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NATIONAL CONVENTION ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

CHAPTER 24 – JUSTICE, FREEDOM, SECURITY

Promoting scientific research and strengthening university curricula on money laundering and terrorist financing

23 June 2026, 10:00 – 11:30

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institutionalize cooperation among public institutions, universities, the private sector, and civil society organizations through the establishment of permanent mechanisms for coordination, research, and the exchange of expertise. Such cooperation would facilitate the development of evidence-based policies, strengthen professional capacities, and ensure the more active involvement of academia in the negotiation process and the implementation of the EU acquis.
- Promote scientific research and the development of empirical studies on money laundering, the confiscation of assets of criminal origin, and terrorist financing by engaging universities, master's and doctoral students, and the responsible institutions in joint research projects. The findings of these studies would contribute to the development of more effective preventive policies and to assessing the impact of existing measures.
- Review and strengthen university curricula by developing dedicated courses and programmes on money laundering, terrorist financing, and financial crime, with particular emphasis on the challenges related to emerging technologies, cryptocurrencies, digital assets, and artificial intelligence. Preparing specialists in these fields is essential to respond effectively to the evolving nature of financial crime.
- Develop joint training and specialization programmes between universities and the responsible institutions, such as the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA), SPAK, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the State Police, including open lectures, professional internships, short-term courses, and joint research projects. This would
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contribute to strengthening institutional capacities and fostering a continuous culture of knowledge exchange.

- Promote an interdisciplinary approach to the study and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing by combining legal, economic, financial, technological, and cybersecurity expertise. The complexity of modern forms of financial crime requires professionals with broad knowledge and the ability to analyse the phenomenon from different perspectives.
- Increase attention to terrorist financing through the development of specialized studies, training programmes, and inter-institutional cooperation, even though Albania is considered a country with a relatively low level of risk. A proactive approach would help ensure the early identification of risks and strengthen prevention mechanisms.
- Establish a national network of experts in the field of money laundering and terrorist financing, involving representatives from public institutions, universities, the private sector, and civil society organizations. This network could support public policymaking, European projects, scientific conferences, as well as the development of academic literature and scientific research in this field.
- Make broader use of European Union programmes and funds for research, innovation, and capacity-building by promoting partnerships among universities, public institutions, and civil society organizations. The financing of research projects and specialization programmes would contribute to the development of domestic expertise and to preparing Albania to meet EU standards in the field of combating money laundering and terrorist financing.