

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Presence in Albania



What we do

The mandate of the OSCE Presence in Albania is to promote democratization, the rule of law, and human rights as well as to consolidate democratic institutions in line with OSCE principles, standards and commitments.

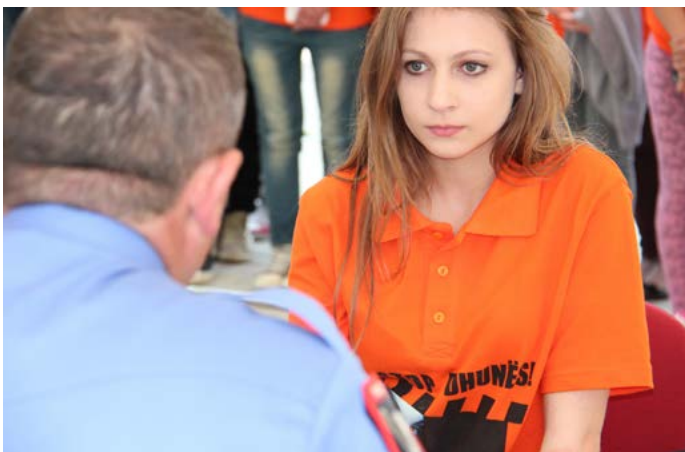
The OSCE Presence provides assistance and expertise, in close consultation and co-operation with the Government of Albania and other State institutions and organizations, to the Albanian authorities as well as to representatives of civil society.

The Presence was established in 1997, following the collapse of pyramid schemes, to help stabilise the country and co-ordinate international assistance.

Today, the Presence's activities range from arms control and the fight against trafficking to electoral assistance; anti-corruption initiatives; human rights protection; supporting legislative, judicial, and media reform; building the capacity of law enforcement officials; promoting gender mainstreaming and environmental security.



Deepening relations among youth strengthens mutual understanding, co-operation and friendship. Building bridges between youth is vital to enhancing civic engagement and regional integration.



The Presence's campaign to combat domestic violence has empowered citizens and helped authorities work in partnership with the public to better protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.



The Presence brings together concerned citizens, decision-makers and other stakeholders to address key challenges in Albania such as environmental pollution.

How we work

To help achieve lasting change, the Presence uses its in-house expertise, institutional knowledge and long-term relationships with stakeholders, engaging over a sustained period and focusing on the institutions and helping to shape policy and strategy. This approach ensures the efficiency, coherence and impact of the Presence's work, addressing challenges from different directions.

The OSCE Presence works in co-ordination and partnership with a wide range of Albanian and international actors, and also takes a more regional approach. The Presence does all this with the support of the 57 OSCE participating States, including Albania.

Fostering sustainable change

Structures and laws are not enough. The Presence works towards:

- Meaningful and impartial implementation of the law;
- Effective and proper functioning of institutions;

- Creation of a relationship of trust between citizens and authorities, as well as between political opponents.

The Presence facilitates consultation on reform, bringing together all the stakeholders in a process, and fostering relations between institutions.

As a long-term partner of Albania, the ultimate goal of the Presence is the development of a rule of law culture, high respect for values and empowered and respected citizens.

Building bridges

One of the Presence's strengths is its ability to build bridges and bring people together – to co-operate across borders, address challenges or enhance reconciliation.

The OSCE Presence's work includes support to improve transparency and accountability and ensure inclusive citizen participation in decision-making processes, as well as assistance to help Albanian institutions tackle challenges like domestic violence, corruption and violent extremism.

There is a focus on how citizens interact with their democracy, recognizing that citizens have a role in monitoring and setting standards for the proper functioning of their institutions.

The Presence emphasizes responsibilities as well as rights.

Activating citizen participation

By strengthening a sense of civic engagement, empowerment and responsibility among Albanian citizens, particularly women, young people and members of vulnerable groups, the Presence is helping them to get their voices heard.

The Presence's community-focused civil society initiatives help these citizens understand how their democracy works, and then give them the skills and experience to make it work for them.

The Presence has stimulated the awareness and engagement of young people, minorities and the disabled, and has helped to increase the representation of women in politics.

In the long-term, active citizens are the best monitors of their own democracy.



The Presence has assisted local partners in many important legislative efforts over the past decade, including supporting the drafting of a code of conduct for lawmakers in the Albanian Parliament.

How we work

(continued)

Implementing priority projects

The Presence has participated actively, at the request of national partners, in many of the most important reform efforts of the past decade, including electoral and judicial reform. It reviews and comments on draft legislation, promotes and facilitates public consultation, and advises on the design and implementation of new policies.

With its diverse mandate the Presence uses its flexibility

to answer local requests for expertise and funding for pilot projects.

The Presence has led or contributed significantly to a large number of projects that have had a direct impact on the well-being of the Albanian population. This includes efforts to remove and destroy surpluses of conventional ammunition and dangerous chemicals, help authorities better identify and protect victims of trafficking, and improve the efficiency of court proceedings.

The rule of law starts with you

The Presence is actively working to establish a rule of law culture in Albania in which laws are clear, fair, predictable and applied equally to everyone. A rule of law culture is the basis for progress across all three of the OSCE's dimensions - a precondition for security, sustainable economic development, a functioning democracy and protection of human rights.

Individual citizens are not merely passive 'recipients' of the rule of law. Through their choices and actions they are contributors, alongside official institutions. It is not just about an impartial, reliable judicial system, but a rule of law culture in which every citizen participates. This is the message of the Presence's grassroots campaign: "The rule of law starts with you" - with every action of every citizen.

Facts and figures

(as of June 2017)

Head of Office



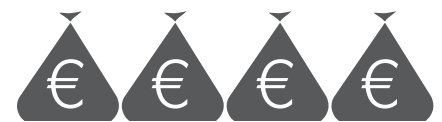
Ambassador Bernd Borchardt of Germany (since October 2016)

Staff



20 international and 63 locally-employed staff members

Annual Budget



EUR 2,892,700

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