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# THE WESTERN BALKANS TRIAL MONITORING REPORT FACTSHEET



## From Paper to Practice

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Judicial Responses to  
Serious Organised Crime and Corruption

Review Period July 2021 - March 2024

## ALBANIA

Trial monitoring results on serious  
organised crime and corruption (OCC) cases

### HOW

The Project's Methodology, developed and adapted f by the [OSCE ODIHR](#) based on its [Trial Monitoring Manual](#) & drawing on the extensive [experience of OSCE field operations](#) in monitoring [OCC cases](#), encompasses trial monitoring from the [confirmation of indictment to the final and binding verdict](#).

### FOCUS



[fairness](#)



[efficiency](#)



[capacities/performance](#)

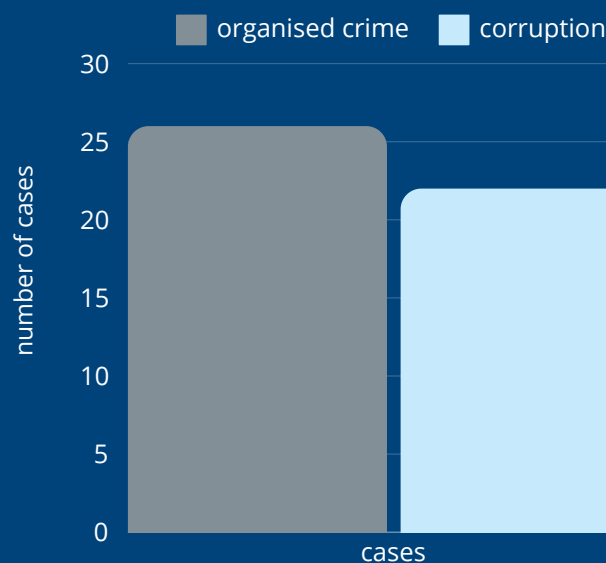


[strategic use of judicial tools](#)

## CASES UNDER MONITORING

 **Specialised Court of First Instance for Corruption and Organised Crime**

 **Specialised Court of Appeal for Corruption and Organised Crime**



## REPORT FINDINGS

The Project's trial monitoring identified symptoms of systemic challenges at the institutional, legislative and policy level. However, initiatives are already underway to address many aspects of the issues identified in this Report. These include the adoption of the High Judicial Council's guidelines on transparency of Specialised Courts for Corruption and Organised Crime when communicating with the public and the media. In addition, the Albanian Special Prosecution Office now has an increased number of investigators and financial experts, which has led to improvements in the quality of financial investigations and the processing of money laundering cases. These are some of the substantial investments, that with sustained efforts can lead to substantial progress.

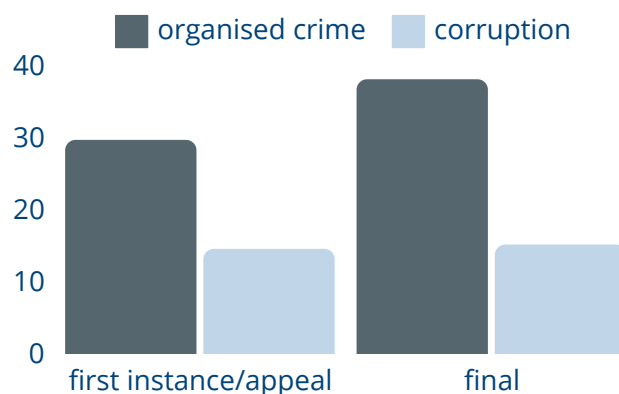
The main identified areas for further improvement relate to:



### LENGTH OF PROCEEDINGS

- ▶ **percentage of productive hearings**
- ▶ **use of case management**
- ▶ **deterring & addressing delaying tactics by defense lawyers**

LENGTH OF PROCEEDINGS FROM INDICTMENT TO FINAL JUDGEMENT, IN MONTHS



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## JUDICIAL ACTS

- charges substantiation
- details on financial gain or damage
- reasoning



## TRANSPARENCY

- consistency in publication of judgements
- responses to civil society information requests



## FAIR TRIAL RIGHTS

- legal representation quality
- court practice on the suspension of the pre-trial detention



48.1% of unproductive hearings are caused by absence of defense lawyers



# WAY FORWARD

## TRACK RECORD

Create preconditions for an effective track record in combatting OCC.

## IMPACT

Aim for changes that make an immediate difference.

## BUY-IN

Address resistance to change, accounting for operational practices and working cultures.



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## **STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN OCC CASES**

by implementing guidelines regulating the relationship of SCCOC courts with the public and the media.



## **ENSURE FAIR TRIAL RIGHTS AND EFFECTIVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

by facilitating adequate increase in the fees of ex officio lawyers and harmonizing the suspension of pre-trial detention with international standards.



## **IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF INDICTMENTS AND JUDGEMENTS**

by developing specific tools and templates as well as internal review mechanisms.



## **ENSURE EFFECTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT**

by strengthening effective case management and revising the subject matter jurisdiction of the SCCOC courts