



Regional Trial Monitoring Project Combating Organised Crime and Corruption in the Western Balkans



Rule of law, the fight against serious organised crime and corruption, and support towards more effective judicial institutions in Western Balkans is a key component of the OSCE's work.

Background

The OSCE supports local institutions in their effort to achieve long-term stability and prosperity as well as materialize their local and regional strategic priorities.

The OSCE partnered with the European Commission,

to further our common programmatic priorities with this three-year Regional Trial Monitoring Project (2021-2023).

The Project is implemented by the OSCE Field Operations in Tirana, Sarajevo, Podgorica, Skopje and Pristina with the guiding support of the Office

for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and Project co-ordination from the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre.

The foundations of this regional initiative were laid during the 2018 EU-Western Balkans Summit in Sofia, where the Heads of the Governments of South-Eastern Europe agreed to introduce "trial monitoring in the field of serious corruption and organised crime".

Project Objectives

The overall objective of this Project is to support a more effective judicial response

to corruption and organised crime in the Western Balkans. The Project aims at enhancing the independence, quality and efficiency of judicial systems, thereby supporting them in their effort to tackle serious corruption and organised crime; which have been a threat to long-term stability and prosperity across the region.

Support for a more effective judicial response to corruption and organized crime in the Western Balkans



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The plan to achieve the objectives

This Project will review practices in this field, identify systemic issues, provide recommendations, and disseminate findings to all relevant actors for their further action, addressing identified deficits in the administration of justice.

Implementation of the Project

The Project will analyse the data collected during the monitoring process to define systemic problems and their probable root causes, while enabling the OSCE and the judiciary in the five Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) II beneficiaries to determine where successes are achieved in their fight against organised crime and corruption and where further efforts are needed. This analysis will be the basis for the tailored design of targeted follow-up policy, legislative reform and capacity building activities.

The OSCE ensures that its monitors observe the principles of non-intervention, objectivity and confidentiality in full compliance with the OSCE Code of Conduct and trial monitoring methodology as well as national legislation.



The OSCE continuously works closely with justice sector professionals to strengthen relationships and trust, and engage these professionals in contributing to improving the work of their institutions. A close collaboration with civil society organisations and media is also envisaged as they are key partners in any effort to strengthen rule of law.

Selection of cases for trial monitoring

The cases for trial monitoring are selected according to the established ODIHR methodology agreed between the OSCE and the European Commission.



Results of the Project

The results of this Project should benefit everyone in each of the five Instrument for Preaccession Assistance (IPA) II beneficiaries engaged in this initiative, as it aims to strengthen the rule of law and thereby improving the social stability and prosperity across the Western Balkans. Public release of the Final Findings and Recommendations Report is planned for 2023 at the end of the Project implementation.

For more on the Project go to www.osce.org/WesternBalkansTrialMonitoring or follow our social media engagement via [#RegTrialMonitoring](https://twitter.com/RegTrialMonitoring)

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