Border Police control rooms along the sea shore - 4.6 Rehabilitation of the Saranda Border Police Commissariat 	EC Funds under this project (IPA2009) STE for Needs Assessment PAMECA Blue Border Adviser (CARDS 2006 & IPA 2007) STEs under (CARDS 2006) to define equipment needs EC Funds under this project (IPA2009)	Up to EUR 800.000 (380.000 for IMOC + 420.000 for linking Border Police Units to IMOC), EC funds	All the endorsement procedures from ECD are within time.
Activity 4			
Sub-Activities Procurement of Vessels Full needs assessment for the provision of craft for the border police, taking into account the cross agency approach to blue border management equipment for the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations	STEs under (CARDS 2006) to define craft type and specs EC Funds under this project (IPA2009) GoA funds (maintenance and other running costs)	Approx EUR 3.200.000, dependent on assessment, EC funds	The procedures of tendering are completed in time

<p>Centre (IMOC), creation of technical specifications and tendering & Contracting</p> <p>Indicative Tech Specs for Vessels and Equipment:</p> <p>10 (ten) fast sea going craft 10 metres + in length, speed 50 mph</p> <p>10 (ten) sea going vessels, 4+ meters, 30 mph</p> <p>Maintenance equipment (boat hoist)</p> <p>Mobile light maintenance facility</p> <p>Maintenance and other associated costs</p>		<p>EUR 70.000</p> <p>GoA funds</p>	
---	--	------------------------------------	--

ANNEX 2 Amounts Contracted & Disbursed per quarter over the full duration of the programme

Contracted	3 rd Quarter 2009	4 th Quarter 2009	1 st Quarter 2010	2 nd Quarter 2010	3 rd Quarter 2010	4 th Quarter 2010	1 st Quarter 2011	2 nd Quarter 2011	3 rd Quarter 2011	4 th Quarter 2011	1 st Quarter 2012
Contract 3.1						EUR 380.000					
Contract 4.1							EUR 3.200.000				
Contract 3.2						EUR 420.000					
Cumulated						EUR 800.000	EUR 4.000.000				EUR 4.000.000
Disbursed											
Contract 3.1									EUR 380.000		
Contract 4.1											EUR 3.200.000
Contract 3.2									EUR 420.000		
Cumulated									EUR 800.000		EUR 4.000.000

ANNEX 3 Description of the institutional framework

The Albanian State Police is legally mandated to perform Border Control and Surveillance duties on behalf of the Ministry of Interior (Law on State Border Control and Surveillance, 2008), however there are overlaps with the Coast Guard, which also has a role to play in providing security on the Blue Borders (Law on Coast Guard, 2002, amended in 2007). While the ASP/BP has civilian status, the Coast Guard has military status and operates under the direct authority of the Ministry of Defence; additionally Coast Guard staffs have the qualification of judicial police officers. The Coast Guard is actually part of the Navy, and there is no clear distinction between Navy and Coast Guard personnel or assets. The two organisations are already collaborating on border patrol matters; however cooperation is not regulated and relies on informal collaboration and information sharing.

The unsolved question of task division between Border Police and Coast Guard has taken a new turn with the creation of the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (IMOC), envisaged in the Coast Guard Law. This project will operate within a clearer, renewed Institutional and Operational framework which will comply with European Partnership objectives. Should a satisfactory decision be brought forward by the Council of Ministers, an Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre will become the operational platform for cooperation on the Blue Borders of Albania. This Centre will operate according to a functional division of competencies, ensuring that Civilian Tasks such as Border Control will strictly be commanded and coordinated by the Ministry of Interior representative within the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre-IMOC, in full respect of Albania's international commitments and national legal framework.

ANNEX 4 Reference to laws, regulations and Strategic Documents

- Law nr.9251, dated 08.07.2004 “Naval Code of the Republic of Albania”;
- Law nr. 9861, dated 24.01.2008 “On State Border Control and Surveillance”;
- Law nr. 8875, dated 04.04.2002 “On the Albanian Coastal Guard”;
- Law nr.7908, dated 5.4.1995 “On fishing and aquaculture”;
- Law nr. 8449, dated 27.01.1999 “Customs Code of the Republic of Albania.”;
- Law nr.8663, dated 18.09.2000 “On the registration, classification, mode of operation and the control of the naval vessels with the carrying capacity in tons under 20 NT”.
- Draft Council of Minister's Decision on the establishment of an Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre (April 2009 Draft);
- Integrated Border Management Strategy for Albania, November 2006.

ANNEX 5 Details for EC funded contracts

As analysed in the narrative, a number of different contracts are foreseen. However, at this stage of the programming cycle it is not possible to identify them all in a precise manner. Indicatively, EC funded contracts shall cover:

Activity 1: The Establishment of a Sustainable Training Program for the Border Police, including blue border

No direct disbursement of EC project funds under this activity- however, the ongoing PAMECA project (funded under IPA 2007 and CARDS 2006 once approved) will provide for the

development of curricula and the implementation of joint training activities. Activities under this title are funded by the Government of Albania and the Italian Government (Guardia di Finanza).

Activity 2: Strengthening of the Logistic and Maintenance Capacities

No direct disbursement of EC project funds is foreseen under this activity. All costs will be borne by the Government of Albania.

Activity 3: Supply of Equipment and Works (Contracts 3.1 and 3.2)

Under this activity, at least two EC funded contracts are foreseen:

- The Supply of equipment for the Inter-Institutional Maritime Operations Centre and for the Border Police Control Rooms and Operational Units, to ensure the necessary interlinks;
- A Works contract for the rehabilitation of the Border Police Commissariat in Saranda.

The execution of the above contracts is subjected to the conditionalities to be fulfilled for 1st Quarter 2010 highlighted in the project fiche (Section 3.5 et al), and to an identification exercise to be carried out prior to initiating any procurement activity.

Activity 4: Supply of Vessels and ancillary equipment (Contract 4.1)

Under this activity, EC funds will be utilised to purchase 20 vessels plus ancillary equipment by means of a Supply contract, to enable the Border Police to fulfil its operational and legal mandate with regard to Blue Border Control and Surveillance.

The supply is subjected to the conditionalities to be fulfilled for 1st Quarter 2010 highlighted in the project fiche (Section 3.5 et al), and to an identification exercise to be carried out prior to initiating any procurement activity. Cofinancing for this activity will be provided by the Government of Albania (contract 4.2)