



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**REGIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
INITIATIVE**

REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ILLICIT FINANCE ROADMAP

FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS JURISDICTIONS

Adopted in Ohrid, North Macedonia
25 June 2021

OUTCOME STATEMENT

High-level government representatives from the Western Balkans jurisdictions met in Ohrid, North Macedonia, on 25 June 2021, to adopt a Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance Flows to fast-track the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in support of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 in the Western Balkans jurisdictions.

This platform builds on the momentum generated in the context of the Berlin process. On 9 July 2018, the United Kingdom welcomed Interior and Security Ministers of the Berlin Process to London for the first meeting of such Ministers convened under the auspices of the Berlin Process. The Ministers concluded that corruption, money laundering and financial crime are shared security threats and committed to deepening regional cooperation and strengthening collective response. They agreed that the Security Commitments Steering Group (SCSG) would be established to drive delivery of security commitments agreed through the Berlin Process.

The SCSG at its third meeting on 31 January 2020 in Sofia agreed to create and deliver an illicit finance and anti-corruption roadmap (“the Roadmap”) to improve implementation of existing illicit finance and anti-corruption measures in a small number of shared priority areas. This initiative was inspired by the Small Arms and Light Weapons Roadmap which was endorsed during the 2018 London Berlin Process Summit. The SCSG also agreed that UNODC should lead the facilitation and design of the Roadmap for ministerial consideration and approval in partnership with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat.

In October 2020, UNODC launched the preparatory work for a new regional anti-corruption platform to develop a regional anti-corruption and illicit finance roadmap for the six Western Balkans jurisdictions, with the support of the United Kingdom and Germany and in partnership with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat.

In addition to the Berlin Process, the roadmap builds on the outcome of the first United Nations General Assembly Special session against Corruption (UNGASS) held from 2 through 4 June 2021, including the anti-corruption commitments agreed to by jurisdictions in the UNGASS political declaration.

The political declaration serves as a roadmap for future anti-corruption initiatives, including on the three shared priority areas identified below. For example, jurisdictions committed to ensuring transparency throughout the whole public procurement cycle and better enabling oversight and accountability in government procurement, funding and contracting services. Jurisdictions also committed to strengthening their efforts to prevent, identify and manage conflicts of interest, including through transparent financial disclosure systems, and recognized the role technologies can play in public procurement and with regard to asset and conflict of interest declarations. In line with the final goal focused on investigating and prosecuting corruption offences, jurisdictions called for strengthened collaboration at all levels through an inter-agency approach among law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial authorities, financial intelligence units and other competent authorities and committed to better using international, regional and cross-regional law enforcement and judicial cooperation networks, including the recently launched Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) as an efficient tool for combating cross-border corruption offences and strengthening communication exchange and peer learning. This roadmap will result in the delivery of tangible improvements to the implementation of existing national anti-corruption/anti-illicit finance measures, and international standards and recommendations, including those from the European Commission's annual reports with respect to EU enlargement.

The roadmap focuses on three shared priority areas that were determined through jurisdiction-based consultations and a regional consultation that took place in Ohrid, North Macedonia, from 21 to 23 June 2021, where representatives from the Ministries of Interior, Ministries of Justice, Financial Intelligence Units, Procurement Agencies, Prosecutors, specialized Police, Anti-corruption Agencies, and Sport experts agreed on the Roadmap at the technical level.



GENERAL COMMITMENT

Each jurisdiction re-affirmed its commitment to implement the Goals described below.

Goals in specific thematic areas

GOAL 1: Preventing and countering corruption in public procurement, including in times of crises

Overview

A responsible public procurement system requires a set of rules, regulations, and norms to which public entities are obliged to act in order to achieve accountability in the management and spending of public funds. This helps to ensure competition in the procurement process and increases efficiencies in the use of public financial resources, thereby facilitating opportunities for stronger economic development.

In the context of the international legal framework, article nine of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) calls on States parties to establish public procurement systems based on the fundamental principles of transparency, competition and objective decision-making by implementing measures such as:

- Making publicly available information on procurement procedures and contracts, including information on invitations to tender and the award of contracts;
- Using clear, objective and predetermined criteria for awarding public procurement contracts;
- Establishing effective systems for verification and appeal; and
- Implementing measures to regulate matters regarding the personnel responsible for procurement, such as the professionalization of public procurement officers.

The prevention of corruption and abuse in public procurement is also a high priority on the agenda of the European Union (EU) accession process across the Western Balkans jurisdictions.

The EU pre-accession process has dedicated a stand-alone chapter (chapter 5) of the EU acquis on the matter of public procurement. The acquis requires that procurement processes be guided by principles of transparency, competition and non-discrimination. In addition, specific rules concern the coordination of the award of public contracts for works, services and goods, traditional contracting entities and special sectors. The acquis also specifies rules on review procedures and the need to ensure available remedies for economic operators. Every jurisdiction is required to establish specialized public procurement implementing bodies.¹

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/conditions-membership/chapters-of-the-acquis_en

Even though a robust, normative framework (*Western Balkans jurisdictions are broadly aligned with the EU acquis in this area*) has been established over the years, according to the latest EU Commission progress reports, the Western Balkans jurisdictions still remain only moderately prepared or only have some level of preparation in the area of public procurement.

Under the following goal, the achievement of the overall targets set forth will ensure enhanced knowledge and capacity to identify, mitigate and prevent corruption risks throughout all stages of the public procurement process, improved legal and regulatory frameworks for public procurement that are aligned with UNCAC and relevant EU directives and strengthened regional and local coordination, including through the development of relevant regional standards and the sharing of good practices.

GOAL	TARGETS	BASELINE	TIMEFRAME
<p>1.1 By 2024, ensure that the legal and regulatory framework for public procurement and public-private partnerships across the Western Balkans jurisdictions is harmonized with UNCAC and relevant directives of the European Union</p>	<p>1.1.1. Assess the current legal and regulatory framework for procurement in each jurisdiction to identify gaps and provide recommendations with a view to ensuring their alignment with UNCAC and relevant European Union Directives.</p> <p>1.1.2. Assess the rules and regulations governing public-private partnerships and concessions in each jurisdiction to identify gaps and provide recommendations with a view to ensuring their alignment with UNCAC and relevant EU Directives.</p>	<p>During 2020 and 2021, in efforts to further harmonize their legal framework with the EU acquis, some of the Western Balkans jurisdictions adopted new normative frameworks on public procurement, broadly aligned with EU Directives 2009/81/EC, 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU, 2014/25/EU and Directive 2007/66/EC.²</p> <p>Despite such advances, the latest reports from the European Commission on each jurisdiction conclude that all jurisdictions must invest additional efforts to establish an efficient and transparent system of public procurement in line with the EU Directives.</p>	<p>2021-2024</p>
<p>1.2. By 2023, strengthen anti-corruption measures in the</p>	<p>1.2.1. Assess jurisdictions' current anti-corruption measures for engaging in public procurement in the context of</p>	<p>All jurisdictions faced challenges continuing to ensure transparency and accountability within public</p>	<p>2021-2023</p>

² Directive 2009/81/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the coordination of procedures for the award of certain works contracts, supply contracts and service contracts by contracting authorities or entities in the fields of defence; Directive 2014/23/EU on the award of concession contracts; Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement; Directive 2014/25/EU on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors; and Directive 2007/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on 11 December 2007 amending Council Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC with regard to improving the effectiveness of review procedures concerning the award of public contracts.

<p>context of emergency procurement.</p>	<p>emergencies and develop jurisdictional response plans based on identified good practices.</p>	<p>procurement processes in the context of emergencies, such the COVID-19 crisis or similar crises, and would like to strengthen anti-corruption measures in this regard.</p>	
<p>1.3. By 2024, jurisdictions have developed and/or strengthened their ability to identify corruption risks in procurement processes and develop instruments to mitigate these risks.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Develop and/or improve and implement a methodology on how to assess and mitigate corruption risks in public procurement based on existing good practices. Officers of procuring entities, procurement oversight bodies and anti-corruption bodies should be trained on how to undertake a corruption risk assessment and develop risk mitigation instruments, with support to further develop and implement such instruments.</p> <p>1.3.2. Develop and share a regional handbook that identifies key procurement corruption risks in high-risk sectors, warning signs related to these risks and good regional practices, including on the monitoring of contracts. This document will cover all aspects of procurement from the initial identification of the need to procure a good or service through the development of bidding documents, requests for bids, adjudication of bids, awards and contract management. It will also include annexes for each jurisdiction containing guidelines on how to address specific corruption risks in specific sectors.</p>	<p>Jurisdictions have received recommendations to strengthen their capacity to engage in corruption risk management and timely address irregularities and fraud.</p> <p>While jurisdictions have whistleblower legislation in place, effective reporting mechanisms are yet to be established.</p>	<p>2021-2024</p>
<p>1.4. By 2024, strengthen mechanisms to ensure effective</p>	<p>1.4.1. Assess how jurisdictions currently undertake monitoring and oversight of public procurement, including their use</p>	<p>New oversight and monitoring mandates have been established but are not consistently and effectively</p>	<p>2021-2024</p>

<p>administrative monitoring and oversight in public procurement.</p>	<p>of technical solutions throughout every stage of the procurement process, including execution, delivery and monitoring, to identify gaps. Provide recommendations and support through trainings and technical assistance to improve the effectiveness of monitoring and oversight of public procurement.</p> <p>1.4.2. Support capacity-building for regulatory bodies to undertake monitoring and oversight through specific trainings (such as on the review of criteria and technical specifications).</p> <p>1.4.3. Assess how regulatory bodies within each jurisdiction share information and engage in inter-institutional cooperation during the pre-tender stage currently, provide recommendations to improve information sharing, cooperation and the interoperability of and access to relevant databases, and support the implementation of those recommendations.</p> <p>1.4.4. Undertake research to identify good practices in cross-border procurement cooperation and develop a regional high-level cooperation framework for cross-border procurement and support the implementation of good practices in this regard across all jurisdictions.</p> <p>1.4.5. Enhance existing reporting/whistleblowing channels to increase the use and operationalization of secure channels to report potential irregularities and help identify and mitigate potential corruption risks in public procurement in line</p>	<p>implemented. Jurisdictions have also received recommendations to strengthen the capacities of regulatory bodies to undertake oversight and monitoring of public procurement processes.</p> <p>Monitoring of the execution of public procurement contracts as a final stage in the procurement process is not properly addressed in the Western Balkans jurisdictions. Provisions for contract execution and monitoring exist in the legislation but lack a concrete methodology and are not institutionalized.</p> <p>The region does not currently have a cross-border procurement framework.</p>	
--	---	---	--

	<p>with each jurisdiction's legal framework.</p> <p>1.4.6. Provide specialized training to public procurement officers on how to report potential corruption or irregularities in public procurement through whistleblowing channels.</p> <p>1.4.7. Identify good practices in the region on whistleblower protection in the context of public procurement and develop a regional document consolidating them.</p>		
<p>1.5. By 2024, jurisdictions have established efficient systems for preventing and mitigating conflicts of interest in public procurement.</p>	<p>1.5.1. Enhance the due diligence process undertaken by the body responsible for preventing conflicts of interest in each jurisdiction, including through e-procurement and other digital tools, to enable the identification of potential conflicts of interest when economic operators register as suppliers.</p> <p>1.5.2. Enable preventive anti-corruption bodies to cross-check supplier registration data with beneficial ownership information and the register of public officials, including with registries already in place, where possible.</p>	<p>Regulatory and institutional tools for preventing conflicts of interest are in place, but implementation is lacking.</p> <p>Some jurisdictions have operational beneficial ownership registries while others are in the process of creating them.</p> <p>According to progress reports, while some jurisdictions require the reporting of potential conflicts of interest, there has been minimal development in addressing conflicts of interest in public procurement.</p>	2022-2024
<p>1.6. By 2024, strengthen measures to promote integrity, professionalism and responsibility</p>	<p>1.6.1. Develop and provide tailored trainings on integrity in public procurement to strengthen the professionalization of public procurement officers. Where possible and appropriate,</p>	<p>Initial professionalization of public procurement officers is established across the region, but tailored trainings on integrity, along with guidelines on ethical</p>	2021-2024

<p>among public procurement officers.</p>	<p>trainings may also include other public servants who engage in public procurement for their institutions.</p> <p>1.6.2. Develop and/or strengthen mandatory, continuous, practical learning on integrity at all levels (including on good practices in addressing challenging situations) for public procurement officers. Such training courses should include how to undertake a corruption risk assessment.</p> <p>1.6.3. Develop and/or strengthen guidelines on professional conduct for public procurement officers based on good practices.</p>	<p>conduct and mandatory continuous training programmes, is lacking.</p>	
<p>1.7. By 2024, jurisdictions use open data to further promote transparency in public procurement.</p>	<p>1.7.1. Consider introducing the Open Contracting Data Standard as a tool to promote greater transparency and monitoring of public procurement. Support will be provided to jurisdictions who wish to implement the Standard.</p>	<p>Some of the Western Balkans jurisdictions have committed to implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard in their 2018 anti-corruption pledges.</p> <p>In order to achieve further utilization of the e-procurement benefits, jurisdictions should work towards implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard.</p>	<p>2021-2024</p>
<p>1.8. By 2024, jurisdictions have improved capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption offences related to public procurement fraud.</p>	<p>1.8.1. Strengthen criminal law responses to better address procurement fraud. This target will require an analysis of each jurisdiction’s relevant criminal law legislation, their current practices and challenges regarding the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of public procurement fraud to identify concrete recommendations.</p>	<p>Some of the Western Balkans jurisdictions have criminalized fraud and misfeasance in public procurement but in practice this criminal offence is neglected. Jurisdictions have a limited track record of effectively investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating corruption and fraud in public procurement.</p>	<p>2021-2022</p>

	<p>1.8.2. Follow up on and implement the recommendations derived from the analysis undertaken under 1.8.1.</p> <p>Possible activities could include the training of prosecutors, judges, law enforcement and administrative oversight officers on how to identify and investigate corruption and fraud in public procurement and further strengthen such investigations and prosecutions, including through Goal 3, target 3.3. of this Roadmap.</p>		2022 – 2024
	<p>1.8.2. Develop and/or strengthen a specialized curriculum on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of procurement fraud for prosecutors, judges, law enforcement and administrative oversight officers.</p>	<p>There is a limited number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions of procurement corruption and fraud cases in the region. Jurisdictions do not currently have specific and targeted training and learning programmes to help prosecutors and other law enforcement and anti-corruption officials detect, investigate and prosecute fraud and corruption in public procurement.</p>	2022 – 2023

	<p>1.8.3. Undertake specialized, tailored trainings and provide ongoing mentorship to support corruption investigations, prosecutions and adjudications in public procurement in line with Goal 3, target 3.3. This could include both training and/or ongoing mentorship on how to determine which charges to pursue, identify the evidence required to prove each element of the target offences, introduce evidence in court and how prosecutors present and manage the case in court.</p>	<p>It is necessary to ensure appropriate responses from law enforcement, prosecutors and other institutions to counter corruption in public procurement.</p>	<p>2022-2024</p>
--	--	--	------------------

<p>Key Performance Indicators Preventing and countering corruption in public procurement, including in times of crises</p>
<p>Number of specialized trainings for prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials and administrative oversight officers regarding the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of public procurement corruption and fraud per year in each jurisdiction</p>
<p>Number of specialized training courses and mandatory courses for officers of procuring entities, procurement oversight bodies and anti-corruption bodies on preventing and mitigating corruption, including with respect to conflicts of interest, in public procurement per year in each jurisdiction</p>
<p>Number of guidance documents, publications and good practices shared and developed on strengthening integrity and fighting corruption in public procurement per jurisdiction</p>
<p>Information on secure reporting channels in public procurement is publicly available and the channels are operational</p>
<p>Number of criminal cases concerning corruption in public procurement initiated by regulatory bodies per year per jurisdiction</p>
<p>Number of misdemeanour cases initiated upon identified irregularities in public procurement by regulatory bodies per year per jurisdiction</p>

GOAL 2: Further strengthening conflict of interest and asset declaration systems

Overview

Further digitalization, and agreed common elements (asset, income and interest declarations), the effective cooperation among integrity bodies and other relevant institutions and awareness raising are key elements to the successful implementation of asset, income and interest disclosure systems.

The foreseen actions will facilitate the development of guidelines and methodologies; amendments to laws and bylaws where necessary; and the access to databases and the formal exchange of information for verification and control purposes both at the jurisdiction and regional levels. In addition, training of public officials, the general public and the media will support a better understanding of the concept of conflict of interest and the mandates of the public integrity bodies.

Under this goal, the achievement of the overall targets set forth will ensure and enhance the capacity of the integrity bodies to prevent and detect corruption, and inexplicable wealth, and to perform in-depth verifications and control of asset, income and interest declarations. This would result in the provision of relevant evidence to law enforcement and prosecution services to pursue successful investigations and prosecutions.

Bearing in mind the different levels of implementation of mechanisms included under this goal in the Western Balkans, the jurisdictions will support each other with transfer of knowledge, solutions, methodologies and direct support, as appropriate.

GOAL	OVERALL TARGETS	BASELINE	TIMEFRAME
2.1. Ensure that transparency and functionality of asset, income, and interest disclosure system for all public officials is established/further enhanced in the region	2.1.1. Digitalization of asset, income and interest disclosure systems in the region established or upgraded.	Some of the Western Balkans jurisdictions have developed and established an e-database on asset, income and interest disclosure. Other jurisdictions have made significant efforts in this respect.	July 2021-December 2024
	2.1.2. Online submission of the asset, income and interest disclosure system in the	An online submission is not introduced in some of the Western Balkans jurisdictions.	July 2021-December 2024

	<p>legislation and in practice introduced or upgraded.</p> <p>2.1.3. The cooperation between jurisdictions in exchange of data is established by the implementation of the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for Verification of Asset Declarations.</p> <p>2.1.4. Guidelines on data protection of asset, income and interest disclosure systems developed and approved in cooperation with the Data Protection bodies to facilitate the implementation of the aforementioned International Treaty.³</p>	<p>Montenegro, North Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia have signed the International Treaty</p>	<p>July 2021-December 2024</p>
<p>2.2. Institutions mandated to manage asset, income and interest disclosure systems are empowered to conduct in-depth and effective verifications</p>	<p>2.2.1. Methodology for <i>ex officio</i> and <i>ad hoc</i> in-depth control of asset declarations is established with clear criteria developed and risk assessments conducted.</p> <p>2.2.2. Institutions in charge empowered with online access to other databases and registers, within its jurisdiction, relevant for verification of assets, income and interest disclosure (open databases increased, including beneficial ownership registries and cadastre).</p> <p>2.2.3. Existing systems analysed to assess whether the violation of asset declarations and conflict of interest rules (gifts, incompatibilities, post-employment restrictions)</p>	<p>Some of the Western Balkans jurisdictions developed relevant bylaws and guidelines.</p> <p>Some of the Western Balkans integrity bodies are empowered to access other databases and registers.</p> <p>Every jurisdiction has a sanctioning system in place.</p>	<p>July 2021-December 2022 for establishment + yearly update</p> <p>July 2021-December 2024</p> <p>July 2021-December 2024</p>

³ Article 9 of the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for Verification of Asset Declarations.

	<p>result in dissuasive, proportional and effective sanctions enforced.</p> <p>2.2.4. Develop relevant policy/training to ensure compliance with the asset, income and interest disclosure provisions.</p>	<p>The anti-corruption bodies in the Western Balkans have delivered in the past training to public administration/institutions employees.</p>	<p>July 2021-December 2024</p>
<p>2.3. Further develop an asset declaration system for key targeted public administrations'/institutions' employee groups.</p>	<p>2.3.1. In accordance with relevant legislation, targeted groups of public administrations'/institutions' employees for the submission of asset declarations are defined.</p> <p>2.3.2. Tailored training developed and delivered to the target groups.</p>	<p>Some target groups have already been determined in some of the jurisdictions and some preparatory work was already conducted in order to oblige them to submit asset declarations.</p> <p>Some of the anti-corruption bodies in the Western Balkans have delivered in the past training to new target groups of public administration/institutions employees.</p>	<p>July 2021-December 2023</p> <p>Annually</p>
<p>2.4. The concept of conflict of interest is recognized and understood by public officials and the general public, and is widely promoted.</p>	<p>2.4.1. The general knowledge on conflict of interest is increased as a result of efficient and effective work of integrity bodies and through public awareness campaigns and an inclusive role of civil society organizations.</p> <p>2.4.2. Guidelines drafted, training materials regarding the guidelines developed and training delivered to public officials.</p> <p>2.4.3. Using the existing regional platforms as well as bilateral arrangements in order</p>	<p>Lack of understanding of the general public on the concept of conflict of interest (actual, potential and perceived), with the distinction of incompatibility of public offices.</p> <p>In a number of jurisdictions, brochures on conflict of interest have</p>	<p>July 2021-December 2024</p>

	<p>to enhance cooperation and coordination mechanisms to exchange good practices, advocacy and campaigns at the jurisdiction and regional levels among the CSOs, and with the institutions are put in place.</p> <p>2.4.4. The capacity of the media is enhanced through training to responsibly and effectively inform the general public regarding the mandate of ⁴public integrity bodies.</p> <p>2.4.5. Public institutions trained through tailored ethics and conflict of interest curricula.</p>	<p>been produced and disseminated among public officials, both at central and local level.</p>	
<p>2.5. The concept of beneficial ownership is recognized and understood by public officials and the general public, and is widely promoted by competent institutions.</p>	<p>2.5.1. Joint training/workshops/awareness raising campaigns organized by competent institutions in order to deepen knowledge and raise awareness on the concept of beneficial ownership among all relevant stakeholders supported.</p>	<p>Some jurisdictions have already established beneficial ownership registries and are carrying out awareness raising campaigns addressed to the private sector.</p>	<p>Annually</p>

<p>Key Performance Indicators Further strengthening conflict of interest and asset declaration systems</p>
<p>Declarations of public officials submitted to the integrity bodies include mandatory elements of assets, income and interests throughout the region</p>
<p>Financial and other private interests are filed through an online platform in at least four jurisdictions</p>
<p>At least two additional jurisdictions signed the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for Verification of Asset Declarations</p>
<p>At least three jurisdictions ratified the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for Verification of Asset Declarations</p>

⁴“Public integrity bodies” may refer to public institutions that deal with asset, income and interest disclosures, but not solely to them, i.e. institutions competent regarding integrity plans, whistleblower reports and protection, corruption proofing of legislation, oversight of the political entities, etc.

Track record of submitted requests established in accordance with the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for Verification of Asset Declaration
The guidelines on data protection of asset, income and interest disclosure systems approved in at least three jurisdictions
Methodologies for ex officio and ad hoc in-depth control of asset declarations are adopted and upgraded where necessary in all jurisdictions
All jurisdictions have proven they are interconnected with relevant database(s) for the purpose of verification of asset declarations
All jurisdictions conducted an analysis to assess whether the violation of asset declarations and conflict of interest rules result in dissuasive, proportional and effective sanctions
At least three trainings to ensure compliance with the asset, income and interest disclosure provisions conducted per jurisdiction on an annual basis
All jurisdictions define at least one target group of public administration/institutions' employees for the submission of asset declarations in accordance with relevant laws
At least three trainings for targeted groups of public administration/institutions conducted per jurisdiction on an annual basis
At least one public awareness campaign in cooperation with relevant civil society organizations conducted per jurisdiction
Guidelines on conflict of interest developed and disseminated to public officials
At least three trainings for public officials on conflict of interest conducted per jurisdiction on an annual basis
At least one training for media on conflict of interest conducted per jurisdiction on an annual basis
At least three joint trainings/workshops/awareness raising campaigns organized by competent institutions to deepen the knowledge on the concept of beneficial ownership per jurisdiction on an annual basis

Goal 3: Enhancing criminal justice responses to corruption and economic crime through the creation of a regional network of specialized prosecutors, law enforcement and financial intelligence units in the Western Balkans Jurisdictions

Overview

This goal will enhance criminal justice responses to corruption and economic crime through the creation of a regional network of specialized prosecutors, law enforcement and financial intelligence units in the Western Balkans jurisdictions.

Cooperation among prosecutors, law enforcement investigators, and financial intelligence units is a key element of the criminal justice response to corruption and economic crime. This regional network will facilitate exchange of information, joint investigations, the use of special investigative techniques, mutual legal assistance requests and asset recovery for trans-border cases of corruption and economic crimes, including financial investigations.

Under this goal, the achievement of the overall targets set forth will ensure enhanced knowledge and capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption and economic crimes, including those related to sport, support the development of relevant regional standards or principles in the fight against corruption and enhance cooperation among relevant authorities.



GOAL	OVERALL TARGETS	BASELINE	TIMEFRAME
<p>Enhancing criminal justice responses to corruption and economic crime through the creation of a regional network of specialized prosecutors, law enforcement and financial intelligence units in the Western Balkans Jurisdictions</p>	<p>3.1. Cooperation among specialized prosecutors, law enforcement investigators and financial intelligence units are strengthened to facilitate spontaneous exchange of information, informal (including in cooperation with the GlobE Network and other networks) and formal exchange of information and good practices, joint investigations, the use of special investigative techniques, mutual legal assistance requests and asset recovery for trans-border cases of corruption, economic crime and crime in sport.</p>	<p>The Prosecutors’ Network of the Western Balkans was established in 2014 with a major focus in organized crime. There is no existing operational network of specialized prosecutors in corruption and economic crimes.</p> <p>There is no effective mechanism in place in the Western Balkans to support cooperation between anti-corruption agencies with a law enforcement mandate to focus on informal information exchange on cases and issues linked to corruption and economic crime.</p> <p>There is a need to strengthen capacity, organize (multi- and bi-lateral) meetings between prosecutors, law enforcement and Financial Intelligence Units to support investigations and prosecutions, share information relevant to cases involving corruption, including good practices, challenges and lessons learned from cases to improve the quality of the information disseminated in future.</p>	<p>2021-2024</p>

	<p>3.2. By 2024, corruption and economic crime prosecutors and investigators will have enhanced knowledge and capacity to investigate trans-border corruption and economic crime cases through training and sharing of experience.</p> <p>3.3. The Prosecutors Network will develop knowledge tools such as operational guides, red flag guides on specific typologies and modus operandi, collections of relevant case law and support the development of regional standards or principles on the fight against corruption, in line with international standards/requirements.</p>	<p>There is a regional need to increase capacity and experience in the investigation and prosecution of corruption and economic crime cases.</p>	<p>2021-2024</p>
	<p>3.4. By 2024, increase in the awareness of and cooperation in trans-border corruption and economic crime investigations, prosecutions and asset recovery through targeted interventions including, but not exclusively limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Money Laundering involving cash transactions or through cash couriers. - Money Laundering involving the real estate and construction sectors. - Money Laundering in cases when the predicate offence is not proven to the required legal standard for the underlying offence, if relevant. - Public procurement fraud in public infrastructure. - Public procurement fraud in the health sector and in times of emergency. - Crime in sport, including money laundering and links to organized crime. 	<p>Limited number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions of corruption and economic crimes cases.</p> <p>Limited recovery of the proceeds of crime in general.</p>	<p>2021 - 2024</p>
	<p>3.5. Anti-corruption practitioners and stakeholders will have enhanced</p>	<p>Capacities of prosecutors and law enforcement and anti-corruption officials should be enhanced to</p>	<p>2021 - 2024</p>

	knowledge and capacity to investigate crime cases in sport.	investigate relevant cases involving abuse of authority, fraud, money-laundering and crime linked to sport, as well as competition manipulation in the Western Balkans jurisdictions.	
	3.6. The proposed Network will consider establishing a secure online portal for the Network and its members that would facilitate regional cooperation and communication in Western Balkans jurisdictions.	The communication platform would facilitate the activities of the proposed Network.	2021 - 2024
	3.7. The proposed Network will develop recommendations, drawing on regional and international good practices, to strengthen reporting mechanisms, including whistleblower protection measures, for corruption and economic crime in Western Balkans jurisdictions, including crime in sport, to be considered for implementation at the jurisdictional level.	Mechanisms for the reporting of corruption and economic crime, including crime in sport, in Western Balkans jurisdictions should be strengthened and, where appropriate, consolidated, to facilitate the reporting process by persons with information relevant to corruption investigations and prosecutions.	2021 - 2024

Key Performance Indicators
Network of Corruption and Economic Crimes Prosecutors of the Western Balkans Jurisdictions
Number of members of the regional Network for prosecutors, investigators and financial intelligence units in Western Balkans jurisdictions
Number of guidance tools, publications, training programmes and good practices developed and shared through the Network
Number of pre-investigations of corruption and economic crimes cases initiated per year in each jurisdiction
Number of formal investigative processes of corruption and economic crimes cases initiated per year in each jurisdiction
Number of prosecution indictments of corruption and economic crime cases initiated per year in each jurisdiction
With reference to the previous indicator, the # and types of crimes in the reported indictments
Number of conviction decisions from courts on corruption and economic crimes cases per year in each jurisdiction

With reference to the previous indicator, the # of persons convicted on corruption and economic crimes per year in each jurisdiction

Number of provisional freezing and seizure orders in corruption and economic crime cases per year in each jurisdiction

Number and value of confiscation and/or forfeiture orders in corruption and economic crime cases per year in each jurisdiction

Number of mutual legal assistance requests within jurisdictions in the region

Number of joint investigations among jurisdictions in the region

Number of exchanges of information among Financial Intelligence Units in the region

