

Enhancing cross-border cooperation in criminal justice in the Western Balkans – WBCJ



WBCJ
Western Balkans
Criminal Justice



EUROJUST

Project funded by the European Union
and implemented by Eurojust

WHAT IS THE PROJECT'S MAIN AIM?

The project's main aim is to strengthen cooperation within the Western Balkans and between the region and the EU on fighting organised crime and terrorism using modern tools and instruments. This will lead to an enhanced level of interaction and integration between the EU and the Western Balkan region (including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) in the criminal justice field.

HOW WILL IT ACHIEVE THIS?

One or two representatives from each Western Balkan partner will form the project's contact group. They will be responsible for identifying common cases that would benefit from coordination. These selected cases will receive financial support and expert advice from Eurojust to facilitate coordinated parallel investigations/prosecutions and joint investigation teams.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED BENEFITS?

The project will benefit judicial and law enforcement authorities in the Western Balkans. It will allow for a more effective crackdown on organised crime affecting the Western Balkans and the EU, and will ultimately contribute to a safer Europe for the benefit of all citizens.

WHAT ARE THE PROJECT'S OBJECTIVES?

- ▶ Provide resources to Western Balkan national authorities to increasingly use Eurojust-style judicial cooperation tools and instruments to investigate and prosecute serious and organised crime in the region;
- ▶ Integrate Western Balkans partners further in Eurojust activities and in practitioners' networks supported by Eurojust, such as the JITs network, the European Judicial Network and the European Judicial Cybercrime Network.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL EUROJUST PROVIDE?

- ▶ Expertise and best practices from Eurojust and EU Member States on how to use tools and instruments on judicial cooperation;
- ▶ Direct funding for operational meetings and joint investigation teams carried out in the region, also when including region participants only;
- ▶ Organisation of coordination meetings and coordination centres to exchange evidence and carry out investigative and judicial measures;
- ▶ Provision of modern ICT equipment such as secure mobile phones and laptops;
- ▶ Translation and interpretation services.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

ANNUAL WORKPLAN FOR 2024



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PROJECT INFORMATION

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| Funded by: European Union Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) | Duration: September 2022 – September 2026 (with possible extension) |
| Implemented by: Eurojust, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation | Budget: 6 million Euros |

More information: www.eurojust.europa.eu/western-balkans-criminal-justice



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Eurojust, Johan de Wittlaan 9, 2517 JR The Hague, The Netherlands

www.eurojust.europa.eu • info@eurojust.europa.eu • +31 70 412 5000 • Follow Eurojust on X, LinkedIn and YouTube @Eurojust

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