

Albania

I Justice System

In 2025, the Council of Europe support to Albania focused on strengthening the execution of European Court judgments, particularly regarding property rights and access to justice. It combined the legislative support and the policy assistance, support to institutional capacity-building and citizen-oriented interventions. It contributed to a closer alignment of the national practices with the Convention standards.

The Council of Europe support included **inter-institutional co-ordination and policy development** related to the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. A multi-stakeholder exchange was facilitated to address the implementation of the [X and Others v. Albania](#) judgment on the segregation of Roma and Egyptian pupils, clarifying responsibilities and defining concrete follow-up measures for central and local authorities. Expert guidance was also provided to the State Advocate's Office in preparing the Action Plan for the execution of the [Ramaj v. Albania](#) judgment. The expert recommendations were accepted by senior representatives of the State Advocate's Office, the State Cadastre Agency, the Agency for the Treatment of Property, and the Department for the Execution of Judgments, which ensured the institutional ownership and a solid foundation for continued reforms.

The Council of Europe support also focused on **harmonisation and consistency of the judicial practice**, particularly at higher court levels. Trainings for senior legal advisors, the publication of a [Selected Case-Law Compendium](#), and a [Judicial Harmonisation Forum](#) strengthened the uniform application of the standards of the European Court of Human Rights. It reinforced judicial dialogue across national courts, contributing to greater legal certainty in cases relevant to the execution of judgments.

The State Cadastre Agency was supported in adopting its [first Institutional Communication Strategy](#), and the staff were trained to implement it, enhancing citizen-oriented communication and transparency. Direct support to citizens, including vulnerable groups, remained a cornerstone of these efforts. In 2025, the Tirana Legal Aid Society (TLAS) [Helpline provided legal assistance to 212 individuals](#), complemented by **awareness-raising activities reaching approximately 146 additional people, including 36 women, for a total of 358 beneficiaries.**

Another key area of the Council of Europe support relates to reforming Albania's approach to **pre-trial detention** and the right to liberty and security, focusing on the alignment of domestic legislation and judicial practice with international and European standards, particularly the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence. Through extensive stakeholder engagement—primarily with the Ministry of Justice, the School of Magistrates, and the State Advocate—expert advice was provided. It is of high relevance now when Albania prepares substantive revisions of its Criminal Code and Criminal Procedural Code.

A "Guiding Paper" for amending the Criminal Procedural Code and an "Expert Opinion" on the draft Criminal Code, were prepared to assist the Ministry of Justice in their effort to incorporate the Council of Europe standards on pre-trial detention into the Albanian law. These contributions have facilitated an informed dialogue with policymakers, including active participation in working groups and provision of ongoing support for legislative consultations, with **further feedback and revisions anticipated in 2026**.

CEPEJ

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) regularly collects data on judicial systems concerning efficiency and quality of the justice system. In the framework of the Dashboard Western Balkans project, CEPEJ prepares annually Country profiles, including on [Albania](#).

EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Official statistics on the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are published in the Committee of Ministers [Annual reports on the execution](#) (next edition to be published in March 2025). The Department for the Execution of Judgments can be consulted for any question on statistics: DGI-Execution@coe.int.

Efficiency of justice

Luli and Others (64480/09) group of cases concerns the excessive length of civil, administrative and criminal proceedings and absence of remedy in that respect. The European Court criticised, inter alia, the failure of the judicial system to manage properly a multiplication of proceedings before various courts on the same issue and repeated remittals of cases back to lower levels of jurisdiction in civil or criminal proceedings (violations of Article 6 § 1). The cases of *Gjonbocari and Others*, *Bara and Kola*, *ARB SHPK and Others* concern also the lack of an effective remedy or the ineffectiveness of a remedy in specific circumstances (violations of Article 13). The European Court of Human Rights noted that the excessive length of proceedings became a serious deficiency and indicated the need to adopt general measures, in particular the introduction of a domestic remedy.

Presentation on Hudoc.exec: [Luli and Others](#)

Latest decisions: [CM/Del/Dec\(2024\)1514/H46-1](#)

Next examination: According to the [Indicative Work Programme for 2026](#), an examination is proposed to take place in September 2026.

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2024\)1210](#)

Protection of property rights

Sharxhi and Others (10613/16) case concerns the demolition of flats and business premises in an Albanian coastal town in disregard of an interim court order restraining the authorities from taking any action that could breach the applicants' property rights. The Court found that the national authorities' failure to comply with the interim court order deprived the right to a fair trial of any useful effect, and that the applicants did not have at their disposal an effective remedy in respect of the non-enforcement of the interim order (violation of Article 6 § 1 taken alone and in conjunction with Article 13). It also found that the expropriation and demolition of the applicants' property, carried out manifestly in breach of Albanian law, had been unlawful, and that the applicants had lacked effective remedies in this respect (violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 taken alone and in conjunction with Article 13). Lastly, it considered that the seizure and cordoning-off of the building, making it impossible for the applicants to gain access to their homes, had been unlawful and that the applicants did not have an effective domestic remedy in this regard (violation of Article 8 taken alone and together with Article 13).

Presentation on Hudoc.exec: [Sharxhi and Others](#)

Latest relevant decisions: [CM/Del/Dec\(2025\)1545/H46-1](#)

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2025\)1154](#)

Protection against ill-treatment

Strazimiri (34602/16) case concerns the inhuman and degrading treatment of a forensic psychiatric patient who has an imposed court order "compulsory treatment", due to the poor living conditions and failure to ensure his adequate therapy; unlawful detention in an inadequate (penitentiary) institution without proper psychiatric treatment. The European Court indicated that the authorities should secure as a matter of urgency the administration of suitable and individualised therapy to the applicant and consider the possibility of his placement in an alternative setting outside of the penal facilities. It further indicated that the respondent State should expeditiously take the necessary measures to secure appropriate living conditions and the provision of adequate health care services to mentally ill persons who are subject to deprivation of liberty based on a court-ordered compulsory medical treatment. The Court added that the authorities should establish an "appropriate institution" to accommodate such persons with a view to improving their living conditions.

Presentation on Hudoc.exec: [Strazimiri](#)

Latest relevant decisions: [CM/Del/Dec\(2025\)1521/H46-2](#)

Latest submissions: DH-DD(2026)2 and [DH-DD\(2026\)222](#)

Next examination – The case is [scheduled for examination by the Committee of Ministers in March 2026](#).

Protection against discrimination

X and Others (73548/17) case concerns failure of the authorities to implement swift and comprehensive desegregation measures in an elementary school (the "Naim Frashëri" elementary school in Korça) attended in 2012-2019 almost exclusively by Roma and Egyptian children, including twelve applicant pupils. The Court indicated the need for the authorities to adopt measures to end the discrimination of Roma and Egyptian pupils of the "Naim Frashëri" school, as ordered by the decision of the Albanian Commissioner.

Presentation on Hudoc.exec: [X and Others](#)

Latest relevant decisions: [CM/Del/Dec\(2025\)1545/H46-2](#)

Latest submissions: [DH-DD\(2025\)1191](#); [DH-DD\(2024\)1200](#)

HELP PROGRAMME

In 2025, the HELP course on [Introduction to Human Rights Protection in Europe - Interplay between the ECHR and EU Charter](#) was implemented on a regional level for a group of 22 judges and prosecutors and a group of 15 lawyers from all six beneficiaries in the Western Balkans including Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Through the translation and adaptation of 26 HELP courses to national legislation and practice, the **Council of Europe HELP Programme has enabled 2,714 legal professionals in Albania to access high-quality training on human rights, including its EU dimension**. This has resulted in 2,091 enrolments and 372 certifications through self-learning, complemented by 26 tutored courses delivered in cooperation with the national partners (the School of Magistrates and the Chamber of Advocates), reaching 802 participants with a 72% success rate.

General information

- Number of **users** of HELP Platform from Albania: **2,714**
- Number of **HELP courses** translated and adapted in Albanian: **26**
 - **2,091 enrolments, 372 certifications in self-learning**
 - **26 tutored courses organised since 2018 (802 participants, 72% success rate)** implemented in partnership with the **School of Magistrates or the Chamber of Advocates** (mainly implemented in the Council of Europe Office in Tirana)

HELP in the Western Balkans has a long-established cooperation with the School of Magistrates in Albania. **HELP courses are implemented with second-year candidates for magistrates** as a part of the initial training curricula.

In 2025, the CoE Regional project on Human Rights and Sustainable Environment in South-East Europe supported the implementation of the HELP course [The Environment and Human Rights](#) for 21 legal professionals tutored by a professor from the School of Magistrates.

The HELP in the Western Balkans project is targeting the implementation of the HELP courses that correspond to the priorities of the [Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights](#). In 2026, HELP in the Western Balkans will seek the support from other Council of Europe projects and actions for the implementation of the following priority topics as defined by the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights country [factsheet](#): right to life, protection against ill-treatment, length of judicial proceedings, enforcement of final judicial decisions, protection of property rights, prohibition of discrimination, protection of private and family life.

GENDER EQUALITY

Judicial training institutions in Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia are applying new competencies to enhance equal access to justice for women and men through an innovative peer-to-peer mentoring programme for legal professionals, supported by the cooperation project, "[Women's access to justice in the Western Balkans](#)".

II Anti-corruption framework

GRECO

[Second Compliance Report](#) (21 March 2025)

5th round: Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies

HELP PROGRAMME

In 2024, the HELP course on "[Introduction to Corruption Prevention](#)" was organised by the EU/Council of Europe "Action against Economic Crime in Albania" for two groups of participants in close co-operation with the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption and the Albanian School of Public Administration. The participants were staff from the General Anti-Corruption Directorate and the Network of Anti-Corruption Coordinators.

III Media pluralism

PACE

Monitoring committee - [Doc. 16316](#)

The media situation in Albania was identified as a cause for concern by the Assembly in [Resolution 2544 \(2024\)](#), which concluded the full monitoring process and initiated the post-monitoring dialogue. Unfortunately, this remains a cause for concern, as noted by the IEOM during the recent parliamentary elections. The IEOM deplored the lack of transparent financing and ownership concentration in the media, as well as editorial interference, all of which undermine the integrity and diversity of reporting. Contrary to the Assembly's recommendations, defamation remains criminalised and the sanctions would be further strengthened if controversial amendments to the Criminal Code were adopted. Additionally, the issue of the strategic lawsuits against public participation has yet to be addressed by legislation. On 9 December 2025, the Monitoring Committee organised a hearing on the situation of the media as part of the preparations for the report on the post-monitoring dialogue.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN DIGNITY

The [Council of Europe Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression](#) implements two distinct projects in Albania:

- [Protecting Freedom of Expression and of the Media in Albania \(PROFEX-A\)](#)
- [Promoting Freedom of Expression in Albania through Open Dialogue](#)

In 2025, the action [Protecting Freedom of Expression and of the Media in Albania \(PROFEX-A\)](#) achieved significant progress in advancing freedom of expression and media freedom through high-level capacity-building activities and by fostering institutional cooperation. The project is implemented by the Council of Europe Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression as part of the European Union–Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye, running from 2023 to 2026.

Throughout 2025, the action focused on equipping judges, prosecutors, and lawyers with the knowledge to uphold European standards on freedom of expression and handle media-related cases, while simultaneously introducing safety protocols for law enforcement to protect journalists in the field. The State Police Guidelines for the Safety of Journalists, establishing clear institutional procedures to address crimes against journalists and activists in line with European standards, were finalised. By the end of the year, these efforts led to the appointment of permanent police focal points and the integration of human rights training modules into state academies. Through a combination of specialised training and multistakeholder dialogue, the project strengthened the framework for protecting journalists and ensuring a pluralistic media environment. These efforts directly contributed to Albania’s EU accession goals, particularly under the Rule of Law Roadmap, by fostering shared responsibility across the judiciary, police, and regulatory bodies. In addition, the action provided technical assistance to the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) to enhance its regulatory capacity and support the implementation of new European digital and media standards in line with the National Rule of Law Roadmap. The action also engaged with media professionals to promote ethical reporting standards and facilitate strategic dialogue on the future development of the Albanian media landscape.

In January 2025, a Council of Europe–European Union co-funded project, implemented by the Council of Europe Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression, entitled “[Promoting Freedom of Expression in Albania through Open Dialogue](#)”, was launched for the period January 2025–December 2026 supporting Albania’s democratic reforms—particularly in the media sector contributing to the country’s EU accession process and reinforcing guarantees for freedom of expression, in line with the Council of Europe standards. Since the launch of the project, Albania has received a set of concrete and evidence-based recommendations in the areas of journalist safety, access to information, and media ownership, prepared by Council of Europe consultants. In addition, the project has facilitated constructive dialogue between media stakeholders and relevant ministries, leading to the establishment of a collaborative decision-making process. This process resulted in consensus on a set of concrete recommendations, which were subsequently submitted to the newly established Parliamentary Committee.

In the area of journalists’ safety, the recommendations promoted institutional responses to threats and intimidation, as well as measures to improve working conditions in the media sector. The recommendations focused also on provisions of the new draft Criminal Code, aimed at aligning national law with European standards and best practice for journalist protection. Regarding access to information, stakeholders received targeted recommendations aimed at enhancing the effective implementation of Law No. 119/2014 “On the Right to Information” — the principal legal instrument guaranteeing the public’s right to access information held by institutions performing public functions in Albania. The Project also placed particular emphasis on strengthening the Albanian Public Service Broadcaster (RTSH), the independence of the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) and promoted media pluralism, editorial independence, and greater transparency in media ownership and advertising practices.

HELP PROGRAMME

The EU/CoE project “Protecting freedom of expression and of the media in Albania (PRO-FREX)” in cooperation with the HELP in the Western Balkans will support the implementation of the HELP course [Protection and Safety of Journalists](#) for the second year candidate judges and prosecutors from the School of Magistrates. The start of the implementation is envisaged in March 2026.

IV Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

PACE

Monitoring committee - [Doc. 16316](#)

Parliamentary elections took place in Albania on 11 May 2025. The Assembly observed these elections as part of an IEOM. According to the IEOM, the elections were competitive and well conducted, but they took place in a highly polarised environment, and contestants did not enjoy a level playing field. Although candidates could campaign freely, the campaign was marred by reports of the abuse of administrative resources, allegations of pressure being placed on certain groups of voters (especially civil servants), and vote buying. As with previous elections, the observers noted that the legal framework for elections provides an adequate basis for democratic elections if it is implemented in good faith by all stakeholders. The observers therefore called upon the authorities, and in particular the incoming parliament, to address the shortcomings and ambiguities in the electoral framework that hinder its implementation. In a welcome development, voting abroad for the sizeable Albanian diaspora was introduced for the first time during these elections, in line with the judgments of the Constitutional Court of Albania, addressing an important recommendation in [Resolution 2544 \(2024\)](#) of the Assembly.

The Socialist Party, led by Prime Minister Edi Rama, won the elections for a fourth consecutive time, obtaining 53.3% of the votes and 83 seats in the 140-seat Albanian Parliament. The Democratic Party of Mr Sali Berisha obtained 46.5% of the vote, securing 53 seats in the new parliament. Meanwhile, the Albania Becomes Movement received 4% of the vote, earning them one seat in the new parliament. The Democratic Party strongly contested the veracity of the results of these elections.

The new parliament began work on 12 September 2025. On 27 October 2025, the Socialist Party and Democratic Party reached an agreement on establishing parliamentary ad hoc committees on electoral and territorial reforms, which were set up by parliament with 113 and 15 votes in favour, respectively.

A visit is planned for the beginning of 2026.

VENICE COMMISSION

[CDL-PI\(2025\)006-bil](#) - Albania - Information on the follow-up to the Joint Opinion with OSCE/ODIHR on the amendments to the Constitution and to the Electoral Code (CDL-AD(2020)036)