

COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFICE IN TIRANA

RESULTS IN 2025



The Council of Europe Office in Tirana plays a key role in supporting Albania's progress towards the European future. Working closely with national institutions, civil society, and international partners, the Office helps the country meet its obligations as a Council of Europe member state while advancing reforms aligned with its European Union accession path.

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: A PLATFORM FOR ACTION | AS OF JANUARY 2026



35 DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDING 28 PROJECT STAFF.



11 REGIONAL AND 14 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PROJECTS INCLUDING:

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

WHY YOUR INVOLVEMENT MATTERS

Meaningful reforms require partnership, persistence, and shared values. With the support of the European Union and from 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 here a series of video testimonials highlighting the impact of our work locally in advancing democracy, fighting corruption and economic crime, safeguarding free media, 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.

Modern local governance. At the local level, digital tools and human resource management systems now support all 61 municipalities in Albania in professionalising public service delivery. Evidence-based training and planning have strengthened transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public administration.

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.

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.