Drug Production and Trafficking in Albania

Abstract:
Drug trafficking is one of the most profitable illegal activities of organized crime along with human trafficking, contraband, economic crime, money laundering and constitutes one of the main financial sources of financing terrorist acts internationally. Data for the first application against drug-dependence treatment show a steady increase its even an exponential shape. Among those who use drugs on a regular basis, it appears that heroin users are in the highest proportion. Albania with its geographical position in the so-called "Balkan route" somehow favors transit and trafficking of narcotics mainly heroin. Albania is not only a transit route of illegal drugs, but it is where cultivated drugs (mostly Cannabis Indica), produced (marijuana and hashish oil), marketed locally and abused. Analyzing the situation and assess the risk efforts to combat drugs should focus mainly against the cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs by transited through Albania, and their trafficking within the country. It should be noted that it is important to note that increasing the efficiency of agencies engaged in the fight against drugs has resulted in increased quantities seized and made criminal groups seeking new ways and methods of illegal traffic. Due to the serious nature of the problems associated with drug trafficking and abuses with them, it is necessary to assess that how far competent mechanisms and institutions respond to this phenomenon.

Keywords: Drug Cultivation Areas, Transit of Illegal Drugs, Trafficking, Delivery of Controlled, Simulated Purchase, Geographical Distribution of Drugs.

1. Introduction
Narcotic substances are considered all material designations associated with psychotropic and narcotic use, possession, sale of which is prohibited by law. These subjects when taken in certain quantities affect the human nervous system, disrupting psychological and physical balance; bring social and economic destruction of people within society, a sense of dependency. By action on the person and the source from which realized, they are classified, in

- Depressive subjects (slowing action on the central nervous system), which includes natural medicines, such as opium, morphine, heroin, Foothill, and synthetic drugs, barbiturat, trankilizan, sedative, etc..

- Simultaneous (central nervous system stimulant), which includes natural medications as coca leaves, cocaine, crack, and synthetic medications, such as amphetamines, etc...

- Creative hallucination (causes lowering of the sensitivity of the senses), which includes natural medications, such as marijuana, Asrar, meskallin etc.
Also is known the use of stimulant effect of some natural chemical synthetic substances that evaporate which are called suction or organic catalyst. It summarizes the features stunning impact on the nervous system.

Drugs were initially used for curative purposes in medicine, but have since have features for improvement of humor, began to be consumed for this purpose. In this way it stimulates the desire for consumption. This feature of narcotics highlighted, especially in the second half of this century, the phenomenon of decay moral and opinion, as well as psycho-sociological social degeneration, becoming a financial source for the people, who had this purpose, and for those with criminal and terrorist purposes. To be successful in the fight against drugs, it is necessary to analyze the geographical production areas, those who submit more applications for these subjects, geographical areas connections with each other, and the factors that favor their methods.

*The geography of drugs production* - From studies on the geographical distribution of production in the world we find that cocaine production is realized in the northwest of South America like Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, etc., and then invades regions in the world. Cocaine is produced from the plant head. Cannabis plant or otherwise called the "Indian hemp", from its quality of development in every climate, more or less is worldwide produced. Cannabis is distributed in many countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. Derivatives are Cannabis Marijuana and Hashish. Opium is known as the raw material for heroin, cultivated legally in countries such as India, Japan, China, Australia, France, Spain, Hungary, Turkey and illegally in the area of so-called golden triangle Burma-Laos-Thailand golden Crescent area of Pakistan-Iran-Afghanistan, Colombia and Mexico. Production tablets synthetic material through ACETIC acid anhydride used in the production of heroin, realized mainly in countries where consumption and demand for these courses are as large as America, Western Europe, China, Russia, India etc..

Factors that favor their cultivation in these geographical areas are

- illegal wars,
- the gap of state authority,
- Volatility regimes. In these areas lack strong powers, ensuring proper border forces of law and the proper tools. In the transition period due to the impact of political, economic, social, etc., and Albania was involved in the cultivation of narcotic plant "cannabis sativa".

**2. Albania's position in narcotics trafficking**

In Albania the drug situation is worrying, because drugs is planted, distributed and trafficked. Despite occasional shocks that make the police in this regard against criminal gangs, again there is a stable tendency of planting phenomenon, and drug distribution. The drugs being distributed in many European countries, of course, the important point is our country. Obviously this gives us a bad name, but the name is worse when it is not fought. The fact that are destroyed many criminal groups and criminal drugs organizations, talks about what that police has never decreased intensity in the fight against drugs.

The main drugs are present and used in Albania are:

- **Cannabis** – Grows easily in Albania in many areas, especially in Fier, Vlora, Shkodra Tropoja. She harvested, packaged and exported crude directly to Western Europe, or sent
early in Macedonia, to be processed. Lazarat Village of Gjirokastra District produces the largest quantity of cannabis in Albania.

- **Heroin** – Are increasingly used by the citizens of our country. In many cities this is a problem that should be evaluated very seriously by the police. From the information available to the police, it appears that significant amounts of heroin smuggled into Albania. It enters from land borders Albania through roads from Turkey, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Kosovo, or through Turkey and Greece.

- **Cocaine** – Constitutes only a small percentage of drugs trafficked through Albania and entering in the country by land, sea ports and airport.

### 3. Legal framework

The Criminal Code of Albania provides these types of crimes in the narcotic:

- Manufacture and sale of narcotics (article 283)
- Narcotics trafficking (article 283/a)
- Creating facilitations for acquisition and use of drugs (article 283/b)
- The cultivation of narcotic plants (article 284)
- Organizing and leading of criminal organizations (article 284/a)
- Aid in the detection of crime (article 284/b)
- Production and fabrication of narcotic and psychotropic substances (article 284/c)
- Possession, production and transportation of chemical substances (article 285)
- Adaptation of premises for drug use (article 285/a)
- Syringe disposal or abandonment (article 285/b)
- Promote the use of drugs (article 286)

*Drug trafficking routes and methods of hiding:* Criminal groups or individuals generally use two ways to implement the trafficking of narcotics, which are: internal trafficking, which occurs within the territory of the country as required for trade and consumption, and international trafficking, which takes place outside the territory of the country or between other countries. Routes of drug trafficking are conditional on: the type of drug, production and destination country; requirements for narcotic criminal groups; risks and difficulties associated with transporting them, and the type of transport (land, air, sea). While ways of hiding drugs are the most varied, but the most important are:

- Hiding in the human body, clothing, luggage, items, and tools holding.
- Hiding in vehicles transporting, that is realized by using all facilities and a transport vehicle parts and their cargoes. In this way realized shipments in large amounts of narcotics.
- Hiding in postal deliveries, people usually use false generalities.
4. Specific measures to fight against crimes in the field of drugs

Criminal investigations are part of the mission of any police organization structures and assigned responsibilities for this purpose. Their goal is to determine that a crime has occurred, to find out who has done and brought to justice the author and present sufficient evidence. Often, the effectiveness of a police structure, department, director, station, sector or section, is measured by ability to detect offenses occurred. When the investigation of a crime is successful, creates confidence in the police community. The opposite occurs when the investigation is unsuccessful; citizens begin to lose respect and confidence in the police. Therefore, the police should be able to equilibrate many tasks, include increased safety of the community, to adhere to justice and increase public confidence. Police asked not only prevent crime but to catch and bring to justice the perpetrators of the crime.

Some of operational investigative measures against crimes in the field of drugs are:

- Telephone tapping and environmental. Competences of phone tapping are regulated by law.

Phone tapping divided into before and after the initiation of the investigation. Tapping before the court made no decision (preventive tapping) after initiation of the investigation and the decision of the Court (tapping procedural). For preventive tapping should create real doubts. It is necessary to quote some of the most important articles of the European Convention of Human Rights affected by tapping:

"1. Everyone has the right of respect, for his private life and family, his residence and correspondence.

2. A public authority can not intervene in the exercise of this right except in accordance with the law, and when in a democratic society, this measure is necessary for national security, economic well-being of the country, for the protection of the country, or for the prevention of crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of rights, freedoms of others. "

Respect for private and family life is a fundamental right that is recognized and protected in all international documents dealing with human rights. This freedom as well as any other right is protected from any arbitrary or unlawful interference by the state out of the interventions are not justified in particular on the basis of the provisions contained in the second paragraph of Article 8 of the Convention.

In order to do this freedom is declarative state also has a duty to take all necessary measures to ensure the effective enjoyment of this freedom, especially to protect it from interference by private individuals. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 222/1 states that “At the request of the prosecutor or the injured accuser, the court decision authorizing interception motivated cases permitted by law, when it is necessary to continue the investigations started and when there are sufficient proofs to prove the charge “. As shown in this article to allow tapping put some restrictions are to be told that you are a reflection of the limitations provided in the second paragraph of Article 8 of European Convention for Freedom and Human Rights.

- Technical prosecution, the use of surveillance devices, it is realized placing tools in environments with purpose of monitoring and tapping of persons. Even in this case technical tracking is done in preventive order and investigative procedural.

2 Konventa Evropiane të të Drejtave të Njeriut, Neni 8 – “E drejta për të respektuar jetën private dhe familjare”.

41
- Controlled delivery, and surveillance in procedural way of prohibited items and goods in order to find the perpetrators and to blame them.

- Stimulate buying of drug, should be controlled, both by operational standpoint and from logistics, and also to enable the discovery of large quantities of drugs, or of persons that countries that trade. To this must be provided acquisition procedures, persons who will perform, supervise officers, and at the end of reports made to correct for operational results, and tasks to be carried further.

Undercover agents are police officers, with another identity, penetrated into criminal activity, to collect evidence and proofs. In Article 294 / b of the Criminal Procedure Code is determined that “For the purpose of detecting serious crime, judicial police officer, with the authority of the prosecutor, may be included in the composition of a criminal group to be individualized and group members to collect the data necessary for the investigation, concealing his cooperation with police or his duty as a police officer”.³ Activity of police officers infiltrate in the criminal organization can be defined as an activity of judicial police officers, equipped with a false identity, to act under the control of a supervisor.

The duty of the police officer is to observe and record all of his supervisors, in connection with the criminal organization and its structure. But it must be said that in any moment the main issue and the responsibility of the judicial police officer who has the task of infiltration is security. Infiltration of judicial police officers in the composition of a criminal group is a potential source to provide more qualitative evidence and therefore accepted and managed risks that accompany this operation. In national procedural law among others determined that: “Judicial police officer for the purpose of detecting serious crime can enter into the composition of a criminal group for the members of the group and individualized to collect the data necessary for the investigation”⁴. So obviously, the two main tasks of the undercover police officer, first: individualization of members of the criminal group, and secondly, to gather evidence necessary for the investigation. It should be considered methods of making and recording these more qualitative evidences.

- Confiscation of property. Organized crime, especially drug trafficking, brings great benefits to legal and non-legal way. People need to verify the source of profit. Those who fail to demonstrate the source of profit are confiscated property. These are realized in a legal way.

5. Statistical data of the fight against drug trafficking:

Below we present statistical data for the period 2005 - 2012, concerning: the case of Cannabis sativa cultivation.; destroyed Cannabis plants; Sequestered Heroin in Italy transited through Albania, cocaine seized in the transit through Albania.

³ Article 294 / b of Criminal Procedure Code

⁴ Article 294 / b of Criminal Procedure Code ,1.
Referring to statistical data from official sources, show that from year to year in cannabis cultivation cases have been declining. From 2005 to 2012 cases of cultivation has dropped by about 66%. Besides this positive indicator is the indicator of the number of arrests authors offense of cultivation of narcotic drugs which is increasing from year to year. This added as a result of the intensification of work and control over the territory of the fight against narcotics trafficking.

According to the General Prosecution of Albania sources show that in 2011 the specific weight, occupying offenses, "Crime in the customs area" for which registered 240 criminal proceedings, is 1.21%, specific weight, that this group of offenses for voice 2011 is 3.21% (percent) for 2010 is 3.27% (percent) of the total number of recorded criminal proceedings on a national scale. So there is a decrease in this indicator for 2011 compared to 2010.

In connection with the defendant for this group of offenses, from the statistics according to the General Prosecution of Albania shows that during 2011 a total of 865 defendants were under investigation and in 2010 in total have been 721 defendants in the investigation.

So even in this indicator it increased by 0.16% (percent) of the defendants in the investigation in 2011 compared to 2010. Turns out that the statistical data according to the General Prosecution of Albania in 2011 was charged in court for 486 defendants, and in 2010 has been indicted in the court 447 defendant.

On the line of logical number of detection cases of cannabis comes destruction of cannabis plants. As a result of the actions of the State Police for destruction of cannabis plants, shows that from 2005 to 2012 has continued to work regularly for the destruction of cannabis plants. The number of plants destroyed every year, has been in decline as a result of reducing the number of cases of cultivation of cannabis plants.
Thanks to its geographical position, most often times put Albania as transit country for the trafficking of narcotics destined for Western Europe. Many cases of drugs seized in Italy have as a transitional Albania, as a result of geographic proximity. From 2005 to 2012 the amount of heroin seized in Italy, the transited through Albania has been in decline.

**Graphic Nr.2, Destroyed cannabis plants 2005-2012 (Number)**

Source: Department of International Cooperation and Coordination - ILICU, General Directorate Albanian State Policy

If we would compare the quantity of seized heroin and cocaine between Italy, the transited through Albania, will be significant changes amongst them. The quantity of heroin sequestrated in Italy that transited through Albania is in much larger quantities than cocaine.

Cases and quantity of cocaine confiscation in Italy, transited through Albania are very few.

Cocaine Prises in street
6. Conclusions

The fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian state, because constitutes a high risk to our citizens and the potential impact on the integration process into the European Union.

Improvements in criminal law, policy tightening aimed offenses connected with the growth of criminal drug traffickers, but confiscation of assets derived from criminal activity. A major effect in preventing drug trafficking from Albania to Italy or Greece has had navigating vessels moratorium, which limit the extent of private vessels.

During the period 2004 - 2010 Albania implemented a National Anti-Drug Strategy. After assessment conducted for the level of implementation of this strategy reached the conclusion that Albania has generally been successful in implementing its program on the reduction of drug trafficking, as well as ensuring an effective control and security of her territory.

Strengthening operation the law of and national and international cooperation has helped secure the borders and best of all types of reducing trafficking. In general, there is a considerable improvement in the security control of the border, coastline and air transport. Remains to be done more in control of navigating vessels in Albanian seaports, because there were registered many cases of drug transport by coast of Albania to Italy, which stood above indicators.

Measures have been taken to modernize equipment and increase the training of law enforcement structures in the fight against narcotics. Over recent years, there has been eliminating some of the biggest criminal organizations. The possibility that criminal groups trafficking drugs to move freely in the territory of Albania is reduced and a considerable number of persons engaged in criminal organizations groups are tried and sentenced.

Despite the results achieved so far, trafficking of narcotic drugs continues to be one of the most profitable forms of organized crime not only in Albania but also in the wider region. Organizations and criminal groups, besides internal division of tasks, are characterized by an extreme adaptability with new conditions in cooperation with criminal groups in the region and beyond. The fight against these criminal gangs remains the focus of law enforcement structures. Increased efficiency in this
activity requires raising the highest level of international cooperation between institutions and internally.

It is necessary to continue to work intensively to achieve sustainable results from investigations conducted pro-active and increasing cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

Another important one is the further reduction of marijuana production in the country.

The new national strategy Anti-Drug approved in 2012 which follows, embodies the commitment of the Albanian state to achieve international standards in the fight against drugs and to come to the aid of individuals or groups of individuals affected by drug consumption.

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