



**NATIONAL COORDINATOR AGAINST CORRUPTION**

# **MONITORING REPORT FOR JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2019**

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## **INTER-SECTORAL STRATEGY AGAINST CORRUPTION 2015 – 2020**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AASCA	Agency of the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets
NAIS	National Agency of Information Society
NFA	National Food Authority
ACSS	Agency for Civil Society Support
PPA	Public Procurement Agency
AARD	Agency for Agricultural and Rural Development
GDSP	General Directorate of State Police
HIDAACI	High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflict of Interests
CRIPDP	Commissioner for the Right to Information and Personal Data Protection
NCAC	National Coordinator against Corruption
HSA	High State Audit
CEC	Central Elections Commission
MESY	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MEFA	Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
MFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
GPO	General Prosecutor's Office
AP	Action Plan
ISAC	Inter-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption
SPAK	Special Anti-Corruption Unit
SIAC	Service for Internal Affairs and Complaints

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON THE INTER-SECTORAL STRATEGY AGAINST CORRUPTION 2015-2020 AND ITS ACTION PLAN 2018-2020, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2019**

Corruption is a threat to democracy, good governance, and fair competition, sustainable economic, social and political development of a country.

It seriously impedes economic growth, creating a system of inequality, prejudice and nepotism, undermining people's trust in their state, therefore the fight against corruption is presently one of the primary challenges of any state with a democratic culture, vision and high integrity.

The government has and will firmly continue to have unshaken will in the fight against corruption through preventive actions, punitive measures and public awareness raising activities.

The priority of the government in the field of combating corruption best corresponds to the conditions set by the European Union to open negotiations for membership in the EU. The fight against corruption is one of the five policies Albania is advised to follow with priority in the country's European integration process. Likewise, the prevention and punishment of corruption is an obligation deriving from the accession of Albania to international instruments for the fight against corruption such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Council of Europe Criminal Convention against Corruption, the Council of Europe Civil Convention against Corruption etc.

Since 2015, Albania has been pursuing and implementing the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption. The 2015-2020 vision of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption is: "Albanian institutions with a high level of transparency and integrity, enjoying the trust of citizens and guaranteeing quality and non-corrupt service".

The major goals of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption are prevention, punishment and public awareness / education about corruption. These goals are long-term and extend over time throughout the implementation of the strategy and action plan.

The Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption covers a period of 6 years, as it envisages the objectives and the relevant measures to be implemented to meet these objectives in accordance with the deadlines detailed in the Anti-Corruption Action Plan. The Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption, being a crosscutting strategy, is based on the principle of coordination between institutions in order to achieve the objectives included in the NSDI by implementing a systematic and integrated approach.

An annual review of the Action Plan for the Strategy implementation was carried out by the National Coordinator against Corruption, in order to allow the adaptation of the Strategy to the new realities and sector-based priorities.

This Action Plan has undergone a comprehensive consultation process with the participation of key stakeholders, who play an important role in the fight against corruption, including state administration institutions at central and local level and independent institutions, international organizations and partners, civil society etc.

In drafting this document, the changes that have taken place as a result of reforms such as Justice Reform and Territorial Administrative Reform have been taken into account and reflected.

With a view of drafting this document, initially by the National Coordinator against Corruption, an assessment of the development of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption was conducted, the Action Plan 2015-2017 of

this strategy was analyzed, and the problems faced by institutions for the implementation of measures set out in this action plan, were analyzed.

This Action Plan is fully in line with the Albanian government's program, which has set out in the chapter on fight against corruption: the intensification of the fight against corruption; analyzing the existing legislation and proposing legal acts to avoid opportunities on engaging in corrupt practices the public and private sector; undertaking legal initiatives and supporting the implementation of measures that encourage people who denounce corruption; implementation of legislation and undertaking new initiatives regarding the publication of official documents and the transparency of administrative procedures; increasing the responsibility of public officials in the performance of their duties; removing any actual politic impact for the exchange of favors and influence between the executive and the judicial system; a broad and significant involvement of civil society, private and academic sector in the drafting, implementation and monitoring of legal acts, strategies and anti-corruption programs.

A key role in the process of drafting Action Plan 2018-2020 is also attributed to the Passport of Indicators of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption, through which measurable indicators of the realization of the objectives of this strategy have been determined.

By Decision of Council of Ministers No. 241, dated 20.04.2018, was approved the Action Plan 2018-2020 for the implementation of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption 2015-2020, the Passport of Indicators, the establishment, functioning and duties of the Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the ISAC and the Inter-Institutional Anti-Corruption Task Force.

The establishment of the Inter-Institutional Anti-Corruption Task Force, responsible for inter-institutional inspections under the Action Plan of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption, is chaired by the Minister of Justice, National Coordinator against Corruption and is composed of representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, Public Procurement Agency and Central Inspectorate.

The Coordinating Committee is chaired by the Minister of Justice and consists of 10 members at the level of Deputy Minister from each Line Ministry (excluding 2 Ministries without portfolio).

## **II. MONITORING METHODOLOGY**

Pursuant to the Prime Minister's Order no. 166 dated 05.10.2017 "On approval of the structure and organigramme of the Ministry of Justice", at the Ministry of Justice is established the Monitoring, Implementation of Priorities and Statistics Sector, part of the Directorate of Policies and Strategies in the Justice Field. This sector is the responsible structure for the monitoring process and for drafting the Monitoring Reports of the Strategies.

The Directorate of Policies and Strategies in the Justice Field carries out the coordination with all responsible institutions and then drafts the monitoring report. This report covers the period from *1 January 2019 to 30 September 2019* and is drafted based on the contribution provided by all institutions involved in the Action Plan of the ISAC. The goal is to have information on the achievements of progress and challenges towards meeting the objectives of the strategy. The aim is to obtain information on the progress and challenges towards the attainment of the objectives of the strategy.

Regarding *the prevention of corruption*, the purpose of these policies is to eradicate corruption firstly from the public administration and all the state segments and mainly from institutions providing public services to citizens.

Regarding *the punishment of corruption*, law enforcement institutions, and especially the independent ones, which have an essential role in this process, should monitor the implementation of the rule of law, thus ensuring the transparency and integrity of state institutions.

Regarding *corruption awareness*, the public should participate in fighting denouncing it and being active in initiatives aimed at preventing corrupt practices.

Each institution reported on the level of implementation of each policy and activity, allocated budget, problems encountered and assessment of progress of the strategy in general. In order to monitor the implementation of the undertaken commitments, regarding the implementation of the sub-activities, the monitoring process is carried out at the objective level for the reporting period (January - September 2019).

Monitoring the Strategy consisted in two main phases:

1. Reporting by institutions through their contact points on the implementation of the measures for which they are responsible; and
2. Reporting by the NCAC on the implementation of the AP in its entirety.

The Monitoring Report has required a process consisting of 2 reporting stages for most of the institutions in order to complete and correct the required information. Extending the reporting process was necessary as reporting in the first rounds was incomplete or unclear in many of the Reporting Matrix components and a part of the institutions did not report for the period required.

Hereunder, the data for each stage have been handled and instructions were prepared with additional information that institutions had to complete for the necessary data framework. Verification of the reported data was performed partly on-line for those measures that the contact points had conducted the reporting, in order to ensure their accuracy. The statistical treatment was performed by encoding the responses based on the collected reports.

*After the preparation of the draft report*, the Ministry of Justice, in support of the monitoring process, sends the document for consultation to the reporting institutions, civil society as well as publishes the draft on the official website of the Ministry of Justice, where an electronic address is assigned for receiving comments. At the end of the consultation process, the Ministry of Justice reflects the relevant comments/suggestions on the draft monitoring report before being approved by the Coordinating Committee.

### **III. ON THE ACTION PLAN 2018 – 2020 PURSUANT TO THE INTER-SECTORAL STRATEGY AGAINST CORRUPTION.**

The new Action Plan 2018 - 2020 consists of a total of 18 objectives, of which 11 are part of the preventive approach, 4 in the repressive approach and 3 in awareness approach, as follows:

**Preventive Approach**, which aims to eradicate corruption firstly from the public administration and all state segments and mainly from institutions providing public services to citizens.

This approach marks the largest number of activities that responsible institutions are foreseen to implement throughout the period and consist of the following objectives:

- A.1 Increasing Transparency in State Activity and Improving Citizens' Access to Information;
- A.2 Increasing transparency in planning, managing and controlling public funds;
- A.3 Strengthening the electronic infrastructure of public institutions;
- A.4 Improving the treatment of corruption denunciations/reports;
- A.5 Strengthening the regime of declaration and control of assets of public officials and conflicts of interest cases;
- A.6 Strengthening the regime of controls over the financing of political parties;
- A.7 Improving the efficiency of internal audit and inspection and systematic use of risk analysis;
- A.8 Systematic use of the mechanism for identifying areas for corruption;
- A.9 Strengthening the integrity of public officials;
- A.10 Analyzing trends of corruption, effectiveness of anti-corruption measures and improving statistics related to the activity of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies;
- A.11 Articulating and adopting anti-corruption policies at the local government level.

**Repressive Approach**, is intended to ensure that law enforcement institutions and especially independent bodies, which have a key role in this process, should monitor law enforcement and rule of law, thus ensuring the transparency and integrity of state bodies. This approach consists of the following objectives:

- B.1 Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal investigations against corruption;
- B.2 Improving cooperation between law enforcement institutions in prosecution and criminal punishment of corruption;
- B.3. Review of the legal framework for the prosecution of economic and financial crime;
- B.4. Improving judicial and international police cooperation in the fight against corruption.

**Awareness Approach**, aims for the public to participate in the fight against corruption by denouncing it and being active in initiatives aimed to prevent corruptive phenomena. This approach consists of the following objectives:

- C.1 Public awareness raising and education of the general public on the consequences of corruption;
- C.2 Encouraging the public to actively use mechanisms for reporting corruption;
- C.3. Encouraging cooperation with civil society.

The performance indicators<sup>1</sup> total **37**, where 21 thereof take part in the preventive approach, 9 in the repressive approach and 7 in awareness approach. This action plan consists of a total of **97 measures**, respectively 52 measures for the preventive approach, 19 measures for the repressive approach and 26 measures for the awareness approach. The number of institutions involved in the process of drafting the Action Plan is 84 (11 ministries, 12 central level institutions, 61 Municipalities).

Pursuant to the Decision of Council of Ministers no. 241, dated 20.04.2018 "On the approval of the Action Plan 2018-2020 for the implementation of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption 2015-2020, of the Passport of Indicators, establishment, functioning and duties of the Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption 2015-2020 and the Inter-Institutional Anticorruption Task Force ", in the month of October 2019 the Ministry of Justice started the monitoring process of ISAC for the nine-month period of 2019.

The Inter-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption aims to achieve the major objectives of this strategy through the implementation of specific anti-corruption measures, in order to develop a society in which a responsible and efficient anti-corruption system is in place, capable of tangible results and to show a tendency toward maximum elimination of corruption threats, as well as the will to prevent and combat corruption. To monitor the performance of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption 2015-2020, a report has been drafted in the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan 2018-2020, which is the seventh monitoring report during 2019 and covers the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 to September 30<sup>st</sup> 2019. The monitoring report is realized with the contributions of the Anti-Corruption Contact Points. The goal is to have information on the achievements, progress and challenges to fulfill the above-mentioned objectives of the strategy, regarding the level of implementation of each measure, the allocated budget and the performance for this nine-month period.

#### **IV. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2019**

The most significant achievements for the above period of time regarding the implementation of the Action Plan 2018 – 2020 of the Inter-Sectoral Strategy against Corruption, are as follows:

##### **Preventive approach**

**Objective A 1 - Increasing transparency in state activity and improving citizens' access to information** that aims at civic participation in the complex governance process as a necessity and guarantee for maintaining the integrity of governance. On the other hand, transparency in state activity and the access of private persons (citizens and businesses) to informations held by the government is a crucial condition for their participation in public life and for the protection of their private interests.

Pursuant to Objective A.1 and based on Law 119/2014 "On the Right to Information", in the nine months the Office of the Commissioner, in cooperation with the Transparency and Anticorruption Unit, monitored the level of transparency of the Ministries. The Transparency and Anti-Corruption Unit has conducted inspections at each ministry and has made available the recommendations assigned by the Office of the Commissioner.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to achieve the planned objectives and evaluate the performance indicators, a Passport of Indicators is drafted for ISAC implementation, explaining the detailed methodology for the calculation of baseline values and targets introduced by the institutions. A more complete information can be found in the Annex attached hereto.



During the nine - month period, the Office of the Commissioner has monitored 310 thereof online. Of these, 175 public authorities have published on their official website a transparency program, 141 have published a register of requests and answers and 175 have published the contact information of the coordinator for the right to information.

The Office of the Commissioner has conducted 23 hearings and 76 inspections were carried out.

**Objective A 2 - Increasing transparency in planning, detailing, managing and controlling budget funds,** for this purpose the good governance is achieved by the collection of taxpayers' obligations and the good use of budget funds. Typically, mismanagement of budget funds is caused by the action of various corrupting factors on public institutions that use them.

The PPA (Public Procurement Agency) has already taken measures to improve the situation, which showed their outcome at the end of 2018. For the period January-September 2019, the percentage of components modified in the schedule register is 14.4%, the percentage of negotiated procedures without preliminary notice of the contract to the total procedures won at the end of the first quarter is 3%, while the percentage of the change in contracts from administered data is 0.4%.

**Objective A 3 - Strengthening the electronic infrastructure of public institutions,** that aims at improving the official website of public institutions by making them interactive, the electronic handling of complaints, the increase in the number of services provided electronically, etc., have a natural impact in the fight against corruption.

The e-Albania portal offers 598 electronic services out of which 38 documents are downloaded with full legal value electronic stamp.

During the nine - month period of 2019, NAIS (National Agency of Information Society) has identified a list of priority services that will be implemented on the e-Albania portal, for which work has begun on their development..

During January - September 2019 were added the following services:

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- b) Directorate General of Taxation;
- c) Municipality of Tirana-DPTTV;
- d) Social Security Institute;
- e) National Business Center;
- f) National Agency for Information Society.

**2,100,100** documents with electronic signatures were generated in January-September 2019 through the e-Albania module and e-Albania portal, thus reducing bureaucracy and eliminating the direct citizen-administration contact.

**211,250** users were registered on the e-Albania portal for the period in question. In total, there are over 867,000 users, who can use electronic services by reducing the physical presence at the institutions.

There are over **5.8 million** uses of portal's electronic services by citizens, businesses and administration employees.

**Objective A 4 - Improving the treatment of corruption denunciations,** aims at the co-operation of insider employees (Whistleblowers) in public and/or private institutions with law enforcement agencies, as well as the public for the successful investigation of corruption offenses.

During the nine-months of 2019, there was an increase of the number of institutions that have set up specific working groups or units for addressing citizens' complaints.

During January – September period of 2019, the number of corruption investigations generated by citizens' criminal reports to the State Police was 152 cases, in respect of which police and investigative actions were conducted and referred to the Prosecutor's Office.

**Objective A 5 - Strengthening the regime of declaration and control of public officials' assets and conflicts of interest cases**, which aims a rigorous implementation of the assets' declaration and control regime, as well as measures to prevent and identify conflicts of interest cases, which are important tools for limiting corruption.

In pursuance of this objective, the implementing company of the Ikub-INFO project, responsible for the software part of the system, has completed the process of installing database and application, for the nine-months period of 2019. Both of these operational actions were accompanied by technical assistance and training for technical staff and other system users, part of HIDAACI staff.

Iku-bINFO respective staffs and HIDAACI are performing integrated system tests analyzing each process and each module of the online filing system to private interests.

The full use of the online system for the assets' declaration will represent a decisive step forward for strengthening the regime of disclosure, transparency and effective control of public officials' assets, as well as conflicts of interest cases.

**Objective A 6 - Strengthening the regime of controls over the financing of political parties** aims at the integrity of political parties as a prerequisite for the integrity of governance and the prevention of corruption.

Regarding the activity on drafting and approving the standard financial reporting model for the calendar year, which is scheduled to be implemented in 2019, during the nine-months of this year, CAC in cooperation with NDI experts, funded by the British Embassy, has started drafting the standard model for annual reporting and will adopt the standard model for the annual financial reporting of political parties, by CEC Decision 152, dated 11.04.2019, *"On the approval of standardized formats of the audit report of funds received and spent by political parties during the calendar year, the audit report is received and funds spent by parties political election campaign and the monitoring report of the electoral campaign"*.

On June 30, 2019 elections were held for local government bodies. Electoral reform failed to make amendments to the Law on Political Parties and the Electoral Code regarding financial transparency of political parties, but the CEC addresses the OSCE / ODIHR recommendations within spaces and powers of law. A total of 36 political parties were registered as electoral subjects for the 2019 elections.

CEC appointed legal audites 34, who will perform monitoring and auditing of funds and expenditure of election campaign for the local bodies elections of 2019.

September 26 was the legal deadline for filing election campaign financial reports along with financial reports of candidates for mayor in local government units. Of the 36 political parties that participated in the elections, 19 have submitted their election campaign financial report.

*The audit of political party funds for the election campaign for the 2019 local government election is under way.*

**Objective A 7 - Improve the efficiency of internal audit and inspection and systematic use of risk analysis** as internal administrative audit and inspection often reveals structural, procedural and ethical problems which, if not eliminated, create a suitable environment for corruption.

Regarding the increase of internal audit capacities through the development of professional training organized annually, which includes issues of fraud, corruption, and through external quality assurance and necessary improvements in internal auditing, during the nine months 265 certified internal auditors were

trained by MFE, and are realized 12 external quality assessments (out of a total of 8 annual external quality assurance) were conducted.

*22 entities have been inspected since performing 9 public financial inspection missions.*

**Objective A 8 - Systematic use of corruption proofing of legislation**, since corruption is often made during the drafting of laws or bylaws. Forecast of complex procedures for obtaining a service, forecast of responsibilities and overlapping roles, forecast of long and unreasonable deadlines, etc., are just a few examples of how laws or bylaws can be a cause for corruption in different sectors of the government.

One of the foreseen activities in the strategy, which helps achieve this objective, is the control and verification (administrative investigation) of law enforcement and/or criminal report of abusive, corrupt or arbitrary practices at all public administration institutions and state agencies, where during the nine months of 2019 a large number of institutions conducted 33,163 internal controls/audits inspections, for which 450 recommendations were given, and 52 thematic and compatibility audits. During the reporting period (January - September 2019), 5,828 disciplinary, administrative and organizational measures, 4 administrative investigations and 62 criminal proceedings for the employees were granted, among which 43 persons arrested.

**Objective A 9 - Strengthening the integrity of public servants**, which aims at the fairness and integrity of individuals who are employed in the public sector as a prerequisite for preventing corruption. Under these conditions, an integrity plan will provide the conceptual framework for policies and measures to prevent violations of the integrity of public officials and to monitor the effects of measures implemented in a public institution.

Regarding this objective, the strategy envisaged in December 2018 the preparation and adoption of the Manual on the drafting of integrity plans, which would be prepared by the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator.

Regarding the Integrity Plans, for the period January-September 2019, work has begun on drafting the integrity plans of the Ministry of Justice, which will be drafted by UNDP and IDM experts, in cooperation with the technical staff of the institution.

**Objective A 10 - Analyze trends of corruption and improve statistics related to the activity of law enforcement agencies against corruption.** Corruption as a phenomenon tends to be dynamic, which means that it occurs once in one sector and once in another sector, depending on the presence of favorable conditions as the lack of transparency, the lack of dedicated mechanisms for listening the voice of interested subjects, lack of clear administrative and appeal procedures, etc. Under these conditions, the answer against corruption must also be dynamic. This dynamism is ensured through systematic analysis of corruption trends, systematic analysis of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures, analysis of consolidated government as well as of law enforcement bodies related to corruption statistics.

For the fulfillment of this objective, Ministry of Justice has proceeded with the collection, elaboration and harmonization of consolidated statistics on corruption, according to the periods specified in the relevant instructions.

**Objective A 11 – Adoption of anti-corruption policies at local government level.** This objective aims at involving local government institutions in the government's anti-corruption program by adopting the above-mentioned objectives and policies by adapting them to the specifics of local government.

Preparation of the Integrity Risk Assessment Methodology and Standard Code of Conduct. This product includes the drafting process, consultation processes, as well as revision and finalization.

During this period, the preparation of the Integrity Risk Assessment Methodology and the Standard Code of Conduct has been completed. Materials have undergone public consultation and subsequently reflect all the suggestions gathered during this consultation process.

During period January-September 2019, 4 Regional Information Meetings were organized, attended by representatives of the 61 municipalities and prefectures of the country.

*The 2018-2020 Action Plan consists of a total of 97 measures, 52 measures for the preventive approach, 19 measures for the punitive approach and 26 measures for the awareness-raising approach.*

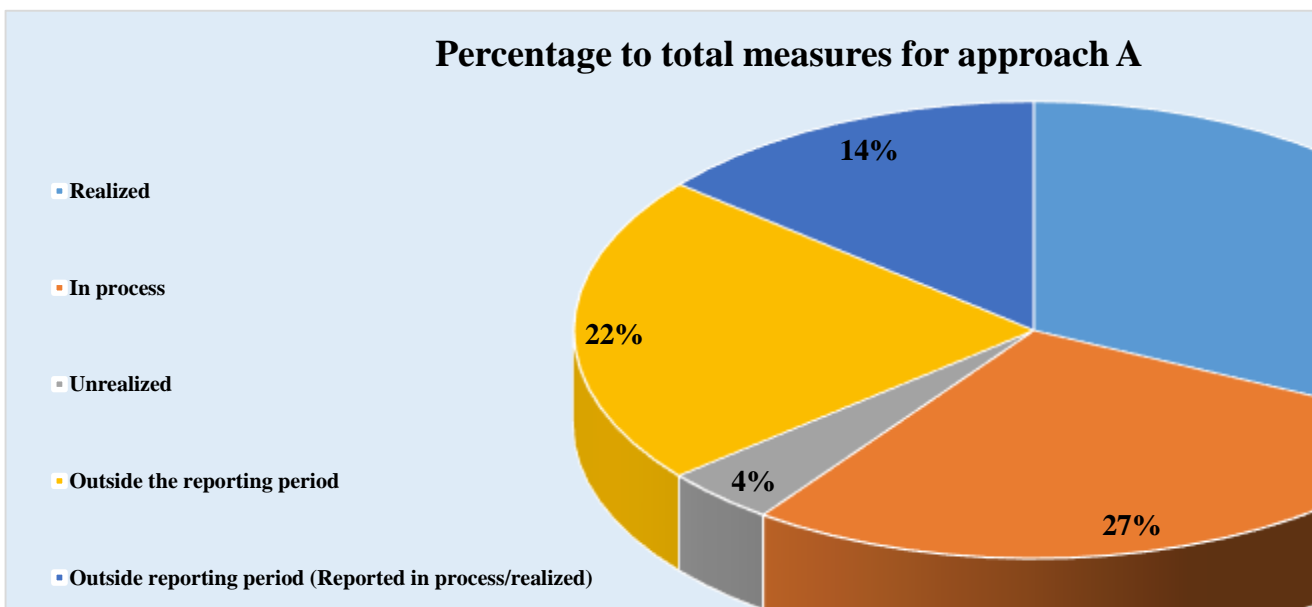
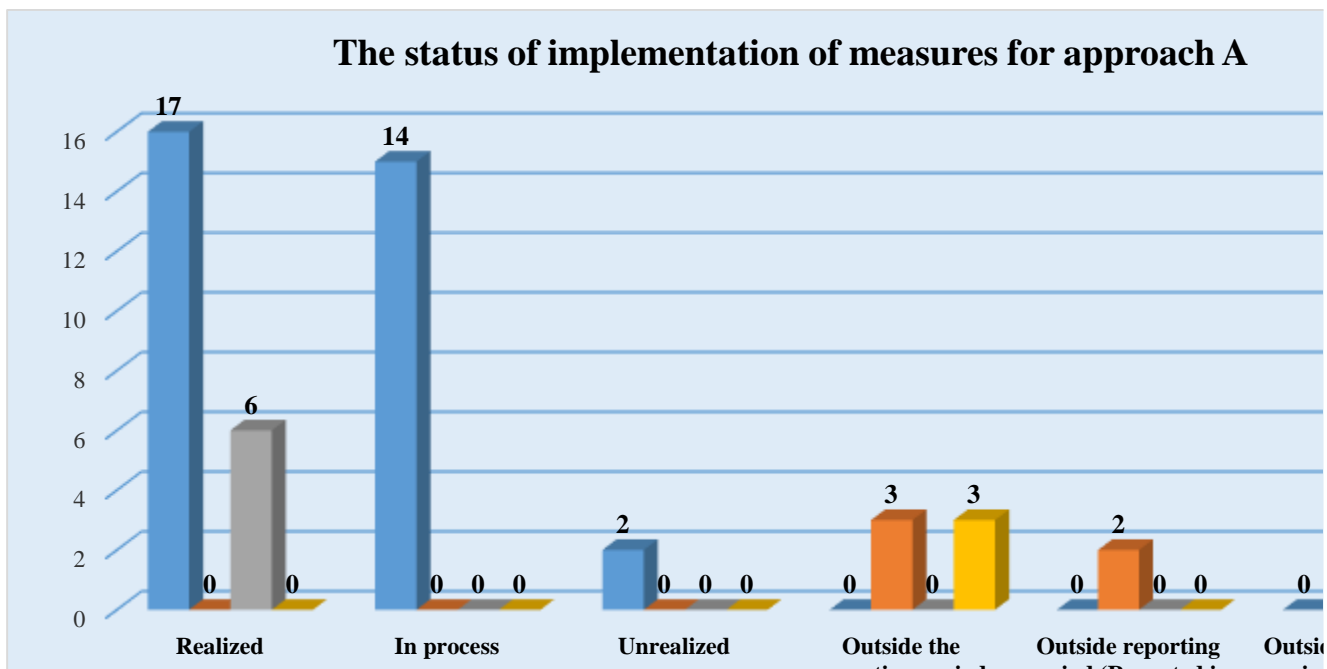
Regarding the progress achieved for the accomplishment of three strategy approaches, related to the status of implementation of the measures for January-September 2019, as well as generally for all measures of the Cross-Sectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy<sup>2</sup>, it transpires that:

Referring to January-September 2019, the progress achieved to accomplish the strategy's Approach A, the status of measures is as follows:

**Number of measures under implementation according to Approach A (Preventive)**

Measures	Realized	In process	Unrealized	Outside the reporting period	Outside reporting period (Reported in process)	Outside reporting period (Reported realized)	Total measures by status
Nine months of 2019	17	14	2	0	0	0	33
During the year 2019	0	0	0	3	2	5	10
Realized during 2018	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
During the year 2020	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
<b>Totali</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>52</b>

<sup>2</sup> Action Plan and progress for each objective will be in the annex of this report.



*For the nine-month period 2019, it follows that out of 33 measures (activities) foreseen in the Action Plan of the Strategy for Approach A (Preventive), the responsible institutions reported as follows:*

- 17 of them are realized;
- 14 are still under implementation;
- 2 measures (activities) unrealized;
- 7 measures (activities) reported by institutions in process / carried out outside the reporting period.

The total progress of implementation of the Action Plan for all the activities provided for Approach A (52 measures/activities), in percentage is as follows: 33% are realized, 27% are ongoing, 36% are out of reporting period, and 4% unrealized by institutions.

Regarding the six-month progress, the analyzed measures envisaged in the Action Plan for this reporting period (33 measures/activities), it follows that Approach A is realized **51.5%**, in process **42.5%** and **6%** unrealized by institutions.

### **Repressive approach**

**Objective B 1 – Improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal investigations against corruption**, aims a fast criminal investigation of economic and financial crime (evidences proving of these crimes are particularly prone to disappear) and capable to prove up to details two things: a) guilt and b) illicit enrichment of the suspects.

In pursuance of this objective, it is envisaged, *inter alia*, the strengthening of professional capacities through joint trainings with all law enforcement agencies involved in the fight against corruption, and the latter and the judiciary, where during January - September 2019, the School of Magistrates has conducted two anti-corruption training activities with prosecutors, specifically:

1. Corruption and domestic and international legislation in this area, corruption offenses, investigation and judgment/adjudication techniques of these criminal offenses;
2. Investigation, seizure and confiscation of criminal assets, the process of proof and conversion of the burden of proof. Innovations and changes.
3. At the invitation of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), a prosecutor participated in the anti-corruption summer school developed during the dates June 30 - July 4, in Sarajevo. The topic of the activity was “Investigation of corruption cases - innovative mechanisms and tools”.

**Objective B 2 - Improve cooperation between law enforcement institutions in criminal prosecution and criminal punishment of corruption.** While the investigation and punishment of a common crime usually involves the police, prosecution and judiciary trio, the successful economic crime investigation involves a broader range of actors such as HIDAACI, HSA, GDPML, private entities such as banks, construction firms, real estate agencies, travel agencies etc, etc. The successful cooperation between the investigative bodies and all of these entities is a prerequisite for the success of the criminal fight against corruption.

A cooperation agreement was signed between the General Prosecutor's Office and the Central Immovable Property Registration Office "On granting the right of access to the prosecutor's office to the electronic immovable property register". Interconnection has completed and users are being added. The Prosecutor General's Office and the Central Election Commission signed in March 2019, a memorandum of cooperation, for the Local Government Elections. The parties undertook in this memorandum the prioritization and investigation of criminal offenses in the field of elections where the active and passive corruption in the elections is sensitive.

State Police has provided access to databases and state electronic registers of several institutions such as the General Tax Directorate, General Customs Directorate, GDRTS, CRIP, NBC, Ministry of Finance and Economy.

**Objective B 3 - Improvement of legal framework for criminal prosecution of economic and financial crime.** The legal framework for the prosecution of corruption should respond consistently to the trends of corruption and the problems evidenced by the investigation and punishment of this form of criminality.

Pursuant to Objective B.3, by MFE are performed Koordinatrove meetings between the MD and MB in determining the legal basis for the establishment of Asset Recovery Office (ARO) and is located establishment of a working group which will solve the emerging problems. This objective has not yet been

achieved as it is expected that the working group will finalize its proposal on the legal basis for the establishment of this institution and on whom this institution should depend.

**Objective B 4 – Improvement of cooperation between judicial and international police in the fight against economic and financial crime.** Incomes from economic and financial crime are often deposited or invested abroad. State Police has cooperation agreements with Interpol and Europol as well as with counterpart structures of other countries to fight against these crimes. Based on these agreements, the law enforcement structures through the state police exchange information on a continuous basis.

In pursuance of this objective, during the nine-months, Ministry of Interior has exchanged information with counterpart agencies in the field of economic and financial crimes and corruption as follows:

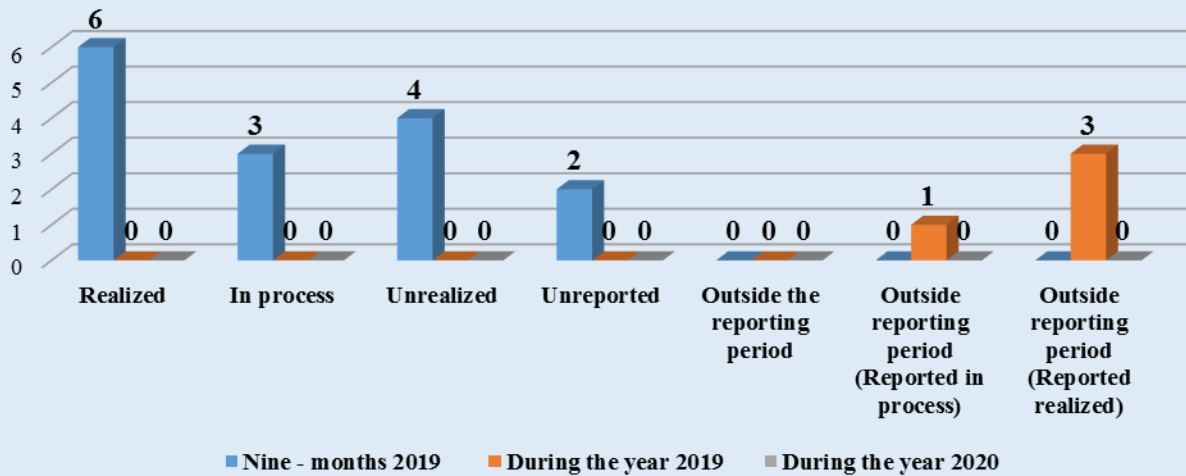
- 633 informations with Interpol;
- 330 informations with Europol;
- 7 Information, with Interforce
- 27 informations with the Offices for tracing and reclamation of criminal assets (CARIN) network;
- 68 cases of information exchange with other law enforcement agencies.

Regarding the progress achieved to accomplish the strategy's Approach B to, the status of measures for January-September 2019 is as follows:

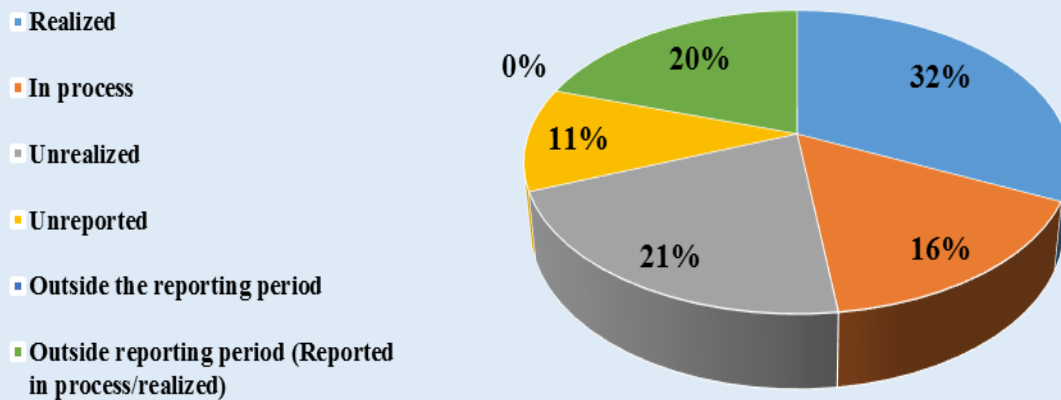
**Number of measures under implementation according to Approach B (Repressive)**

Measures	Realized	In process	Unrealized	Unreported	Outside the reporting period	Outside reporting period (Reported in process)	Outside reporting period (Reported realized)	Total measures by status
Nine - months 2019	6	3	4	2	0	0	0	15
During the year 2019	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
During the year 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totali</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>

### The status of implementation of measures for approach B



### Percentage to total measures for approach B



*For the nine-month period 2019, it follows that out of 15 measures (activities) foreseen in the Action Plan of the Strategy for Approach B (Punitive), the responsible institutions reported as follows:*

- 6 of them are realized;
- 3 are still under implementation;
- 4 measures (activities) unrealized;
- 4 measures (activities) reported in process / carried out outside the reporting period;
- 2 measures (activities) reported by institutions unreported.

Regarding the nine-month period progress, the analyzed measures envisaged in the Action Plan for this reporting period, it follows that Approach B (19 measures/ activities) is realized 32%, in process 16%, 20% are out of reporting period, 21% unrealized, and 11% unreported by institutions.

Regarding the nine-month progress, the analyzed measures envisaged in the Action Plan for this reporting period (15 measures/activities), it follows that Approach B is realized **40%**, in process **20%**, **27%** unrealized, and 13% unreported by institutions.



## *Awareness approach*

### **Objective C 1 - Awareness and education of the general public on the consequences of corruption.**

The cooperation with the public in the fight against corruption is a necessity. To ensure this cooperation, responsible institutions should sensitize the negative consequences of corruption on everyday life of each individual with the purpose: to raise public awareness of the consequences of corruption and how to denounce and treat it; to raise public awareness of transparency and the right to information; to raise public and private sector awareness for the implementation of the Law on Signaling; to raise public and officials awareness to strengthen the integrity of public officials.

The electronic system of requests and responses for the right of information is set up at every institution and provides the opportunity for every citizen to send a request / complaint electronically.

During period January-September 2019, a total of 582 complaints filed by citizens but also by civil society organizations were reviewed. Of these complaints, 417 of them were resolved through mediation, 95 were found to be outside the facility, 19 out of time and incomplete 10. Also, 12 appeals were rejected based on restrictions on the right to information in accordance with Article 17 of Law no. 119/2014 "On the Right to Information". 15 decisions were taken, of these 10 Commandments Decisions, 3 decisions which is located the fine and 2 Decisions dismissing the appeal.

For the same period the number of complaints addressed to the Commissioner's Office via the electronic register is 100 in total.

**Objective C 2 - Encouraging the public to actively use mechanisms to denounce and prevent corruption.** Encouraging the public to use mechanisms and complaints systems is one of the most effective instruments in the fight against corruption.

In view of this objective, processes in the electronic platform of co-governance have been improved, enabling the tracing and electronic labeling of suspected corruption cases.

For the period January - September 2019, the Agency for Dialogue and Co-governance has registered a total of 23,502 issues, requests, complaints and specifically complaints, which have handled 19,614. The difference is related to the ongoing complaints and cases during reporting period.

**Objective C 3 - Encouraging cooperation with civil society.** Civil society in Albania has developed high-level expertise in techniques and methods of drafting and monitoring anti-corruption measures. For this reason, involvement of civil society actors in the process of conception and, most importantly, its ability to monitor the progress in implementing anti-corruption measures by the government is very important.

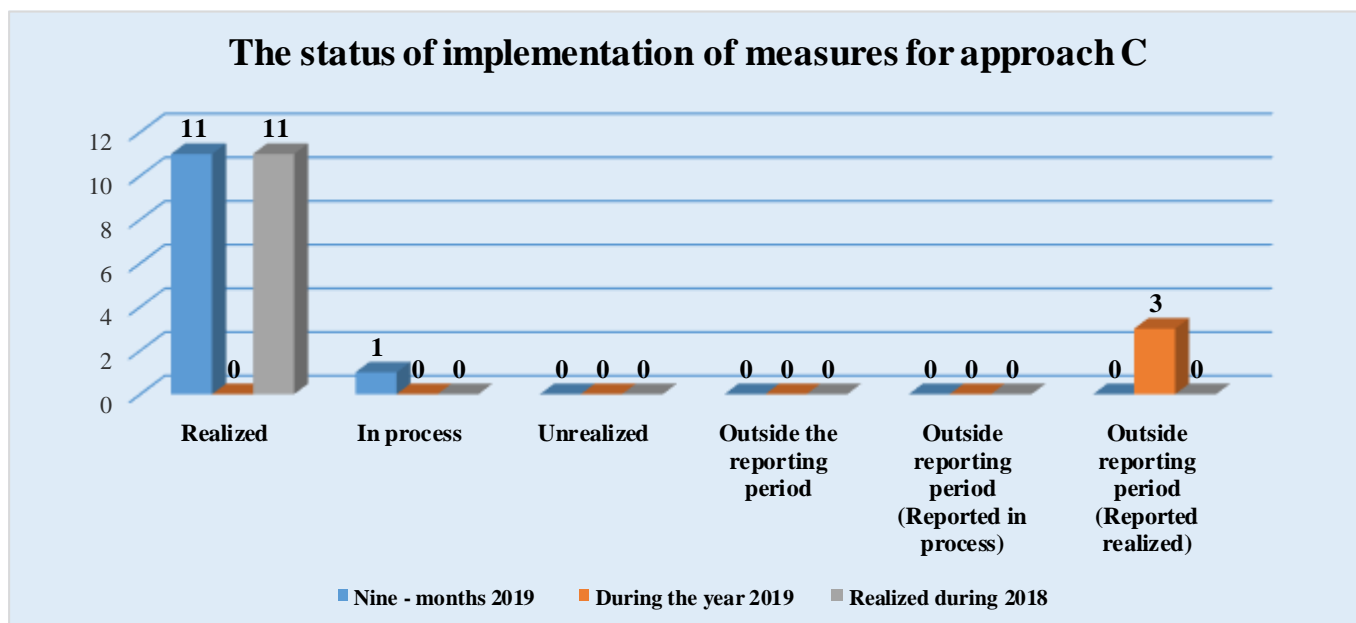
In pursuance of this objective, ACSS (Agency for Civil Society Support) has finalized the drafting of the Against Corruption Program, as part of activities within the envisaged measures. The program has integrated the notions, steps and measures taken as a whole from the Strategy but in particular with ACSS focus. Following the implementation of the measures envisaged, in the framework of the public announcement for the provision of financial assistance to civil society organizations - call 12, prioritized the fight Against Corruption. At the end of the process, this measure was fully implemented by supporting 9 (nine) organizations for projects in this field.

Also, the ASCS (Agency for Civil Society Support) will carry out their monitoring and publication of activities and products within the objective of the fight Against Corruption.

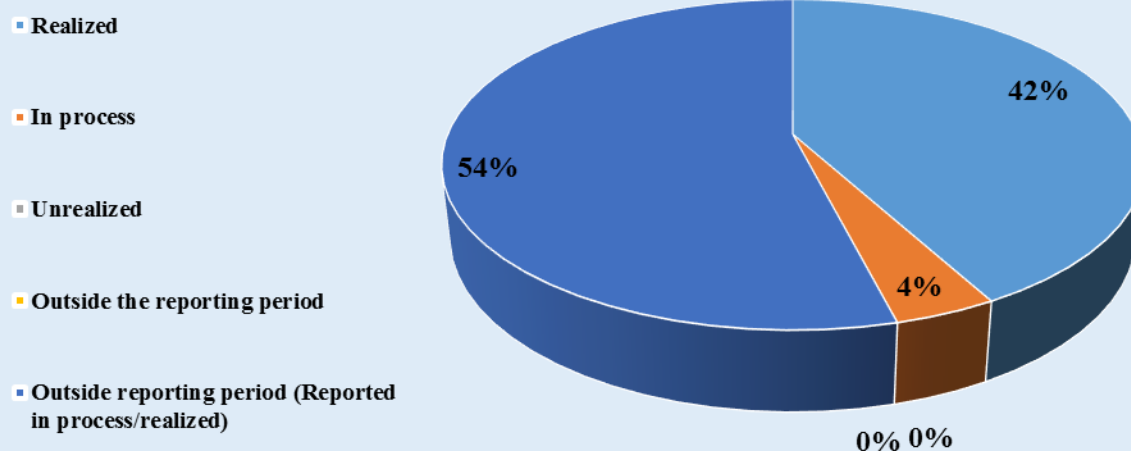
Regarding the progress achieved to accomplish the strategy's Approach C, the status of measures for January-September 2019 is as follows:

**Number of measures under implementation according to Approach C (Awareness)**

Measures	Realized	In process	Unrealized	Outside the reporting period	Outside reporting period (Reported in process)	Outside reporting period (Reported realized)	Total measures by status
Nine - months 2019	11	1	0	0	0	0	12
During the year 2019	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Realized during 2018	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
<b>Totali</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>



### Percentage to total measures for approach C



*For the nine-month period 2019, it follows that out of 12 measures (activities) foreseen in the Action Plan of the Strategy for Approach C (Awareness-raising), the responsible institutions reported as follows:*

- 11 of them are realized;
- 1 are still under implementation;

The total progress of implementation of the Action Plan for all the activities provided for Approach C (26 measures/activities), in percentage is as follows: 42% are realized, 4% are ongoing and 54% are out of reporting period.

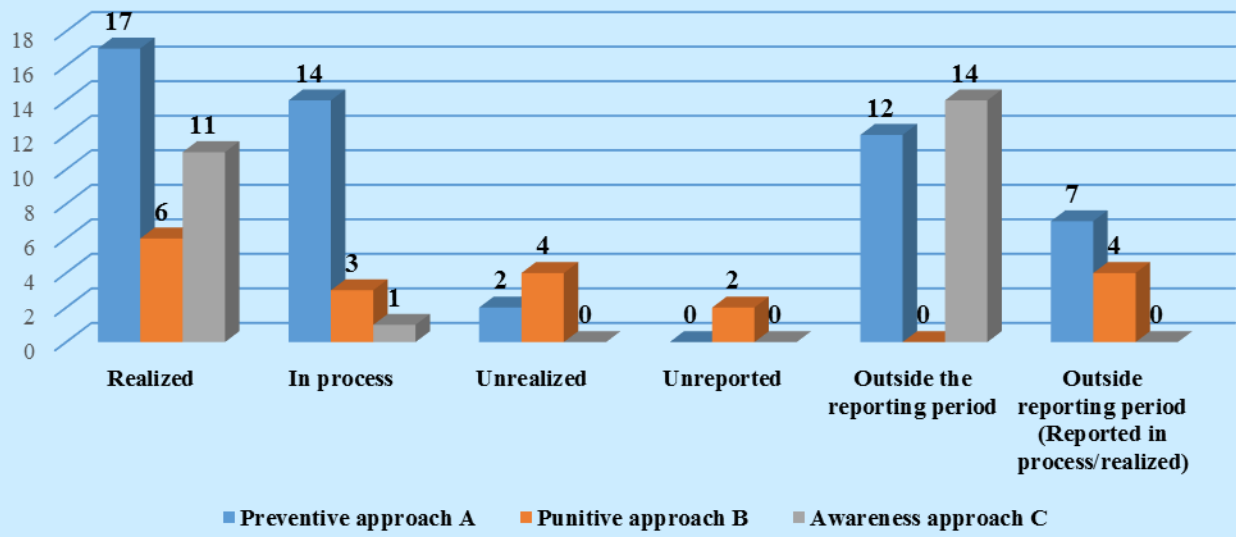
Regarding the nine-month progress, the analyzed measures envisaged in the Action Plan for this reporting period (12 measures/activities), it follows that Approach C is realized **92%** and in process **8%**.

The progress achieved in meeting the three approaches of the strategy regarding the status of implementation of measures for the period January-September 2019, as well as for all measures of the Cross-Sectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy, is as follows:

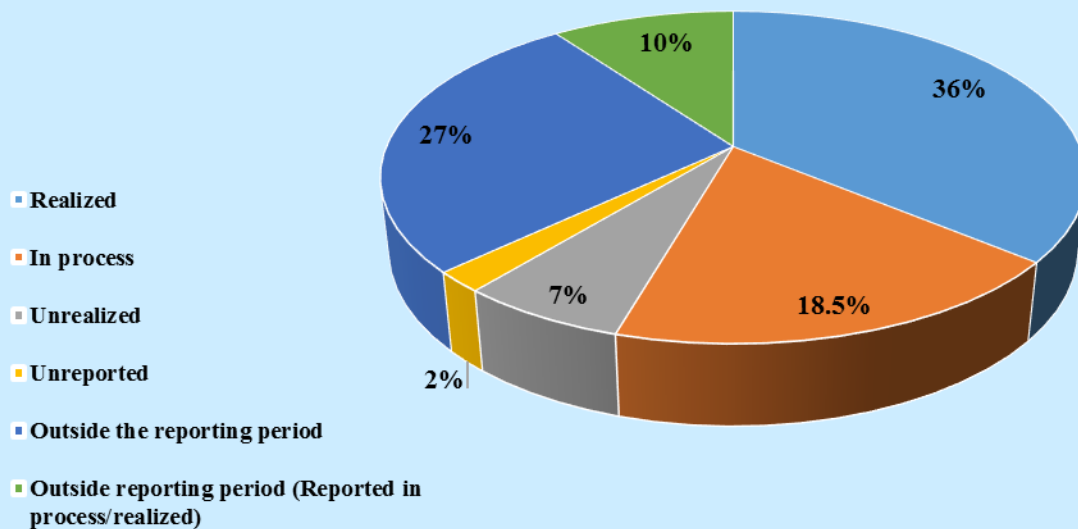
### Number of measures under implementation according to Approach A - B - C

Measures	Realized	In process	Unrealized	Unreported	Outside the reporting period	Outside reporting period (Reported in process/realized)	Total measures by status
Preventive approach <b>A</b>	17	14	2	0	12	7	52
Punitive approach <b>B</b>	6	3	4	2	0	4	19
Awareness approach <b>C</b>	11	1	0	0	14	0	26
<b>Totali</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>97</b>

### Total status of implementation of measures



### Percentage of total measures



*For the nine-month period 2019, it results that out of the 60 measures (activities) predicted in the Action Plan of the Strategy for all the approaches, the responsible institutions reported as follows:*

- 34 of them are realized;
- 18 are still under implementation;
- 6 measures (activities) unrealized;
- 2 measures (activities) unreported by institutions.



The total progress of implementation of the Action Plan for all the activities provided for Approach A-B-C (97 measures/activities), in percentage is as follows: 36% are realized, 18.5% are ongoing, 6% are unrealized by institutions and 39.5% are out of reporting period.

Regarding the nine-month progress, the analyzed measures envisaged in the Action Plan for this reporting period (60 measures/activities), it results that Approach A-B-C is realized **57%**, in process **30%**, unrealized **10%**, and unreported by institutions **3%**.

In the framework of monitoring the implementation activities of Action Plan 2018 – 2020, the responsible Institutions have been required to report on financial disbursement measures based on their performed activities. Based on the analysis of reported activities, it results that:

In the context of monitoring the implementation of the 2018-2020 Action Plan activities, the responsible institutions have been required to report on the amount of financial disbursement on the basis of the activity carried out.

The analysis of reported activities shows that:

-  ***Financing for the nine-month period of 2019 from the State Budget amount to 163,915,949 ALL.***
-  ***Financing for the nine-month period of 2019 from the donor's amount to 42,052,698 ALL.***

## **V. ISSUES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD REPORTING**

An issue for this period still remains the delay of institutions to report within the required time limit (exceeding the reporting period), which directly affect the delayed drafting of Monitoring Reports.

- Failure to send the information on financial disbursement of planned activities in ISAC (from some of the institutions), which affects the unrealistic reflection of costs for the Strategy implementation.
- During the monitoring phase, a large number of contact points has been observed, which have reported for special activities of the Action Plan, by not coordinating within the reporting Institution, therefore a comprehensive report on all respective activities of responsible Institution would be sent to the Ministry of Justice.
- Another issue is the quality of contributions that have been partly reported, by not reporting on the achievement of indicators, when often they are returned to be completed based on the requests and the Action Plan format.

## VI. CHALLENGES

In order to improve implementation and impact of the Action Plan, important monitoring challenges in the coming period consist in:

- Increasing the level of accountability and liability by the internal structures of the responsible institutions through strengthening of the inter-institutional coordination.
- Conducting the regular monitoring process, discussing the findings and approving the respective reports according to the reporting time limits foreseen in the Strategy.
- Evaluating the information with the Finance Directorates (of respective institutions) from the contact points, prior to the reporting sent to the NCAC.
- Interconnection with the process of annual and mid-term budgetary planning in order to ensure the necessary financial support by the State Budget for those measures that are foreseen to be implemented by the State Budget.
- Ensuring a comprehensive and transparent consultation process during the reporting, monitoring and reviewing of the Action Plan with the responsible institutions and interest groups.
- Regular informing and awareness raising of responsible institutions included in the AP on the importance of the constant work for the proper implementation of the AP and reporting on the implementation of activities.
- Adaptation of the sectoral approach should be taken into account even in the framework of implementing budget support. It should be associated with the parallel process of capacity building, monitoring and implementation of the Strategy. This will help to absorb and manage the technical assistance that the EU key partner will soon allocate to the institutions involved in the fight against corruption through the budget support.