

INTEGRITY ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERSHIP



for a horizontal partnership of institutions with citizens

The experience of implementing the “triangle” is based on the local context • The online meetings fully supported the need for a regulatory process for a horizontal partnership municipality-police-prosecution • The sustainability of the “triangle” can be ensured by law, through a Memorandum of Understanding, or a Municipal Council Decision, neither of these excludes the other • The beneficiaries of this partnership are institutions and citizens.



**HON. AHMED ABOUTALEB,
MAYOR OF ROTTERDAM**

- *In the Dutch model the law anticipates that the mayor is the chairperson of the “triangle”. The Chief Prosecutor, the Mayor, and the Chief of Police are the main partners of the “triangle” and this does not mean that the mayor is the leader, as the decisions are made together and depend on the case. The Municipal Council takes responsibility through the mayor and drafts projects and local legislation to help the mayor implement his role when it comes to public order in the city. He stressed that everyone is equal in that “triangle” and they can all take the initiative to invite others to the meeting.*



**H.E. GUUSJE KORTHALS
ALTES, AMBASSADOR OF THE
NETHERLANDS**

- *The meetings organised by IDM in different cities of the country enabled the representation of a common vision of the partners involved in the “triangle” and encouraged the integration of these meetings on a more structural basis.*



**MR. ERION VELIAJ,
MAYOR OF TIRANA**

- *There is a difference between experiences, as in Rotterdam the consultation meetings are determined by law. Even if the mayor, the chief of police, and the prosecutor do not like each other, they must work together. Mr. Veliaj added that this is not the case of Albania, therefore, it remains to be seen how to move from the current ad hoc collaboration to a permanent adjustment.*



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Note:

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Dr. Frank Harris, DCrimJ, MSc, Senior consultant at SPAK*, considered the work of IDM on the role of the “triangle” meetings police-municipality-prosecution excellent in the prevention of crime and public safety, which highlights the merits and obvious advantages of what Tony Blair called the ‘joined-up’ approach to tackle crime and public safety issues at the local level. **Such a policy innovation in Albania would create new avenues in tackling a range of problems, and particularly drug cultivation and use, gun crime, and countering violent extremism.** Dr. Harris was particularly supportive of the increased role of prosecutors, by encouraging their ‘lead investigator’ function under the Procedure Code.

* The Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office (SPAK) of Albania.



WHAT IS INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER?

For a horizontal partnership between institutions and citizens

During the 2018-2019 period, IDM successfully piloted the “triangle” model of consultation meetings to prevent crime and public safety. The model consists of public and periodic meetings of local government structures, State Police, and prosecutors with citizens and other important actors such as: educational institutions, various interest groups, and civil society.

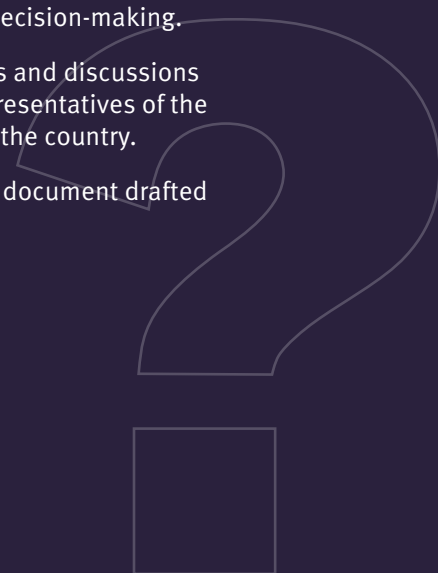
The model implemented in a third of local government units created an important experience that was supported by all actors highlighting the lack of sustainable practices, especially in fostering open partnerships between public institutions and citizens.

Although it can be said that the practice is inspired by what is known in the Netherlands as the “golden triangle”, the experience applied by IDM is entirely based on local legislation and practices. The experience so far in 19 municipalities of the country has not created any additional barriers to the institutions and the meetings have been held by them. The “triangle” consultation meetings are a novelty as they do not only rely on the tradition and the way of governing in Albania, but also to a direct effort to operationalise and increase the effectiveness of the safety infrastructure at the local level. They promote cohesion between the obligations of the municipality for better quality services for the welfare of citizens, the shared ownership of the action plan of community policing with other actors by the police, and the work of the prosecution to educate and provide legal information to society.

Throughout the IDM meetings, but also in the policy paper, the main reference is made to the strengthening and transformation process of the Local Safety Councils (LSC) into a “centre for assessing local safety priorities” for more efficient decision-making and action of institutions. Moreover, the public “triangle” meetings ensured citizens’ participation in the decision-making.

In this context, this issue of the newsletter presents a summary of the reflections and discussions of the three online consultation meetings held during June 2020 with senior representatives of the General Prosecution Office, the State Police and more than half of the mayors in the country.

The agenda of these meetings was based on the recommendations of the policy document drafted by IDM related to the experience of implementing the “triangle” in Albania.



H.E. GUUSJE KORTHALS ALTES: THE DUTCH MODEL OF THE "TRIANGLE" IS PROVING TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ALBANIA



H.E. Guusje Korthals Altes, The Ambassador of the Netherlands, during the meeting with prosecutors on the 3rd of June 2020, described the meetings held by IDM as a successful and positive contribution to crime prevention and public safety. The Ambassador shared with the participants her experience from the previous "triangle" meetings. She emphasised that during the last two years, several "triangle" meetings were organised with the citizens and they were successful at giving concrete results. The Ambassador noted that with the help of IDM, meetings were organised in different cities and enabled the representation of a common vision of the "triangle" partners.

The Ambassador brought the example of the Netherlands where "triangle" meetings between mayors, police, and prosecutors were a practice included in the legislation. The cooperative approach allowed for local priorities to be identified in the areas of public order, safety, and crime prevention, and for institutions to be in contact with the citizens. She emphasised that the experience of the Dutch "triangle" model was one of the reasons why the embassy decided to work with IDM.

During the meeting with senior representatives of the State Police on 10th June 2020, the Ambassador reflected on the positive response of the Prosecutors regarding the "triangle" consultation meetings. She emphasised that the fight against crime and ensuring public safety are not only the responsibility of the police but also of the community. At the meeting with mayors on 17th June 2020, the Ambassador considered the presence of the mayor of Rotterdam at the meeting meaningful, given that during his visit to Albania he inspired the implementation of the "triangle". The Ambassador added that these first positive experiences will encourage the integration of the "triangle" meetings on a more structural basis.

HON. AHMED ABOUTALEB: HIGHER RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED THROUGH MEETINGS WITH CITIZENS AND THE INTERACTION WITH THE MAIN PARTNERS OF THE "TRIANGLE"

The Mayor of Rotterdam, Hon. Ahmed Aboutaleb¹ was pleased to be part of the meeting and that his visit to Albania in 2017 has sparked a debate on how to organise a better safety system for citizens.

He noted during the meeting, that a certain tradition cannot be taken from one country and placed in another, given the differences in the political culture, the structure, and the division of power of each country. In this context, Hon. Aboutaleb mentioned that the "triangle" model has some advantages in the Dutch system. The first advantage relates to the fact that the Netherlands has a decentralised system of sharing power, considering that when it comes to the police and law enforcement, the best result that can be achieved at the local level is not calculated by looking at how good a prime minister or a president is, as they are too far from the ground. He added that the other advantage is that the law anticipates that the mayor is the chairperson of the "triangle". The chief prosecutor, the mayor, and the chief of police are the main partners of the "triangle" and this does not mean that the mayor is the chief, as decisions are made together and depend on the case. The third advantage is that the Municipal Council takes responsibility through the mayor and drafts projects and local legislation to help the mayor to implement his role when it comes to public order in the city. Public order is not related only to



demonstrations, but also to businesses, bars, prostitution, and drugs trafficking. The mayor of Rotterdam stressed that they have a local legislation that gives them the authority to adapt it to their work. Therefore, the best three systems are combined together to make things work. He noted that everyone is equal in the "triangle" and all partners can take the initiative to invite others to the meetings.

The mayor of Rotterdam added that if the focus is on high results, meetings should be held with the citizens in their neighbourhoods. Hon. Aboutaleb shared that in the last three months he decided to go to the most dangerous part of the city and have an office there to work one day a week. What the mayor pointed out was that the civil servants, the police, the people who clean the city, they were all involved in the process, and that created an added value. He was aware that including the "triangle" in the legal framework was still a topic of discussion in Albania, because



¹ Ahmed Aboutaleb has been the mayor of Rotterdam since 2009. He is from Morocco but moved in the Netherlands at the age of 15. He is the first mayor of a large municipality in the Netherlands to come from a family of immigrants and Muslims. He is an active supporter of freedom of thought, freedom of religion, and the principle of non-discrimination. The Guardian has described him as the "Obama of Rotterdam."

when things go wrong someone needs to be responsible and the responsibility of the authorities needs to be included in the legislation.

Hon. Aboutaleb stressed that in his view there are different types of accountability. The first is addressed to the citizens. Citizens can hold mayors accountable for their actions. The other type of accountability, which according to Hon. Aboutaleb is the highest aspect of democracy in the local context, is the Municipal Council. Even if the Mayor is directly elected by the citizens, he must be accountable towards the Municipal Council. The Parliament, which is the voice of the citizens in the Municipal Council, must hold the mayor accountable for his actions or inactions, even if the mayor

is elected. The level of trust between the Council and the mayor who chairs these meetings is important because the way to ask questions to the chief prosecutor is through the mayor. The mayor delivers the questions to the prosecutor and gives the responses to the citizens. The question remains how to make the Municipal Council in a better position to hold the mayors accountable for their decisions. The other type of accountability is the public and formal one. The mayor of Rotterdam ended his speech by emphasising that it is important for the actors of the “triangle” to have good cooperation with each other to avoid possible conflicts and misunderstandings.



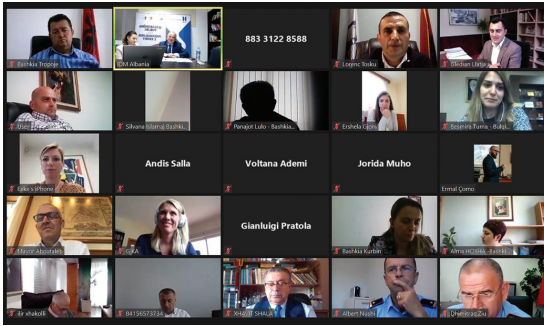
MR. ERION VELIAJ: IN ALBANIA, WE MUST MOVE FROM AN AD HOC COOPERATION TO A PERMANENT ONE



The Mayor of Tirana, Mr. Erion Veliaj thanked IDM for setting up a fantastic work and providing an overview of what is happening across the country. He mentioned that municipalities might forget to be updated on the work of each other. He stated that IDM’s work creates the basis for municipalities to do their job.

The mayor of Tirana expressed that, first, there is a difference between experiences. In Rotterdam the consultation meetings are determined by law. Even if the mayor, the chief of police, and the prosecutor do not like each other, they must work together. Mr. Veliaj added that this is not the case in Albania, so it remains to be seen how to move from the current ad hoc collaboration to a permanent adjustment. He added that they usually meet in times of crisis and when these moments pass, it might be forgotten to assess what lessons have been learned, how they can be improved in the future, and to plan a joint infrastructure.

Mr. Veliaj emphasised that one thing that is being addressed in urban planning is the establishment of police stations. He said that they are conducting an experiment by placing police stations in all administrative units, enabling the police



Online meeting with leaders of local government units, date 17 June 2020

to meet regularly with the community. He considered that having a permanent space in the neighbourhood where citizens are not called to a police space but in a community setting has proven to be very useful.



MS. VOLTANA ADEMI: A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DECISION FOR THE FORMALISATION OF THE "TRIANGLE" AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Ms. Voltana Ademi, Mayor of Shkodra, emphasised that the relationship between the actors of the "triangle" is based on good relations, however, the cooperation according to a certain protocol would be the greatest achievement of this entire process of several years, which is formalised with a normative act. Through this act, which could be a decision of the Municipal Council, would regulate institutionally the relationship of the "triangle".

She added that regardless of the interest and responsibility of the local government

on a particular issue, each concerning topic has to be on its interest. She emphasised that this does not happen in Albania, given the vertical system.

The mayor of Shkodra brought the example of the "triangle" meetings from which security cameras were placed to monitor all the city intersections of Shkodra. She noted that the Municipal Council is the local legislature for local affairs that does not belong only to the executive, but is also part of the successful implementation of everything in the city of Shkodra.

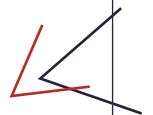


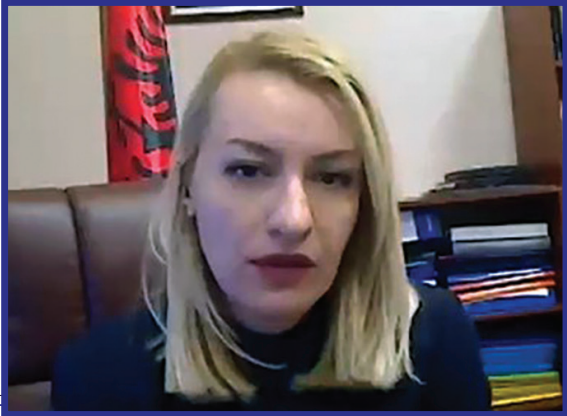
MS. ROMINA KUKO: LOCAL SAFETY COUNCILS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO CRIME PREVENTION

Ms. Romina Kuko, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs appreciated the fact that IDM was holding consultation meetings based on a concrete product that attracts all institutions with interest. She noted the importance of the "triangle" for crime prevention, and stated that the time has come to reopen the discussion on crime

prevention and to take concrete steps to create a safety net in this regard.

The Deputy Minister emphasised that the role of prosecution is crucial in creating a culture of punishment, which has been lacking, especially when it comes to protecting vulnerable groups such





as children or cases of violence against women. Ms. Kuko raised the question of how the “triangle” could provide safety. She mentioned that the Dutch system has its specifics because the mayors are not elected but appointed, the connection they have and the hierarchical aspect of the chief of police and the prosecutor have a different specificity compared to that of Albania.

Ms. Kuko suggested putting the discussion on a concrete platform such as the Local Safety Councils (LSC), which are a structure in each municipality, constituted by a decision of the Municipal Council. She noted that they need to open a discussion at LSCs to get information on what is happening in the respective territory of that municipality. LSCs should have present the mayor, the director of the local police directory, the district’s prosecutor, representatives from courts, representatives from the directorate of education, and social services.

Mr. Ferdinand Zera, Head of the Community Policing Sector in the State Police, noted that one of the priorities of the police is to increase the trust of citizens, emphasising that one of the forms of police cooperation is the partnership with the Prosecution. He stated that the “triangle” should be included in the legislation.

Ms. Kuko noted that several visits to the municipality would be organised to gather the LSCs and start a structured discussion on preventive measures. At the end of her speech, Ms. Kuko called for a more reactive approach by the police.

The vision for the future is to turn Local Safety Councils into a “center for local safety policies”. These new experiences can serve to move towards this goal:

- *The Mayor of Pogradec, after the “triangle” meeting, invited the prosecutor to the next meetings of the Local Safety Council;*
- *After the “triangle” meeting in the Municipality of Elbasan, the main challenges identified and the crime figures were involved in the discussions in the next meeting of the Local Safety Council;*
- *In the discussion of the mayor of Rotterdam published in this bulletin, many episodes find a place in the daily life of affairs and the challenges of municipalities governing in the country.*

MR. IDRIZ HAXHIAJ: THE FORMALISATION OF THE “TRIANGLE” SHOULD BE BASED ON INSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES, LEGAL AND SUBORDINATE ACTS

Mr. Idriz Haxhiaj, Director of the General Directorate of Public Policy, Public Safety and Local Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, expressed his appreciation for the IDM project and the work of the police to move the “triangle” forward. He stressed the support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for this project and for other initiatives similar to the “triangle”, which constantly contribute to the emancipation of public safety institutions.

He expressed that State Police (SP) has been one of the most active organisations, fulfilling its obligations within the local or central inter-institutional forums. He added that these forms have helped the SP in the mutual recognition of responsibilities, the division of obligations and in determining its priorities. He stressed that the emancipation of safety institutions is a necessity, but it has to do with culture, tradition and mental resistance. If the State Police is taking concrete and safe steps, the same should be aimed at the other two components, such as the prosecution and local government units. The State Police is doing its best to increase the role of the community in public safety, through the digital commissariat, with the access of the citizen to information and in cooperation with the SP, with the functioning of security officers in schools, with the involvement of elected bodies or community representatives.

Regarding local government bodies, he raised the issue of their role in crime prevention. Mr. Haxhiaj stated that the State Police is not the only institution to contribute to public safety and crime prevention. The role of local government units is as important as the one of the Ministry of Internal Affairs or the State Police. He suggested not limiting the role



Online meeting with State Police representatives, date 10 June 2020

of the “triangle” to crime prevention. He further added to the problems of fire protection, lack of public services, and their continuity in cases of natural disasters and pandemics. The community seeks services and is just as vulnerable to their absence. All of this leads to the adaptation of the “triangle” for public safety and crime prevention. Mr. Haxhiaj proposed that the “triangle” can be adapted to the constitution of Local Safety Councils and that the practices that have resulted successful should be supported by changes on the appropriate legal basis.

He emphasised that the expansion of the strategic concept and purpose of the public safety strategy has as its main objective the diversification and increase of the number

of actors in guaranteeing public safety, as the State Police alone cannot be the only authority to contribute to public safety, but it must be all the actors of the “triangle”, the schools, the road authorities, the health and many others who today play their part, must take their responsibilities. He concluded his speech by emphasising that the formalisation of the “triangle” would precede these practices by turning them into strategic concepts, institutional procedures, and supporting them with legal and sub-legal acts.

Mr. Xhavit Shala, Director of Research at the Academy of Security was skeptical about the crime statistics and their accuracy. He praised the role of Local Safety Councils as crucial to the cooperation of various institutions and noted that they should include educational directorates. He added that candidates aspiring to become mayors must also have safety issues in their election programs.

MR. BILBIL MEMA: THE “TRIANGLE” MUST BE MATERIALISED THROUGH ONGOING TRAININGS AT THE ACADEMY OF SECURITY



Dr. Bilbil Mema, The director of the Academy of Security, noted that in the moments when the society and the State Police are being transformed, it is positive that there are such approaches that have to do with the integrity and emancipation of the institutions. From this point of view, he stressed that the institution he directs should not be closed in terms of materialisation and continuity of what has been achieved so far.

The director of the Academy of Security emphasised that the experience of the “triangle” should be included in the curriculum of the Academy of Security. He described the “triangle” model as a

very important work of IDM, emphasising that the work of the police is done in the community and there is no reason to not get involved in these experiences. The director of the Academy of Security stated that despite the vertical system of the State Police in Albania, compared to the horizontal system of the Netherlands, it has the same tasks and performs them accurately.

He stressed that the police approach has changed from the previous model of national safety to the public safety, which focuses on the safety of each person. He noted that the first task of police in commissariats is to cooperate with the Municipality, as they are the elected members of the community to govern. The municipality is the institution that manages the city from all points of view, adding that all types of crime that exist are related to the way of governing and cooperating with local government. Dr. Mema expressed that the police will never be able to succeed and carry out its mission without following the approach of interaction with the community and its management.

Dr. Mema described the other segment of the “triangle”, the prosecution, which has had good cooperation with the State Police, which has been seen by the results of the crime detection. He added that the prosecution is not an executive institution such as the police. The director of the Security Academy stressed that the police are part of the executive and they have duties under the law. While the prosecution needs to cooperate with the police from the point of detecting crime. He added that the police have some problems and needs to make necessary changes, but also mentioned some

positive aspects and achievements of the State Police, emphasising that it is difficult to detect serious crimes for 48 hours, which police did detect.

He proposed that the “triangle” should be materialised by providing ongoing training in the future for students who will come to the academy. In this regard, the director of the Academy of Security pointed out that the design of three training modules on ethics and integrity are part of the official curriculum thanks to the help of IDM.



MR. SOKOL STOJANI: THIS PREVENTIVE APPROACH IS IN LINE WITH THE VISION OF THE GENERAL PROSECUTOR

Mr. Sokol Stojani, The General Director of the Institutional Coordination Directorate, the General Prosecutor’s Office, expressed his considerations regarding the organisation of this meeting and welcomed the invitation regarding the meeting on crime prevention and public safety. The aims of this initiative for a horizontal partnership of institutions with citizens are in the same approach and vision that the General Prosecutor has unveiled.

Mr. Stojani stated that the General Prosecutor does not see the institutions delivering their work separately, but they must unite their will and work together both with their partners and with the citizens. He added that in this perspective it has always been aimed not only to increase the credibility of institutions in the way they function but also to increase the credibility of these bodies before the public. Thus, organising meetings, including other non-state bodies, as well as increasing the frequency of these meetings on issues encountered at work, will increase both their responsibilities



about each other and their workplace responsibility.

Mr. Stojani emphasised that criminal prosecution and prevention are defined in the legislation for the prosecution. He added that an important part of the Prosecution is the education of public opinion regarding criminal legislation, part of this is included in the strategic plan 2018-2019 that is related to informing and educating the public. Joint meetings that can be organised either with the local government or with the State Police, in terms of public information on certain

offenses by identifying issues, causes, circumstances, make the public more interested in being informed.

Furthermore, he stressed that some disturbing criminal offenses attract the attention of public opinion such as the production and sale of narcotics or violence in any form, which are issues that should not be seen only from the perspective of criminal punishment.

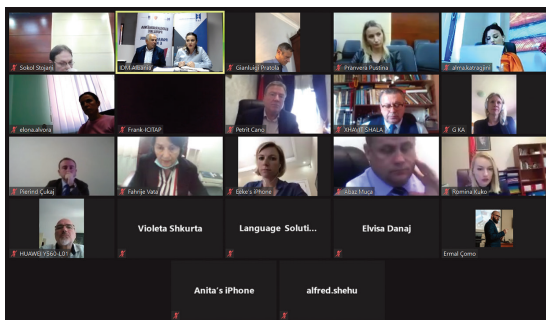
Ms. Elona Alvora, Prosecutor in the Vlora District Prosecutor's Office stated that she has identified two of the main causes of crime in Vlora. The first was related to poverty and education. The second was related to the poor awareness of citizens about the legislation. She stressed that the Local Safety Councils in Vlora cannot be a solution to various social problems.

Mr. Stojani shared with the participants of the meeting that there is no database to show who are the causes, circumstances, and factors that have influenced the increase of crime. He stressed that the vision of the General Prosecutor's Office is to modernise the statistical system to enable not only criminal prosecution institutions, government, parliament, etc. but also the academic world, citizens, civil society to conduct studies on the causes and the circumstances of the various crimes and orient the institutions

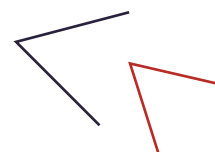
to crime prevention policies. He called for co-operation between the institutions, emphasising that they must unite their willingness and make the model more functional.

Based on the results of the studies in Kosovo and Serbia, Mr. Stojani added that the leaders of the institutions do not only represent themselves but are there as representatives of the institutions. From this point of view, a regulatory system must be established on how the relationships between the actors of the "triangle" should work. Mr. Stojani said that the cooperation to finalise the results will make the model functional by noting that the final product is very important. He shared in principle the same vision for crime prevention and increasing accountability.

He proposed the use of the term "consultation" meetings instead of "accountability" meetings because the accountability of the prosecution is done before the High Council of Prosecution and Parliament, in this perspective, the prosecutor does not formally account to the public. He explained that such meetings inform the public and suggested that they should be held no less than twice a year by emphasising that there should be flexibility for the leaders attending the meetings.



Online meeting with prosecutors, date 3 June 2020



MS. PRANVERA PUSTINA: TRUSTING THE ROLE OF THE "TRIANGLE" TO INCREASE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CITIZENS AND INTEREST GROUPS



Ms. Pranvera Pustina, Director of the Cabinet of the General Prosecutor's Office, congratulated the meeting and shared the same vision with IDM by noting that the "triangle" meetings were fruitful between representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Police and the General Prosecutor's Office.

She noted that due to the constitutional and legal definitions the prosecution intervenes at a later stage, when the crime has occurred. At that stage, it is difficult to correct the consequences and bring the parties back to the previous state, especially when the violence has consequences in the family and society. She emphasised that the Local Safety

Councils do not have a decision-making role, but if the consultation and the process of informing the community will be achieved, the future will be promising.

Ms. Farie Vata, Prosecutor at Kukës District Prosecutor's Office, shared her views on the "triangle" model. She stressed that the implementation of the "triangle" model will increase the responsibility of the public and law enforcement institutions and that the participation of the prosecution in the "triangle" will educate citizens on legislation, crime prevention and raise their awareness to report crimes.

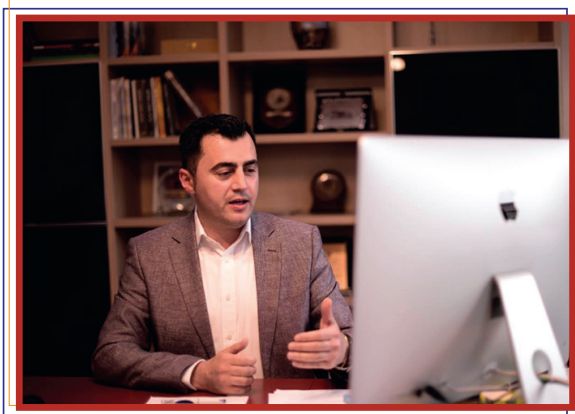
Ms. Pustina shared with the participants that the prosecution is modernising the system of statistics by making it more flexible and integrating statistics required by various state institutions, non-profit and international organisations, and to be able to generate data as needed. Ms. Pustina expressed her trust on the role of the "triangle" to increase consultation and contribute to crime prevention.

MR. GLEDIAN LLATJA: THE "TRIANGLE" MEETINGS ENABLE CITIZENS TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORK OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

The Mayor of Elbasan, Mr. Gledian Llatja thanked for the meeting and for the cooperation with IDM for organising the meetings, which he described as successful and a novelty in public accountability, as the previous meetings

were held behind closed doors. Mr. Llatja emphasised that the "triangle" meetings have enabled the citizens to get acquainted with the work done by the institutions.





Mr. Llatja noted that the Municipality of Elbasan was the first municipality to set up the Local Safety Council (LSC) having good cooperation with local institutions, religious communities, civil society, and with political parties which are part of this Council, adding that safety is one of the top priority interests of the Municipality of Elbasan. The Mayor noted that it has been challenging for the administrative staff of the Municipality to understand the importance of the Council and the public safety in particular, since it has been seen as the responsibility of the police, the prosecution or other bodies that could

deal with public safety, but it is, in fact, a direct duty of municipalities and the municipality's staff.

He noted that the institutional cooperation of branches and administrative units was a successful experience. Having together in the office the employees of the local government, the offices of State Police employees or of other institutions that deal with public order has brought a very good efficiency and cooperation, considering each other as a colleague and having daily cooperation between these local structures.

The Mayor of Elbasan emphasised that they have identified and discussed in LSCs problems of the city and the problems with the creation or replication of the same structure in the village and by dividing the city into neighbourhoods and placing there a person with similar powers to the one of community elders. He added that institutional co-operation has been effective in identifying cases and resolving issues.



MR. SOTIRAQ HRONI: PERIODIC AND PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE "TRIANGLE" MUNICIPALITY-POLICE-PROSECUTION AS A BASIS FOR BUILDING A LOCAL SAFETY AGENDA

During the meetings which were held online on June, Mr. Sotiraq Hroni, Executive Director of IDM and author of the policy document on the role of the "triangle" municipality-police-prosecution, noted that the experience of the local consultation meetings has received the support of all actors of the "triangle", institutions and other and local communities. Referring to the discussions during these meetings, Mr. Hroni noted that prosecutors have made the "triangle" more credible with their

presence and contribution. He expressed his appreciation for the vision of the General Prosecutor for the necessity of the "triangle" meetings, which serve to inform the public about the trends of crime, provide legal education to the society and contribute to crime prevention.

Also, Mr. Hroni added that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between institutions should not be considered as an act, but as the beginning of a long and conscious process based on the



development of a shared vision among institutions. This process will gradually lead to legal and regulatory regulations to make the partnership of law enforcement institutions at the local level as stable and effective as possible.

Mr. Hroni emphasised that the understanding of the philosophy and practice of community policing can be complete only if work is done to achieve a horizontal partnership of institutions at the local level. The periodic meetings of the “triangle” municipality-police-prosecution and their opening through public

consultation meetings puts the citizen at the centre of the efforts to build the local safety agenda. To explain more specifically this idea, Mr. Hroni referred to two reports of organisations from the region such as the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP) and the Kosovo Centre for Security Studies (KCSS), which have studied and monitored the work of Local Safety Councils in the respective countries. The findings reflected that the two main challenges during the implementation of the LSCs in Serbia and Kosovo were their “formal character” and “the lack of citizens’ engagement.” The public “triangle” consultation meetings reduce the formal character and at the same time involve all institutions and citizens “in building the local safety agenda”.



What are the benefits of the State Police from participating in the public “triangle” meetings or the Local Safety Council?

- Public openness and accountability towards security threats;
- It inspires cooperation and partnership with all public and non-public actors by utilising and using them to design and implement a community policing strategy. This local strategy takes public ownership and no longer remains a document in drawers;
- Follows safety issues, property conflicts or any other form, issues of domestic violence or school safety making it part of the agenda of all institutions;
- Uses periodic institutional communication with the municipal council for its benefit by influencing local decision-making;
- Uses human and financial resources of the municipality in the interest of public safety;
- Together with the local government and the prosecution, it coordinates efforts to prevent crime in schools.

POLICI

BASHKI

PROKURORI

INTEGRITET

