

COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFICE IN TIRANA

RESULTS IN 2025



The Council of Europe Office in Tirana plays a key role in supporting Albania's democratic development and its path towards the European Union accession. Working closely with national institutions, civil society and international partners, the **Office helps Albania meet its obligations as a Council of Europe member state while advancing reforms that matter most to its citizens.**

Through targeted programmes and technical expertise, the Office **drives progress in justice reform, anti-corruption, good governance and equality.** It promotes media freedom, protects the rights of vulnerable groups, enhances public administration, and helps young people develop as active democratic citizens. Together, **these efforts contribute to building stronger institutions and fostering a culture of trust, accountability, and inclusion.**

BY THE NUMBERS IN 2025: A PLATFORM FOR ACTION

11 REGIONAL AND 15 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PROJECTS INCLUDING:

- 6 FLAGSHIP ACTIONS UNDER THE EU AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE JOINT PROGRAMME "HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TÜRKIYE".
- 2 EU AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE JOINT PROGRAMMES.
- 7 PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

SINCE EARLY 2025, THE SCOPE AND IMPACT OF CO-OPERATION WORK HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY. PRIORITY REFORM AREAS NOW INCLUDE ANTI-CORRUPTION, LOCAL GOVERNANCE, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY. CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE AND THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY ARE ALSO KEY AREAS OF FOCUS.

WHY YOUR INVOLVEMENT MATTERS

Meaningful reforms require partnership, persistence and shared values. With the support of the European Union and Council of Europe member states, we help Albania build efficient institutions, uphold justice and equality and ensure that European standards deliver real progress for all citizens.

Watch a series of video testimonials highlighting the local impact of our work - from advancing democracy and fighting corruption, to safeguarding media freedom, strengthening justice and promoting equality.



IMPACT OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORK IN ALBANIA



ADVANCING RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE

Justice that delivers to citizens. Courts across Albania have become more independent, transparent, and accountable through digital innovation and targeted training. New tools now allow citizen feedback to inform decision-making, helping judicial institutions gain public trust and improve services to those seeking justice.

Property rights and access to justice. More than 200 vulnerable citizens gained legal certainty through a dedicated helpline offering free legal advice on property rights. These efforts improved access to justice and supported better enforcement of European Court of Human Rights case law, while increasing transparency in land registration and property ownership processes.

PROTECTING EDUCATION AND DEMOCRACY

Confidence in democratic elections. Public trust in elections is growing thanks to digital monitoring tools that make dispute resolution faster and more transparent. A nationwide voter education programme reached 20 000 first-time voters across 335 high schools, inspiring young Albanians to participate actively in democratic life.

Education that builds democracy. More than 500 educators have been equipped with tools to promote democratic competencies in classrooms. This has nurtured inclusive learning environments and embedded human rights at the heart of Albania's education system.

PROMOTING INCLUSION, INTEGRITY, AND RIGHTS

Championing equality and inclusion. Nationwide awareness-raising initiatives on anti-discrimination and minority rights have reached over 500 000 people, deepening public understanding of diversity and equality. These initiatives have complemented legal reforms to protect vulnerable groups and combat hate speech, embedding equality more firmly in social discourse.

Securing Albania's financial system and promoting further EU integration. Eight technical papers were developed to support targeted amendments across financial and non-financial sectors and align to EU directives.

Ensure preparedness for international evaluations. Albanian institutions are equipped for MONEYVAL evaluation by translating collaborative technical sessions into an immediate response roadmap. Over 60 key stakeholders were involved to deliver concrete, actionable recommendations for national authorities.

Reforming integrity and anti-corruption institutions. Public sector integrity is advancing through new legislative frameworks on interest, lobbying, and political party financing. The newly established operational Asset Recovery Office marks another milestone, strengthening the State's capacity to detect, seize, and recover illicit assets, and reinforcing trust in public institutions.

Protecting media freedom and journalists' safety. The adoption of a State Police Protocol for the Safety of Journalists, supported by focal points and dedicated training, ensures faster, safer responses to threats against the press. Freedom of expression is now a stronger pillar of democracy, both protected by law and integrated into police training curricula.