REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
NATIONAL AUTHORITY ON ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION AND CYBER SECURITY

Organization Introduction & Current Situation of Cyber Security in Albania

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AKCESK
AUTORITETI KOMBËTAR PËR CERTIFIKIMIN ELEKTRONIK DHE SIGURINË KIBERNETIKE

Introduction

- National Authority on Electronic Certification and Cyber Security (NAECCS) is the responsible authority for implementation and supervision of legislation on electronic signature (Law No. 9880/2008), on electronic identification (Law No.107/2015) and the legislation on Cyber Security (Law no.2/2017)

- NAECCS is composed in two directorates:

1. Electronic Certification Directorate
2. Cyber Security Directorate

- The aim of the Authority is to increase liability and trust for users of electronic signatures, trusted services and to increase security in the networks / systems of CII in the Republic of Albania, through the adoption of international technical standards. (Transposal of NIS Directive, EIDAS Regulation etc.)

Objectives of NAECCS

❖ Electronic Certification Directorate:

- Register/ accredits Qualified Trusted Service Provider and oversees their activity.
- Determines the rules on electronic identification schemes, electronic seals, transfer of trusted service tasks to third party, electronic broadcasting service, website authentication.
- Perform periodical inspection for the implementation of standards and procedures to Qualified Trust Service Provider, issuing qualified electronic certificates.

❖ Cyber Security Directorate

- Determines minimum security Standards which should be implemented from all CII (defined by the Methodology approved from NAECCS adopted from ENISA)
- Perform periodical audits CII to ensure they comply with the security standards, ISO 27001
- Administers the *unique online portal* for the publication of illegal content websites
- Leads the working group for drafting the National Cybersecurity Strategy
- Focal point contact on national level for the responsible operators in the field of cyber security and coordinates the work for technical solution on cyber security incidents
- Awareness campaigns for a secure electronic environment with CII, private sector, citizens and Academia

I. Electronic certification

- AKCESK is the Authority responsible for supervision and implementation of the legislation in the field of Electronic Certification and Trusted Services.

- Two (2) Accredited Qualified Trust Services Providers (QTSP)
  - NAIS (National Agency for Information Society), Since 2012 – Gov Entity
  - ALEAT – Private Entity, Since 2013

QTSP(s) in Albania

- NAIS – issues qualified certificates in USB Token Devices for both Public Administration and Private Business(es). It is in improvement process through remote identification procedures.

- ALEAT – issues qualified certificates Cards for Albanian Citizens.

QTSP(s) in Albania

- Primary identification is done by physical identification for both QTSPs
- Approx 10K Qualified Certificates issued for Public Administration & Private Business Entities.
- 1.1 Mil. Qualified Certificates issued for Albanian Citizens.

e-Public Services

- 64 services offered by Albanian Gov which involve e-signature and e-seal.

- Many bank and financial services (Private Sector) are using e-identification and e-signature.

CAB
(Confirmation Accreditation Body)

- Not yet any CAB registration by the authority.
- In the meantime NAECCS is doing the CAB functionalities (partly)
  - Documentation verification
  - Possible documentation changes
  - Identification process
  - Product delivery
  - Tech capacities (logs, security measures)

Cross Border

- End of 2016 – Amended both Laws (No 9880/2008 & 107/2015) to recognize trust services issued in EU.

(They have the same legal validity as issued in Albania)

- According to the legislation above recognition of Albanian trust services is done by bilateral agreement(s).
- Lastly, several bilateral agreement on trusted services are to be signed during WB6 Digital Summit 2020

Incident Reporting

- According to Article 19, there has been NO incident (therefore no report) by both QTSPs in Albania

Ongoing & Future Projects

- End of 2020 – Full transposal of eIDAS Regulation.
- 2020 - Remote Authentication – According to EU standards

II. National Cyber Security Strategy (2019-2025)

- By Order no. 173, date 09.11.2018 of Prime Minister, determines NAECCS responsible for leading the inter-institutional working group for drafting the National Strategy on Cyber Security 2019-2025.

- Draft National Strategy on Cyber Security and Action Plan – in process, to be approved on December 2019

- The main objective of Strategy is to ensure safer cyber space within the country and better collaboration with other regional partners.

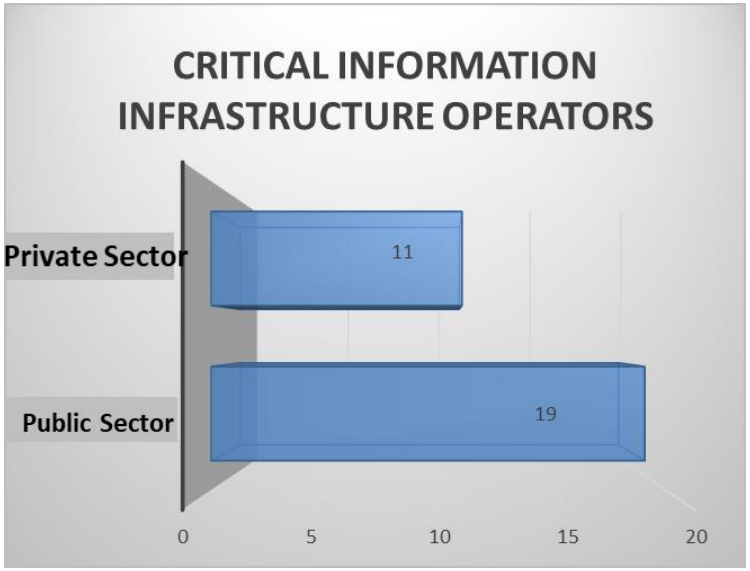
Critical and Important Infrastructure

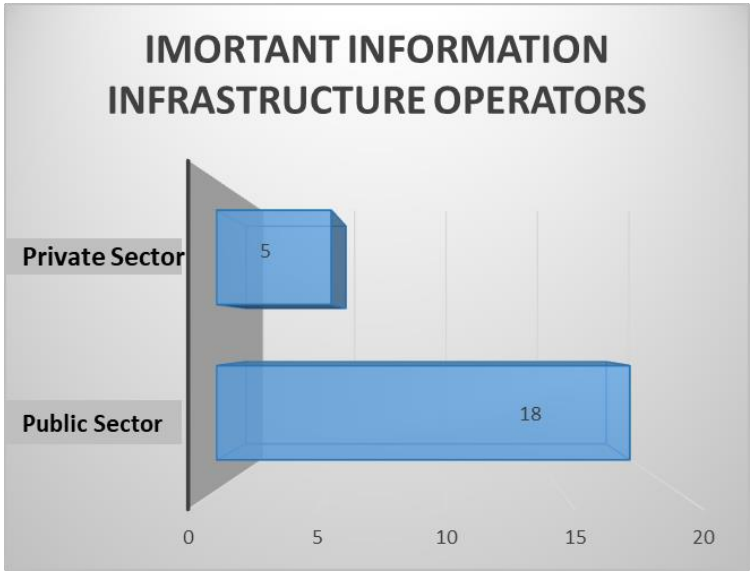
Methodology and blockschema for CII identification

- Based on ENISA standards
- Based on DoCM 222,
  - NAECCS have identified critical & important infrastructure which are object of audit from NAECCS
  - On December 2019, the list of CII must be reviewed.

Critical/ Important Information Infrastructures

- **DCoM No 222, Date 26.04.2018 "**On approval of the list of critical/important information infrastructures





Critical and Important information infrastructure lists are updated at least **once in two** years, audited by Authority at least **twice a year** (*Information System Audit*)

Actual projects :

- Assessment of Cyber security situation in Albania :
  - ITU study and recommendation to establish National CSIRT
  - Oxford University study – about the Maturity level of CS in Albania

For the near future

- Incident reporting system for CII
  - Capacity Building :
    - Cyber Law International
    - Technical capacities in Cyber Security and Electronic Certification
  - Raising Awareness for population/ businesses/ government

What NAECCS intend : Role of a National CIRT

- Provide a national mechanism for incident response, coordination, and resolution
- Identify and understand current threat landscape and ensure preparedness by adopting appropriate reactive and proactive measures
- Ensure and maintain the safety and societal wellbeing at all times, particularly in times of crisis
- Provide appropriate capacity building or training programs to ensure practitioners are able to handle and communicate incidents in a professional manner
- Protect essential services and ensure continuity of National CII
- Improve resistance to disruption, breach, damage and loss
- Implement damage control mechanisms for all national ICT assets
- Classify sensitive information based on widely adopted information classification system
- Implement backup, mitigation and recovery plans.

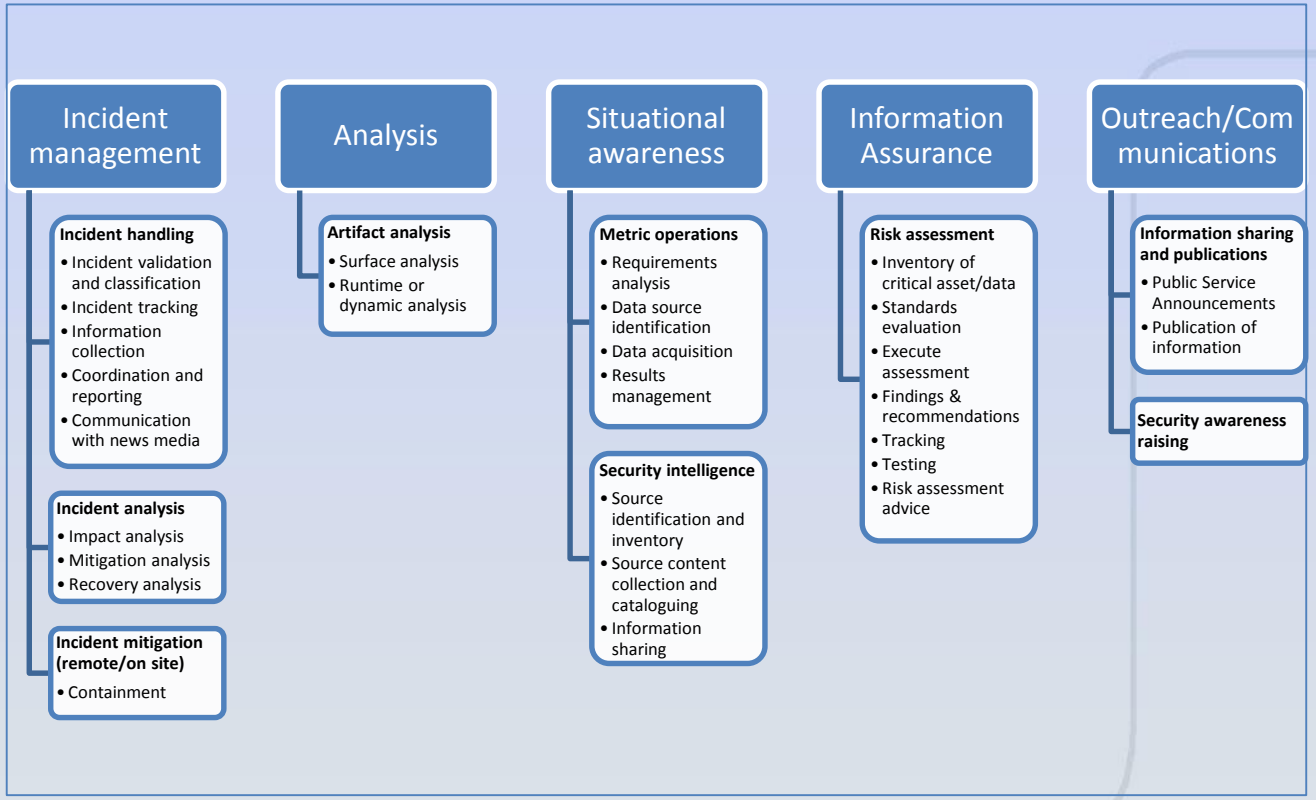
Benefits of National CIRT

- Mechanism to identify and manage cyber threats that may have adverse effect on the Republic of Albania
- Mechanism to systematically respond to cybersecurity incidents and take appropriate mitigation actions
- Ability for the constituency to quickly and efficiently recover from security incidents and minimize loss or theft of information and disruption of services
- The utilization of information gained during an incident handling activity to better prepare for handling of future incidents and better protect systems and data critical to Albania

Benefits of National CIRT (ctd)

- Mechanism to properly deal with legal issues that may arise during incidents.
- Encouraging knowledge exchange within the constituency and the publication of general security best practices and guidance through publications, websites, and other modes of communications
- The promotion of education, awareness and training appropriate for a variety of different audiences in Albania.
- Coordination of cybersecurity and CIRT focal points both within Albania and internationally.

Service Model of the National CIRT



Regional Cooperation – Memorandum of Understanding

NAECSC has signed Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of Cyber Security with:

National insitution

- Electronic and Postal Communications Authority (AKEP)
- Commissioner on Personal Data Protection (KMDP)
- State Police

International relation

- Kos-Cert
- UBT-CERT
- North Macedonia (MKD-CIRT)
- Romania (CERT-RO)
- Cyprus CERT

In process: Serbia, Monte Negro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, etc

Being part of international organizations such as ITU, IPROCEED, DCAF, improves and promotes the best practices, gives the possibility for staff capacity building and set Albania as a stronger actor in a world against cyber incidents.

Additional Activities

- NAECCS in partnership with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education Sports and Youth, are developing national campaign on awareness raising and education of children on the use of secure internet

  - 7 Regions - Tirana, Kukës, Dibër, Fier, Berat, Lezhë, Elbasan
  - Over 12 000 children are being trained by “Peer educators”

- Albanian Cyber Academy
- Secure Internet Day
- Needs of Cyber Security Professionals (Curricula, MoU, internships, etc.)

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THANK YOU!

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