



Funded by  
the European Union



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe



# 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

## REGIONAL OBSERVATIONS

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

### HOW

The Project's Methodology, developed and adapted 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

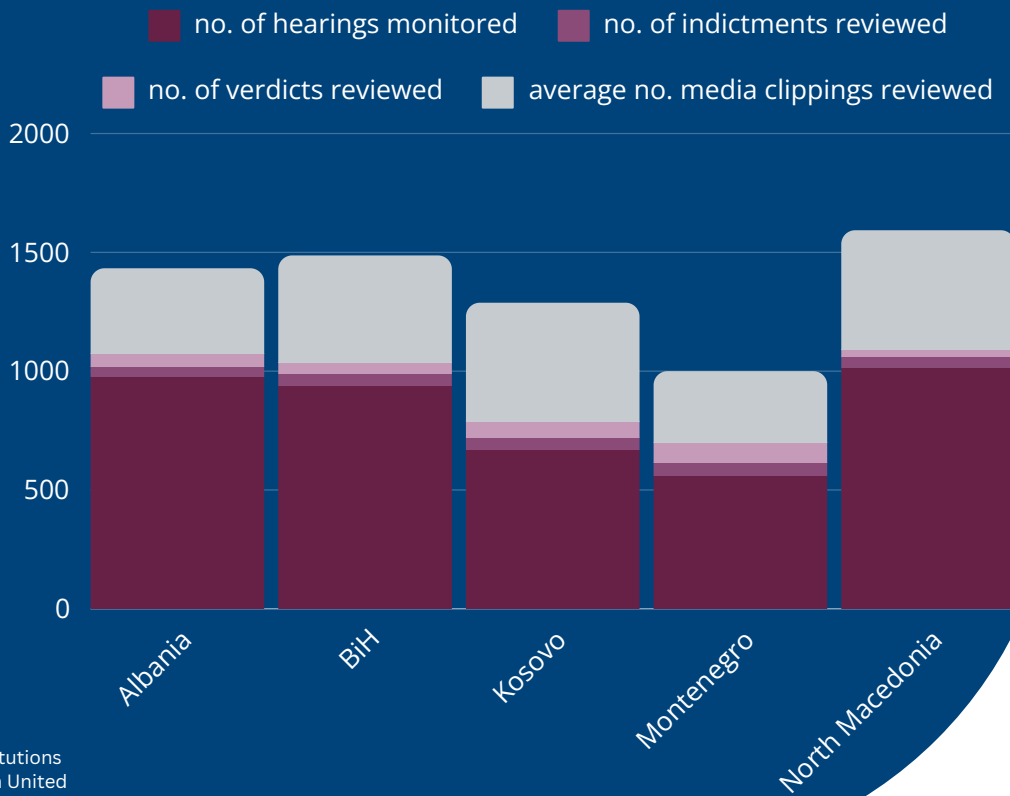


capacities/performance



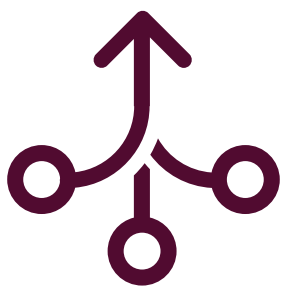
strategic use of judicial tools

- ALBANIA
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- KOSOVO\*
- MONTENEGRO
- NORTH MACEDONIA



\*All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, should be understood in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

## CROSS-CUTTING 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 strategies, action plans, guidelines and targeted capacity building. These are substantial investments that, with sustained efforts, can lead to substantial progress.

The main areas identified for further improvement at the institutional level, to varying degrees across the region, relate to:



## OWNERSHIP OF REFORM PROCESSES

- ▶ coordination of implementation of new guidelines, policy proposals and capacity-building efforts
- ▶ oversight mechanisms for reform processes
- ▶ interinstitutional communication and collaboration



## ACCOUNTABILITY & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- ▶ type of performance assessment criteria (balance between quantitative and qualitative)
- ▶ incentives to implement standards that exist in policies and guidelines
- ▶ structure and use of statistical data for evidence-informed decision making



## RESOURCES ALLOCATION

- ▶ material and human resources
- ▶ specialized experts for financial investigations
- ▶ length of vacancies for judicial and prosecutorial appointments



# 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.



Funded by  
the European Union





Funded by  
the European Union

OSCE



## **EMBRACE DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS**

to address all structural and systemic issues with evidence-informed policies.



## **STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE**

all guidelines, capacity building initiatives and strategies/action plans related to effective and efficient processing of OCC cases.



## **INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY & OWNERSHIP**

for the implementation of strategies, action plans and policies relating to OCC cases, by mandating the monitoring and evaluation of progress and the undertaking of corrective actions as well as comprehensive reporting.



## **CREATE INCENTIVE STRUCTURES**

for the implementation of all tools available, from policies to subject-specific guidelines, related to the effective and efficient processing of OCC cases.