

Probation Service in Albania

Probation Officer: Gisela Rëmbeci



Short history of the probation system in Albania

- Probation Service was established in 2009
- The Probation Service has been successfully fulfilling the functions stipulated in the relevant law, for seven years now;
- Moreover, we have concluded additional cooperation agreements with the local government and specialised NGOs on the implementation of obligations established by the court for the alternative sentences, and on expanding the range of specialised services, necessary in the case of such alternative sentences
- **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.

The Role of the Probation Service during the phases of criminal proceedings

- Drafting evaluation reports for the prosecutor's office during the investigative phase and final charge in court
- Drafting evaluation reports for the court
- Supervising/ providing assistance for a convicted person whose imprisonment is suspended and is placed on probation
- Supervising/organizing the Community Service
- Mediating to resolve conflicts between the defendant/convicted person and the victim
- Supervising the treatment programmes for users of drugs or alcohol
- Supervising/providing assistance for released on parole
- Supervising/providing assistance for those given home detention
- Supervises other obligations imposed by the court
- Organizing/supervising the probationers sentenced to semi-liberty
- Preparing reports for the prosecutor about the non-fulfilment of the obligations

Main competencies

- Contributing to individualising sanctions and measures imposed by the legal bodies in the criminal process period.
- Executing court decisions, which impose the obligation to comply with the measures taken on convicted persons.
- Maintaining relations with the court and prosecution office to inform them on the convicted person's compliance with the measures and obligations.
- Providing support to criminally sanctioned persons to overcome certain needs they may face and potentially lead to recidivism.
- Involving the community in the monitoring and re-integration process of convicted persons, keeping them in probation.

Statistics 2009-2015

Nr.	TYPE OF ALTERNATIVE SENTENCE	2009-2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	Article 59 of the CC, Suspension	2012	1616	2166	1758	3189	4798
2	Article 59/a of the CC, Home detention	43	68	34	36	56	92
3	Article 64 of the CC, conditional release	283	206	188	147	64	84
4	Article 63 of the CC, work in public interest	214	226	214	145	694	974
5	Article 58 of the CC, Semi-freedom	0	1	0	0	0	4

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 achievements

- The Probation Service has a professional and committed staff.
- A fully functioning probation service is a tangible contribution to strengthening the rule of law, an essential objective for Albania's progress.
- The establishment of the Probation Service in Albania changed the sentencing practice by increasing the number of alternatives to custody and by avoiding social exclusion wherever possible.
- The establishment of the Probation Service has reduced both the cost and the negative effects of imprisonment.
- The Probation Service has contributed to public safety by guiding and supporting offenders and facilitating their effective reintegration into community.

Plans for the future

- Establish local probation offices in each judicial district
- Increase the number of probation officers
- Revision of pay scale and civil servant status of the probation officer
- Enhance the co-operation between Probation Service, local government and NGOs
- Promote working opportunities for former offenders, as well as drafting some programmes on resettlement of offenders and aftercare.

Plans for the future

- Amending the Law on the Execution of Criminal Decisions
- Including in the Criminal Procedures Code the procedural role of the Probation service
- Revision of the functioning of the functions of the prosecutor in the Criminal Procedures Code
- Organize more training seminars for Probation Office staff, and for judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers
- Organize more roundtables with judges, prosecutors, prison staff, and police on probation service issues



**THANK YOU FOR THE
ATTENTION**