



MINISTRY OF INTERIORS AFFAIRS

**AAPSK**

AGENCY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
SEQUESTERED AND CONFISCATED ASSETS

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SEIZED AND CONFISCATED ASSETS

**AAPSK**

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024

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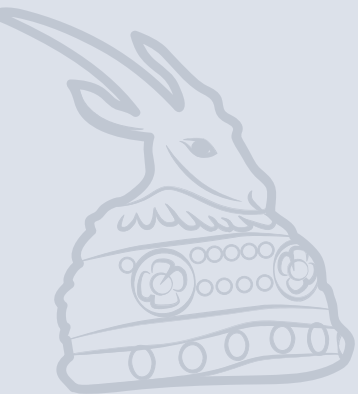
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# INTRODUCTION

This report reflects the activity and commitment of the Agency for the Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK) throughout the year 2024, in fulfillment of its legal functions and responsibilities, based on statistical data.

The annual report of AAPSK serves as a communication bridge to transparently convey information about the administration of seized and confiscated assets, as well as the extensive work of the Agency's staff, to the general public, and in particular to interested parties.

This report has been prepared in accordance with law no. 10192, dated 03.12.2009 "On the prevention and combating of organized crime and trafficking through preventive measures against property", amended by law no. 70, dated 27.04.2017 and law no. 34, dated 04.07.2019 "On the management of seized and confiscated assets", as amended. The Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets has clearly defined short-term and medium-term strategies and objectives to fully fulfill its mission and vision.

The main objective of the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK) is to increase the good management of assets by applying the best European standards. Its task is to increase the revenues from the portfolio of assets under its management and to raise public awareness about the importance of the rights and opportunities derived from the management of these assets and the revenues that come from them.

The benefits and advantages that arise from these seized or confiscated assets are driving factors for the development of the activities of independent justice bodies, providing direct benefits for vulnerable groups, for victims of human trafficking, as well as helping to establish competition in the free market, turning seized or confiscated assets into contributors to the economic growth of the country, based on the principles of "legality" and "equality".

This is the fundamental reason why it is extremely important to establish a functional and reliable national system for the management of seized and/or confiscated property by state structures, which creates a stimulating environment where businesses, industries, and individuals feel secure that their work and investment are based on a fair and strong management system. The Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK) constitutes a key link in this system, as it is the only institution that serves as a connecting structure between the justice bodies and society (businesses or individuals) for matters related to the management of seized and/or confiscated property.

The European Commission, in "Chapters 23 and 24" of the 2024 Report on the Republic of Albania, among other things stated that "Albania should further harmonize its statistics and reports with legislative institutions regarding seized and confiscated assets, as well as their market value. The expenses that these assets carry, the creation of a national registry for recording decisions (the law on the basis of which it was taken), the type of asset and the respective value."

Taking into account the recommendations of the EC report, the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets, with determination and commitment, will continue to advance the development of collaborations and negotiations with all actors and interest groups in this field, to fulfill not only its mission but also to promote the development of seized/confiscated property, for greater benefits for the country's economy and citizens.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

Dear reader, through the publication of the Annual Report of the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets, I am pleased to share with you the work and activities carried out by this institution during the year 2024.

This report is an important tool for transparency and accountability, through which the Agency I lead aims to present the results and work done during the time frame of this calendar year. The year 2024 has closed with positive results for the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets. Our challenge is to build on these results and reach an even higher level of professionalism and management.

The figures for this year are a reflection of the tireless work for raising awareness about the importance of efficient and effective management of assets under administration, not only for local actors but also for foreign actors who have shown interest in the Albanian market. I would also like to emphasize that the results are a reflection of the work of all institutions involved in the justice system, which have played a key role in successfully fulfilling our tasks.

Allow me to share with you some of the main achievements of the institution. AAPSK provides its services directly at the location of the asset. The reduction of the time for the protocol and handover of administrative acts after they have been forwarded by the prosecution, as well as their circulation within the institution even in electronic form, significantly shortened the execution time and consequently expedited the handover of seized and confiscated assets. Now all administrative acts managed or drafted at AAPSK are being digitized, and administrators or interested parties can access them in real-time, without creating a burden on the protocol/archive office.

Also, for the first time in the history of the institution, AAPSK inventory, processed, and published complete lists of all seized and confiscated assets. The assets have been published on the official website of the institution, which was created from the beginning for more interactivity, transparency, and information with the general public. The official AAPSK website is periodically updated with information, while the Agency's social networks also serve as a very good source of information, including for the assets under administration.

In the context of strengthening relationships at the national and international level, AAPSK has given special importance to collaborations with partners in the field of asset management, with the aim of strengthening cooperation according to the area of responsibility, organizing joint tables with the main focus on raising citizens' awareness about the effectiveness of the fight against corruption and organized crime, improving the management of seized property, putting these assets to work for the community, improving structures to better meet European standards, etc. The Agency has maintained open communication with international counterparts and has further strengthened relations with BAMIN member countries.



A thank you to all partner institutions, national institutions involved in the system of seized and confiscated property, and members of the inter-institutional working group of Chapter 23 (judiciary and fundamental rights) and Chapter 24 (justice, freedom, and security), representatives of the European Union Delegation in Albania, as well as the inter-institutional working group for fulfilling MONEYAL recommendations.

Gratitude to International Organizations, Partners Albania, the Council of Europe Office, GIZ, OSCE, who continuously collaborate and support the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets, being part of joint projects, as well as assisting through expertise in increasing professional capacities.

AAPSK remains open and active to contribute in the field of management of seized and confiscated assets. Our focus remains on the effective management of assets under administration, acting in the best interest of the state.

In conclusion, I thank the staff of the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets, who with dedication and perseverance managed to meet all the priorities and objectives set for the year 2024 on time, while ahead of us now is another challenging year, 2025.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Riseria Khaja". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR**

# PURPOSE OF AAPSK'S ACTIVITIES

The Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK) was established in accordance with law no. 9284, dated 30.09.2004 *“On the Prevention and Fight Against Organized Crime.”*

AAPSK is the institution responsible for the management of movable and immovable assets that are seized and/or confiscated by the judicial system or the prosecution.

On our part, we are continuously working to improve work practices in the management of assets that make up the Agency's portfolio, enriching the legal framework with acts that would bring efficiency in the management of seized/confiscated assets, by approving internal regulations, drafting manuals and catalogs of the assets that AAPSK manages, as well as proposals for legal changes regarding the procedures for the sale of confiscated assets and the use of a portion of the fund as a socio-economic contribution for the benefit of the community.

## STATUS

The activities, organization, functioning, powers, and responsibilities of the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets, as a public legal entity, budgetary, under the authority of the Minister responsible for public order and security, are regulated according to the legal provisions of law no. 10 192/2009 *“On the Prevention and Fight Against Organized Crime, Trafficking, Corruption, and Other Crimes through Preventive Measures Against Assets”* as amended, and law no. 34/2019 *“On the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets”* as amended, as well as other sub-legal acts issued in implementation of these laws.

The Agency serves as the final point of execution of judicial decisions aimed at the seizure of movable and immovable assets, until the moment of obtaining the final form of the decision, which determines the revocation or confiscation and then, as the case may be, the transfer of these assets in favor of the state. The role of the agency serves as a very important link in the entire chain of decision execution.

## MISSION

AAPSK is committed to ensuring effective management and administration of seized and confiscated assets, supporting law enforcement efforts to combat organized crime and corruption, as well as promoting transparency and accountability, to guarantee the same level of administration as the best practices of European Union countries.

### **This includes:**

- » **The preservation and maintenance** of assets to guarantee their value;
- » **The conversion of assets** into public revenue or their use for beneficial purposes;
- » **Support for the justice system** to combat organized crime and corruption;
- » **Inclusiveness** to be a driving force for the development and promotion of projects that bring efficiency and effectiveness to management processes.



# FOCUS

The main focus of the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK) is the effective and transparent management of assets that have been seized or confiscated under the law. This management consists of:

- » **Ensuring** that the value of the assets does not degrade;
- » **The strategic and legal use** of these assets in order to contribute to public financing or for beneficial purposes;
- » **Support for the justice system** to ensure that assets are used in accordance with the law and ethical standards;
- » **Ensuring transparency** to give the public confidence that these assets are managed fairly and efficiently.

The focus of AAPSK is the improvement of the functioning of the electronic registry of data for seized/confiscated assets, with the aim of generating statistical data for all institutions and the general public. This system serves as a tool to ensure complete transparency over all assets under management. An important aspect of AAPSK's work is also the conversion of assets into public revenue, which has two objectives:

- » **The fight against organized crime**, by removing illegal profits.
- » **Increasing the financial contribution to the state budget**, which affects the support of social or economic projects.

# OBJECTIVES

The Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK) has as its main objective the management of seized and confiscated assets in accordance with the applicable legislation.

**This includes:**

- » Proper management of assets to increase their financial value;
- » Implementation of legal procedures for the management of assets;
- » Ensuring transparency and efficiency in the use of public funds;
- » Providing recommendations for improving the management process.

**Among the other objectives of the Agency are also:**

- » Strengthening cooperation relations at the national and international level, with the aim of applying successful models regarding projects with social impact, increasing support for independent justice institutions, as well as further improving asset management;
- » Successfully overcoming challenges and implementing the "National Strategy for the Fight Against Human Trafficking 2024-2025", specifically through supporting victims of human trafficking and increasing community awareness through awareness campaign

## STATISTICAL DATA ON ASSETS UNDER AAPSK MANAGEMENT

Below is the table of data on the number of assets under AAPSK management, divided into seized and confiscated assets, material evidence, and bank accounts as of 31.12.2024:

Assets/Material Evidence according to court decisions		
No.	Description	Total
1	Assets/ Material Evidence according to decisions	2,562
2	Assets/ Material Evidence received for custody	1799
3	Assets/ Material Evidence not received for custody	763

Assets/Material evidence under AAPSK management until 31.12.2024:

Assets under the management of AAPSK		
No.	Description	Total
1	Seized	1060
2	Confiscated	434
3	Material Evidence	228
4	Accounts/monetary amounts confiscated deposited in dedicated accounts of AAPSK	77
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1799</b>

Assets/Material evidence under AAPSK management by type until 31.12.2024:

Assets under the management of AAPSK by type				
No.	Category	Description	Status	Total
1	Real estate	Apartments/Buildings/Objects/Parking/ Garage	Seized	356
			Confiscated	278
		Land/Field/Forest/Pasture	Seized	90
			Confiscated	105
2	Movable property	Vehicles/Motor vehicles/Movable assets	Seized	125
			Confiscated	31
3	Commercial entities (Natural/Legal person)		Seized	104
			Confiscated	20
4	Bank accounts/Monetary amounts		Seized	385
			Confiscated	77
5		Material Evidence	Seized/ Confiscated	228
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1799</b>

## Assets taken under management by type during the year 2024:

Assets under the management of AAPSK by type				
No.	Category	Description	Status	Total
1	Real estate	Apartments/Buildings/Objects	Seized	127
			Confiscated	97
		Land/Field/Woods/Pastures	Seized	28
			Confiscated	10
2	Movable property	Vehicles/Motor vehicles/Movable assets	Seized	63
			Confiscated	12
3	Commercial entities (Natural/Juridical person)		Seized	57
			Confiscated	2
4	Bank accounts/Monetary amounts		Seized	277
			Confiscated	26
5		Material evidence	Seized/ Confiscated	113
TOTAL				812

## Assets not yet handed over:

For the assets and material evidence that have not yet been handed over to AAPSK according to court decisions mainly, the following issues have been encountered:

- » For residential properties, mainly in these premises live family members who do not have other homes to live in;
- » For motor vehicles, their location has not been identified and they have been declared wanted by the police;
- » For commercial entities, it is not possible to identify their headquarters and the place of activity, as they have no activity and are listed with a passive status in the National Business Center;

The total number of assets not yet handed over is 763 assets/material evidence.

## THE SECTOR OF ECONOMIC – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS

### Revenues

The total revenue from rents for **the year 2024 is 159,139,500 lek**. In 2024, AAPSK managed 282 seized/confiscated assets given for rent and from the collection of rents, it collected **159,139,500** or 80% of the total revenues of the Agency. In 2023, AAPSK rented out 198 seized/confiscated assets and from the collection of rents collected 78,902,024 lek. Compared to the same period last year, the increase in revenue from rented assets is (+80,237,476) lek, or 97% more than a year ago. This indicator is quite significant regarding the

improvement of asset management and the enhancement of AAPSK's financial indicators. All seized and confiscated assets have been published for rent, but requests for rental have been limited in some cases and for certain assets there has been no expression of interest, also due to the specifics that some of the seized and confiscated assets have.

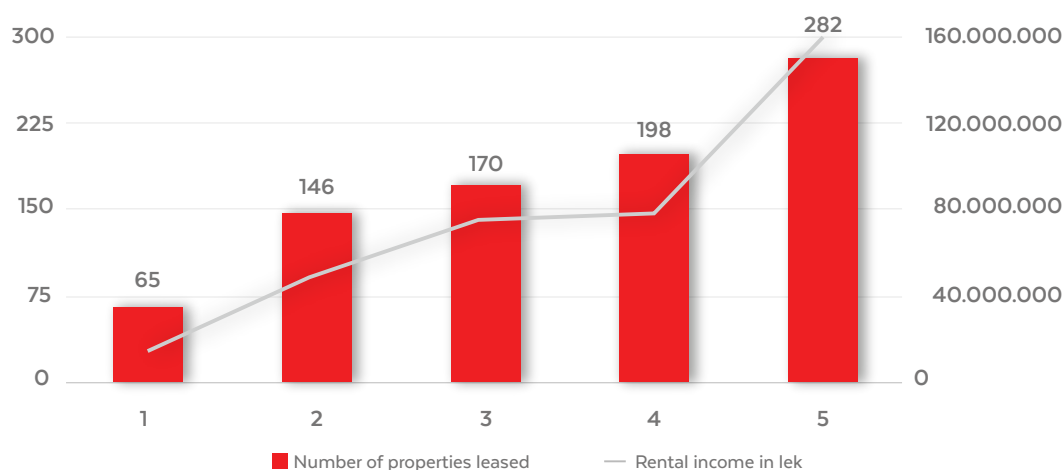
The table below shows the number of assets rented out for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024:

Properties given for rent and income over the years		
Years	Number of properties given for rent	Income from rents in Lek
2020	65	15,376,893
2021	146	50,336,224
2022	170	74,981,046
<b>2023</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>78,902,024</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>159,139,500</b>

The increase in rental income has been ensured through the increased engagement of the Agency's staff and administrators, through occasional publications of assets on the official AAPSK website, as well as increasing the interactivity of the Agency and communication channels on social media.

The number of properties rented out over the years and the value obtained from them is graphically presented as follows:

### Number of assets and income generated from them over the years



### Seized bank accounts

Seized bank accounts have been in the form of current accounts and deposits. In every case, a clear investment policy for these assets has been followed.

During the year 2024, a total of \$4,053, £27,250, 160 Swiss Francs, and €255,158 were seized by court order as material evidence. Also during this year, €24,050 and 11,463,831 Lek were confiscated as material evidence. The aforementioned monetary values have been transferred to the bank accounts of AAPSK under the title "Income and expenses from seized/confiscated assets," according to the respective currencies.

The status of deposit accounts as of **31.12.2024**, according to foreign currencies and in Lek, is presented in the table below.

6-month deposit in Euro	6-month deposit in USD	Deposit in Lek	Deposit in GBP
5,474,757	200,521	28,316,500	153,540
10,469,854	0	0	0
59,922	0	250,207	0
8,455,203	0	0	0
24,459,736	200,521	28,566,707	153,540

During the year 2024, the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets renewed 6-month bank deposit contracts with two banks for the deposit of the respective amounts of €10,469,854 and €8,455,203.

AAPSK has negotiated with second-tier banks to obtain preferential interest rates for all deposits, securing in one case an interest rate of 4%, while in another the interest rate is 4.2%, always for the 6-month term. The amounts earned from bank interest during the fiscal year 2024 have been recapitalized and reinvested in deposits, awaiting final court decisions on the seized assets.

Based on law no. 34/2019, as amended, “On the management of seized and confiscated assets,” for the proper administration and the most efficient, effective, and economical use of seized and confiscated assets, AAPSK, closely following market developments, has deposited these amounts in euros from current accounts into 6-month term deposits, with favorable interest rates.

The confiscation fund as of 31.12.2024 by currency type is presented in the table below:

No.	Designation	Confiscation fund in Lek	Confiscation fund in Euro	Confiscation fund in dollars (USD)
1	Confiscated values in Lek, account at the Treasury Branch, Tirana	26,603,120		
2	Confiscated values in Euro account in commercial banks		2,300,000	
3	Confiscated values in Dollars, account in commercial banks			69,000
4	Values created from the sale of properties in the years 2023-2024, located in accounts and deposits, part of the confiscation fund	30,000,000		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>56,603,120</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>69,000</b>

## Income by source of creation

Income by source of creation is provided in the table below:

No.	Designation	Value in Lek	Value in %
1	Income from renting out Seized/Confiscated properties	<b>159,135,500</b>	80%
2	Income from expropriation of properties by decision of the Municipal Council, as compensation for confiscated property by court decision	25,411,182	12.8%
3	Income from maintaining expenses incurred over the years for properties sold at auction in 2023. (According to point no. 28 of decision no. 888, dated 11.11.2020)	10,637,911	5.36%
4	Income from maintaining expenses incurred for the administration of properties at the time of revocation of properties	3,169,139	1.84%
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>198,353,732</b>	<b>100%</b>

As can be seen from the table, the main source of income is from the rental of properties and the income generated from expropriation by decision of the Tirana Municipal Council for assets confiscated by court order.

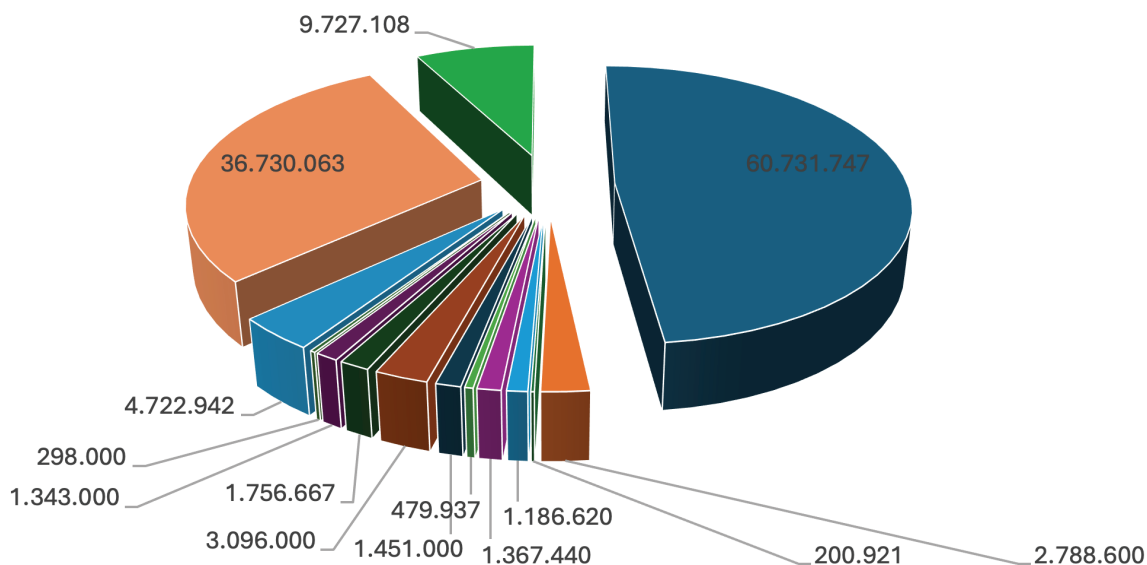
## Expenses

The analytical expenses are provided in the table below. The expenses are categorized by type, and their allocation has been made in relation to the nature of the expense, in accordance with the proper administration of the property.

Table of analytical expenses

No.	Designation	Value in Lek 2023	Value in Lek 2024	Value in +/- deviations
1	Service of guarding seized/confiscated objects	42,710,442	60,731,747	+18,021,305
2	Expenses for property insurance (ZTE)	1,634,365.0	2,788,600	+1,154,235
3	Expenses for parking space payment, institution vehicles	0	270,000	+270,000
4	Expenses for vehicle repair	598,108	440,000	-158,108
5	Expenses for electricity + water for the rented warehouse of AAPSK	353,291	200,921	-152,370
6	Expenses for towing	1,031,800.0	618,200	-413,600
7	Oil	2,958,921	1,186,620	-2,156,521
8	Diet	802,400	1,367,440	+565,040
9	Expenses for analysis of seized oil	30,000	30,000	0
10	Expenses for measuring the state of oil in the vessel (seized object)	96,000	0	-96,000
11	Chancellor	247,573	479,937	+232,364
12	Expenses for payments to ASHK (Payment fee according to VKM for services rendered to AAPSK)	1,199,200	1,451,000	+ 251,800
13	Rent payment for AAPSK warehouse	3,096,000	3,096,000	0
14	Rent payment for "Container storage area"	0	200,000	+ 200,000
15	Rent payment for seized livestock barn	0	1,756,667	+ 1,756,667
16	Payment for members of the Inter-institutional Steering Committee	1,377,000	1,343,000	- 34,000
17	Expenses for payments to external experts for the valuation of confiscated properties sent for sale.	781,000.0	70,000	-711,000
18	Expenses for payments to external experts for the valuation of seized properties, electronic systems (inventories)	0	298,000	+298,000
19	Expenses for payments to external topographic experts	1,841,000	98,000	-1,743,000
20	Local tax	851,765	686,580	-165,185
21	Bank commissions	180,200	173,800	-6,400
22	Fee payment for opening court decisions	0	20,550	+20,550
23	Withholding tax on rented properties and tax for compensation of members of the Inter-institutional Steering Committee	3,191,103	4,722,942	+1,531,839
24	Salaries + Social insurance	25,386,963	36,730,063	+11,343,100
25	Financial assistance	425,000	80,750	-344,250
26	Expenses for DPSHTRR (Tax + Approval)	54,761	0	-54,761
27	Translation expenses	8,160	0	-8,160
28	Expenses for property maintenance	426,500	376,300	-50,200
29	Return of income from the revocation of properties		9,727,108	+9,727,108
	<b>Total</b>	<b>89,281,552</b>	<b>128,944,225</b>	<b>+ 39,662,673</b>

## Main expenses categories during 2024



Based on Instruction no. 324, dated 02.10.2020, of the Minister of Interior, “On the determination of rules, procedures for the management of revenues and limits for the execution of expenses for seized and confiscated assets,” Chapter II, “Expenses for the management of assets” point 2.2 “Expenses for physical or digital preservation,” AAPSK has taken measures for the physical preservation of seized and confiscated properties under its administration. AAPSK has been obliged to physically preserve several seized/confiscated assets, which for many reasons cannot be rented out to generate income, but only increase the costs of preserving the properties. The table shows that the main source of expenses is the costs for the preservation of seized or confiscated properties, amounting to **60,731,747 Lek or 47%** of the total expenses. Compared to the year 2023, expenses for the physical preservation of assets increased by 18,021,325 Lek. This increase is explained by the increase in the number of assets under administration, which are guarded physically by “Yllirian Guard” Sh.a.

The second main item of expenses is occupied by salaries + social and health insurance in the amount of **36,730,063 lek, or 28.4%** of the total expenses. Compared to the year 2023, expenses for salaries and insurance increased by 11,343,100 lek. This increase is justified by the increase in the number of administrators, due to the increase in the number of assets under management.

During the year 2024, the withholding tax (15%) was paid on time in the amount of 4,722,942 lek, generated from the income from rented properties and the tax on the commission payments received by the members of the Interinstitutional Committee for Measures Against Organized Crime.

For the proper functioning of AAPSK’s activity, a rented warehouse is also used, in which a part of the seized movable assets is deposited, mainly vehicles and material evidence within the framework of the implementation of Normative Act no.1 dated 31.01.2020 and court decisions. The annual rent value for the warehouse is 3,096,000 lek. In the context of managing material evidence based on court decisions or prosecutor’s orders, during the year 2024, AAPSK has also rented spaces for the storage of material evidence such as “Livestock Stable”, “container storage area” and this has led to an increase in expenses, amounting to 1,956,667 lek.

Based on law no. 34/2019, as amended, point 5, article 21, “When the revocation of the seizure is decided, AAPSK returns its equivalent value.” Thus, AAPSK has returned to the legitimate owners the income generated during the management of the rented properties, after retaining the expenses incurred during the management of the property.



During the year 2024, based on Law 34/2019, as amended, article 31, point 6, and the decisions of the Court of Appeals, all management expenses for the seized properties, which have been revoked by court decisions, have been retained. The amount collected by AAPSK for the year 2024, from retaining management expenses for the revoked properties, is **3,169,569 lek**.

Based on the amended Law 34/2019, article 31, point 6, the Instruction of the Minister of Interior no. 324, dated 02.10.2020, "On the determination of rules, procedures for the management of revenues and limits for the execution of expenses for seized and confiscated properties", chapter III, "Rules for the manner and maintenance and recording of expenses", point 3, for each revoked property, revenue and expense cards have been maintained. At the moment of revocation of properties, for each property based on the property cards maintained by the Property Administrator, expenses have been retained or revenues generated during the management of the property have been returned.

The table below reflects the returned values generated from the management of the property, as well as the expenses incurred during the management of the properties, retained by AAPSK at the moment of the revocation of the properties.

No.	Description of the action	Value in Lek	Difference in Lek +/-
1	Return of income from the revocation of rented properties	9,727,108	
2	Retention of expenses incurred during the administration of revoked properties	3,169,569	
	Difference		-6,557,539

By decision of the Interinstitutional Committee no.78, dated 23.11.2022, from the revenues generated from the sale of confiscated properties at auction by the Ministry of Finance and Economy, 125,000,000 lek have been allocated for the Agency's use for the year 2022. Of this, 83,000,000 lek have been allocated for the activity of the year 2023 to cover expenses and 42,000,000 lek for investments, for "office reconstruction and equipment purchase" for AAPSK. The realization of investments for the years 2023 and 2024 is presented as follows in the table.

## Realization of Investments for the year 2023-2024.

No.	Designation	Value in Lek with VAT	Announcement of the winner in value with VAT	Realization Value in Lek 2023 with VAT	Value in +/- Realization Value in Lek 2024 with VAT
	Total fund for investments for the year 2023	42,000,000			
1	Investment fund for office reconstruction	26,673,607	18,183,819	14,325,935.4	1,813,217
2	Office furniture AAPSK	6,823,580	5,322,000	5,322,000.0	0
3	Computer equipment, projector, etc	9,364,976	7,260,060	7,260,060	0
	Total amount of investment realization	42,000,000	30,765,879	26,907,995.40	1,813,217

The investment started in 2023 and was completed in 2024. The total value of the funds was 42,000,000 lek, while the total realization for the years 2023 and 2024 is 28,721,212.00 lek. The surplus of the funds amounts to 13,278,788.00 lek. This surplus can be used for investment purposes for the new offices of AAPSK, as these funds are inheritable.

## THE FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES SECTOR

### 1. On the monitoring of the budget for the year 2024

The total budget for the year 2024 was planned at the value of 28,797,000.0 lek and was actually realized at 20,727,880.0 lek. Below is the approved budget for this period, according to the realization of the respective items and specifically:

- » In the salary item, account 600, the approved fund at the beginning of the year was (18,783,000) lek, revised with an additional fund in July 2024 in the amount of (453,000) lek, as a result of the implementation of Decision No. 325 dated 31.05.2023. At the end of the year, the plan was **(19,236,000)** lek. The realization of the budget for this expenditure item is **14,066,059.0 lek**. The non-realization occurred because the vacant positions that AAPSK has according to the approved structure were not filled.
- » In the social insurance item, account 601, the approved fund at the beginning of the year was (3,091,000) lek, revised in July 2024 with an addition of (76,000) lek, as a result of the implementation of Decision No. 325 dated 31.05.2023. At the end of the year, the plan was **3,167,000.0 lek**. The realization of the budget for this expenditure item is **2,119,292.0 lek**. The non-realization occurred because the vacant positions that AAPSK has according to the approved structure were not filled.
- » In the operational expenses item, account 602, there have been no changes from the approved fund at the beginning of the year. The plan for the monitoring period is **(6,100,000) lek** and the realization is **(4,283,359) lek**.
- » In the special fund item, at the beginning of the year no fund was approved. With the budget revision, the special fund was increased by **295,000 lek** and was realized at the end of the year at **261,170 lek**.

## 2. Procurements for the year 2024

Based on the limits of the funds allocated to AAPSK for the year 2024, the procurement forecast register has been prepared, which has been published electronically in the APP system.

For the year 2024, the register of public procurement forecasts has been prepared where 25 (twenty-five) procedures were planned, specifically 14 purchases through small value procurement procedures, 9 small value purchases under 100,000 lek, 2 simplified open procurement procedures, framework agreements to be realized by the Central Purchasing Operator.

The forecast to be realized with the limit fund of 16,744,849.46 (sixteen million seven hundred and forty-four thousand eight hundred and forty-nine point forty-six) lek without VAT, specifically 4,370,000.00 (four million three hundred and seventy thousand) lek without VAT from the state budget and 12,374,849.46 (twelve million three hundred and seventy-four thousand eight hundred and forty-nine point forty-six) lek without VAT from the agency's revenues.

Based on these forecasts, a total of 14 (fourteen) procurement procedures have been realized by AAPSK with a realized fund of 5,635,867.46 (five million six hundred and thirty-five thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven point forty-six) lek without VAT and 2 (two) procurement procedures from OBP, specifically:

1. "Supply of fuel for vehicles 'Diesel' worth 2,717,640.0 lek with VAT."
2. "Topographic services for seized and confiscated assets for AAPSK" worth 2,374,560.0 lek with VAT.

## 3. Human resources

According to the decision of the Inter-Institutional Committee No. 59, dated 08.07.2022, the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets, since 15.11.2023, operates in the property with No. 6/24+1-N4, vol. 42, p.26 of type unit, with an area of 392.1 m<sup>2</sup> and a veranda of 114 m<sup>2</sup> at the address: Rruga e Kavajës "Kompleksi Delijorgji", Tower C, Floor 1, H 2, Tirana. This significantly improved the quality of work of the administrators and staff at AAPSK. However, the significant increase in seized and confiscated assets requires an increase in the number of administrators and assistant/administrators and consequently the improvement of the structure and organization of AAPSK.

In order to improve working conditions in the future, by decision of the Committee, the areas have been increased, where AAPSK, after completing the project, will be able to expand its working activity spaces.

Specifically:

154/23.10.2024	For the transfer of ownership of AAPSK of the unit with an area of 175 m <sup>2</sup> , Delijorgji Complex.
155/23.10.2024	For the transfer of ownership of AAPSK garage with an area of 12.5 m <sup>2</sup> , Delijorgji Complex.

In 2024, while the staffing of AAPSK has not changed, there remains a vacant position for the second half of the year, specifically the position of finance specialist (in the finance/budget/human resources sector). Although several announcements have been made for this vacant position, it has still not been filled. In 2025, improvements to the existing structure and an increase in the staffing of employees with status will be proposed, to cope with the increase in AAPSK's activities and enhance efficiency in the future. In 2024 compared to 2023, the seized and confiscated assets under administration have increased by about 70%.

At the beginning of 2024, AAPSK employed 14 administrators and 13 assistant administrators under contract with the Labor Code. During 2024, 3 administrators left and 6 others were hired, while 5 assistant administrators left and 3 others were hired. At the end of 2024, AAPSK has 17 administrators and 11 assistant administrators under contract. The increase in the number of seized and confiscated assets requires more administrators and support staff for their efficient management. This also requires a structural reorganization of AAPSK and its modernization, by recruiting specialized and suitable employees to successfully meet the ever-increasing demands of AAPSK's activities.

Based on the Order of the Chief Administrator no. 878, dated 21.11.2024 "On the inventory of seized assets and material evidence under the administration of AAPSK", a working group was established, which carried out the inventory of all assets under the administration of AAPSK.

## THE SECTOR OF RELATIONS WITH INSTITUTIONS AND LEGAL MATTERS

### 1. Court decisions and administrative orders deposited in AAPSK

During 2024, AAPSK administered 158 court decisions and administrative orders (which include several types of movable or immovable property and a significant number of assets). Specifically, these 158 court decisions and administrative orders are grouped into:

- » **28** decisions made under law no. 10192/2009 as amended;
- » **124** decisions made under the Penal Code;
- » **4** decisions under the Normative Act (OFL), no.1 dated 31.01.2020 "On preventive measures in the context of strengthening the fight against terrorism, organized crime, serious crimes, and the consolidation of public order and security";
- » **2** Revocations.

### 2. On the meetings of the Interinstitutional Committee for Measures against Organized Crime

The Interinstitutional Committee for Measures Against Organized Crime has been established and operates according to Law no. 10192, dated 03.12.2009 "On the prevention and combating of organized crime, trafficking, corruption, and other crimes, through preventive measures against assets", as amended. This committee consists of eight members, proposed respectively by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General, the minister responsible for public order issues, the minister responsible for social issues, the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets, the Chairman of the Judicial Budget Administration Office, and the representative of ASHK. Representatives of public institutions or other organizations, domestic or foreign, active in areas of interest for the implementation of this law may also be invited to participate in the committee's activities. The Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets reports to the committee at least once every three months on its activities. According to the meetings convened for 2024 of the KNEMKKO, a total of 34 decisions have been made regarding the management of seized/confiscated assets, benefiting various institutions that have previously submitted their requests to AAPSK.

## Judicial processes involving AAPSK

The legal representation of the institution when summoned as a party in court is carried out at the institutional level, through specialists from the Sector of Relations with Institutions and Legal Issues, who follow the judicial processes related to the activities of AAPSK and the judicial processes concerning “Labor Relations”. For the year 2024, 22 cases have been addressed in the judicial process.

## REGULATORY INITIATIVES AND INCREASED TRANSPARENCY

As part of the regulation of labor relations and the organization of the institution, in 2024, the internal regulation “On the organization of work and the internal functioning of the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets” was drafted. The regulation was approved by Minister’s Order no. 1, dated 07.01.2025.

### This document regulates:

- » the labor relations among the staff according to the organizational structure of AAPSK;
- » the duties, responsibilities, and the manner of managing the assets;
- » administrative procedures;
- » general rules;
- » disciplinary measures;
- » official documents, their drafting, and correspondences;
- » entry-exit in the agency and security measures.

The Code of Ethics has also been drafted and approved, according to the Order of the Chief Administrator no. 763 dated 15.11.2024 “On the approval of the Code of Ethics of AAPSK.”

For the first time, after inventorying all assets and a substantial amount of work, the drafting and publication of **the first catalog of confiscated real estate that AAPSK manages has been realized**. This catalog has contributed to increasing transparency and accountability on the part of the Agency. The catalog contains a detailed list of confiscated assets with a final court decision, including complete information on type, area, location, and their current status. The main purpose of this publication is to ensure full information for the public and interested parties regarding the process of managing confiscated assets.

Additionally, **AAPSK has finalized in March 2025 the drafting and publication of the catalog for seized assets**. The catalog is available in an online version on the official AAPSK website, which has also been designed from the beginning to provide more information and transparency for the media and the public.

The initiative for drafting and publishing two catalogs was undertaken by the Chief Administrator of AAPSK, Ms. Risená Xhaja, who from the very first days in office requested a complete inventory of all assets and the realization of two separate publications for confiscated and seized assets. All asset administrators were engaged in drafting the two publications to carry out the necessary updates, with photos or additional documentation, to have a complete overview of these real estate assets.

AAPSK will continue to publish a series of materials in 2025, including manuals of work practices in AAPSK, which will serve as guides for all actors involved in the processes of seizing/confiscating assets. These manuals will not only serve the staff of AAPSK but also other institutions, the absence of which over the years has led to deficiencies in how assets should be received and managed according to court decisions.

## OTHER PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT SOCIETY

1. “KE BUONO”, a project by the ENGIM foundation.
2. “KINFOLK COFFEE LIBRARY”, a project by the Albanian Educational Foundation.
3. “OUR LAND”, a project by ANRD and the EU.
4. Rehabilitation and social empowerment of trafficking victims through integration and employment.
5. Empowerment of the social and economic position of trafficking victims.
6. The use of confiscated assets in service of the community.
7. Support for police structures with maritime and land resources.
8. Identifying the needs of children with disabilities, providing electronic devices to assist learning and meet their specific needs.

“KeBuono” is a social pastry shop that operates in a property confiscated from organized crime in Fier. It offers a variety of pastry products, as well as a series of integrative activities with children, adolescents, students, women, and parents, aiming to create a culture of legality and against violence among youth. Training and Professional Skills Development are offered to young people who are former convicts or families of current prisoners facing difficult socio-economic living conditions.



Through the combination of various and diverse elements such as addressing social conflict, employing vulnerable individuals, and promoting values and rights within the community, “KeBuono” has contributed to overcoming doubts about the reuse of assets confiscated from organized crime in Fier.

### Some of the achieved results:

- » Four (4) women and girls at risk or victims of crime in the socio-economic life of the community are employed;
- » Sixteen (16) young people have been qualified through Training and Professional Skills Development, of which 7 young people are employed;
- » Collaboration with nine (9) schools and centers in Fier has contributed to involving over 700 children in integrative activities; 1000 young people are informed about social issues with the aim of creating a culture of legality and absence of violence among youth;
- » Four (4) awareness campaigns were organized to promote Roma culture, prevent abuse of alcohol and drugs, including individuals with personal needs, as well as to raise awareness about gender-based violence.



**“Café Library KinFolk”** is an initiative aimed at transforming the assets confiscated from organized crime in the city of Durrës into a suitable and friendly environment for young people, their families, and citizens, engaging them in social, cultural, and educational activities. The project targets youth, involving them in social and cultural activities that keep them away from illegal activities and the world of crime.



“Café Library KinFolk” is a multicultural center that offers a wide range of activities such as training, acting courses, reading while having coffee, discussion groups, chess courses, language courses, summer and winter schools, etc.

#### **Results after one year of project implementation:**

- » A comfortable environment in which young people can work, interact, and learn regularly;
- » Four (4) young people employed;
- » Over 150 young people and students participate and engage in educational, artistic, and cultural activities.

As part of the project **“Our Land”** funded by the European Union and implemented by COSV Albania, Adad Malore is implementing a community initiative focused on the social reuse of land in Shijak. The project is titled “Social, Healthy, and Sustainable Farm” and aims to empower young people and community members on socio-economic empowerment in agriculture, increasing technical-professional capacities, and establishing a didactic farm related to citrus cultivation. In January, work was done on the farm and the plot was planted with citrus. Three types of citrus and 6 varieties were planted in the orchard; lemon (3 varieties), orange (2 varieties), and mandarin (1 variety).



Farmers from the village community and beyond in Shijak have been engaged in the work on the social farm. Along with the community engagement and farmers who have worked on the farm, training has been provided for them on the new technology for establishing citrus orchards. The planting of the citrus plot was done at optimal times, according to technical conditions and with new technology. The orchard supported by the project “Our Land” will serve as a model of new technology, not only for local producers but also in the Durrës District and beyond.

**“MY CRAFT TRADITION”**, one of the social enterprises supported by the EU:

- » It protects and promotes cultural heritage by employing women from the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, especially those from rural areas;
- » It returns to the benefit of society, a wealth confiscated from organized crime;
- » It strengthens the image and integrity of the Agency.

The focus of this project is to support women and girls in need, while preserving our tradition with artisanal products. Through such examples, one of the main goals of the law on the administration of confiscated assets is fulfilled, which is the return to the community of assets acquired illegally.

In this context, cooperation with local government institutions, as in this case with the Municipality of Elbasan, and previously in Saranda, Fier, and Durrës, as well as with businesses, civil society organizations, and the media, is of special importance, also for the simple reason that the products of these women and girls, namely the beautiful and unique carpets they produce, need to find a market, so that such enterprises can be as successful as possible. The joint action sends a powerful message in the fight against criminal activity in Albania: Confiscated assets, no matter how large or small, can be used for a good social cause.



The **“Social Artisan Garage in Saranda (SCG Saranda)”** is a craft workshop focused on producing stone works. It is implemented in the premises of a confiscated asset in Saranda. The raw materials used for the crafts will be natural stones from the beach (multicolored, flat, rock, glass, etc.), which are painted, drilled, carved, and worked with wire, with the aim of creating various works ready for the market. The stone patterns are linked to cultural heritage and folklore, making these products unique, valuable, and competitive in the artisanal market, in order to ensure long-term income.

**Results after one year of project implementation:**

- » After an initial Training of Professional Formation and Skills, eight (8) women and girls who are victims or are at risk from organized crime methods such as human trafficking, forced prostitution, sexual abuse, and domestic violence have been employed. Training on stone craftsmanship. Saranda will serve as a platform for social activities (such as the artisan festival, exhibitions) and will be transformed into a Social Center that supports the integration of trafficking victims into the economic and social life of the city.



### “Social Service Center”

At the end of 2024, together with other institutions we were close to women and children, victims of domestic violence, conveying a message of solidarity and joint commitment to them.

Thanks to the cooperation between the two ministries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets has provided concrete support, donating various items to those in need, an initiative we aim to turn into a permanent tradition every year.

Donations continued for the children of the “Hana and Rozafa” Baby Home, bringing more warmth on special days.



### “Art and Activism Center”

Thanks to the commitment of AAPSK and cooperation with civil society organizations, this asset has been transformed into a cultural center that supports young artists, activists, and vulnerable communities.

The center serves as a platform for artistic expression and civic activism, offering training, exhibitions, and awareness-raising activities for youth and marginalized groups. This is just one of many projects being implemented by the Agency with the aim of turning confiscated properties into assets with social impact.



The Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AAPSK) continues to strengthen its role and cooperation with various actors, turning assets gained from illegal activities into concrete means for social and economic development. These assets, once symbols of illegality and criminal profits, are now being transformed into new sources of opportunity for the most needy communities in the country.

Thanks to the commitment of AAPSK and cooperation with civil society organizations, these assets have been transformed into cultural centers that support young artists, activists, and vulnerable communities.

More projects will be implemented by the Agency with the aim of returning confiscated properties into assets with social impact.

It is essential that these assets do not remain simply frozen assets, but are transformed into concrete opportunities for the community. Their social reuse contributes not only to strengthening the rule of law but also to the social and economic development of our country.

Currently, AAPSK manages dozens of confiscated properties, some of which are already allocated for use by non-profit organizations, public institutions, and social projects. Some of them have been turned into training centers for youth, spaces for community centers, shelters for victims of domestic violence, as well as social enterprises that employ people from the most vulnerable groups.

The Albanian model of managing confiscated assets is increasingly aligning with the best practices of the European Union, where this concept of 'social use' of criminal assets has become a powerful instrument for the recovery of public assets and strengthening citizens' trust in institutions.

Going forward, AAPSK has planned to expand cooperation with civil society organizations and local government to identify specific community needs and respond to them by making recovered assets available. This approach aims to strengthen social solidarity and bring tangible change to citizens' lives.

## COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT INSTITUTIONS

In December 2024, the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets received 102 containers, which were unloaded from the ship anchored at the Port of Durrës.

The entire process was carried out through a detailed action plan, also in compliance with the order of the Durrës Prosecutor's Office for the unloading and storage of 102 containers from the ship 'Moliva', in a secure location, away from populated areas, while strictly adhering to physical, environmental, and health safety conditions.

A number of institutions were involved in the action plan, where in addition to the employees of the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets, the Durrës Local Police Directorate, the Border and Migration Directorate, the Durrës Port Authority, the Durrës Port Captaincy, the Durrës Customs, the Customs Investigation Directorate, as well as the Durrës Prosecutor's Office participated in the operation.

After the containers were unloaded from the ship, they were transported under strict security measures to the final destination where they will be monitored and managed by the Agency for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets.

Every action has been recorded and documented through minutes, and the containers have been checked, scanned, and verified, from their external condition to all other security elements.

## THE INTEGRATION PROCESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

AAPSK contributes directly to the negotiation process of Albania with the European Union and is directly engaged in chapters 23 and 24, as the sole link in the management of seized and confiscated assets, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior. Joint tables and conferences continue for the drafting of the upcoming 2025 EU progress report. The Agency's staff also contributes to the drafting of statistical reports, as well as the creation of the necessary database according to the requirements of foreign experts engaged in this process.

Regarding the contribution and role of the Agency in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism, Albania completed in December 2023 the publication of the "National Risk Assessment for Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF), and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction."

Our country, from the 40 Immediate Recommendations of FATF, has implemented 37 recommendations that are broadly fulfilled and completed (LC/C), 1 recommendation was not applicable (NA) at the time of the assessment, and 2 recommendations are partially fulfilled (PC) and in the process of being addressed.

The upcoming assessment of the country by MONEYVAL will focus on two areas: effectiveness and technical compliance based on FATF methodology. Together, these two areas present an integrated analysis of the extent to which the country complies with FATF Standards and how successful it is in maintaining a strong ML/TF system, as required by FATF Recommendations.

The emphasis of any assessment is primarily on effectiveness. A country must demonstrate that, in accordance with the risks to which it is exposed, it has an effective framework to protect the financial system from abuse.

Considering the importance of this process for our country, the extraordinary level of commitment it requires from many institutions, several simulation exercises have been carried out so far for a significant portion of the Immediate Outcomes (2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11), with a primary focus on the preliminary assessment of the level of achievements or shortcomings in the respective areas.

In this process, AAPSK has contributed throughout 2024 in joint tables, developed seminars, etc. The Agency will continue with seriousness and commitment to be part of this process, for the successful completion of Albania's assessment by Moneyval.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Network of Balkan Asset Management Agencies (BAMIN) is a cooperation structure among the Agencies for the Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets in the Balkan countries and beyond. Its founding members include agencies from the Western Balkans, but the network is open to observers and associate members from around the world.

**Currently, the BAMIN Network consists of 25 Asset Management Offices:**

- » 9 with Member status,
- » 14 with Observer status and
- » 2 with Associate Status.

AAPSK is one of the member countries of BAMIN.

Since 2020, the network has received financial support from the OSCE. Also, in 2024, BAMIN was granted membership status as an “Observer” in the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN). In the activities of 2024, where AAPSK was also a part, special importance was given to the meeting held in North Macedonia in September 2024, as well as the meeting held in Brussels.

On September 17-19, the annual BAMIN meeting was held in Ohrid, North Macedonia, including the annual plenary session of BAMIN and a practical training session on the effective management of crypto-assets. A multilateral meeting was also organized in Brussels among the participating member countries in BAMIN, where AAPSK was also present, to discuss and share experiences, benefiting from the best European practices.

In the last quarter of 2024, AAPSK has drafted and agreed on the terms of a cooperation agreement with the National Agency of Ukraine (ARMA) for the identification, tracing, and management of assets derived from corruption and other crimes. The agreement is expected to be signed during 2025 and is anticipated to further strengthen AAPSK’s international cooperation with counterpart authorities, as a recommendation left by international agencies and experts, in the context of combating organized crime and exchanging best practices and experiences.

## PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CONTINUING PERIOD

Based on recent developments, for the continuing period, the Agency aims to further advance, placing emphasis on:

1. Reorganizing the internal structure, through the engagement of more qualified staff, in order to increase efficiency and good governance;
2. Deepening cooperation and coordination with public institutions;
3. Drafting standard operating procedures to cover all processes;
4. Reinventorization of assets under management and completion of the database;
5. Review of the Internal Regulation;
6. Implementation of the Transparency Strategy;
7. Reformatting reporting formats for the work of administrators;
8. Establishing international collaborations and increasing the capacities of the Agency’s staff.

Regarding projects and initiatives with social impact, the Agency’s focus will continue to be on increasing the impact on society and the most efficient use of confiscated and seized assets. In this context, AAPSK aims to:

1. Reinvesting confiscated assets in public welfare;
2. Increasing the budget of the Special Fund, by managing assets as efficiently as possible;
3. Further increasing transparency and accountability in the distribution of assets;
4. Supporting law enforcement institutions and strengthening their capacities in the fight against organized crime;
5. Redistributing confiscated products to social service institutions, with the aim of supporting children in need.







