



Project funded by the European Union

EURALIUS

Consolidation of the Justice System in Albania



Basic data of the project

EURALIUS IV project, "Consolidation of the Justice System in Albania", funded by EU, started in September 2014 and will last until December 2017. With its five areas of intervention, the project will support the Albanian Ministry of Justice, the Office for the Administration of the Judiciary Budget, the High Council of Justice, the High Court, the General Prosecutor Office, the Courts, the National Judicial Conference, the Parliamentary Law Committee, the School of Magistrates, the National Chamber of Advocacy and the National Chamber of Notaries as its main beneficiaries. The project comprises ten full time top experts from EU Member States and Albania, sitting in the premises of the main beneficiaries.

Financing

EURALIUS IV is funded by European Commission under IPA 2013 funds for Albania amounting in total to almost 4 million euros.

Implementing Partners

The project implementation was awarded to a Consortium led by the German Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.V. (IRZ), in cooperation with the Dutch Center for International Legal Cooperation (CILC) and the Austrian Agency for Economic Cooperation and Development (AED), which are all mandated bodies of respective Ministries of Justice.

Implementation framework

The concept

EURALIUS IV is designed as an EU technical assistance project which will support and assist key Albanian justice institutions to bring their performance closer to EU standards. The overall objective of the EURALIUS IV project "is to strengthen the independence, transparency, efficiency, accountability and public trust in the Albanian justice system in line with the EU acquis and best practices".

Project activities

The outputs linked to the five expected result areas include a mix of activities ranging from strategic advice to institutional strengthening, support to legal drafting, training, coaching and mentoring activities, seminars, workshops and study visits in EU Member States.

Methodology

The methodology applied by EURALIUS IV for capacity building activities, will be carried out in four steps: problem analysis, gap assessment, strategy for gap bridging and fourthly, gap bridging (legislative and institutional). Training as well as coaching and mentoring activities will complement and complete the institutional strengthening activities.

The project will work in close cooperation with key Albanian justice institutions and with other international projects and donors.

Project Components

The EURALIUS IV project is organized into the following main five activity areas:

1. Justice reform and organization of the Ministry

The main aim of this component is to assist the Albanian authorities to design and implement a justice system strategy with a view to guaranteeing independence, transparency and efficiency. Moreover, it intends to enhance the professionalism and accountability of the services of the Ministry of Justice and relevant subordinate authorities. Furthermore, this component aims at improving access to courts and transparency of judicial proceedings.

2. High Council of Justice and High Court

The activities envisaged under this component aim at supporting the High Council of Justice to ensure that decisions regarding the status and career of judges are based on objective, professional and transparent criteria in line with EU standards. The support to the High Court aims at enhancing its independence, efficiency and effectiveness ensuring that the court can fulfill its constitutional task to provide guidance to all other Albanian courts by unifying the judicial practice. This component will also focus on strengthening the inspection mechanisms for judges.

3. Criminal justice and prosecution office

The activities envisaged under this component aim at aligning the legislative framework in criminal matters including international cooperation to EU and Council of Europe standards and support reform of the criminal legal framework. Furthermore, the activities aim at enhancing the efficiency, independence and accountability of the Albanian prosecution service, including the alignment to the best European standards the career and inspections of prosecutors, the internal organisation and functioning of the general prosecutor office.

4. Judicial administration and efficiency

Within this component the focus is on improving transparency of court functioning and increased the efficiency of the administrative staff in the justice system. The component will focus on building an efficient and professional court administration staff. It will also focus at improving case management, procedural codes and the use of technology at a country-wide level. The component aims at reducing the length of trials, of courts backlog and improve service delivery to justice users.

5. Legal professions and School of Magistrates

The main aim of the activities envisaged under this component is to strengthen the National Chamber of Advocacy, National Chamber of Notaries and the State Commission on Legal Aid, in particular through support in regard to disciplinary proceedings, codes of ethics and training programs for both lawyers and notaries as well as through support to civil society institutions providing legal aid. Additionally, it aims at assisting the School of Magistrates by further developing the continuous training for judges and prosecutors.

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