Strasbourg, 09/07/2025

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Part 2

# EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

## HFIII: Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans "DASHBOARD Western Balkans"

## Data collection: 2024

Report prepared by the CEPEJ for the attention of the European Commission

# Part 2 (A) - Beneficiary profile - Albania

*Generated on 09/07/2025 09:00*

# Executive Summary - Albania in 2024

## Population in 2024




## GDP per capita in 2024




## Average annual salary in 2024



**8 954 €**

WB Average: 12 209 €

### Judicial organisation

In Albania, the reform on the reorganisation of the country's courts (New Judicial Map) was completed in 2023. As a result, 18 courts were closed, leaving 13 courts of first instance of general jurisdiction, one Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction, and two administrative courts of first instance. The overall number of courts decreased from 38 to 20. In 2024, there are 20 courts as legal entities, including 15 general jurisdiction courts (13 first instance, 1 second instance, 1 highest instance) and 5 specialised courts.

### Budget

In 2024, Albania spent **77 840 056 €** on the implemented judicial system budget. This corresponds to **28,2 € per inhabitant**, which remains below the Western Balkans average of **49,3 €**. Of this amount, **57,5 %** was allocated to **courts**, **41,6 %** to **prosecution services**, and **0,9 %** to **legal aid**. Albania continues to have the lowest budget per inhabitant in the region and the lowest budget as a percentage of GDP. However, over the five-year period from 2019 to 2024, Albania significantly increased its budget allocation for courts, rising from **7,5 € per inhabitant in 2019** to **16,2 € in 2024**. This rise is primarily due to the increase in salaries for court and prosecutor staff. Additionally, following the legal aid reform implemented in 2018, Albania has directed substantially more funds towards legal aid, marking a **587 % increase from 2019 to 2024**.

### Legal aid

Following the entry into force of the Law on Legal Aid in 2018, Albania has continued to develop a comprehensive legal aid system covering:
**Primary legal aid** (legal advice and assistance outside court),
**Secondary legal aid** (representation in court), and
**Exemption from court fees and execution costs**.
In 2024, the number of cases granted legal aid was **7 058**, corresponding to **0,26 cases per 100 inhabitants**, aligning with the Western Balkans median (0,26). However, this reflects a slight decrease compared to the peak of **7 737 cases in 2023**, continuing the downward trend observed since 2021. **inhabitant** and **0,003 % of GDP**. Legal aid services are provided by 20 legal aid centres, 15 NGOs, and 13 legal clinics. In 2024, **177 lawyers** signed annual contracts with the Free Legal Aid Directorate to provide secondary legal aid services.

Among these, **480 cases** were criminal, **6 578** were other than criminal, and **340 requests** for secondary legal aid were rejected due to ineligibility. The implemented legal aid budget in 2024 was **681 193 €**, equivalent to **0,25 € per inhabitant** and **0,003 % of GDP**. Legal aid services are provided by 20 legal aid centres, 15 NGOs, and 13 legal clinics. In 2024, **177 lawyers** signed annual contracts with the Free Legal Aid Directorate to provide secondary legal aid services.

### Efficiency

In Albania, the vetting process continues to impact the judicial system by reducing the number of available professionals and thus affecting court performance.
In the **first instance**, performance improved across all case categories in 2024. For civil and commercial litigious cases, the **Disposition Time (DT)** decreased from 462 to **365 days**, and the **Clearance Rate (CR)** increased from 87 % to **105 %**, surpassing the 100 % threshold. A similar improvement was observed in administrative cases, with the CR rising from 91 % to **103 %**, and the DT slightly reduced from 229 to **208 days**. For criminal cases, performance also improved: the CR rose from 94 % to **102 %**, and the DT decreased from 124 to **110 days**.
In the **second instance**, the data show signs of recovery, although challenges remain. For administrative cases, the DT dropped sharply from **5 326 days in 2023** to **3 276 days in 2024**, while the CR increased from 46 % to **77 %**. This improvement was driven by the increased number of judges assigned to administrative courts in 2023. For criminal cases, the CR rose slightly from 63 % to **66 %**, but the DT increased from 365 to **1 661 days**, indicating growing pressure on the system. For civil and commercial cases, the CR dropped to **42 %**, and the DT in 2024 reached **5 496 days**, a particularly high value.

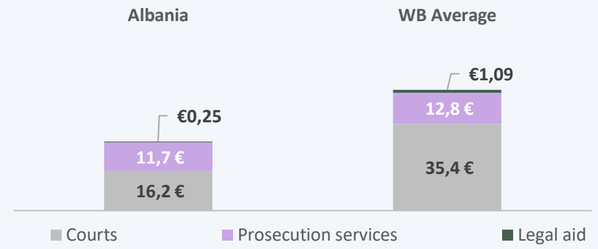
### Public prosecution

In 2024, the public prosecution services in Albania received **0,9** first instance criminal cases per 100 inhabitants and had **0,8** cases pending at the end of the year. The public prosecutor is responsible for conducting investigations, bringing charges, presenting cases in court, appealing decisions, and proposing sentences. However, discontinuing a case without judicial decision or negotiating penalties is only allowed under specific conditions defined by law.

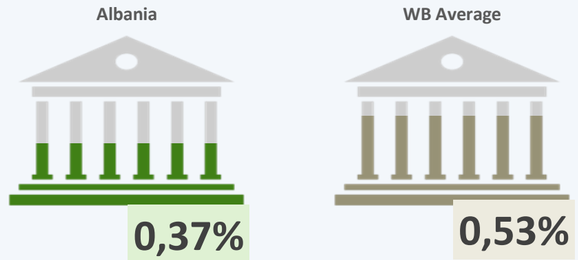
**The CEPEJ has developed two indicators to measure court's performance: clearance rate and disposition time.
**Clearance Rate (CR)** is the ratio obtained by dividing the number of resolved cases by the number of incoming cases in a given period, expressed as a percentage. It demonstrates how the court or the judicial system is coping with the in-flow of cases and allows comparison between systems regardless of their differences and individual characteristics. Its key value is 100%. A value below 100% means that the courts were not able to solve all the cases they received and, as a consequence, the number of pending cases increases. A CR above 100% means that the courts have resolved more cases than they received (they have resolved all the incoming cases and part of the pending cases) and, as a consequence, the number of pending cases decreases.
**Disposition Time (DT)** is the indicator that calculates time necessary for a pending case to be resolved and estimates the lengths of proceedings in days. It is a ratio between the pending cases at the end of the period and the resolved cases within the same period, multiplied by 365 days. More pending than resolved cases will lead to a DT higher than 365 days (one year) and vice versa.

## Budget of the Judicial System

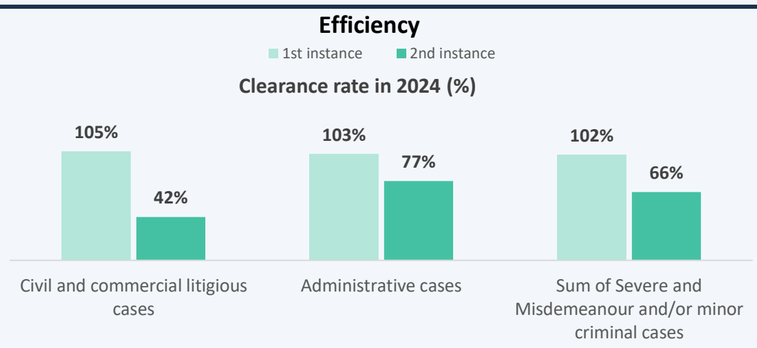
### Implemented Judicial System Budget per inhabitant in 2024



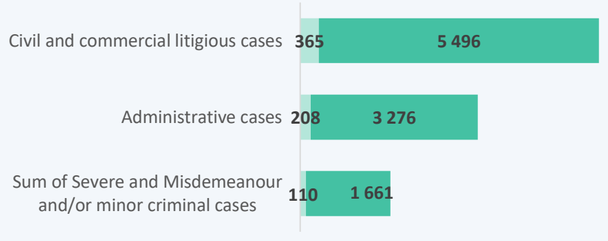

### Implemented Judicial System Budget as % of GDP in 2024




## Efficiency

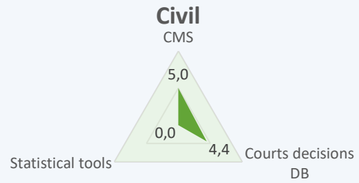


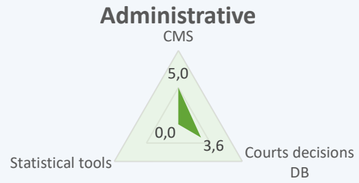

### Disposition time in 2024 (days)

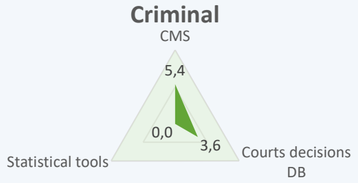


## ICT Deployment indices (scale 0-10)

The three ICT deployment indices (CMS, Courts decisions DB and Statistical tools) range from 0 to 10 points. Their calculation is based on the features and deployment rates of each beneficiary. The methodology for calculation provides points for each feature in each case matter. They are summarised and multiplied by the deployment rate as a weight. In this way, if the system is not fully deployed, the value is decreased even if all features are existing.




Albania's score out of 10

### ICT tools

The Albanian judiciary currently uses two case management systems (CMS), CMIS and ARKIT, both of which are outdated and operate with local installations across different courts. In December 2021, the Centre for IT in the Judiciary of Albania, upon the proposal of the High Judicial Council, adopted a roadmap to develop a new, unified court case management system. The new system will be implemented in phases and aims to improve digitisation, interoperability, and standardisation. A five-year timeline has been proposed for the completion of the entire project. In the meantime, the existing systems remain offline, are maintained locally, and lack centralised databases or advanced functionalities.

### Training

In 2024, the total budget for the training of judges and prosecutors was **1,72 € per inhabitant**, above the Western Balkans average of **0,86 €**. Since the adoption of the Law on the governance organs of the justice system in 2016, the School of Magistrates is responsible not only for initial and continuous training of judges and prosecutors but also of state advocates, legal advisers, and chancellors. Judges are required to attend at least five training days per year and can choose their courses. In 2024, 78% of judges attended at least one training, with an average of **4,1 trainings per judge**. All prosecutors attended at least one training, with an average of **13 trainings per prosecutor**. Trainings on ethics and corruption remain non-mandatory.

### ADR

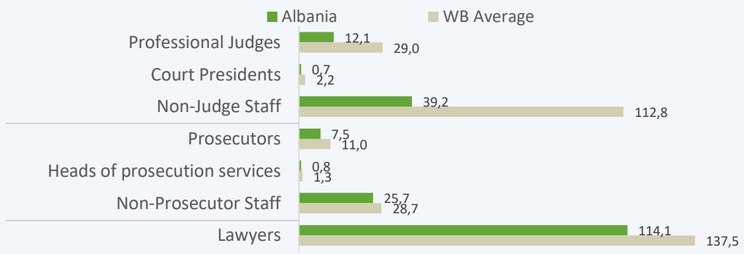
In Albania, mediation is regulated by the Law on Mediation (adopted in 2011 and amended in 2017). Mediation is available for disputes in civil, commercial, labour, family, intellectual property, consumer protection, and public administration matters. However, it is not mandatory and there are no mandatory preliminary sessions or mandatory informative sessions with a mediator. According to the law, mediation may be encouraged by the judge at any stage of proceedings. Legal aid cannot be granted for mediation procedures. The number of cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation increased significantly from 992 in 2020 to 2 712 in 2024.

### ECHR

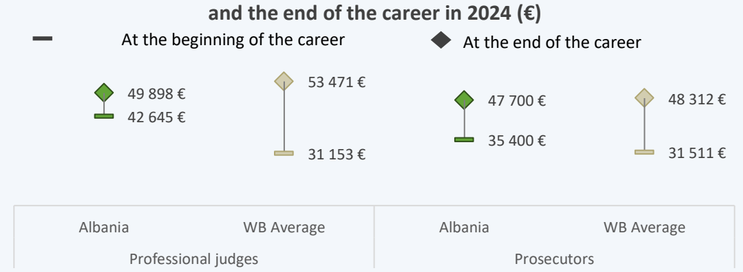
In 2024, **156 applications** concerning Albania were allocated to a judicial formation of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), compared to **133 in 2023**. In the same year, **18 judgments** found at least one violation, with **15 violations** related to **Article 6** of the Convention. Albania does not have a specific national monitoring system for Article 6 violations (relating to delays or non-enforcement in civil or criminal proceedings). However, there is a domestic system in place to accelerate proceedings and allow the reopening of cases.

## Professionals of Justice

**Total number of professionals per 100 000 inhabitants in 2024**



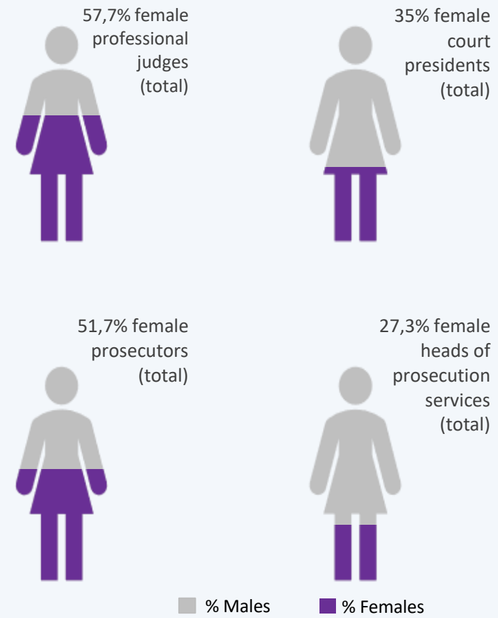

**Gross annual salaries of professional judges and prosecutors at the beginning and the end of the career in 2024 (€)**




*Kosovo* is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

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

## Gender Balance




### Professionals and gender balance

Western Balkans countries traditionally have a high number of justice professionals per 100 000 inhabitants. However, in 2024 Albania had **12,1 professional judges** and **7,4 prosecutors** per 100 000 inhabitants, the lowest in the region and significantly below the Western Balkans averages of 29 and 11 respectively. This is largely due to the ongoing vetting process, which has led to numerous dismissals and voluntary resignations since 2014. The number of judges increased by **-4,3%** while prosecutors decreased by **-28,7 %** compared to 2019.

The number of **non-judge staff** was 1 084 (i.e. **39,2 per 100 000 inhabitants**, below the WB average of 112,8), with the highest share assisting judges. The ratio of non-judge staff to professional judges was 3,3, higher than the WB average of 3,9. Similarly, Albania had 710 non-prosecutor staff (25,7 per 100 000 inhabitants), with a ratio of 3,4 staff per prosecutor, also higher than the WB average of 2,6.

The **percentage of women** among professional judges was **57,7 %**, and among prosecutors 51,7 %, both higher than WB averages (48,3 % and 30,1 % respectively).

### Reforms

In 2016, the Albanian Parliament adopted a radical and comprehensive constitutional and Justice Reform for the organisation and functioning of the justice system. This reform led to the creation of several new institutions, including the High Prosecutorial Council, the High Judicial Council, the High Inspector of Justice, and the Council for Judicial Appointments. The reform also reshaped the role of the School of Magistrates. These institutions were established to enhance the independence, accountability, efficiency, and transparency of the judiciary.

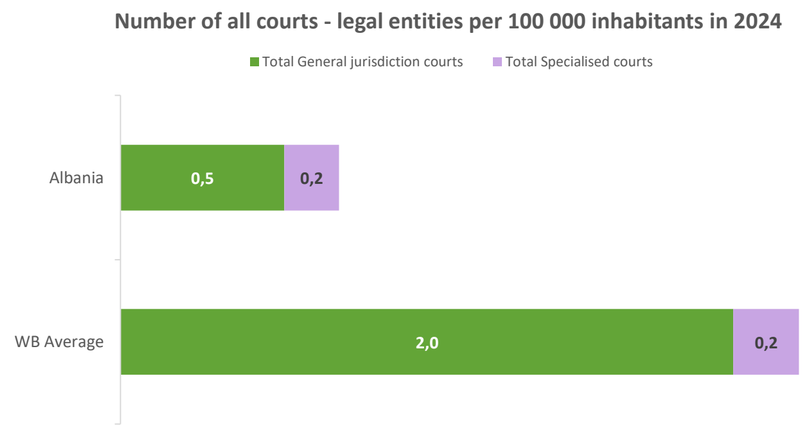
In 2024, the Assembly of Albania established the Special Parliamentary Committee for Deepening Reforms for Good Governance, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption for Albania 2030 in the European Union. This Committee aims to further consolidate the justice reform and deepen its implementation, particularly by ensuring cooperation between institutions, securing adequate resources, and supporting the effective functioning of the justice sector. The Committee's work is ongoing and still at an early stage.

# Judicial organisation in Albania in 2024 (Indicator 2.0)

In Albania, a reform concerning the reorganisation of the court system (New Judicial Map) was finalised in 2023. As a result, 18 courts were closed, leaving 13 courts of first instance of general jurisdiction, one Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction, and two administrative courts of first instance. The total number of courts decreased from 38 to 20.

## • Number of courts - legal entities

| | | Number of courts - legal entities in 2024 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Absolute number | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants |
| Total number of all courts - legal entities (1 + 2) | | 20 | 0,7 | 2,3 |
| General jurisdiction | Total General jurisdiction courts (1) | 15 | 0,5 | 2,0 |
| | 1st instance | 13 | 0,5 | 1,6 |
| | 2nd instance | 1 | 0,0 | 0,4 |
| | Highest instance | 1 | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| Specialised courts | Total Specialised courts (2) | 5 | 0,2 | 0,2 |
| | 1st instance | 3 | 0,1 | 0,2 |
| | Higher instance | 2 | 0,1 | 0,0 |




Specialised courts are:
1.Special Court of Appeal for Corruption and Organized Crime;
2.Administrative Court of Appeal;
3.Special Court of First Instance for Corruption and Organized Crime;
4.Administrative Court of First Instance of Tirana;
5.Administrative Court of First Instance of Lushnja.

## • Specialised courts

| Specialised courts in 2024 | First instance | Higher instances |
|---|---|---|
| **Total number of specialised courts - legal entities** | 3 | 2 |
| **Commercial courts (excluded insolvency courts)** | NAP | NAP |
| **Insolvency courts** | NAP | NAP |
| **Labour courts** | NAP | NAP |
| **Family courts** | NAP | NAP |
| **Rent and tenancies courts** | NAP | NAP |
| **Enforcement of criminal sanctions courts** | NAP | NAP |
| **Fight against terrorism, organised crime and corruption** | 1 | 1 |
| **Internet related disputes** | NAP | NAP |
| **Administrative courts** | 2 | 1 |
| **Insurance and / or social welfare courts** | NAP | NAP |
| **Military courts** | NAP | NAP |
| **Juvenile courts** | NAP | NAP |
| **Other specialised courts** | NAP | NAP |

## • Number of courts - geographic locations

| Number of courts - geographic locations in 2024 | Absolute number | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total number** | 14 | 0,5 | 2,1 |
| **1st instance courts** | 14 | 0,5 | 1,9 |

According to the new judicial map, the number of courts – geographic locations – is 14. In reference to Decision No. 147, dated 29.03.2023, of the High Judicial Council “On determining the categories of courts”, the following classification is provided:

The first, or high, category of courts is located in Tirana. It includes: the High Court, the Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction, the Special Court of Appeal for Corruption and Organized Crime, the Administrative Court of Appeal, the Court of First Instance of General Jurisdiction of Tirana, the Special Court of First Instance for Corruption and Organized Crime, and the Administrative Court of First Instance of Tirana.

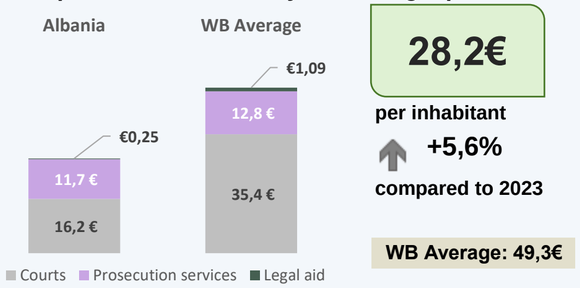
The second, or middle, category includes the courts of first instance of general jurisdiction in the districts of Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Korçë, Shkodër, Vlorë, Berat, and Lezhë; as well as the Administrative Court of First Instance of Lushnje.

The third, or lower, category includes the courts of first instance of general jurisdiction in the districts of Dibër, Gjirokastër, Kukës, and Sarandë.

*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

## Budget of the judicial system in Albania in 2024 (Indicator 1)

### Implemented Judicial System Budget per inhabitant




**28,2€**

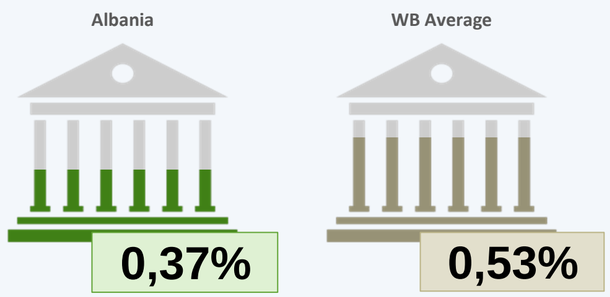
per inhabitant

+5,6%

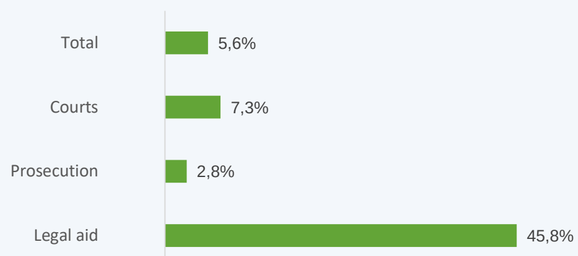
compared to 2023

**WB Average: 49,3€**

### Implemented Judicial System Budget as % of GDP




### Variation of the JSB per inhabitant between 2023 - 2024




JSB = Judicial System Budget

The Judicial System Budget (JSB) is composed by the budget for courts, public prosecution services and legal aid. In 2024, the implemented JBS for Albania was 28,2€ per inhabitant (+5,6% compared to 2023). It was lower than the WB Average of 49,3€ per inhabitant. The expenditure on JSB represented 0,37% of the GDP of Albania (the WB Average was 0,53%).

## • Budget allocated to the judicial system (courts, prosecution services and legal aid)

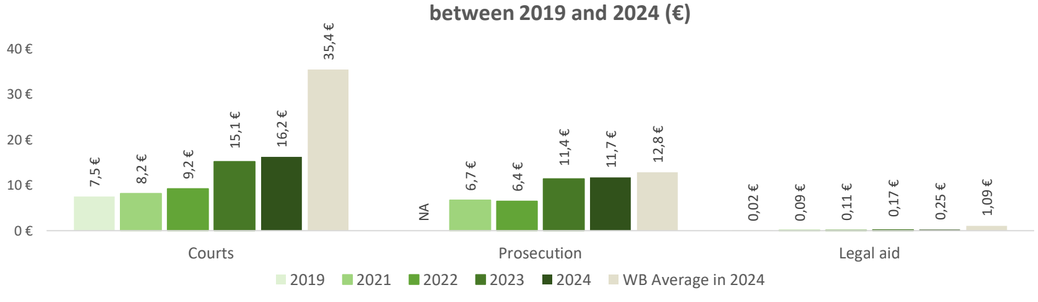
In 2024, Albania spent 77 840 056€ on the implemented judcial system budget. This means that Albania spent 28,2€ per inhabitant, which is less than the WB Average of 49,3€. 57,5% was spent for courts, 41,6% for prosecution services, 0,9% for legal aid.

Compared to 2023, Albania has spent, per inhabitant, 7,3% more for courts, 2,8% more for prosecution services, and 45,8% more for legal aid.

| Judicial System Budget | Judicial System Budget in 2024 | | Implemented Judicial System Budget per inhabitant | | | | Implemented Judicial System Budget as % of GDP | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Approved | Implemented | Per inhabitant in 2024 | WB Average in 2024 | % Variation between 2019 - 2024 | % Variation between 2023 - 2024 | As % of GDP | WB Average in 2024 | Variation (in ppt) 2019 -2024 | Variation (in ppt) 2023 - 2024 |
| Total | 83 360 536 € | 77 840 056 € | 28,2 € | 49,3 € | NA | 5,6% | 0,37% | 0,53% | NA | 0,019 |
| Courts | 46 160 369 € | 44 794 809 € | 16,2 € | 35,4 € | 116,4% | 7,3% | 0,21% | 0,38% | 0,05 | 0,014 |
| Prosecution | 36 463 642 € | 32 364 054 € | 11,7 € | 12,8 € | NA | 2,8% | 0,15% | 0,14% | NA | 0,004 |
| Legal aid | 736 525 € | 681 193 € | € 0,25 | € 1,09 | 948,5% | 45,8% | 0,003% | 0,012% | 0,003 | 0,001 |

PPT = Percentage points

### Evolution of the implemented judicial system budget per inhabitant between 2019 and 2024 (€)



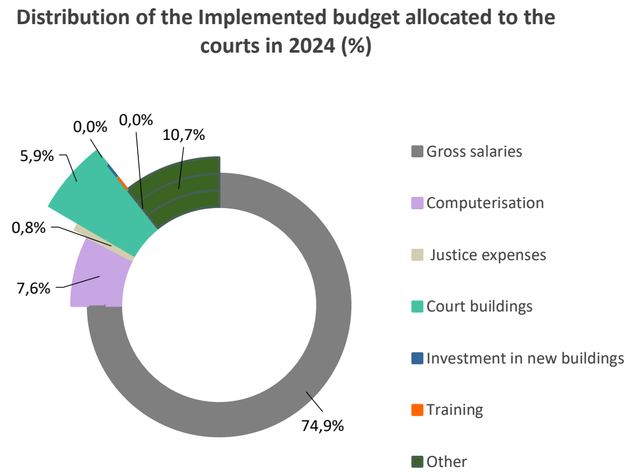

The implemented budget for legal aid increased by 8,6 % compared to the previous year. The category “cases brought to court” refers to secondary legal aid, including the payment of lawyers and experts who provided such services. The remaining amount is considered as legal advice and other financial commitments related to the functioning of the institution. The further increase in expenditure is linked to the establishment of primary legal aid service centres across the Republic of Albania, as well as to legislative changes regarding employee salaries. It should be noted that the planning of funds is based on the number of decisions issued by the courts, while the payment is processed only after the completion of all procedural steps related to judicial representation. As trials take time—particularly under current circumstances marked by the shortage of judges due to the ongoing vetting process—this results in delays in the submission of payment files to the Directorate.

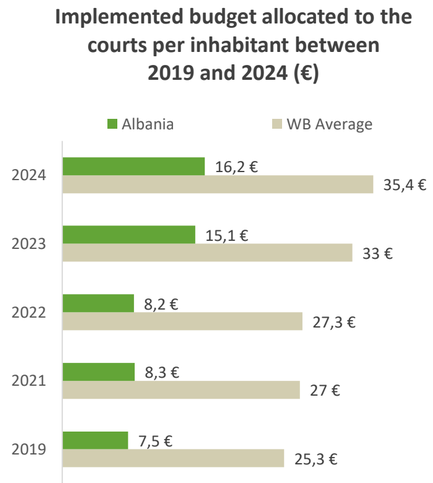
## • Budget allocated to the functioning of the courts - Categories

In 2024, Albania spent 44 794 809€ on the implemented budget for courts. 74,9% was spent for gross salaries, 7,6% for computerisation, 0,8% for justice expenses, 5,9% for court buildings, 0% for investment in new buildings, 10,7% for other.

Between 2023 and 2024, the implemented budget for courts has increased by 7,3%.

| | 2024 | | % Variation between 2019 and 2024 | | % Variation between 2023 and 2024 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Approved budget | Implemented budget | Approved budget | Implemented budget | Approved budget | Implemented budget |
| Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7) | 46 160 369 € | 44 794 809 € | 107,8% | 110,0% | 7,0% | 7,3% |
| 1. Gross salaries | 34 200 326 € | 33 571 621 € | NA | NA | 3,9% | 4,1% |
| 2. Computerisation (2.1 + 2.2) | NA | 3 409 168 € | NA | NA | NA | 77,7% |
| 2.1 Investiment in computerisation | NA | 1 769 479 € | | | NA | -1,7% |
| 2.2 Maintenance of the IT equipment of courts | NA | 1 639 689 € | | | NA | 1290,0% |
| 3. Justice expenses | NA | 375 903 € | NA | NA | NA | 16,9% |
| 4. Court buildings | NA | 2 653 421 € | NA | NA | NA | 965,8% |
| 5. Investment in new buildings | NA | 0 € | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 6. Training | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |
| 7. Other | NA | 4 784 696 € | NA | NA | NA | -31,9% |



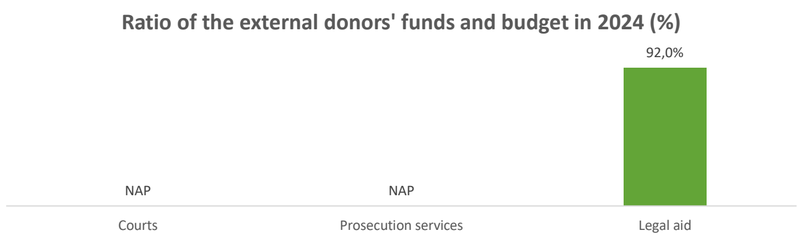




Other expenses include office service costs (letters, office supplies, toners, etc.) amounting to €642 535, diet travel expenses of €177 698, transportation services amounting to €463 269, and other maintenance and operating costs such as the execution of court decisions, payment of taxes and duties, banking commissions, diplomatic service passports, transfers to individuals for assistance, and other miscellaneous expenses, totalling €2 379 415. In addition, other investment expenses – including the reconstruction of existing buildings, purchase of office furniture, and purchase of transport vehicles – amounted to €1 121 779.

## • Budget received from external donors

The percentages represent an estimate of the ratio between external donations and respective budget. The percentage is calculated in relation to the total implemented budget of each category. However, this does not mean that the external funds cover a percentage of the budget, since donations are not included in the judicial system budget.

| | Absolute value | Calculated as % |
|---|---|---|
| Courts | NAP | NAP |
| Prosecution services | NAP | NAP |
| Legal aid | 132 593 € | 92,0% |




Looking at these figures, the highest ratio between external donations and budget of Albania is for legal aid (92%).

*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

# Professionals and Gender Balance in judiciary in Albania in 2024 (Indicators 2 and 12)

## Professional Judges

12,1

per 100 000 inhabitants

+4,3%

compared to 2019

WB Average: 29

57,7% female judges (total)

## Prosecutors

7,5

per 100 000 inhabitants

-28,7%

compared to 2019

WB Average: 11

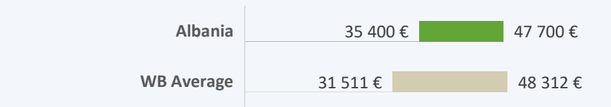
51,7% female prosecutors (total)

## Salaries of judges and prosecutors

**Professional judges**
**Gross annual salaries at the beginning and the end of the career in 2024 (€)**




**Prosecutors**
**Gross annual salaries at the beginning and the end of the career in 2024 (€)**



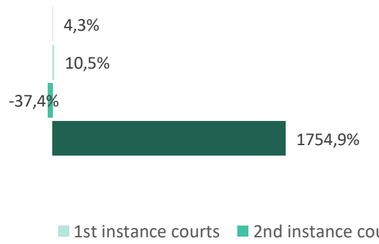

In 2024, Albania had 12,1 professional judges per 100 000 inhabitants and 7,5 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants. Both figures were below the WB Average of 29 and 11, respectively. More than half of professional judges and prosecutors were women (WB Average was 64,1% and 55,1%, respectively).

## Professional Judges

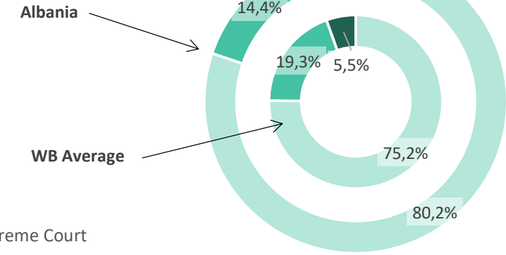
| | Professional judges in 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute number | % of the total | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants |
| **Total** | 333 | 100,0% | 12,1 | 29,0 |
| **1st instance courts** | 267 | 80,2% | 9,7 | 21,8 |
| **2nd instance courts** | 48 | 14,4% | 1,7 | 5,6 |
| **Supreme Court** | 18 | 5,4% | 0,7 | 1,6 |

*For reference only: the 2023 EU median is 21,5 judges per 100 000 inhabitants.*

**% Variation of no. of professional judges per 100 000 inh. 2019 - 2024**




**Distribution of professional judges by instance in 2024 (%)**




In 2024, the absolute number of professional judges in Albania was 333 (i.e. 12,1 per 100 000 inhabitants, which was remarkably lower than the WB Average of 29).

Compared to 2019, the total number of professional judges per 100 000 inhabitants increased by 4,3%.
The figures show a difference of -5 percentage points between the percentage of judges in the first instance (80,18%) and the WB Average (75,2%)

In regard to the number of judges:
According to Decision No. 495 of the Council of Ministers, dated 21.07.2022, “On the reorganisation of judicial districts and territorial jurisdictions of the courts”, the implementation of the New Judicial Map was completed on 01.07.2023. This reform reorganised the court system, reducing the number of operational courts in the Republic of Albania from 38 to 20.

Given that 2023 was a transitional year due to the implementation of the New Judicial Map and the redistribution of 408 magistrates (judges), as regulated by the following decisions of the High Judicial Council – Decision No. 553, dated 29.12.2022 (“On the appointment of the number of magistrates in the Court of Appeal of General Jurisdiction”); Decision No. 146, dated 29.03.2023 (“On determining the number of magistrates in the First Instance Courts of General Jurisdiction”); and Decision No. 286, dated 29.05.2023 (“On determining the number of magistrates in the Administrative First Instance Courts”) – comparisons of judicial staffing levels across specific courts remain difficult.

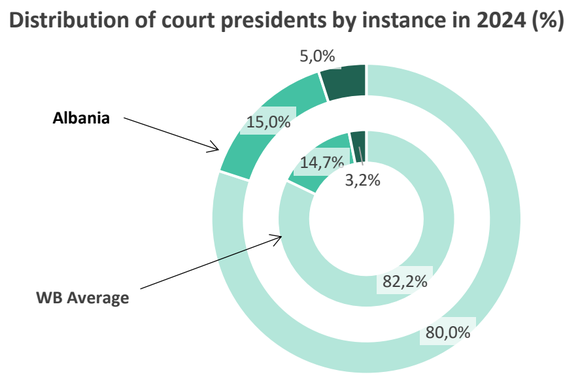
Nevertheless, the main factor contributing to the reduction in the number of magistrates is the transitional re-evaluation process. In 2023, the Appeal Chamber issued 24 dismissal decisions, and 53 judges were dismissed from office by the Independent Qualification Commission. Of these, 11 dismissal decisions were issued in 2023 and are currently under review by the Appeal Chamber. These 11 magistrates retain their judge status during the appeal process and, in accordance with the law, continue to receive 75 % of their salary.

Additionally, in 2023, six judges left office for other reasons: two resigned, and four retired (either upon reaching retirement age or opting for early retirement).

## • Court presidents

| | Court presidents in 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute number | % of the total | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants |
| Total | 20 | 100,0% | 0,7 | 2,2 |
| 1st instance courts | 16 | 80,0% | 0,6 | 1,8 |
| 2nd instance courts | 3 | 15,0% | 0,1 | 0,3 |
| Supreme Court | 1 | 5,0% | 0,04 | 0,07 |




The absolute number of court presidents in Albania in 2024 was 20 ( i.e. 0,7 per 100 000 inhabitants, which was the WB Average of 2,2).

In regard to Court Presidents:
According to data from the Directorate of Human Resources, currently only one President of the Court and 20 Deputy Presidents of the Court are in office across all court levels.

In accordance with legal requirements, the General Meeting of Supreme Court Judges, held on 17.10.2023, appointed the President of the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, to ensure the proper functioning of the judiciary, each of the 20 operational courts in the Republic of Albania has elected a magistrate (judge) to serve as Deputy President.

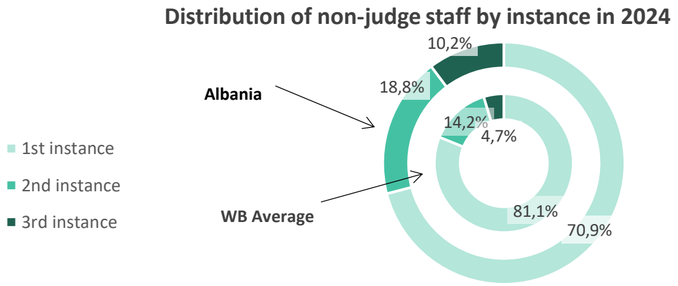
Due to the insufficient number of judges required to conduct elections for Court Presidents, courts proceeded with the appointment of Deputy Presidents, in line with the legal obligations and to ensure the continuity of court operations.

## • Non-judge staff

The absolute total number of non-judge staff in Albania was 1 084, which increased by 23,2% between 2019 and 2024. The number of non-judge staff per 100 000 inhabitants was 39,2, which was below WB Averageof 112,8.

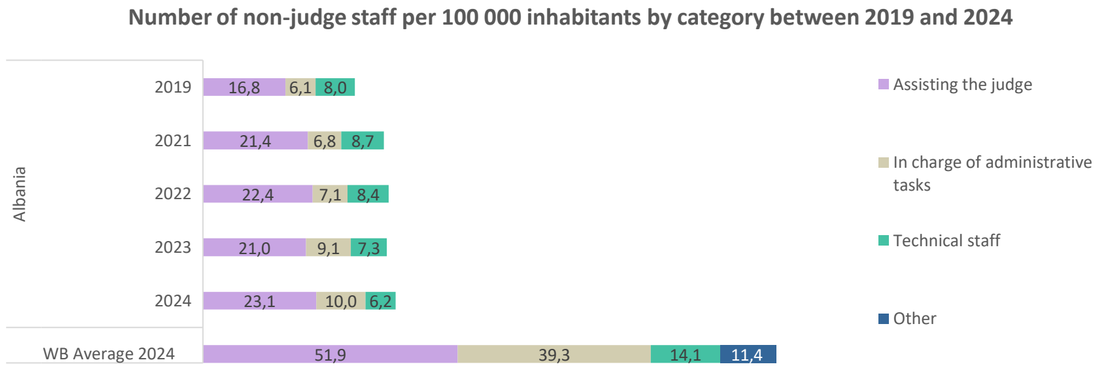
| | Number of non-judge staff by instance in 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute number | % of the total | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants |
| **Total** | 1 084 | 100,0% | 39,2 | 112,8 |
| **1st instance courts** | 769 | 71% | 27,8 | 91,5 |
| **2nd instance courts** | 204 | 19% | 7,4 | 16,0 |
| **Supreme Court** | 111 | 10% | 4,0 | 5,3 |

*For reference only: the 2023 EU median is 60,2 non-judge staff per 100 000 inhabitants.*




The highest number of non-judge staff were assisting judges and represented 58,9% of the total.
Since 2019, there was no significant variation in the distribution of non-judge staff by category.

| | Number of non-judge staff by category in 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute number | % of the total | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants |
| **Total** | 1 084 | 100,0% | 39,2 | 112,8 |
| **Rechtspfleger** | NAP | NAP | NAP | - |
| **Assisting the judge** | 638 | 58,9% | 23,1 | 51,9 |
| **In charge of administrative tasks** | 276 | 25,5% | 10,0 | 39,3 |
| **Technical staff** | 170 | 15,7% | 6,2 | 14,1 |
| **Other** | NAP | NAP | NAP | 11,4 |

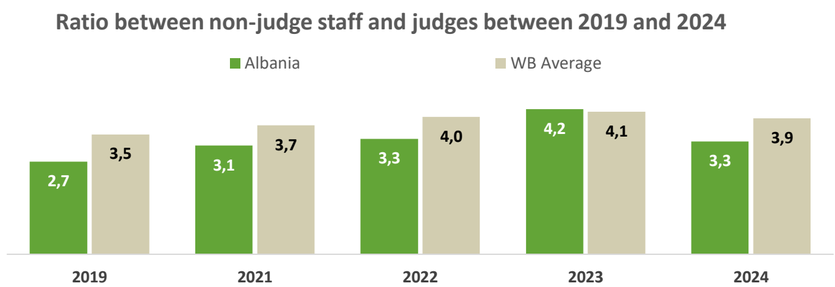



## • Ratio between non-judge staff and professional judges

In Albania, the ratio of non-judge staff per professional judge was 3,3 in 2024, whereas the WB Average was 3,9. This increased since 2019.

| | Ratio in 2024 | | % Variation between 2019 and 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Albania | WB Average | Albania |
| **Total** | 3,3 | 3,9 | 21,7% |
| **1st instance courts** | 2,9 | 4,2 | 12,8% |
| **2nd instance courts** | 4,3 | 3,0 | 80,5% |
| **Supreme Court** | 6,2 | 4,3 | -89,4% |

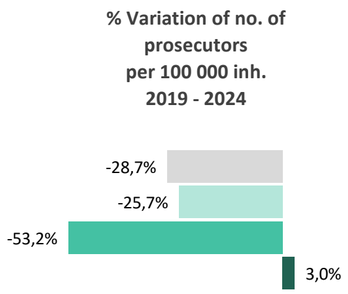
*For reference only: the 2023 EU median ratio of non-judge staff per judge is 3,3.*

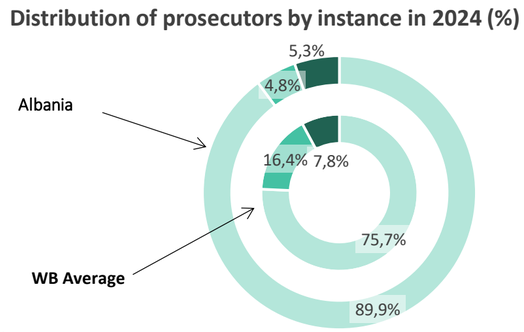


## • Prosecutors

| | Number of prosecutors by instance in 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute number | % of the total | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants |
| **Total** | 207 | 100,0% | 7,5 | 11,0 |
| **1st instance level** | 186 | 89,9% | 6,7 | 8,6 |
| **2nd instance level** | 10 | 4,8% | 0,4 | 1,9 |
| **Supreme Court level** | 11 | 5,3% | 0,4 | 0,9 |

*For reference only: the 2023 EU median is 10,6 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants.*



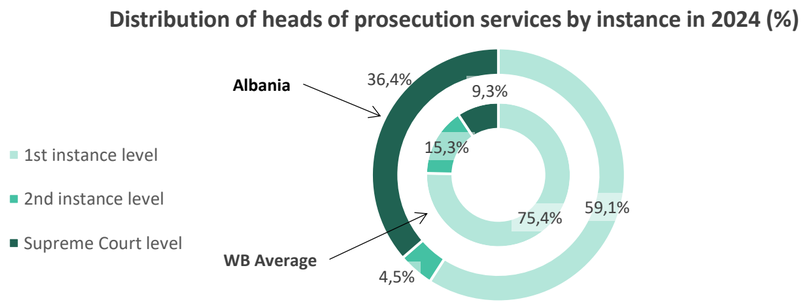

In 2024, the absolute number of prosecutors in Albania was 207 (i.e. 7,5 per 100 000 inhabitants, which was significantly lower than the WB Average of 11).
The total number of prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants decreased by -28,7% between 2019 and 2024.

The figures show a difference of -14,1 percentage points between the percentage of prosecutors in the first instance (89,9%) and the WB Average (75,7%)

The full-time equivalent number of prosecutors is 321. Of these, 207 are currently in office, while 44 are suspended due to the re-evaluation (vetting) process, and 70 positions remain vacant. In 2024, the number of female prosecutors exceeded that of male prosecutors.

## • Heads of prosecution services

| | Heads of prosecution services in 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute number | % of the total | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants |
| **Total** | 22 | 100,0% | 0,8 | 1,3 |
| **1st instance level** | 13 | 59,1% | 0,5 | 1,0 |
| **2nd instance level** | 1 | 4,5% | 0,0 | 0,2 |
| **Supreme Court level** | 8 | 36,4% | 0,29 | 0,12 |




In 2024, the absolute number of heads of prosecution services in Albania was 22 (i.e. 0,8 per 100 000 inhabitants, which was significantly lower than the WB Average of 1,3).

The new judicial map has been implemented across the entire system of prosecutions of general jurisdiction. As a result, in 2023, the number of first instance prosecution offices of general jurisdiction was reduced from 22 to 13. Likewise, the number of appeal prosecution offices of general jurisdiction was consolidated from six to one, with the single appeal prosecution office now located in Tirana. Consequently, the number of managerial positions also decreased, from 28 to 14.

## • Non-prosecutor staff and Ratio between non-prosecutor staff and prosecutors

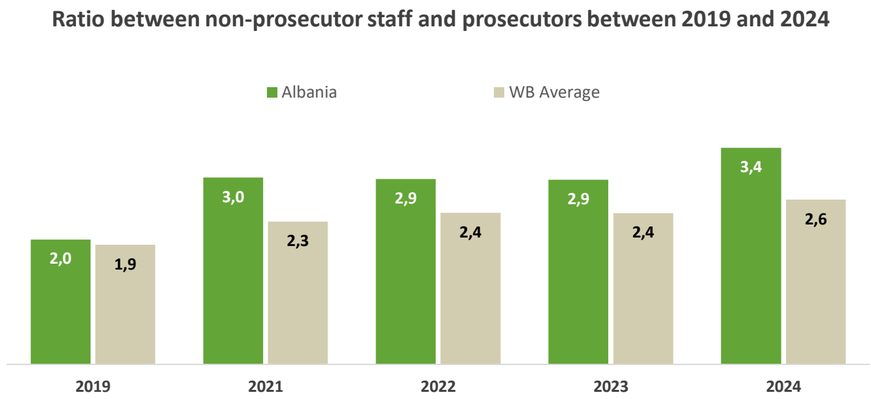
| | Non-prosecutor staff in 2024 | | | Ratio between non-prosecutor staff and prosecutors | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute number | Per 100 000 inhabitants | | 2024 | | % Variation 2019 - 2024 |
| | Albania | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average | Albania |
| **Total** | 710 | 25,7 | 28,7 | 3,4 | 2,6 | 73,2% |

*For reference only: the 2023 EU median is 14,5 non-prosecutors staff per 100 000 inhabitants.*

In 2024, the total number of non-prosecutor staff in Albania was 710. Their number increased by 19,9% compared to 2019.

The number of non-prosecutor staff per 100 000 inhabitants was 25,7, which was below the WB Average of 28,7.

The ratio of non-prosecutor staff per prosecutor was 3,4 (higher than the WB Average of 2,6).

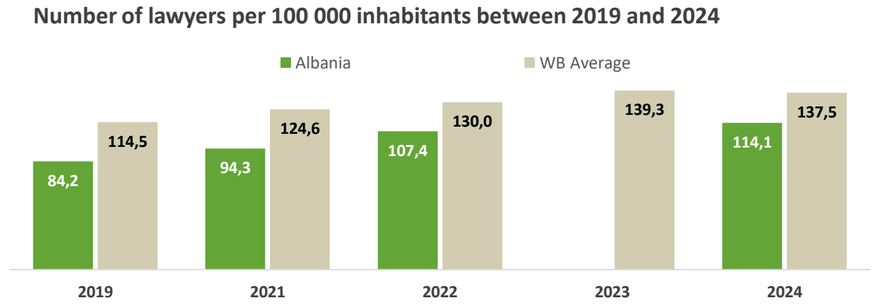



## • Lawyers

| | Number of lawyers in 2024 | | | % Variation 2019 - 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Absolute number | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants | Albania |
| **Total** | 3 150 | 114,1 | 137,5 | 35,5% |

*For reference only: the 2023 EU median is 137,6 lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants.*

In 2024, the number of lawyers was 114,1 per 100 000 inhabitants, which was significantly lower than the WB Average (137,5). The number of lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants increased by 35,5% between 2019 and 2024.



## • Salaries of professional judges and prosecutors

In 2024, the ratio between the salary of professional judges at the beginning of career with the annual gross average salary in Albania was 4,8, which was more than the WB Average (2,7).

At the end of career, judges were paid more than at the beginning of career by 17%, which was less than the variation noted for the WB Average (64,5%).

In 2024, the ratio between the salary of prosecutors at the beginning of career with the annual gross average salary in Albania was 4, which was more than the WB Average (2,7).

At the end of career, prosecutors were paid more than at the beginning of career by 34,7%, which was less than the variation noted for the WB Average (51,2%).

| | | Salaries in 2024 (absolute values) | | | Ratio with the average gross annual salary | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Gross annual salary in € | % Variation 2019 - 2024 | Net annual salary in € | Albania | WB Average ratio |
| Professional judge | At the beginning of his/her career | 42 645 | 100,8% | 30 723 | 4,8 | 2,7 |
| | Of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court | 49 898 | 93,1% | 38 544 | 5,6 | 4,4 |
| Public prosecutor | At the beginning of his/her career | 35 400 | 66,1% | 26 112 | 4,0 | 2,7 |
| | Of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court | 47 700 | 83,4% | 34 404 | 5,3 | 4,0 |

*For reference only: the 2023 EU median for the ratio of judges and prosecutors' salaries with average gross annual national salary is:*

*- professional judges' salary at the beginning of career: 1,9*

*- professional judges' salary at the end of career: 4,1*

*- prosecutors' salary at the beginning of career: 1,7*

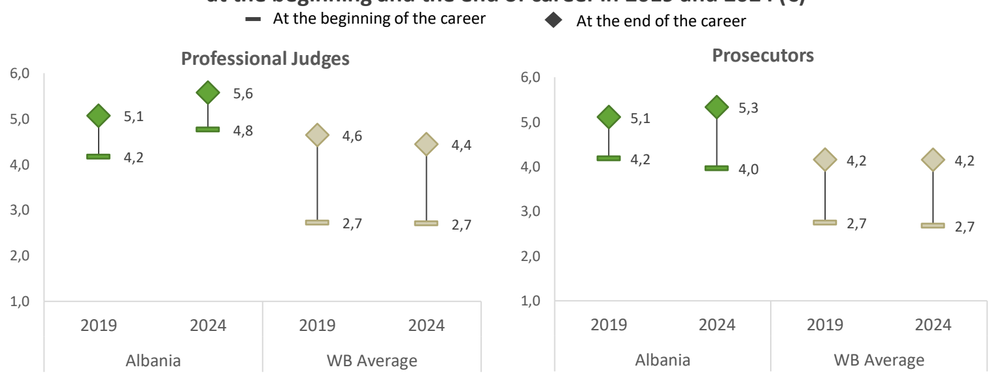
*- prosecutors' salary at the end of career: 3,1*

The changes in the salaries of magistrates result from the adoption of a new salary scheme, pursuant to Law No. 33, dated 25.05.2023, “On an amendment to Law No. 96/2016, On the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania, as amended”, and Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 325, dated 31.05.2023, “On the approval of the salary structure, salary levels and other salary increments for deputy ministers, cabinet officials, prefects, sub-prefects, civil servants, and employees in certain public administration institutions”.

**Gross annual salaries of professional judges and prosecutors at the beginning and the end of the career in 2024 (€)**




**Ratio of the gross annual salaries of judges and prosecutors with the average gross annual salary at the beginning and the end of career in 2019 and 2024 (€)**




### Additional benefits and bonuses for professional judges and prosecutors

| | Reduced taxation | Special pension | Housing | Other financial benefit | Productivity bonuses for judges |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Judges | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Prosecutors | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

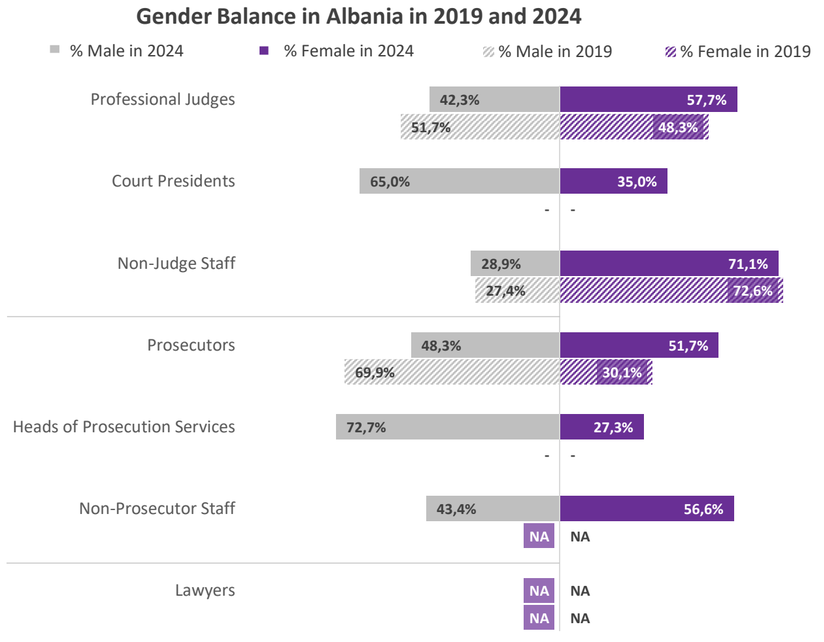
Other financial benefits under Law No. 96/2016 include:
– compensation for service under the delegation scheme, for temporary transfers, or temporary assignments;
– merit-based rewards;
– supplementary state pension, in accordance with the provisions of this law and the applicable legislation on supplementary pensions;
– any other benefit related to special working conditions or the personal or family situation of the magistrate, as provided by the legislation in force.

In addition, a magistrate has the right, once during the exercise of their function and after having served for at least three years, to receive a state-funded housing loan equivalent to the average cost of a 50 m² apartment in the city centre where the magistrate performs their duties.

## Gender Balance

| | % Female in 2024 | | Variation of the % females between 2019 - 2024 (in ppt) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Albania | WB Average | Albania |
| Professional Judges | 57,7% | 64,1% | 9,3 |
| Court Presidents | 35,0% | 51,4% | |
| Non-Judge Staff | 71,1% | 71,9% | -1,5 |
| Prosecutors | 51,7% | 55,1% | 21,6 |
| Heads of Prosecution Services | 27,3% | 43,3% | |
| Non-Prosecutor Staff | 56,6% | 70,6% | NA |
| Lawyers | NA | 38,1% | NA |

PPT= Percentage points




*For reference only: the 2023 EU medians on gender are among professionals are as follows: 63% women judges; 77% women non-judge staff; 61% women prosecutors; 78% women non-prosecutor staff; and 48% women lawyers.*

In 2024, the percentage of female professional judges was 57,7%, which was lower than WB Average (64,1%). With a presence of 35%, the number of female court presidents in Albania was remarkably lower than the WB Average of 51,4%. Moreover, the percentage of female non-judge staff was 71,1%.

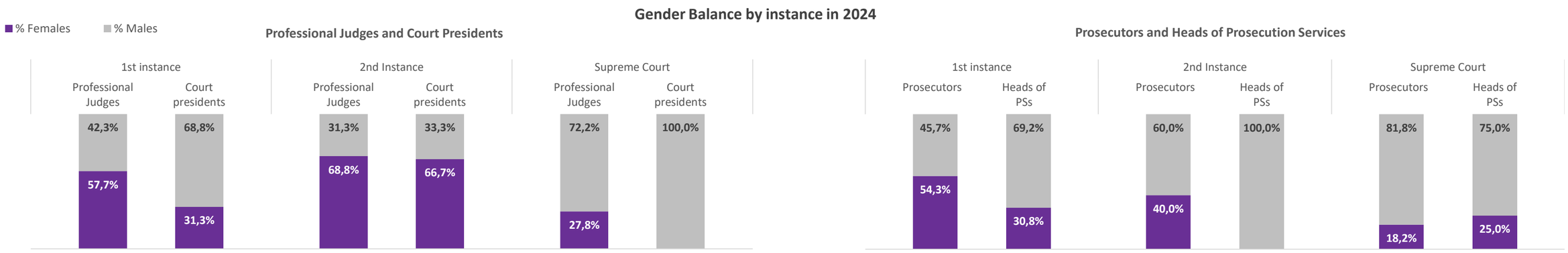
Also, the percentage of female prosecutors was 51,7% (lower than the WB Average of 55,1%).The number of female heads of prosecution services (27,3%) was remarkably lower than the WB Average (43,3%). Moreover, the percentage of female non-prosecutor staff was 56,6%.

Data on female lawyers was not provided

The court presidents and heads of prosecution services were the only categories with less than 50% of female presence.

| | Professional Judges % Female | | Court presidents % Female | | Prosecutors % Female | | Heads of Prosecution Services % Female | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average |
| 1st instance | 57,7% | 64,0% | 31,3% | 49,8% | 54,3% | 56,2% | 30,8% | 46,7% |
| 2nd instance | 68,8% | 65,6% | 66,7% | 56,4% | 40,0% | 51,4% | 0,0% | 29,2% |
| Supreme Court | 27,8% | 62,7% | 0,0% | 73,3% | 18,2% | 34,5% | 25,0% | 39,6% |

For judges and prosecutors, a decrease in the percentage of females can be observed both when comparing judges to court presidents within the same instance level, and when moving from first to third instance. By contrast, for non-judge staff, the share of women remains relatively stable or tends to increase across levels.



## Gender Equality Policies

| | Recruitment | | Appointment | Promotion | | Person / institution specifically dedicated to ensure the respect of gender equality on institution level |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Specific provisions for facilitating gender equality | Person / institution dealing with gender issues on national level | Specific provisions for facilitating gender equality | Specific provisions for facilitating gender equality | Person / institution dealing with gender issues on national level | |
| Court Presidents | | | ✗ | | | |
| Heads of Prosecution Services | | | ✗ | | | |
| Judges | ✗ | ✓ | | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Prosecutors | ✗ | ✓ | | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Non-judge staff | ✗ | ✓ | | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Lawyers | ✗ | | | ✗ | | |
| Notaries | ✗ | | | ✗ | | |
| Enforcement agents | ✗ | | | ✗ | | |

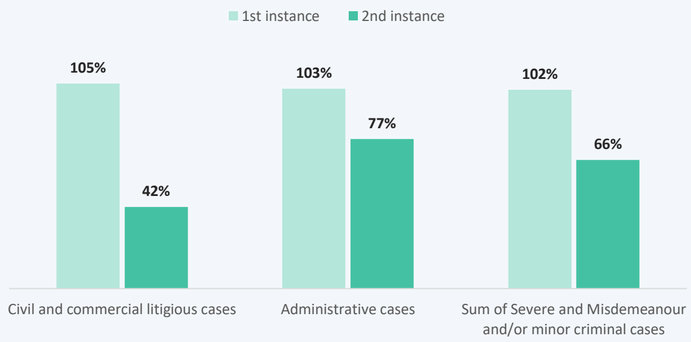
In Albania there is no overarching document (e.g. policy/strategy/action plan/program) on gender equality that applies specifically to the judiciary.

At the national level, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination is an independent institution responsible for addressing gender equality issues. It has a specific mandate to provide effective protection against discrimination and all forms of discriminatory behaviour. The institution was established by Law No. 10 221, dated 4.2.2010, “On Protection from Discrimination”, as amended.

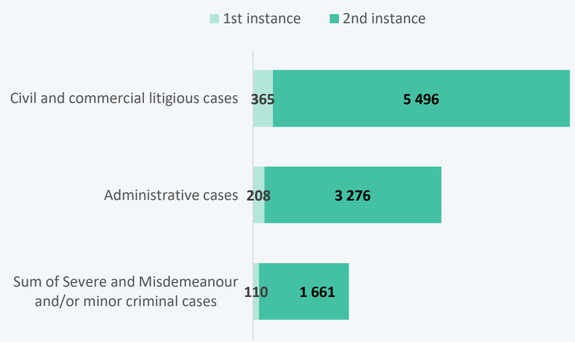
*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

# Efficiency in Albania in 2024 (Indicators 3.1 and 3.2)

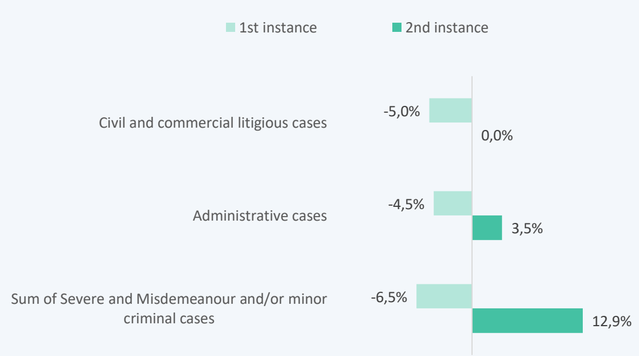
## Clearance Rate in 2024




## Disposition Time in 2024 (in days)




## % Variation of pending cases at the end of year between 2023 and 2024




In 2024, the highest Clearance rate (CR) for Albania was calculated for the first instance Civil and commercial litigious cases, with a CR of 105%. However, it seems that Albania was not able to deal as efficiently with the second instance Civil and commercial litigious cases (CR of 42%). With a Disposition Time of approximately 110 days, the first instance sum of the Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases were resolved faster than any other type of cases.
Compared to 2023, the pending cases at the end of year increased for the second instance sum of the Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (12,9%), whereas they decreased for the first instance sum of the Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases by -6,5%.

In Albania, the vetting process continues to impact the judicial system by reducing the number of available professionals and thus affecting court performance.

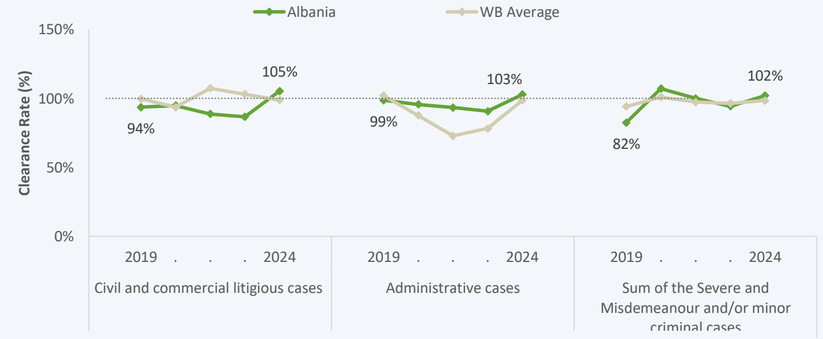
In the first instance, performance improved across all case categories in 2024. For civil and commercial litigious cases, the DT decreased from 462 to 365 days, and the CR increased from 87 % to 105 %, surpassing the 100 % efficiency threshold. A similar improvement was observed in administrative cases, with the CR increasing from 91 % to 103 %, and DT slightly reduced from 229 to 208 days. For criminal cases, performance also continued to improve: the CR rose from 94 % to 102 %, and the DT fell from 124 to 110 days.

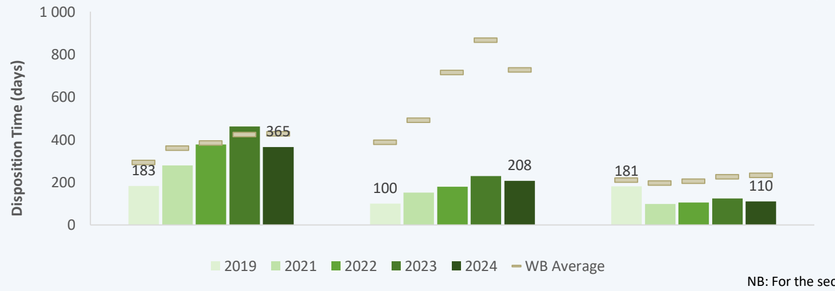
In the second instance, the data show signs of recovery, although significant challenges remain. In administrative cases, the DT dropped sharply from 5 326 days in 2023 to 3 276 days in 2024, while the CR improved markedly from 46 % to 77 %. This increase in clearance rate since 2023 was driven by the rise in the number of judges assigned to administrative second instance courts. For criminal cases, the CR increased slightly from 63 % to 66 %, and the DT rose from 365 to 1 661 days, indicating increased pressure on the courts. However, in civil and commercial cases, the CR dropped significantly to 42 %, with DT data not available in previous years, making trends difficult to interpret, though 2024 records show 5 496 days—an extremely high value.

Overall, 2024 data suggest a partial rebound in court efficiency, particularly in first instance and administrative second instance cases. Nonetheless, the persistently high disposition times—especially for civil cases in second instance—confirm that the effects of the vetting process are still reflected in court performance indicators.

## First instance cases

### Clearance rate (%) and Disposition Time (days) for first instance cases from 2019 to 2024

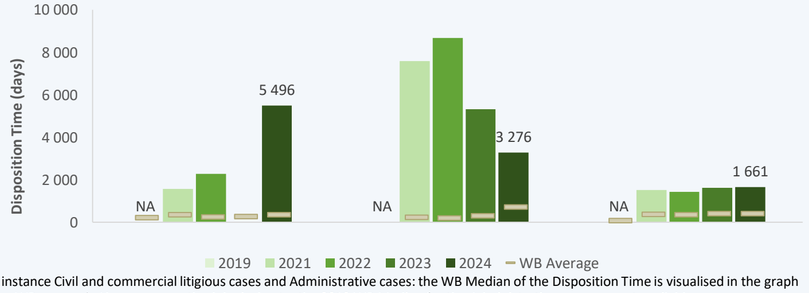



## Second instance cases

### Clearance rate (%) and Disposition Time (days) for second instance cases from 2019 to 2024




NB: For the second instance Civil and commercial litigious cases and Administrative cases: the WB Median of the Disposition Time is visualised in the graph above (instead of the WB average). Also, as per methodological note, the 2019 WB Median for the Administrative cases are not available.

## • First instance cases - Other than criminal law cases

| 1st instance cases in 2024 (absolute values) | | Albania (2024) | | | | % Variation between 2023 and 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Incoming cases | Resolved cases | Pending cases 31 Dec | Pending cases over 2 years | Incoming cases | Resolved cases | Pending cases 31 Dec | Pending cases over 2 years |
| Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4) | | 52 818 | 55 599 | 38 220 | 3 995 | -7,6% | 5,1% | -6,9% | 15,7% |
| 1 | Civil and commercial litigious cases | 20 516 | 21 598 | 21 596 | 2 436 | -1,0% | 20,2% | -5,0% | 49,2% |
| 2 | Non-litigious cases** | 17 932 | 19 239 | 8 228 | 41 | -14,7% | -8,2% | -13,9% | 32,3% |
| 3 | Administrative cases | 14 370 | 14 762 | 8 396 | 1 518 | -6,9% | 5,5% | -4,5% | -15,1% |
| 4 | Other cases | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |

** Non-litigious cases include: General civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases, Registry cases and Other non-litigious cases.

In 2024, the incoming civil and commercial litigious cases were 20 516 (0,74 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 2,66). They decreased by -1% between 2023 and 2024. The resolved cases were 21 598 (0,78 per 100 inhabitants) and they increased by 20,2%. In 2024, the number of resolved cases was higher than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the civil and commercial litigious pending cases at the end of 2024 were less than in 2023. Indeed, the 2024 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 105% (above the WB Average of 99%). This increased by 18,6 percentage points compared to 2023.

The Disposition Time for civil and commercial litigious cases was approximately 365 days in 2024 (below the WB Average of 427 days). This decreased by -21% compared to 2023.

The incoming administrative cases were 14 370 in 2024 (ie 0,52 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,65). They decreased by -6,9% compared to the previous year.In 2024, the resolved cases were 14 762 (0,53 per 100 inhabitants, below of the WB Average of 0,66). Between 2023 and 2024, the number of resolved administrative increased by 5,5%. The number of incoming cases was thus lower than the resolved cases. As a consequence, the administrative pending cases at the end of 2024 were less than in 2023 and the Clearance rate for this type of cases was 103% (above the WB Average (99%). The CR increased by 12 percentage points compared to the previous year.

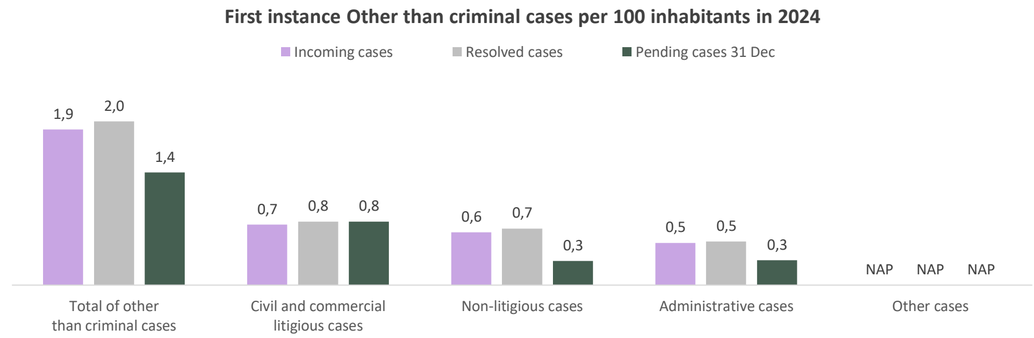
Finally, the Disposition Time for administrative cases was approximately 208 days in 2024. This has decreased by -9,4% compared to 2023 and it was below the WB Average (728 days).

The significant increase in the number of administrative pending cases older than two years—almost double compared to the previous cycle—is a consequence of the transitional period related to the implementation of the new judicial map and the ongoing vetting process. The increase in the number of resolved administrative cases was 2023 is linked to the rise in judicial and support staff. The number of judges effectively in office reached 8,3, representing a 49 % increase compared to the previous year, although still below the full corps of 13 judges. In parallel, the number of non-judge support staff increased by 46 %, reaching a total of 67 in 2023.

| 1st instance cases in 2024 (per 100 inhabitants) | | Incoming cases | | | Resolved cases | | | Pending cases 31 Dec | | | Pending cases over 2 years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average |
| Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4) | | 1,9 | < | 10,4 | 2,0 | < | 11,2 | 1,4 | < | 14,7 | 0,14 | < | 10,91 |
| 1 | Civil and commercial litigious cases | 0,7 | < | 2,7 | 0,8 | < | 2,6 | 0,8 | < | 3,0 | 0,09 | < | 1,00 |
| 2 | Non-litigious cases** | 0,6 | < | 6,6 | 0,7 | < | 7,5 | 0,3 | < | 10,2 | 0,00 | < | 12,64 |
| 3 | Administrative cases | 0,5 | < | 0,7 | 0,5 | < | 0,7 | 0,3 | < | 1,5 | 0,05 | < | 0,44 |
| 4 | Other cases | NAP | | 0,7 | NAP | | 0,7 | NAP | | 0,03 | NAP | | - |

Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

*For reference only: the 2023 EU Median was as follows:*
*- Incoming first instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases per 100 inhabitants: 1,9;*
*- incoming first instance Administrative cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,4.*

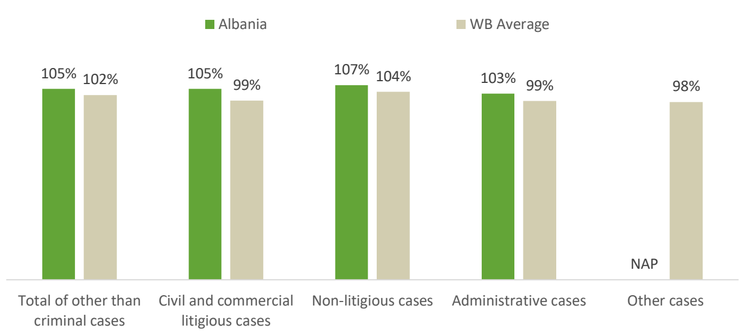


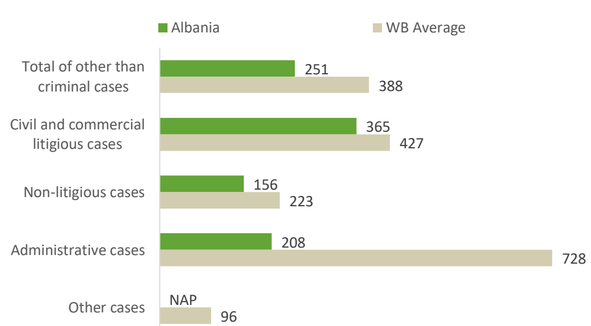

| 1st instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2024 | | CR (%) | | DT (days) | | % Variation 2023 - 2024 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average | CR (PPT) | DT (%) |
| Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4) | | 105% | 102% | 251 | 388 | 12,7 | -11,4% |
| 1 | Civil and commercial litigious cases | 105% | 99% | 365 | 427 | 18,6 | -21,0% |
| 2 | Non-litigious cases** | 107% | 104% | 156 | 223 | 7,6 | -6,2% |
| 3 | Administrative cases | 103% | 99% | 208 | 728 | 12,0 | -9,4% |
| 4 | Other cases | NAP | 98% | NAP | 96 | NAP | NAP |

PPT = Percentage points

*For reference only: the 2023 EU Median for the first instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases was as follows:*
*- Clearance rate: 96,6%; - Disposition time: 247 days.*

*For reference only: the 2023 EU Median for the first instance Administrative cases was as follows:*
*- Clearance rate: 100,9%; - Disposition time: 322 days.*



## • First instance cases - Criminal law cases

| 1st instance cases in 2024 (absolute values) | | Albania (2024) | | | | % Variation between 2023 and 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Incoming cases | Resolved cases | Pending cases 31 Dec | Pending cases over 2 years | Incoming cases | Resolved cases | Pending cases 31 Dec | Pending cases over 2 years |
| Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3) | | 49 731 | 49 082 | 12 415 | 385 | 16,6% | 18,7% | 4,3% | 153,3% |
| Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases (1+2) | | 10 649 | 10 863 | 3 273 | 215 | -2,5% | 5,5% | -6,5% | 88,6% |
| 1 | Severe criminal cases | 8 359 | 8 138 | 2 496 | 172 | 5,3% | 9,5% | 9,6% | 104,8% |
| 2 | Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases | 2 290 | 2 725 | 777 | 43 | -23,4% | -4,9% | -36,4% | 43,3% |
| 3 | Other cases | 39 082 | 38 219 | 9 142 | 170 | 23,3% | 23,0% | 8,8% | 347,4% |

Based on the statistical tables reported by the courts, the category “other cases” refers to administrative criminal cases.

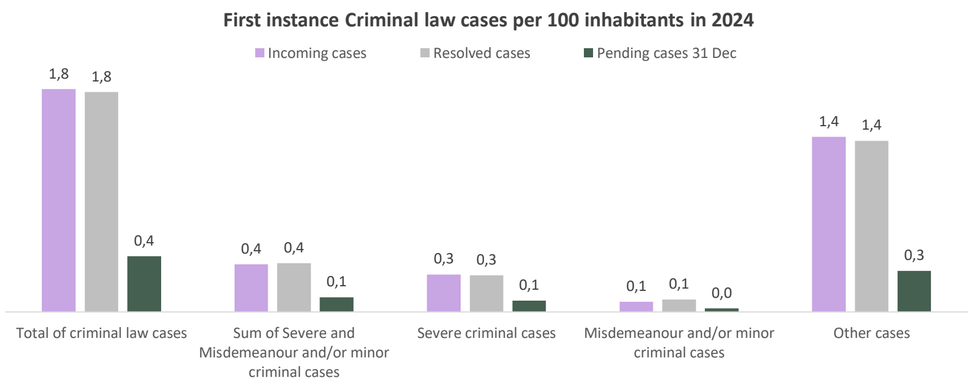
In 2024, the incoming total criminal cases were 49 731 (1,8 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 6,02).They increased by 16,6% between 2023 and 2024. The resolved cases were 49 082 (1,78 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2023 and 2024, they increased by 18,7%. The number of resolved cases was thus lower than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the total criminal pending cases at the end of 2024 were more than in 2023. Indeed, the 2024 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 99% (below the WB Average of 99,7%). This increased by 2 percentage points compared to 2023.

The Disposition Time for total criminal cases was approximately 92 days in 2024 (below the WB Average of 205 days). This decreased by -12,1% compared to 2023.

| 1st instance cases in 2024 (per 100 inhabitants) | | Incoming cases | | | Resolved cases | | | Pending cases 31 Dec | | | Pending cases over 2 years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average |
| Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3) | | 1,8 | < | 6,0 | 1,8 | < | 6,0 | 0,4 | < | 3,7 | 0,01 | < | 0,30 |
| Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2) | | 0,4 | < | 3,9 | 0,4 | < | 3,9 | 0,1 | < | 2,6 | 0,01 | < | 0,08 |
| 1 | Severe criminal cases | 0,3 | < | 0,5 | 0,3 | < | 0,5 | 0,1 | < | 0,3 | 0,01 | < | 0,06 |
| 2 | Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases | 0,1 | < | 3,4 | 0,1 | < | 3,4 | 0,0 | < | 2,3 | 0,00 | < | 0,03 |
| 3 | Other cases | 1,4 | < | 2,7 | 1,4 | < | 2,7 | 0,3 | < | 1,4 | 0,01 | < | 0,30 |

Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

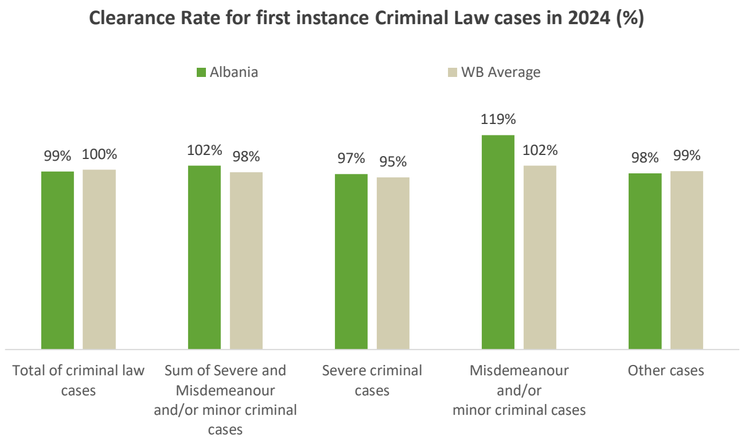
*For reference only: for the first instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2023 EU Median was as follows:*
*- Incoming cases per 100 inhabitants: 1,6.*

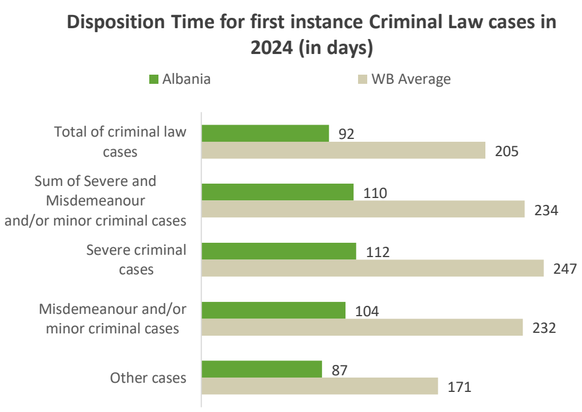



| 1st instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2024 | | CR (%) | | DT (days) | | % Variation 2023 - 2024 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average | CR (PPT) | DT (%) |
| Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3) | | 99% | 100% | 92 | 205 | 1,7 | -12,1% |
| Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2) | | 102% | 98% | 110 | 234 | 7,8 | -11,4% |
| 1 | Severe criminal cases | 97% | 95% | 112 | 247 | 3,8 | 0,1% |
| 2 | Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases | 119% | 102% | 104 | 232 | 23,1 | -33,1% |
| 3 | Other cases | 98% | 99% | 87 | 171 | -0,2 | -11,5% |

PPT = Percentage points

*For reference only: for the first instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2023 EU Median was as follows:*
*- Clearance rate: 99,6%; - Disposition time: 134 days.*



## • Second instance cases - Other than criminal law cases

| 2nd instance cases in 2024 (absolute values) | | Albania (2024) | | | | % Variation between 2023 and 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Incoming cases | Resolved cases | Pending cases 31 Dec | Pending cases over 2 years | Incoming cases | Resolved cases | Pending cases 31 Dec | Pending cases over 2 years |
| Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4) | | 9 425 | 6 484 | 51 977 | 36 455 | NA | 30,3% | NA | NA |
| 1 | Civil and commercial litigious cases | 3 648 | 1 529 | 23 023 | 16 887 | NA | -47,1% | NA | NA |
| 2 | Non-litigious cases** | 2 312 | 2 296 | 5 092 | 2 162 | 274,1% | 351,1% | 0,3% | 9,7% |
| 3 | Administrative cases | 3 465 | 2 659 | 23 862 | 17 406 | -0,1% | 68,3% | 3,5% | 6,4% |
| 4 | Other cases | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |

** Non-litigious cases include: General civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases, Registry cases and Other non-litigious cases.

In 2024, the incoming civil and commercial litigious cases were 3 648 (0,13 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 1,01). The resolved cases were 1 529 (0,06 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2023 and 2024, they decreased by -47,1%. The number of resolved cases was thus lower than the incoming cases.

The Disposition Time for civil and commercial litigious cases was approximately 5 496 days in 2024 (above the WB Average of 1338 days).

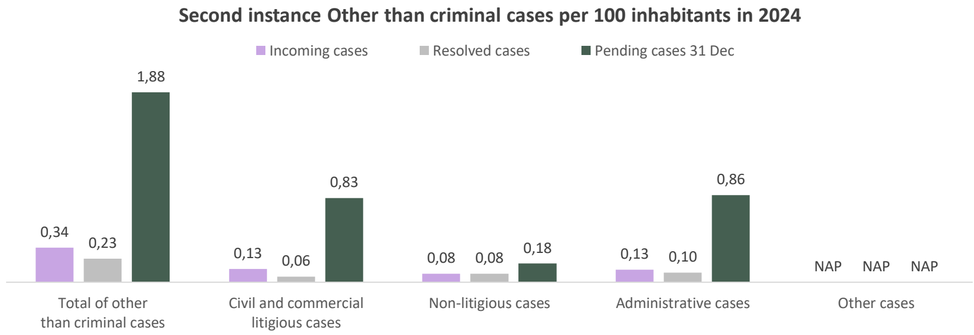
The incoming administrative cases were 3 465 in 2024 (ie 0,13 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,13). They decreased by -0,1% compared to the previous year. The resolved cases were 2 659 (0,1 per 100 inhabitants, above of the WB Average of 0,09). Between 2023 and 2024, the number of resolved administrative increased by 68,3%. The number of incoming cases was thus higher than the resolved cases. As a consequence, the administrative pending cases at the end of 2024 were more than in 2023 and the Clearance rate for this type of cases was 77% (above the WB Average (73%). The CR increased by 31,2 percentage points compared to the previous year.

Finally, the Disposition Time for administrative cases was approximately 3 276 days in 2024. This has decreased by -38,5% compared to 2023 and it was above the WB Average (1241 days).

| 2nd instance cases in 2024 (per 100 inhabitants) | | Incoming cases | | | Resolved cases | | | Pending cases 31 Dec | | | Pending cases over 2 years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average |
| Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4) | | 0,34 | < | 1,15 | 0,23 | < | 1,09 | 1,88 | > | 1,29 | 1,32 | > | 0,68 |
| 1 | Civil and commercial litigious cases | 0,13 | < | 1,01 | 0,06 | < | 0,97 | 0,83 | < | 1,00 | 0,61 | > | 0,51 |
| 2 | Non-litigious cases** | 0,08 | > | 0,07 | 0,08 | > | 0,07 | 0,18 | > | 0,07 | 0,08 | > | 0,03 |
| 3 | Administrative cases | 0,13 | = | 0,13 | 0,10 | > | 0,09 | 0,86 | > | 0,31 | 0,63 | > | 0,21 |
| 4 | Other cases | NAP | | - | NAP | | - | NAP | | - | NAP | | - |

*For reference only: the 2023 EU Median was as follows:*
*- Incoming Second instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,2;*
*- incoming Second instance Administrative cases per 100 inhabitants: 0.*

Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

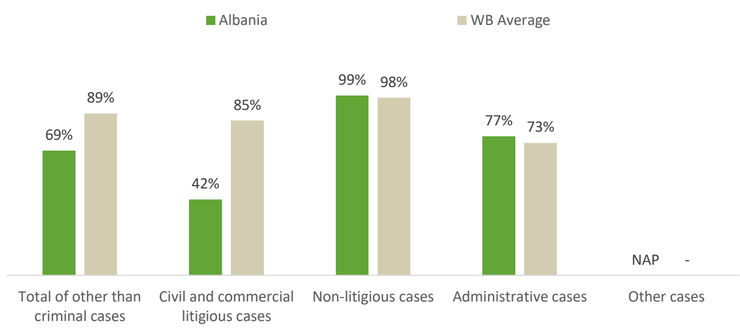


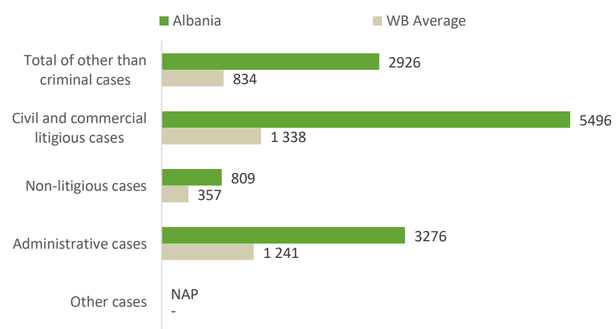

| 2nd instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2024 | | CR (%) | | DT (days) | | % Variation 2023 - 2024 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average | CR (PPT) | DT (%) |
| Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4) | | 69% | 89% | 2 926 | 834 | NA | NA |
| 1 | Civil and commercial litigious cases | 42% | 85% | 5 496 | 1 338 | NA | NA |
| 2 | Non-litigious cases** | 99% | 98% | 809 | 357 | 16,9 | -77,8% |
| 3 | Administrative cases | 77% | 73% | 3 276 | 1 241 | 31,2 | -38,5% |
| 4 | Other cases | NAP | - | NAP | - | NAP | NAP |

PPT = Percentage points

*For reference only: the 2023 EU Median for the Second instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases was as follows:*
*- Clearance rate: 101,3%; - Disposition time: 204 days.*

*For reference only: the 2023 EU Median for the Second instance Administrative cases was as follows:*
*- Clearance rate: 97,7%; - Disposition time: 288 days.*



## • Second instance cases - Criminal law cases

| 2nd instance cases in 2024 (absolute values) | | Albania (2024) | | | | % Variation between 2023 and 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Incoming cases | Resolved cases | Pending cases 31 Dec | Pending cases over 2 years | Incoming cases | Resolved cases | Pending cases 31 Dec | Pending cases over 2 years |
| Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3) | | 8 321 | 6 427 | 13 601 | 7 415 | 28,5% | 33,4% | 16,4% | 29,0% |
| Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2) | | 3 635 | 2 399 | 10 916 | 6 067 | 4,6% | 10,3% | 12,9% | 56,8% |
| 1 | Severe criminal cases | 3 525 | 2 209 | 9 674 | 5 424 | 3,3% | 3,0% | 15,8% | 56,5% |
| 2 | Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases | 110 | 190 | 1 242 | 643 | 80,3% | 555,2% | -6,1% | 58,8% |
| 3 | Other cases | 4 686 | 4 028 | 2 685 | 1 348 | 56,0% | 52,1% | 33,6% | -28,3% |

In 2024, the incoming total criminal cases were 8 321 (0,3 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,5). and they increased by 28,5%, compared to the previous year. The resolved cases were 6 427 (0,23 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2023 and 2024, they increased by 33,4%. In 2024, the number of resolved cases was thus lower than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the total criminal pending cases at the end of 2024 were more than in 2023. Indeed, the 2024 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 77% (below the WB Average of 97%). This increased by 2,9 percentage points compared to 2023.

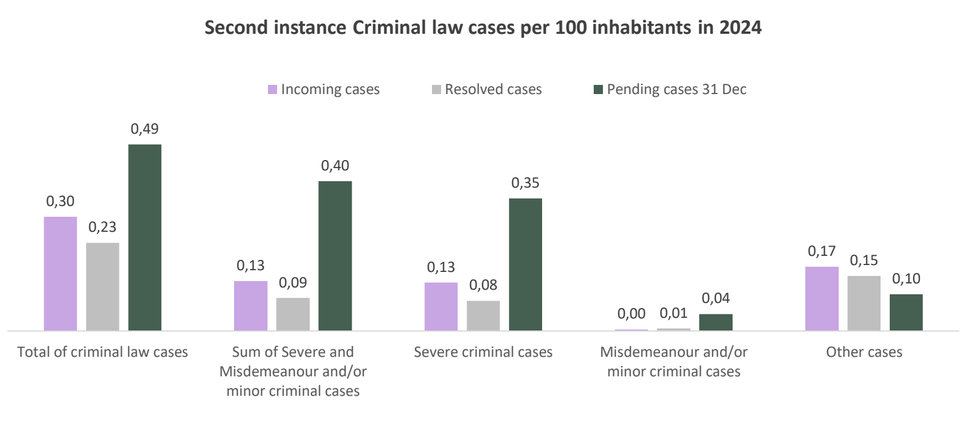
The category "Other criminal cases" includes both administrative criminal cases and anti-mafia law cases. According to the reported data, anti-mafia law cases include: 1 pending case as of 1 January 2024, 18 new cases, 19 adjudicated cases, and 0 pending cases as of 31 December 2024. There are no anti-mafia law cases pending for more than two years. The remaining cases in this category refer to administrative criminal cases.

The Disposition Time for total criminal cases was approximately 772 days in 2024 (above the WB Average of 217 days). This decreased by -12,7% compared to 2023.

| 2nd instance cases in 2024 (per 100 inhabitants) | | Incoming cases | | | Resolved cases | | | Pending cases 31 Dec | | | Pending cases over 2 years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average | Albania | | WB Average |
| Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3) | | 0,30 | < | 0,50 | 0,23 | < | 0,49 | 0,49 | > | 0,19 | 0,27 | > | 0,08 |
| Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2) | | 0,13 | < | 0,45 | 0,09 | < | 0,44 | 0,40 | > | 0,17 | 0,22 | > | 0,07 |
| 1 | Severe criminal cases | 0,13 | < | 0,22 | 0,08 | < | 0,20 | 0,35 | > | 0,12 | 0,20 | > | 0,07 |
| 2 | Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases | 0,00 | < | 0,23 | 0,01 | < | 0,24 | 0,04 | = | 0,04 | 0,02 | > | 0,01 |
| 3 | Other cases | 0,17 | > | 0,10 | 0,15 | > | 0,09 | 0,10 | > | 0,03 | 0,05 | > | 0,02 |

*For reference only: for the second instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2023 EU Median was as follows:*
*- Incoming cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,1.*

Key: > Higher than the WB Average
= Equal to the WB Average
< Lower than the WB Average

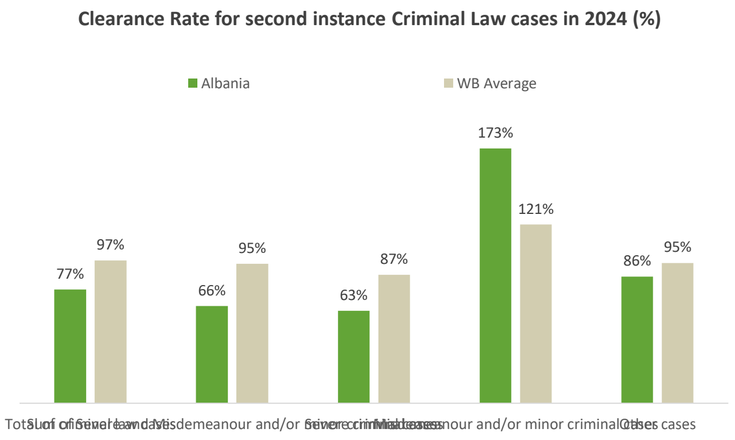


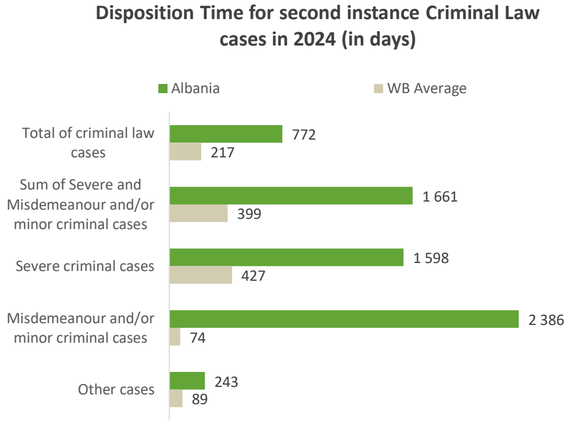

| 2nd instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2024 | | CR (%) | | DT (days) | | % Variation 2023 - 2024 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average | CR (PPT) | DT (%) |
| Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3) | | 77% | 97% | 772 | 217 | 2,9 | -12,7% |
| Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2) | | 66% | 95% | 1 661 | 399 | 3,4 | 2,3% |
| 1 | Severe criminal cases | 63% | 87% | 1 598 | 427 | -0,2 | 12,5% |
| 2 | Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases | 173% | 121% | 2 386 | 74 | 125,2 | -85,7% |
| 3 | Other cases | 86% | 95% | 243 | 89 | -2,1 | -12,3% |

PPT = Percentage points

*For reference only: for the second instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2023 EU Median was as follows:*
*- Clearance rate: 100%; - Disposition time: 148 days.*

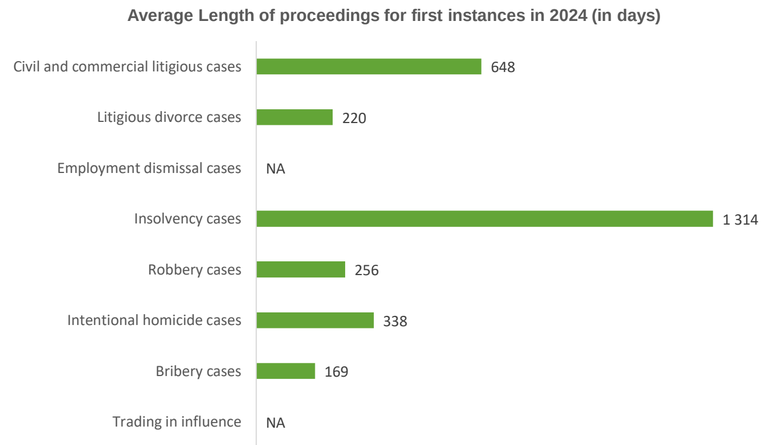
NBNB: For the second instance Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases: the WB Median of the Disposition Time is visualised in the graph above (instead of the WB average).



## • Specific category cases

| | Albania (2024) | | | | | | % Variation between 2023 and 2024 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Decisions subject to appeal (%) | Average length of proceedings (in days) | | | | % of cases pending for more than 3 years for all instances | Decisions subject to appeal (PPT) | Average length of proceedings (in days) | | | | Cases pending for more than 3 years for all instances (PPT) |
| | | First instance | Second instance | Third instance | Total | | | First instance | Second instance | Third instance | Total | |
| Civil and commercial litigious cases | NA | 648 | 6 805 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Litigious divorce cases | NA | 220 | 1 992 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Employment dismissal cases | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Insolvency cases | NA | 1 314 | 4 745 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Robbery cases | NA | 256 | 4 550 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Intentional homicide cases | NA | 338 | 636 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Bribery cases | NA | 169 | 59 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Trading in influence | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |




The average length of cases corresponds to the average length of resolved cases at a certain instance within the reference year.

## • Quality standards and performance indicators in the judicial system

In Albania there are quality standards determined for the judicial system at national level. Also, both courts and public prosecution services have specialised personnel entrusted with implementation of these national level quality standards.

## • Regular monitoring of courts and prosecution offices' activities

In Albania, there exists a system to annually evaluate court performance based on the monitored indicators listed below. This evaluation of the court activities is then used for the allocation of resources within the courts by identifying the causes of improved or deteriorated performance, reallocating resources (human/financial resources based on performance) and by reengineering internal procedures to increase efficiency.

| | Regular assessment | |
|---|---|---|
| | Courts | Prosecution offices |
| Number of incoming cases | ✓ | ✓ |
| Length of proceedings (timeframes) | ✓ | ✗ |
| Number of resolved cases | ✓ | ✓ |
| Number of pending cases | ✓ | ✓ |
| Backlogs | ✓ | ✓ |
| Productivity of judges and court staff / prosecutors and prosecution staff | ✓ | ✗ |
| Satisfaction of court / prosecution staff | ✗ | ✗ |
| Satisfaction of users (regarding the services delivered by the courts / the public prosecutors) | ✓ | ✗ |
| Costs of the judicial procedures | ✓ | ✓ |
| Number of appeals | ✓ | |
| Appeal ratio | ✓ | |
| Clearance rate | ✓ | ✓ |
| Disposition time | ✓ | ✗ |
| Percentage of convictions and acquittals | | ✓ |
| Other | ✗ | ✗ |

| Monitoring of the number of pending cases and backlogs | |
|---|---|
| Civil law cases | Yes |
| Criminal law cases | Yes |
| Administrative law cases | Yes |

| Monitoring of the waiting time during judicial proceedings | |
|---|---|
| Within the courts | No |
| Within the public prosecution services | No |

As regards courts, as part of the reallocation of human resources within the judicial system, aimed at improving efficiency based on performance, three judges were transferred in 2025 through parallel movement procedures. These procedures were carried out in implementation of the following decisions of the High Judicial Council: Decision No. 51, dated 05.02.2025; No. 54, dated 05.02.2025; and No. 56, dated 05.02.2025.

Parallel transfers of civil judicial staff were also conducted with the objective of enhancing court efficiency.

With regard to the reallocation of financial resources, reference should be made to the decisions of the High Judicial Council under which the reallocations were implemented, specifically: Decision No. 330, dated 03.07.2024; No. 397, dated 30.07.2024; No. 538, dated 25.09.2024; and No. 619, dated 16.10.2024.
As regards prosecutor offices, during the implementation of procedures related to the career of prosecutors—such as transfers—the High Prosecutorial Council obtains statistical and operational information, either periodically or as needed, from the General Prosecutor's Office or from the relevant prosecutorial offices. This information supports the monitoring of indicators referred to under Question 59. Particular attention is given not only to these indicators but also to sensitive criminal cases under investigation and to ensuring the performance and functionality of the prosecutorial office from which a prosecutor is transferred.

In cases of transfers with consent, the Council places specific emphasis on the workload of both the current and the receiving prosecutorial offices. Statistical data on criminal cases are used to assess whether a reallocation of staff would contribute to balancing workloads across offices. In line with the aim of maintaining performance standards, the Council approves transfers from offices with a lower workload to those with a higher workload, provided that the number of prosecutors remains within the limits of the approved organisational structure and without additional financial impact.

Furthermore, according to Article 50 of the Law "On the Organisation and Functioning of the Prosecution in the Republic of Albania", as amended, the head of each prosecution office must submit an annual report by the end of February detailing the office's activities during the previous year. This report is submitted to the General Prosecutor and published on the official website of the General Prosecutor's Office.

## • Quantitative targets for each judge and prosecutor

| Existence of quantitative targets for: | Judges | ✓ | Prosecutors | ✗ |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| The responsibility for setting up quantitative targets for judges lies on: | |
|---|---|
| Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice) | ✗ |
| Legislative power | ✗ |
| Judicial power (for example the High Judicial Council, Supreme Court) | ✓ |
| President of the court | ✗ |
| Other: | ✗ |

| The responsibility for setting up quantitative targets for public prosecutors lies on: | |
|---|---|
| Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice) | ✗ |
| Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor | ✗ |
| Public prosecutorial Council | ✗ |
| Head of the organisational unit or hierarchical superior public prosecutor | ✗ |
| Other | ✗ |

| Consequences for not meeting the targets | | For judges | For public prosecutors |
|---|---|---|---|
| Without disciplinary procedure | Warning by court's president/ head of prosecution | ✗ | NAP |
| | Temporary salary reduction | ✗ | NAP |
| | Reflected in the individual assessment | ✓ | NAP |
| | Other | ✗ | NAP |
| With disciplinary procedure | Warning by court's president/ head of prosecution | ✗ | NAP |
| | Temporary salary reduction | ✗ | NAP |
| | Reflected in the individual assessment | ✗ | NAP |
| | Other | ✗ | NAP |
| No consequences | | ✗ | NAP |

The current judicial evaluation system is based on Decision No. 261/2, dated 14.04.2010, of the High Council of Justice. With regard to the criteria for measuring judicial activity, the quantitative workload standard requires each judge to handle at least the following number of cases per calendar year:
First instance criminal judge (rapporteur): minimum 100 criminal trials (including crimes and misdemeanours);
First instance civil judge – commercial section (rapporteur): minimum 100 commercial cases;
First instance civil judge – administrative section (rapporteur): minimum 150 administrative cases;
First instance civil judge – family section (rapporteur): minimum 200 family cases;
First instance civil judge – general section (rapporteur): minimum 120 general civil cases between opposing parties;
First instance civil/criminal judge (not acting as rapporteur): minimum 400 claims-related cases, whether civil or criminal, with or without interested parties;
First instance judge for serious crimes (rapporteur): minimum 10 criminal trials;
First instance judge in courts not organised into sections (rapporteur): minimum 200 cases (criminal and civil);
Court of Appeal – criminal chamber (rapporteur): minimum 150 criminal cases;
Court of Appeal – civil chamber (rapporteur): minimum 200 civil cases;
Court of Appeal for serious crimes (rapporteur): minimum 20 criminal cases.
Additionally, the President of the Court, in their judicial capacity, must fulfil at least 40 % of the minimum workload applicable to a judge of that same court.

## • System of individual evaluation of the judges and public prosecutors' work

| | | Judges | Prosecutors |
|---|---|---|---|
| Existence of a system of individual evaluation | Quantitave work | ✓ | ✗ |
| | Qualitative work | ✓ | ✓ |

| Responsibility for setting up the criteria qualitative targets for judges | |
|---|---|
| Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice) | ✗ |
| Legislative power | ✗ |
| Judicial power (for example the High Judicial Council, Supreme Court) | ✓ |
| President of the court | ✗ |
| Other | ✗ |

| Responsibility for setting up the criteria for the qualitative assessment of the public prosecutors' work | |
|---|---|
| Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice) | ✗ |
| Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor | ✗ |
| Public prosecutorial Council | ✓ |
| Head of the organisational unit or hierarchical superior public prosecutor | ✗ |
| Other | ✓ |

| Frequency of this assessment | For judges | For public prosecutors |
|---|---|---|
| Annual | ✗ | ✗ |
| Less frequent | ✗ | ✗ |
| More frequent | ✗ | ✗ |

There are quality standards established for the judicial system at the national level, as defined in the Law "On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors", as amended (Article 71). These standards are linked to the assessment process of prosecutors and are based on the following criteria:
a) professional skills;
b) organisational skills;
c) ethics and commitment to professional values;
d) professional commitment.

With regard to professional skills, the assessment covers the prosecutor's legal knowledge and reasoning, the logical conduct of investigations, the gathering of evidence as required by law, interpretation of legislation, analysis of jurisprudence, decision-making and investigative actions, clarity and coherence of prosecution acts, ability to question, quality of legal analysis, and logical reasoning.

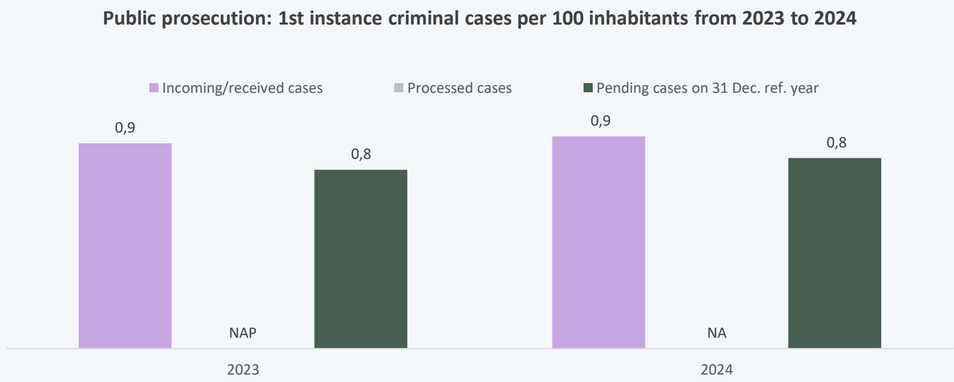
The High Judicial Council (HJC) is responsible for defining quality and efficiency standards in the judiciary. The HJC is currently working on the development of sub-legal acts on these standards in cooperation with external partners. In addition, each Council publishes Standards of Ethics and Rules of Conduct.

In general, standards are divided into:
– performance-related standards, which assess the quality and quantity of magistrates' work; and
– behaviour-related standards, which refer to ethical conduct.

The periodicity of the evaluation of judges is foreseen by law in two frequencies, specifically:
- The magistrate is evaluated once every three years, during the first fifteen years of experience professional, including professional experience as assistant magistrate or commanding magistrate.
- The magistrate is evaluated once every five years, after the first 15 years of professional experience magistrates.

*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

# Public Prosecution in Albania in 2024 (Indicators 3.1.1)




in 2024, the public prosecution services in Albania received 0,9 incoming cases per 100 inhabitants, and had 0,8 cases per 100 inhabitants pending at the end of the year.

## • Role and powers of the public prosecutor

| Role and powers of the public prosecutor in the criminal procedure | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To conduct or supervise investigation | ✓ | To appeal | ✓ |
| When necessary, to request investigation measures from the judge | ✓ | To supervise the enforcement procedure | ✓ |
| To charge | ✓ | To discontinue a case without needing a decision by a judge | ✗ |
| To present the case in the court | ✓ | To end the case by imposing or negotiating a penalty or measure | ✗ |
| To propose a sentence to the judge | ✓ | Other significant powers | ✗ |

It is possible to discontinue a case without a judicial decision only for misdemeanours, in accordance with Article 328 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In Albania, the public prosecutor has also a role in Civil cases and Insolvency cases.

## • Public prosecution: first instance criminal cases

| Public prosecution: 1st instance criminal cases in 2024 | | | Absolute number in 2024 | | Per 100 inhabitants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Albania** | % Variation between 2023 and 2024 | Albania | WB Median |
| 1 | Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. Year | | 21 011 | -7.1% | 0,8 | 1,4 |
| 2 | Incoming/received cases | | 24 956 | 3.8% | 0,9 | 1,2 |
| 3 | Processed cases (3.1 + 3.2 + 3.3) | | NA | NA | NA | 1,2 |
| | 3.1 | Discontinued during the reference year (3.1.1 + 3.1.2 + 3.1.3 + 3.1.4) | NA | NA | NA | 0,7 |
| | | 3.1.1. Discontinued by the public prosecutor because the offender could not be identified | 6 617 | -6.0% | 0,240 | - |
| | | 3.1.2 Discontinued by the public prosecutor due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation | 13 590 | 36.5% | 0,492 | 0,5 |
| | | 3.1.3 Discontinued by the public prosecutor for reasons of opportunity | NAP | NAP | NAP | - |
| | | 3.1.4 Discontinued for other reasons | NA | NA | NA | 0,2 |
| | 3.2 | Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor | NAP | NAP | NAP | 0,03 |
| | 3.3. | Cases brought to court | 9 030 | -6.4% | 0,3 | 0,5 |
| 4 | Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year | | 22 400 | 6.6% | 0,8 | 1,4 |

**Please note that these figures include traffic offence cases.

The reported figures for "incoming/received cases" correspond to proceedings registered in the year 2024.

Regarding "suspended cases": under Albanian legislation, this figure refers to the suspension of investigations in accordance with Article 326 of the Criminal Procedure Code, “Suspension of the investigation”, which states:

“1. In case the defendant is unknown, or when the defendant suffers from a serious illness which prevents further investigations, the prosecutor shall decide the suspension of investigations…”

As for "discontinued cases": in the Albanian legal framework, the data refer to situations where the prosecutor decides not to initiate criminal proceedings, as defined by Article 290 of the Criminal Procedure Code:

“Criminal proceedings shall not commence when:
A) the person has died;
B) the person has no criminal responsibility or has not reached the age of criminal liability;
C) the complaint of the victim is lacking or has been withdrawn;
Ç) the act is not provided by law as a criminal offence or it is clearly proven that the act does not exist;
D) the criminal offence is time-barred;
Dh) an amnesty has been issued;
E) in all other cases provided for by the law.”

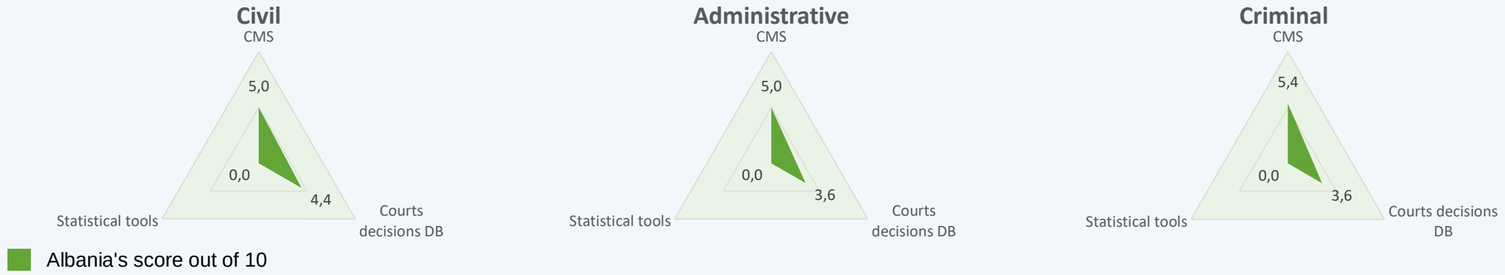
Following clarification from the General Prosecutor’s Office of Albania, it is important to note that the figures reported under "discontinued by the public prosecutor due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation" do not concern proceedings that were initiated and later discontinued. Instead, they refer to criminal complaints or referrals for which a decision was made not to initiate proceedings. These are therefore not registered as official cases.

Moreover, such cases are not included under “incoming cases” in the questionnaire, as they do not enter the official procedural flow. This methodological distinction explains the apparent inconsistency in the data, as these complaints do not correspond to the CEPEJ definition of “discontinued cases”.

*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

## Information and communication technology tools in Albania in 2024 (Indicator 3.3)

The three ICT deployment indices (CMS, Courts decisions DB and Statistical tools) range from 0 to 10 points. Their calculation is based on the features and deployment rates of each beneficiary. The methodology for calculation provides points for each feature in each case matter. They are summarised and multiplied by the deployment rate as a weight. In this way, if the system is not fully deployed, the value is decreased even if all features are existing.




In Albania, the overall maximum score among the three ICT indexes is achieved by the CMS index (5,1); while the overall lowest score was calculated for the Statistical tools index (0). The criminal have the highest ICT index 5,4.

In Albania, there exists an overall Information and Communication Technology (ICT) strategy within the judicial system, and significant changes to the current IT infrastructure are planned for 2024. The High Judicial Council (HJC) has approved a strategic two-year plan (2022–2024), which includes the ICT strategy. The strategic plan is available in Albanian at: https://klgj.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Plani-Strategjik-Final_2022-2024.pdf.

The implementation of the new judicial case management system is structured into several stages:
Preliminary steps, including the establishment of the governance structure, key preliminary decisions, and decisions regarding the migration of data from existing systems;
Phase 1, covering case handling, statistics, and judicial decisions;
Phase 2, introducing e-filing and related functionalities for criminal cases;
Phase 3, extending e-filing and related functionalities to civil and administrative cases;
Legislative adaptations to support the system;
System support, operation, and maintenance.
Taking into account that a modern judicial case management system must ensure the full digitalisation of all procedures—and considering the complexity of such an undertaking—a five-year timeline is proposed for the completion of the entire project.
There are currently two case management systems (CMS) in use in Albanian courts: CMIS and ARK-IT. These software systems are used for registering and managing judicial proceedings.

Since 2005, two different electronic case management systems have been operating in Albanian courts: ARK-IT and ICMIS. As of today, out of the 20 courts operating in Albania, 18 are using the ICMIS system, while only two—namely the Tirana Judicial District Court and the Special Court of First Instance for Corruption and Organized Crime—are using the ARK-IT system.
A broad consensus has been reached within the Albanian judiciary on the need to replace both systems (ARK-IT and ICMIS, including their various versions and their respective 2 and 36 local installations) with a single, next-generation, state-of-the-art system. In December 2021, the Centre for IT in the Judiciary of Albania adopted, upon proposal of the High Judicial Council (HJC), a Road Map for the development of a new Albanian Court Case Management System. As part of this initiative, the HJC's Information Technology Centre approved the relevant decisions to launch the development process for the new CMS.

Despite regular updates introducing new functionalities, the systems currently used in Albanian courts are considered nearly obsolete. Each court operates with its own locally installed servers, which are not unified. The internal network architecture is specific to each court and has yet to be standardised or centralised.
The renewal of software component licences—including those required for security—is also managed independently by each court. Security-wise, the case management systems operate offline and are accessible only locally by court staff. Each court, through its IT personnel, is responsible for ensuring system security and implementing relevant protection policies.

### • Electronic case management system

The CMS is deployed and used in all courts (95–100 % for civil, administrative and criminal matters). However, the data is not stored on centralised or interoperable CMS databases.
Random allocation of cases is available across all matters, while anonymisation of decisions, access to closed/resolved cases, advanced search engine, protected log files, and interoperability with other systems (excluding administrative matters for interoperability with the prosecution system) are supported. Electronic signature is not available.

| | Deployment rate | Usage rate | Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases | Active case management dashboard | Random allocation of cases | Case weighting | Identification of a case between instances | Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/ court | Anonymisation of decisions to be published | Interoperability with prosecution system | Interoperability with other systems | Access to closed/ resolved cases | Advanced search engine | Protected log files | Electronic signature | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Civil** | 95-100 % | 95-100 % | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | NAP | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **Administrative** | 95-100 % | 95-100 % | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | NAP | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **Criminal** | 95-100 % | 95-100 % | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |

## • Database of court decisions

The database of court decisions is available for all instances and all matters (civil, administrative, and criminal), with a deployment rate of 95–100 %. Court decisions are published online on a public website for all levels of jurisdiction. The database includes automatic anonymisation and provides free public online access for all matters. However, only the civil court decisions database offers an advanced search engine. Other functionalities—such as manual anonymisation, open data, machine-readable content, structured content, metadata, and the use of the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)—are not available.

| | 1st instance | | 2nd instance | | Supreme court | | Functionalities | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Deployment rate | Modalities of publication | Deployment rate | Modalities of publication | Deployment rate | Modalities of publication | Automatic anonymisation | Manual anonymisation | Free public online access | Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) | Open data | Advanced search engine | Machine-readable content | Structured content | Metadata | European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) | Other |
| **Civil** | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **Administrative** | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **Criminal** | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | 95-100 % | Published online (public website) | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

## • Statistical tools

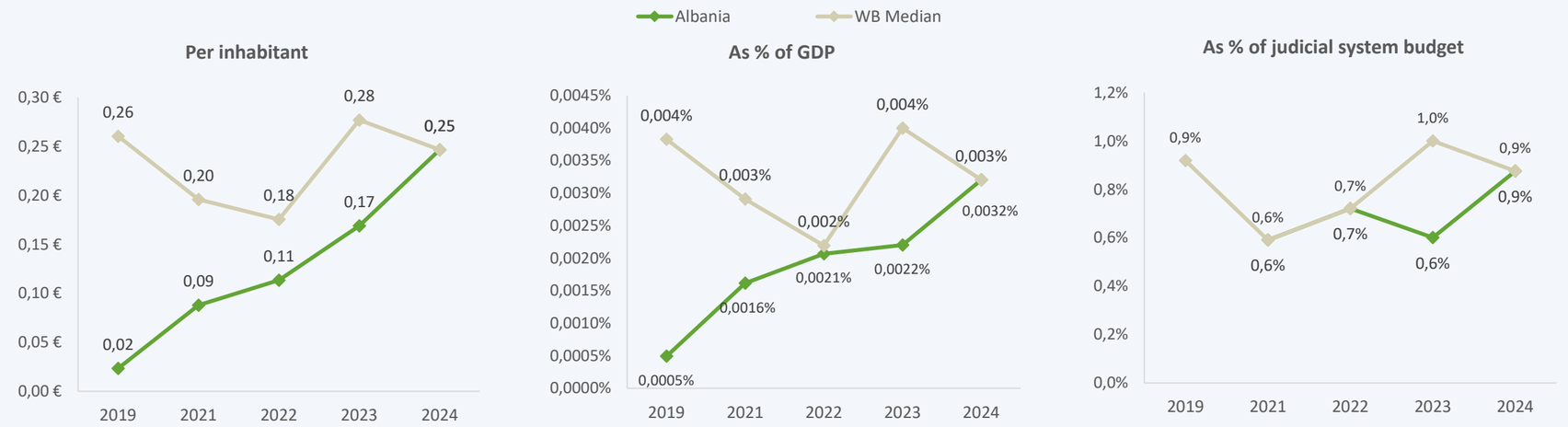
Statistical tools are currently not available in Albanian courts for civil, administrative, or criminal matters (NAP for all).

| | Deployment rate | Functionalities | | | | | | | | | Data available for statistical analysis | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Integration/ connection with the CMS | Business intelligence software | Generation of predefined statistical reports | Generation of customised statistical reports | Internal page and/or dashboard | External page with statistics (public website) | Real-time data availability | Automatic consolidation of data at the national level | Other special functionality | Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, | Age of a pending case | Length of proceedings | Number of hearings | Cases per judge | Case weights | Number of parties in a case | Indicator of appeal | Result of the appeal |
| **Civil** | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |
| **Administrative** | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |
| **Criminal** | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |

*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

# Legal Aid in Albania in 2024 (Indicator 4)

## Total implemented budget for Legal Aid between 2019 and 2024




## Number of cases for which LA has been granted in 2024

**0,26**

**per 100 inhabitants**

WB Median: 0,18

**WB Median: 0,18**

In 2024, the implemented budget for legal aid spent by Albania was 681 193€ (0,88% of the judicial system budget). This means that an amount of 0,25€ was spent per inhabitant ( the same as the WB Median). The budget for legal aid was equal to 0,003% of the GDP, the same as the WB Median.

## • Organisation of the legal aid system

According to Article 5 of Law No. 111/2017, legal aid in Albania is provided in the following forms:
a) primary legal aid;
b) secondary legal aid;
c) exemption from the payment of court fees and expenses, as well as exemption from the obligation to prepay the execution fee of the enforcement order.

Primary legal aid is defined in Article 3(b) of the Law and in Article 3 of Appendix 1 of the Order of the Minister of Justice No. 226, dated 25.03.2019, “On the approval of the contracts of legal aid guaranteed by the state”. It includes:
– the provision of information on the legal system and legal acts;
– counselling, defined as the provision of information on possible ways and options for resolving a specific legal issue (Article 3(ç));
– advice on mediation procedures and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;
– assistance in preparing and drafting documentation aimed at either initiating procedures before public administration bodies or applying for secondary legal aid;
– representation before administrative bodies;
– and any other necessary legal support that does not qualify as secondary legal aid.

Secondary legal aid is defined in Article 3(c) as legal services provided for:
– the preparation of legal documents necessary to initiate court proceedings (pre-trial phase);
– counselling, representation, and defence before administrative, civil, and criminal courts (excluding cases where mandatory defence is foreseen under the Criminal Procedure Code).

It is important to note that secondary legal aid is available before courts, while primary legal aid may also involve assistance before administrative bodies. In the area of criminal law, the Law on Legal Aid applies only when mandatory defence under the Criminal Procedure Code does not apply, thus functioning as a subsidiary legal framework.

**Legal aid is applied to:**

| | Criminal cases | Other than criminal cases |
|---|---|---|
| Representation in court | ✓ | ✓ |
| Legal advice, ADR and other legal services | ✓ | ✓ |

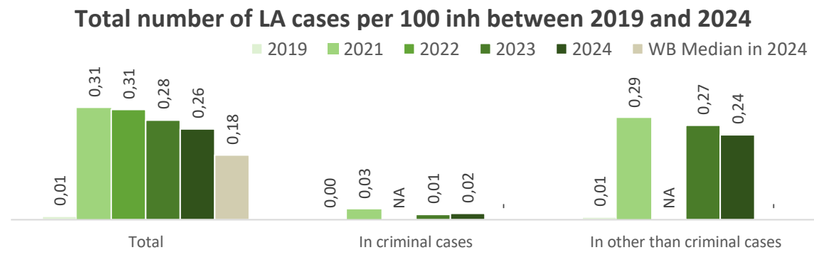
## • Implemented budget for legal aid and number of cases for which legal aid has been granted

| | Implemented budget for legal aid in € | | | | Total implemented budget for legal aid per inhabitant | | Total implemented budget for legal aid as % of GDP | | Total implemented budget for legal aid as % of the judicial system budget | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total (a+b) | % Variation 2019 - 2024 | Cases brought to court (a) | Cases not brought to court (b) | Albania | WB Median | Albania | WB Median | Albania | WB Median |
| Total (1+2) | 681 193 € | 917,5% | 145 115 € | 536 078 € | 0,25 € | 0,25 € | 0,003% | 0,003% | 0,88% | 0,9% |
| In criminal cases (1) | NA | NA | NA | NA | | | | | | |
| In other than criminal cases (2) | NA | NA | NA | NA | | | | | | |

In 2024, Albania spent 681 193€ on the total implemented budget for legal aid, which was 917,5% more compared to 2019. It should be noticed that Albania does not include mandatory representation in court (ex officio lawyers) in the legal aid budget, while other countries do. Therefore, the amount cannot be compared with the WB median.

The implemented budget for legal aid increased by 8,6 % compared to the previous year. The category “cases brought to court” refers to secondary legal aid, including the payment of lawyers and experts who provided such services. The remaining amount is considered as legal advice and other financial commitments related to the functioning of the institution. The further increase in expenditure is linked to the establishment of primary legal aid service centres across the Republic of Albania, as well as to legislative changes regarding employee salaries. It should be noted that the planning of funds is based on the number of decisions issued by the courts, while the payment is processed only after the completion of all procedural steps related to judicial representation. As trials take time—particularly under current circumstances marked by the shortage of judges due to the ongoing vetting process—this results in delays in the submission of payment files to the Directorate.

| | Number of cases for which legal aid has been granted | | | | | Amount of LA granted per case (€) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total (a+b) | | | Cases brought to court (a) | Cases not brought to court (b) | Total | Cases brought to court | Cases not brought to court |
| | Absolute number | Per 100 inh. | % Variation 2019 - 2024 | | | | | |
| Total (1+2) | 7 058 | 0,26 | 2593,7% | 838 | 6 220 | 96,5 € | 173,2 € | 86,2 € |
| In criminal cases (1) | 480 | 0,02 | 752,8% | 55 | 425 | NA | NA | NA |
| In other than criminal cases (2) | 6 578 | 0,24 | 3097,4% | 783 | 5 795 | NA | NA | NA |



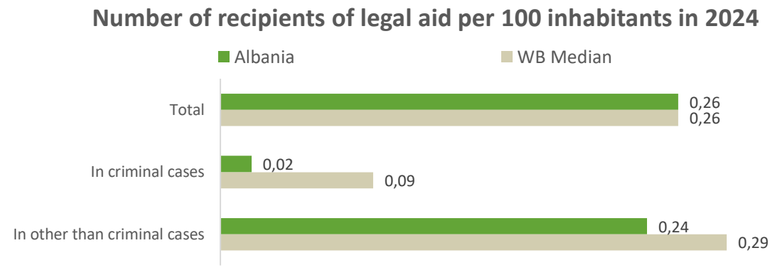

In 2024, the number of cases for which legal aid was granted was 7 058, which was 2593,7% more compared to 2019. The number of criminal cases were 480, and the other than criminal cases were 6 578. The total cases brought to court were 838, while the total cases not brought to court were 6 220. On average, the amount granted per legal aid case was 96,5€.

Based on the administered data, all requests for primary legal aid (which does not include representation in court) are accepted (100 %). In contrast, 64 requests for secondary legal aid (which includes representation in court) out of a total of 340 were not approved by the court. There is currently no data administration in place to monitor how many criminal cases were granted secondary legal aid.
The final data for 2024 are as follows:
Total cases not brought to court (Primary + Secondary Legal Aid not accepted):
– Primary legal aid: 6 220
– Secondary legal aid (requests not accepted): 66
– Total: 6 286
Criminal cases not brought to court:
– Primary legal aid: 425
– Secondary legal aid not accepted: 5
– Total: 430
Non-criminal cases not brought to court:
– Primary legal aid: 5 795
– Secondary legal aid not accepted: 61
– Total: 5856
It should be noted that these figures were revised following a new analysis, as this type of disaggregated statistical data had not previously been collected.

Primary legal aid services—delivered through 20 Primary Legal Aid Centres operating in 20 cities across Albania, 15 NGOs, and 13 legal clinics in higher education institutions—include:
information about the Albanian legal system and applicable laws;
advice on exercising rights in judicial and extrajudicial settings;
consultation, including on mediation and alternative dispute resolution procedures;
assistance in preparing documents required to initiate procedures with the public administration or request secondary legal aid;
representation before administrative bodies; and
other forms of legal assistance not covered by secondary legal aid.
Secondary legal aid, which involves representation in court, is provided by lawyers who are listed and approved by the National Chamber of Advocates. Eligible individuals must submit a request using the prescribed form to the competent court, which must decide within five days whether to approve legal aid (including representation or exemption from court fees and prepayment of enforcement costs). For the year 2024, 177 advocates signed a contract with the Free Legal Aid Directorate to provide secondary legal aid services.
It is important to highlight that ex officio lawyers are not included in these figures, as they are not the same as legal aid lawyers. Legal aid lawyers sign an annual contract with the Free Legal Aid Directorate, which formally entitles them to represent clients in court under the legal aid scheme.

## • Number of recipients of legal aid

| | Number of recipients of legal aid | | | | | Amount of LA granted per recipient (€) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total (a+b) | | | Cases brought to court (a) | Cases not brought to court (b) | Total | Cases brought to court | Cases not brought to court |
| | Absolute number | Per 100 inh. | WB Median | | | | | |
| **Total (1+2)** | 7 124 | 0,26 | 0,26 | 904 | 6 220 | 95,6 € | 160,5 € | 86,2 € |
| **In criminal cases (1)** | 485 | 0,02 | 0,09 | 60 | 425 | NA | NA | NA |
| **In other than criminal cases (2)** | 6 639 | 0,24 | 0,29 | 844 | 5 795 | NA | NA | NA |




In 2024, the number of recipients legal aid was granted was 7 124.This means that there were 0,26 recipients per 100 inhabitants which was the same as the WB Median. The number of criminal cases were 485, and the other than criminal cases were 6 639. The total cases brought to court were 904, while the total cases not brought to court were 6 220. On average, the amount granted per recipient of legal aid case 95,6€.

The table presents data on all recipients/cases registered in the system. However, in some instances, the court decided not to grant free legal aid because the applicants did not meet the eligibility criteria established by law.

No cases have been identified in which several family members benefited from free legal aid for the same case. As previously noted, free legal aid is granted to the same person only when the court determines that the case concerns a different legal object or issue.

*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

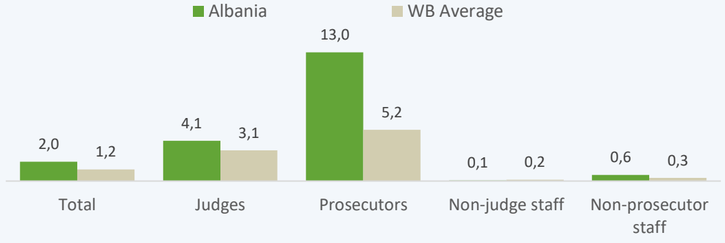
# Training of judges and prosecutors in Albania in 2024 (Indicator 7)

### Total budget for training per inhabitant




### Average number of live training participations per professional

Please see the definition of the indicator on page 2.




### Average number of participants per delivered training




The total budget for training of judges and prosecutors in Albania was 1,72€ per inhabitant, which is above the WB Average (0,86€ per inhabitant).

In 2024, 4 565 participants (of which 1 354 judges and 2 681 prosecutors) were trained in 382 live trainings (in-person, hybrid or video conferences).

In Albania, each judge participated, on average, to 4,1 live trainings in 2024, which was higher than the WB Average (3,1) while each prosecutor participated, on average, to 13 live trainings, more than the WB Average (5,2).

Regarding the internet-based trainings (not-live), 1 training in total was provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution for judges and prosecutors, whereas a total of 1 trainings was completed by justice professionals on other e-learning platforms (HELP, EJTN, UN, etc.). The total number of participats was NA and 11, respectively.

In Albania, both judges and prosecutors are required to attend a minimum of 5 days of in-service compulsory training.

## • Budget for training

This part analyses the budget of training institution/s for judges and prosecutors but also the budgets of courts and prosecutions dedicated to training (when applicable)

| | Budget of the training institution(s) (1) | % of budget of the training institution(s) covered by external donors | Budget of the courts/prosecution allocated to training (2) | Total (1)+(2) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Absolute Number | Evolution of training budget per inhabitant | | | | | % Variation 2019 - 2024 | % Variation 2023 - 2024 | WB Average per inhabitant |
| | | | | | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | | | |
| Total | 4 744 151 € | NA | NAP | 4 744 151 € | 0,51 € | 0,75 € | 0,89 € | 1,54 € | 1,72 € | 238,5% | 11,8% | 0,86 € |
| Judges | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | | | | | | | | |
| Prosecutors | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP | | | | | | | | |
| Insititution for both judges and prosecutors | 4 744 151 € | NA | | 4 744 151 € | | | | | | | | |




Albania spent in total 4 744 151€ for training for judges and prosecutors in 2024, which is 1,72€ per inhabitant (above the WB average of 0,86€ per inhabitant).

## • Number of in-service live trainings and participants

**Organisation of the trainings (number, duration and average number of participants on trainings)**

| | Live (in-person, hybrid, video conference) trainings (2024) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of available trainings | Number of delivered trainings | Delivered trainings in days | Number of participants | Average duration of trainings in days | | Average number of participants per delivered training | |
| | | | | | Albania | WB Average | Albania | WB Average |
| Total | 351 | 382 | 503 | 4 565 | 1,3 < | 1,4 | 12,0 < | 18,9 |
| Judges | 132 | 149 | 170 | 1 354 | 1,1 < | 1,3 | 9,1 < | 13,2 |
| Prosecutors | 100 | 114 | 133 | 2 681 | 1,2 < | 1,4 | 23,5 > | 14,1 |
| Non-judge staff | 55 | 55 | 100 | 80 | 1,8 > | 1,7 | 1,5 < | 13,2 |
| Non-prosecutor staff | 64 | 64 | 100 | 450 | 1,6 > | 1,3 | 7,0 > | 4,1 |

*CEPEJ distinguishes these types of trainings:*
*"A live" training shall be understood as a training conducted in real time. This means that both trainers and participants are physically present in one location or several locations assisted with information technology (digital tools).*
*"Internet-based" trainings are all trainings that take place over internet, irrespective of the format of the training (such as trainings via specifically designed LMS - Learning Management System platforms, webinars, podcasts and other forms of downloadable lectures and self-learning digital tools). The internet-based training shall be understood as e-training that is implemented according to participant own pace and time of training.*

Key: > Higher than the WB Average
= Equal to the WB Average
< Lower than the WB Average

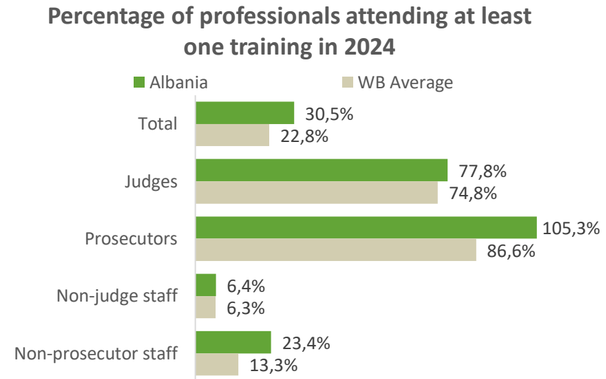
In 2024, the average duration of trainings for judges in Albania was 1,1 days (well below the WB Average of 1,3). During the same period, the average duration of training for prosecutors was 1,2 days, which was below the WB Average of 1,4 days.

The number of trainings available for non-judge and non-prosecutor staff is equal to the number of training delivered because there are no training activities that are repeated.

**Indicators on training participation: Number of training participations per professional and unique participants**

| | Average number of live training participations per professional | | Professionals attending at least one training (unique participants) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Number | % of total professionals by category | |
| | Albania | WB Average | | Albania | WB Average |
| Total | 2,0 > | 1,2 | 712 | 30,5% > | 22,8% |
| Judges | 4,1 > | 3,1 | 259 | 77,8% > | 74,8% |
| Prosecutors | 13,0 > | 5,2 | 218 | 105,3% > | 86,6% |
| Non-judge staff | 0,1 < | 0,2 | 69 | 6,4% > | 6,3% |
| Non-prosecutor staff | 0,6 > | 0,3 | 166 | 23,4% > | 13,3% |




***Average number of live training participations per professional***

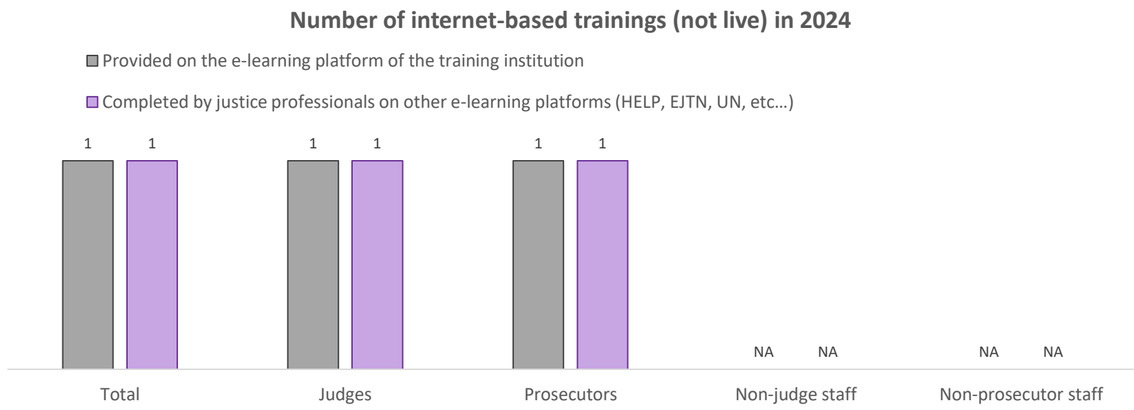
*This indicator is calculated as follows: the number of participants in live trainings is divided by the number of professionals for that category. For example, the WB Average for judges is 3,1. This means that, on average, each judge in the region participated to 3,1 live trainings. This indicator should also be analysed together with the indicator on percenatge of professionals attending training,shown in the table as well. Indeed, this analysis allows to better understand how long a professional was trained on average and if all were trained.*

Looking at the average participations on live trainings, the highest average was for prosecutor (13 live training participations per prosecutor). Hence, compared to the other professionals, Albania gave priority to the trainings for prosecutor, like the rest of the region (the WB Average number of participations per prosecutor on live trainings was 5,2).

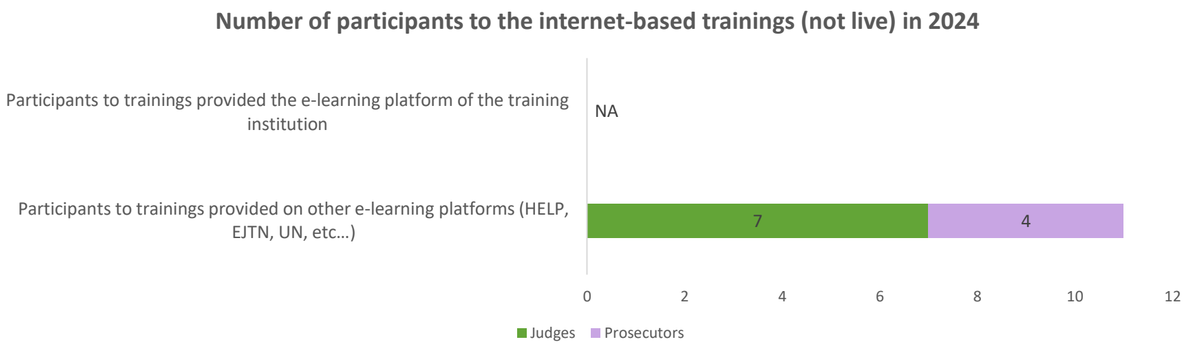
In 2024 the highest priority for live training was given to the training of Prosecutors (13,0 participations on trainings per prosecutor). At the same time, the percentage of prosecutor attending at least one training was 105,3%.

## • Number of in-service internet-based trainings and participants

| | Number of internet-based trainings (not live) in 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution | | Completed by justice professionals on other e-learning platforms (HELP, EJTN, UN, etc…) | |
| | Number of trainings | Number of participants | Number of trainings | Number of participants |
| **Total** | 1 | NA | 1 | 11 |
| **Judges** | 1 | NA | 1 | 7 |
| **Prosecutors** | 1 | NA | 1 | 4 |
| **Non-judge staff** | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| **Non-prosecutor staff** | NA | NA | NA | NA |

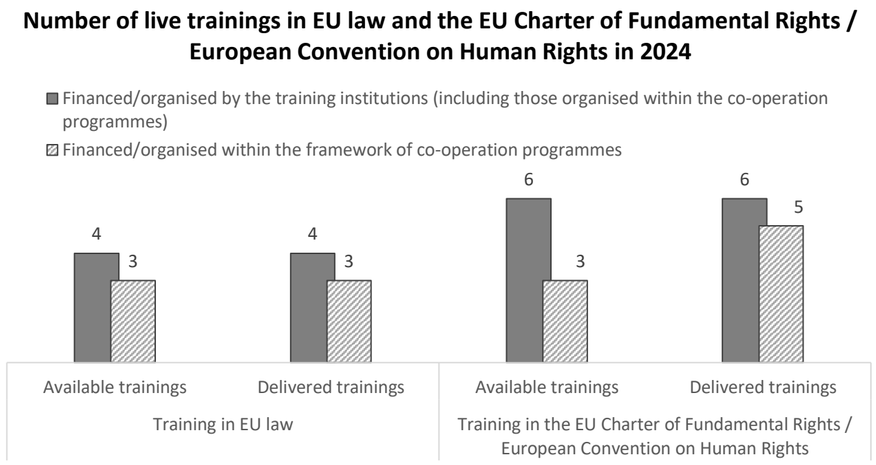



The increase is explained by the increase of available and delivered training activities, as well as the increase of the number of judges and prosecutors in the system after the last two years of graduation from the SoM.



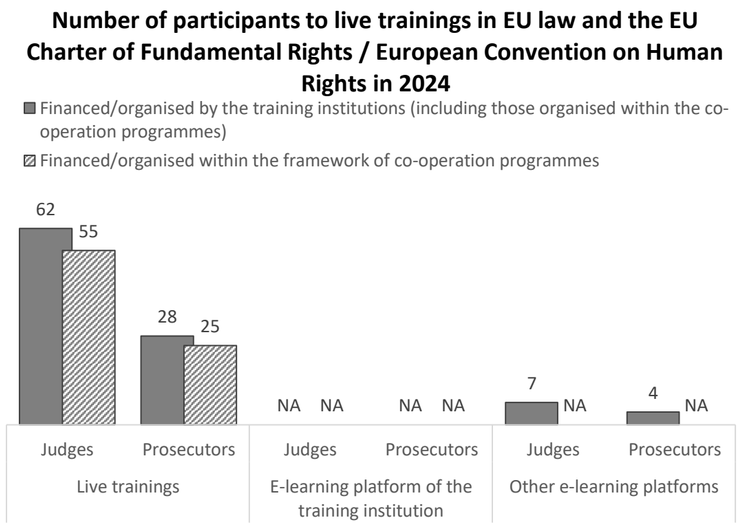
## • Number of EU law training courses and participants

| | Training in EU law organised/financed: | | Training in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights / European Convention on Human Rights organised/financed: | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Live trainings (2024)** | **By the training institutions for judges and prosecutors** | **Within the framework of co-operation programmes** | **By the training institutions for judges and prosecutors** | **Within the framework of co-operation programmes** |
| **Number of available live trainings** | 4 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| **Number of delivered live trainings** | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| **Number of delivered live training in days** | 6 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| **Internet-based trainings(2024)** | | | | |
| **Provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution (not live)** | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| **Completed by justice professionals on other e-learning platforms (HELP, EJTN, UN, etc…)** | - | NA | - | NA |




In 2024, half of the trainings on EU Law and EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights available or delivered in Albania were co-organised or co-financed with International partners.

| | Live (in-person, hybrid, video conference) trainings | | | | Internet-based trainings (not live) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Training in EU law and EU Charter of Fundamental Rights / European Convention on Human Right organised/financed:** | **Number** | | **Unique participants** | | **Provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution** | | **Completed by justice professionals on other e-learning platforms (HELP, EJTN, UN, etc…)** | |
| | **Judges** | **Prosecutors** | **Judges** | **Prosecutors** | **Judges** | **Prosecutors** | **Judges** | **Prosecutors** |
| **By the training institutions for judges and prosecutors** | 62 | 28 | 35 | 10 | NA | NA | 7 | 4 |
| **Within the framework of co-operation programmes** | 55 | 25 | 21 | 18 | NA | NA | NA | NA |




*Participation shall be understood as one attendance of a person to a training.*

## • Type and frequency of trainings

| | | Judges | | Prosecutors | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Compulsory/ Optional or No training | Frequency | Compulsory/ Optional or No training | Frequency |
| | Initial training | Compulsory | | Compulsory | |
| In-service training | General | Compulsory | Regularly | Compulsory | Regularly |
| | Specialised judicial functions | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |
| | Management functions of the court | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |
| | Use of computer facilities in courts | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |
| | On ethics | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |
| | On child-friendly justice | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |
| | On gender equality | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |
| | On prevention of corruption | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |
| | On conflicts of interest | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |
| | Other | Optional | Occasional | Optional | Occasional |

Continuous training seminars on the prevention of corruption and conflicts of interest are organised based on requests from in-service prosecutors. However, they are also an integral part of the continuous training calendar and have been held regularly every year at the School of Magistrates.

In Albania, judges and prosecutors are required to attend compulsory training sessions, and sanctions are foreseen in case of unjustified non-compliance. The obligation for magistrates to complete mandatory training derives from Law No. 96/2016 "On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors in the Republic of Albania". Specifically, Article 5, point 3 of the Law sets out the required duration for continuing training:
a) not less than five full days per year and not less than 30 full days over a five-year period;
b) not more than 40 days per year and not more than 200 days over five years.

Compliance with this obligation is considered as part of the professional and ethical evaluation process conducted by the High Judicial Council (HJC) and the High Prosecutorial Council (HPC). According to Article 102, failure to attend the specified number of training activities without justified cause constitutes a disciplinary violation. Additional disciplinary measures are foreseen under Articles 112 and 113 of the same law. These include:
– mandatory participation in specific professional training programmes, and
– removal from the position of court president or head of office.

The disciplinary body may determine the content and duration of such training, particularly when the identified violation is considered correctable through participation in further education.

In addition, prosecution offices include prosecutors who are specially trained in handling domestic violence and sexual violence cases. During 2024, the School of Magistrates provided training on these topics to 22 judges, 26 prosecutors, and 53 other participants.

## • Minimum number of compulsory trainings

| | Initial compulsory training | | In-service compulsory trainings | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Minimum number of trainings | Minimum number of days | Minimum number of trainings | Minimum number of days |
| Judges | NAP | NAP | NAP | 5 |
| Prosecutors | NAP | NAP | NAP | 5 |

The duration of the initial training studies in the Albanian Magistrates School is for 3 academic years. The academic year starts on the first Monday of October and ends by the end of May the following year.

## • Quality of judicial training

**Albania identifies (collects information about) future in-service training needs via:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Target audience itself | ✓ | Relevant judicial institutions | ✓ |
| Previous participants in trainings | ✓ | Ministry of Justice | ✓ |
| Trainers | ✓ | Other | ✗ |
| Courts/prosecutor's offices | ✓ | | |

Future in-service training needs are assessed annually.

Regarding the evaluation of training activities, at the end of each session, evaluation forms are distributed to both participants and experts. Participants are asked to provide feedback on the training activity itself, the quality and usefulness of the materials provided by the experts, the panel of experts and facilitators, as well as the performance of the continuous training staff. Experts are asked to assess the level of interaction among participants, as well as the overall engagement and effectiveness of the session.

**The result of the training evaluation process is used:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To prepare a training evaluation report with recommendations | ✗ | To suppress a training course | ✗ |
| To improve the training course which, according to the report, needed improvements | ✓ | To introduce a new course | ✓ |
| To replace the trainers that failed to meet expected learning outcomes/were negatively evaluated | ✓ | Other | ✗ |

At the end of each training seminar, an evaluation questionnaire is distributed and collected from participants. These forms are used to gather feedback on the quality and effectiveness of the training activities delivered, including the content, materials, trainers, and overall organisation of the session.

*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

# Alternative Dispute Resolution in Albania in 2024 (Indicator 9)

| | |
|---|---|
| Legal aid for court-related mediation or related mediation provided free of charge | ✗ |
| Court-related mediation procedures | ✓ |
| Mandatory informative sessions with a mediator | ✓ |
| Mandatory mediation with a mediator | ✗ |

## Mediators

4,1

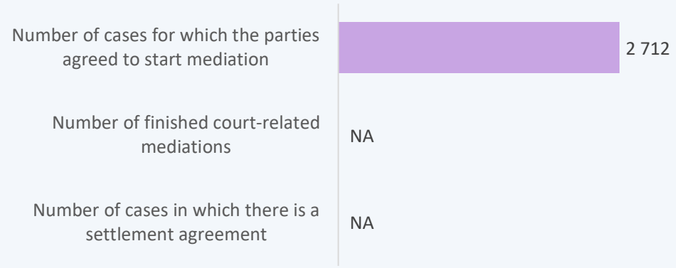
per 100 000 inhabitants

WB Median: 5,9

85,1% female mediators



## Total number of court-related mediations




In Albania, court related mediation procedures are available and legal aid for court-related mediation or related mediation provided free of charge could not be granted. The judical system does not provide for mandatory mediation. There are also mandatory informative sessions with a mediator. In 2024, the number of mediators was 4,1 per 100 000 inhabitants, which was below the WB Median (5,9 per 100 000 inhabitats). The majority of the mediators were women (85,1%). There were in total 2712 cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation and NA mediation procedures which ended with a settlement agreement.

## • Court-related mediation procedures

*Court related mediation is the mediation which includes the intervention of a judge, a public prosecutor or other court staff who facilitates, directs, advises on or conducts the mediation process. For example, in civil disputes or divorce cases, judges may refer parties to a mediator if they believe that more satisfactory results can be achieved for both parties. In criminal law cases, a public prosecutor (or a judge) can refer a case to a mediator or propose that he/she mediates a case between an offender and a victim (for example to establish a compensation agreement). Such mediation may be mandatory either as a pre-requisite to proceedings or as a requirement of the court in the course of the proceedings.*

According to the Albanian Law on Mediation, participation in mediation procedures is not mandatory but voluntary. Regarding informative sessions on mediation, relevant provisions are included in the Code of Civil Procedure (Law No. 38/2017), specifically in Article 25, paragraphs 2, 4, and 6 of Article 38, as well as Articles 75 and 76.

## • Other ADR methods

| Mediation other than court-related mediation | Arbitration | Conciliation (if different from mediation) | Other ADR |
|---|---|---|---|
| ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |

In Albania, under the law of Arbitration ( Law no 53 /2023 ) is crated the Permanent Institution of Arbitration, with Decision of Tirana Court no 1943 date 19.09.2024

## • Mediators and court-related mediations

**Requirements and procedure to become an accredited or registered mediator:**

The requirements and procedure to become an accredited or registered mediator in Albania, based on Law No. 10385, dated 24.02.2011, "On Mediation in Dispute Resolution", and its amendments.
A. General Eligibility Criteria
To qualify as a mediator in Albania, an applicant must:
Be at least 28 years old and 3 years experience.
Be an Albanian citizen or a foreign citizen with legal residence in Albania.
Have full legal capacity to act.
Have no criminal record for offenses that could impact integrity or credibility in the profession.

B. Educational and Professional Requirements
Hold a university degree (typically in law, psychology, social sciences, business, or related fields).
Complete accredited mediation training from an institution approved by the Ministry of Justice or National Chamber of Mediators.
Prior experience in law, psychology, or business fields is preferred but not always required.

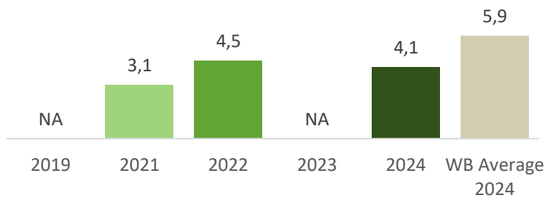
The Procedure to be mediators:
Step 1: Completion of Mediation Training – Candidates must complete a theoretical and practical training program approved by the Ministry of Justice. Training covers mediation techniques, negotiation, conflict resolution, communication skills, and legal framework.
Step 2: Application for Accreditation – After completing training, candidates must submit an application to the National Chamber of Mediators, including:
University diploma (and proof of related studies).
Certificate of completed mediation training.
Clean criminal record certificate.
A formal request to be listed in the National Register of Mediators.
Step 3: Professional Evaluation & Registration – The National Chamber of Mediators evaluates the candidate's qualifications. Candidates may need to pass a professional assessment or exam. If successful, the candidate is registered in the National Register of Mediators.
Step 4: License Issuance & Professional Oath – Upon approval, the candidate receives a Mediation License. The mediator must take an oath of professional conduct before practicing.

Renewal and Professional Training
Ongoing Training: Mediators must participate in continuous professional development programs.
Ethical Standards: Mediators must adhere to the Code of Ethics set by the National Chamber of Mediators.
License Renewal: Mediators must periodically renew their license as required by law.

| Accredited/registered mediators for court-related mediation | | | % Variation between 2019 and 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Absolute number | Per 100 000 inhabitants | WB Median per 100 000 inhabitants | |
| 114 | 4,1 | 5,9 | NA |

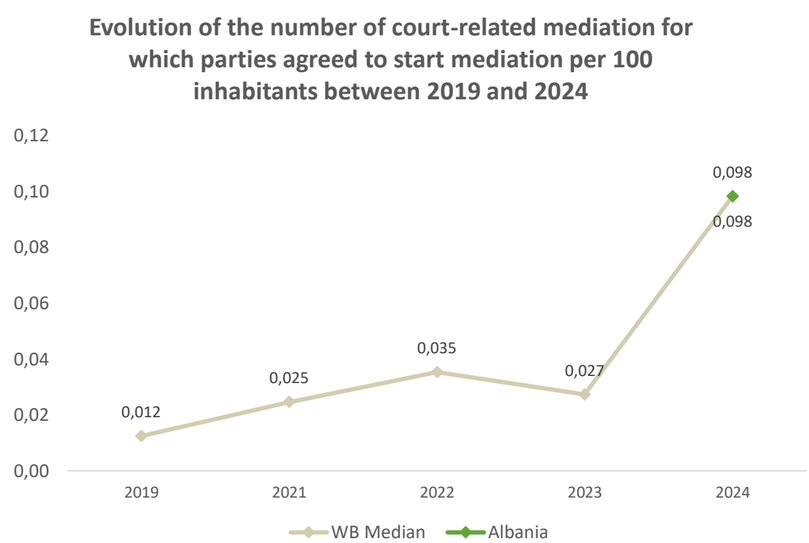
*For reference only: the 2021 EU median is 19 mediators per 100 000 inhabitants.*

**Accredited/registered mediators for court-related mediation per 100 000 inhabitants between 2019 and 2024**




In 2024, the total number of mediators in Albania was 114.The number of mediators per 100 000 inhabitants was 4,1, which is less than the WB Median of 5,9.

| | Number of court-related mediations | | | Providers of court-related mediation services | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation | Number of finished court-related mediations | Number of cases in which there is a settlement agreement | Private mediator | Public authority (other than the court) | Judge | Public prosecutor |
| **Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5+ 6)** | 2 712 | NA | NA | | | | |
| **1. Civil and commercial cases** | NA | NA | NA | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **2. Family cases** | NA | NA | NA | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **3. Administrative cases** | NA | NA | NA | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **4. Labour cases incl. employment dismissals** | NA | NA | NA | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **5. Criminal cases** | NA | NA | NA | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **6. Consumer cases** | NA | NA | NA | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| **7. Other cases** | NA | NA | NA | | | | |




Court related mediations are provided by private mediators.

In Albania, it is not possible to receive legal aid for court-related mediation or receive these services free of charge.

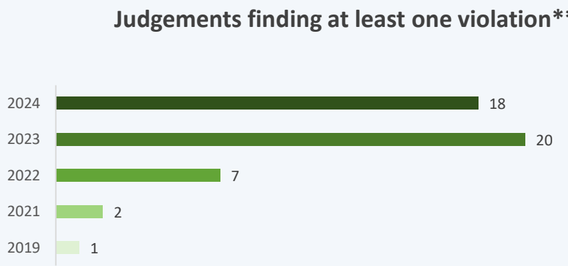
In Albania, the legal system provides for mandatory informative sessions with a mediator in certain fields, particularly in civil and family law disputes. The Law No. 10385, dated 24.02.2011, "On Mediation in Dispute Resolution", along with amendments, regulates mediation procedures and establishes when mediation is encouraged or required.
1.Family Disputes:
- In cases of divorce, child custody, and parental responsibilities, courts often require parties to attend an informative session with a mediator before proceeding with litigation.
- Mediation is encouraged in disputes over alimony, property division, and visitation rights.
2.Commercial Disputes:
- Certain commercial disputes, particularly those related to contractual obligations and business partnerships, may involve mandatory mediation sessions before resorting to court.
3.Labor Disputes:
- Disputes between employers and employees, such as wrongful termination or discrimination cases, often involve mediation as a first step before court proceedings.
4.Civil Disputes:
- Some civil cases involving compensation claims, property conflicts, and contractual disagreements may require an informative session about mediation as an alternative to court.
5.Penal Disputes:
- Some penall cases involving compensation claims, article 59 Code of Penal Procedure are 13 caces and article 284 11 cases , and contractual disagreements may require an informative session about mediation as an alternative to court.

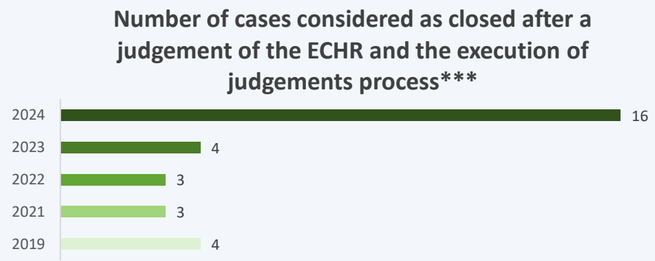
*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

# European Convention on Human Rights in Albania in 2024 (Indicator 10)

*European Convention on Human Rights – Article 6 – Right to a fair trial (extract):*

*In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interests of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.*




## • ECHR

For civil procedures (non-enforcement) The code of Civil Procedure, specifically in article 399/3 has created a monitoring system as a remedy in case of violation of article 6 specifically: “Just satisfaction” 1. Just satisfaction for violation of reasonable time limits shall be deemed the recognition of violation, any measures taken to expedite the proceedings of investigation, trial of the case and execution of the decision, and/or compensation of the damage, according to the provisions of this Chapter. 2. Anyone who is involved in a legal process, as a party in the process, has the right to just satisfaction as determined by Article 399/3 of this Code. For civil procedures (timeframe) The timeframe of Civil procedures are prescribed at the code of Civil Procedure, specifically in article 399/2/b “Reasonable timing” –“b) The completion of a process in a civil trial at first instance within two years, in a civil trial on appeal within two years; and in a civil trial at the High Court within two years.” For criminal procedures (timeframe) The timeframe of criminal procedures are prescribed at the Code of Civil Procedure, specifically in article 399/2/d “Reasonable timing” – “d) In criminal trials at first instance, the time limit for adjudication of crimes shall be 2 years and for misdemeanors 1 year, the time limit of completion of a trial on appeal shall be 1 year for crimes and 6 months for misdemeanors, and the time limit of completion of a trial at the High Court shall be 1 year for crimes and 6 months for misdemeanors.

| Monitoring system for violations related to Article 6 of ECHR | | |
|---|---|---|
| Civil procedures (non-enforcement) | Civil procedures (timeframe) | Criminal procedures (timeframe) |
| NAP | NAP | NAP |

The final judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (herein after ECHR), in every case where Albania is a party are binding and are enforced following the procedures provided by Law No. 10018 “On the State Advocature”, Chapter V/I “On the execution of Judgments and Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights”.
The State Advocature, in the quality of the representative and defender of the interests of the state at the ECHR, is the competent institution for the initiation of the procedures for the execution of the ECHR judgments and decisions.
Upon receiving notice on the final judgment, the State Advocature, within 10 working days, forwards the judgment for translation and certification to the Ministry of Justice. A copy of the original judgment and a translated and certified copy by the Ministry of Justice are sent to the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and other institutions, for the effect of a unified application of the judicial practice. By informing the aforementioned institutions, the ECHR's decision/judgment, reasoning and found violations become known with a view to unifying practices and preventing similar cases in the future.
The State Advocature is responsible for the coordination of the execution process, drafting of action plans (individual and general measures) and reports, representation in front of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and the monitoring of the execution of the ECHR decisions/judgments by the national authorities. Also, the State Advocature has the right to suggest general preventive measures with regard to the necessary changes in legislation or practices that may cause a financial damage to the state as a result of the violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.
The State Advocate General, in the quality of the government agent, reports at least once a year to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, Public Administration and Human Rights of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania on the execution of the European Court of Human Rights’ judgments and the measures undertaken in this regard. Law amendments in function of domestic effective remedy:
-Referring to Article 6 of the European Convention, we would like to emphasize the amendments to the Civil Procedure Code in 2017, where it is added Chapter X by Law no. 38/2017, dated 30.03.2017 "Judgments on requests for ascertaining violations of reasonable time, expedition of proceedings and compensation for damage", in order to prevent the violation of reasonable timeframe.
-Regarding to decisions subject to review, Criminal Procedure Code is also amended by Law no. 35/2017, dated 30.03.2017, Article 450 “Revision cases…d) if the ground for the revision of the final decision results from a European Court of Human Rights judgment making the re-adjudication of the case indispensable. The request shall be filed within 6 months from the notification of that decision.

Even though Albania has not a monitoring system for violations of Article 6 of the Convention, it has domestic mechanisms at the national level, which aims to accelerate court proceedings and allow reopening of cases, in which violations of Article 6 of the ECHR was found. Since November 2017, a new acceleratory and compensatory remedy for excessive length of judicial proceedings has been functioning in Albania. The requests for acceleration or claims for compensation are filed with the ordinary courts or the Constitutional Court, depending on the jurisdiction. The claim for compensation may be lodged after the finding of a breach of the “reasonable time” requirement at one level of jurisdiction. Where there is a finding of a breach, the requesting party may file a claim for compensation with the first-instance court, which examines it within three months.
In addition. the State Advocate Office in the framework of the execution of the “Luli and others v. Albania” group of cases that concern the excessive length of proceedings before civil courts and administrative bodies report periodically to the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, for the length of proceedings and other general measures to prevent further violations of article 6. In this regard, the State Advocate periodically collects statistical data on the length of court proceedings from all the domestic courts, and by the High Judicial Council and Supreme Court which provide comprehensive analysis of the statistical data produced by the domestic courts. Recently a working group has been established in 2022 for drafting a strategy for reducing the number of backlog cases in domestic courts, where the collection and analysis of the statistical data on the length of proceedings is one of the focus areas.
Furthermore, aiming at general prevention of violations of article 6 of the Convention, all the judgments/decisions of the ECtHR finding a violation are disseminated to judicial and respective authorities and included in the training curricula of magistrates or other relevant authorities.

**Possibility to review/reopen a case after a decision on violation of human rights by the ECHR**

| For civil cases | For criminal cases | For administrative cases |
|---|---|---|
| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

According to article 450.1/d of the Criminal Procedural Code and article 494.ë of the Civil Procedural Code of the Republic of Albania it is possible to reopen a criminal, civil or administrative case after the European Court of Human Rights has found a violation of the Convention.

In 2024, the applications allocated to a judicial formation** for Albania were 156 (23 more than the previous year). The judgements by the ECHR finding at least one violation for Albania were 18; whereas they were 20 in 2023.

The number of cases considered as closed after a judgement of the ECHR and the execution of judgements process was 16 in 2024; whereas they were 4 in 2023.

| | | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Applications allocated to a judicial formation of the Court**** | | 88 | 75 | 85 | 133 | 156 |
| **Judgements finding at least one violation**** | | 1 | 2 | 7 | 20 | 18 |
| **Judgements finding at least one violation of the Article 6 of the ECHR** | **Right to a fair trial (1)** | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 3 |
| | **Length of proceedings** | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| | **Non-enforcement** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 |

** Source: ECHR

(1) Figures in this line may include conditional violations.

| | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number of cases considered as closed after a judgement of the ECHR and the execution of judgements process*** ** | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 16 |

*** Source: Department for the Execution of Judgments of the ECHR

*Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

# Reforms in Albania in 2024

| | Yes (planned) | Yes (adopted) | Yes (implemented) | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Comprehensive) reform plans | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | In 2016, the Albanian Parliament adopted a radical and comprehensive constitutional and Justice Reform for the organization and functioning of the justice system. As a result, High Prosecutorial Council was established as an institution that guarantees the independence, accountability, discipline, status and career of prosecutors. It is responsible for the appointment, evaluation, promotion and transfer of prosecutors of all levels, decides on disciplinary measures against prosecutors of all levels, proposes candidates for Prosecutor General to the Parliament, approves the rules on the ethics of prosecutors and supervises their compliance, proposes and administers its budget, informs the public and the Parliament on the state of the prosecution, etc.<br>Through this reform, also were created other institutions such as the High Judicial Council, the High Inspector of Justice, the Council for Judicial Appointments, and was resized the mandate of the School of Magistrates. This mosaic of institutions has complemented and strengthened the independence and autonomy of the justice system as one of the three branches of government, compared to the previous model. The above institutions are in the phase of implementing the legal provisions adopted with the Justice Reform by consolidating work practices to guarantee the independence, accountability, efficiency and transparency of the justice system.<br>Also, in 2024, the Assembly of Albania established the special Parliamentary Committee for Deepening Reforms for Good Governance, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption for Albania 2030 in the European Union. The purpose of the work of this special Committee is to further consolidate the Justice Reform and deepen the implementation of the legal and institutional reform framework by ensuring effective cooperation of justice institutions, allocation of sufficient resources and efficient functioning of the justice sector. The work of this Committee is ongoing and is in the early stages. |
| Budget | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| Courts and public prosecution services | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | The Albanian government is financing the design and implementation of an Information Case Management System that will allow for management of cases under investigation as well as communication with the court's management system. |
| Access to justice and legal aid | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| High Judicial Council and High Prosecutorial Council | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| Legal professionals | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| Gender equality | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| Reforms regarding civil, criminal and administrative laws, international conventions and cooperation activities | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code, 30.05.2021 Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code, 30.05.2021 Amendments to the Criminal Code 01.06.2021 |
| Mediation and other ADR | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| Fight against corruption and accountability mechanisms | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| Domestic violence | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| New information and communication technologies | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | - |

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Part 2

# EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

## HFIII:

## Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II

## "Dashboard Western Balkans II"

## Data collection: 2024

## Part 2 (B) - Beneficiary Profile – Albania

This analysis has been prepared on the basis of the replies from the beneficiary (Dashboard correspondent) to the CEPEJ Questionnaire for the Dashboard Western Balkans, and relevant GRECO reports from the Fourth GRECO Evaluation Round on Prevention of corruption in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors.

In respect of Albania, in September 2020 GRECO approved the Addendum to the Second Compliance Report on Albania. Based on this, the level of implementation of GRECO recommendations as of 25th September 2020 is as follows:

| | JUDGES | PROSECUTORS |
|---|---|---|
| Implemented | 67% | 100% |
| partially implemented | 33% | 0% |
| not implemented | 0% | 0% |

The adoption of the Addendum to the Second Compliance Report terminates the Fourth Round compliance procedure in respect of Albania.

## Executive summary

Recruitment and career of judges and prosecutors is regulated by the Law No. 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors”. Magistrates (includes judges and prosecutors) are appointed and dismissed by the Councils (the High Council of Justice and the High Prosecutorial Council). The selection process starts with the call for admission of candidates to the School of Magistrates which is conducted based on open competition and the entry criteria are announced as part of a public call. Against the results of the training, an appeal is possible to the administrative court. Candidates are then appointed by the Councils. Against a decision on appointment, an appeal is possible to the Administrative Court of Appeal. The legal framework on the mandate of judges and prosecutors as set out in the Law No. 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors”, which prescribes a life-tenure.

The Councils (the High Council of Justice and the High Prosecutorial Council) are competent for the promotion of magistrates (judges and prosecutors) based on provisions of the Law No. 96/2016 “On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors”. The promotion procedure starts with a public call published by the Councils. Special requirements and two previous work appraisals are taken into account in the procedure. An appeal against the decision is possible to the first instance administrative court which should decide within two weeks. The appeal does not suspend the implementation of the decision.

Based on the Civil Procedure Code, a sole jurisdiction to decide on claims for protection of the right to trial within reasonable time belongs to courts. They have to deal with such requests within a set time limit which is 45 days after receiving the request. As regards complaints about the functioning of the judicial system, they are filed with the High Justice Inspector and the Ombudsman. Based on Article 119 of the Law No. 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors”, the High Justice Inspector is competent to verify the complaints in order to ascertain whether unjustified delays have impinged on the rights of the parties or the administration of justice. Requests for compensation in case of excessive length of proceedings and non-execution of court decisions have been regulated in the Civil Procedural Code. The Criminal Procedure Code regulates the right to compensation for the detention suffered by those who have been found innocent by a final court decision, except in cases where it has been proven that the wrongful decision or failure to discover the unknown fact in due time is caused, wholly or in part, by the person himself/herself.

There is a procedure in place to effectively challenge a judge in case a party considers the judge is not impartial. The procedure is regulated in the procedural laws.

The Constitution guarantees independence of the prosecution office as a separate entity among state institutions as well as internal independence of prosecutors to investigate and prosecute. However, the Law “On the Organisation and Functioning of the Prosecution in the Republic of Albania” allows senior prosecutors to issue non-binding specific instructions in a concrete individual case in writing. Such instructions shall be reasoned and in writing, in exceptional cases also given orally, but then they are confirmed in writing within reasonable time.

Safeguards guaranteeing independence of judges and prosecutors are set in the Constitution, the Law No. 96/2016 “On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors”, the Law on the Organisation and Functioning of the Judicial Power, the Law on the Governance Institutions of the Justice System and the Law on the Organisation and Functioning of the Prosecution in the Republic of Albania.

Possible breaches of integrity of prosecutors and judges are described in the Law No. 96/2016 “On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors”, in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania and the Law No. 9049/2003 “On the Declaration and Audit of Assets, Financial Obligations of the Elected and certain Public Officials.

As regards court staff possible breaches of integrity are described by internal rules and regulations of courts which are to be approved by the High Council of Justice, as provided by the Law No. 98/2016 “On the Organisation of Judicial Power in the Republic of Albania”.

Specific measures to prevent corruption for judges and prosecutors exist (such as gifts rules, safe complaints mechanisms, specific training, obligations to submit asset declarations, ethics advisors).

There is an optional in-service training on ethics, corruption prevention and conflict of interest occasionally offered to both prosecutors and judges. No change has been reported for 2024, apart from the fact that a continuous training on these topics is provided to the magistrates also as in integral part of continuous training within the School of Magistrates.

Both judges and prosecutors have separate codes of conducts and bodies giving opinions on ethical questions. Both codes are publicly available as well as guidelines/opinions provided by these bodies. The body competent to provide opinions to judges is composed of other legal professionals while the body competent to provide opinions to prosecutors is composed only by prosecutors.

Various mechanisms for reporting attempts on influence/corruption on judges and prosecutors exist as prescribed in the Criminal Procedure Code, the Law No. 96/2016 “On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors” and the Law No. 95/2016 “On the Organisation and Functioning of Institutions to Combat corruption and Organised Crime”. Also, in cases where there is credible evidence that a prosecutor has committed a disciplinary offense, the complaint is submitted to the High Justice Inspector by the following entities: a) the Minister of Justice; b) a single member of the Council; c) the president of the court or prosecution office.

Transparency in distribution of court cases is ensured through application of the principle of random allocation of cases (completely by random algorithm). A reassignment of court cases is possible due to conflict of interest declared by the judge or by the parties in a proceeding, due to a recusal of the judge or when requested by the parties and due to physical unavailability (illness, longer absence) of the judge. All reassignments of cases are reasoned and processed through the random allocation of cases via computerised system and are thus registered.

The disclosure regime applicable to both judges and prosecutors is laid out in the Law No. 9049/2003 “On the Declaration and Audit of Assets, Financial Obligations of the Elected and certain Public Officials”, amended by the Law No. 42/2017 “On some addenda and amendments to Law No. 9049 “On the Declaration and Audit of Assets, Financial Obligations of the Elected and certain Public Officials”. The Constitution provides for an obligation of candidates for a position of a judge to declare assets which are to be verified prior to their appointment by the High Council of Justice. Also, the Law No. 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors” further elaborates the obligation of candidates for the positions of judges and prosecutors to undergo a verification of their assets prior to their admission to the School of Magistrates, prior to the appointment to the position of magistrates and every time they apply for a position at a higher level. Both judges and prosecutors are obliged to declare their assets, income, liabilities and interests to the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interest which is competent for checking the declarations. Such declarations are to

be made within 30 days from taking up duties, by 31 March annually and not later than 15 days after departure from office. The prosecutors are also to submit a Periodic/Annual Private Interest Statement every time when applying for promotion and are approved by the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interest (HIDAACI). The declarations of magistrates include assets of a magistrate's spouse, cohabitant and adult children, as well as on other related persons. The declarations are made public. Infringements of the law may constitute misdemeanour accountability as well as disciplinary and criminal accountability and may result in fines, a dismissal or imprisonment.

The legal framework for the prevention and the resolution of conflicts of interest applicable to judges and prosecutors is provided by the relevant provisions of the Constitution, the procedural laws, and other laws. It prescribes rules on managing *ad hoc* conflict of interest, accessory activities, incompatibilities, gifts and post-employment restrictions. Magistrates may perform certain accessory activities (teaching, research and publication – with remuneration) – however, a prior authorisation from the High Council of Justice/High Prosecutorial Council is needed in case these activities are remunerated. A magistrate may participate in outside activities (without remuneration), outside the judicial/prosecutorial function, without the approval of the High Judicial Council/High Prosecutorial Council only in specific cases - in these cases s/he must inform the Council and must report yearly on the type of activities and time spent on these activities. Procedure for breaches of the rules and to sanction those breaches are prescribed in various laws.

The High Justice Inspector has authority to investigate disciplinary violations and appeals against all judges (apart from those of the Constitutional Court) and prosecutors as well as to inspect courts and prosecutors' offices. The High Justice Inspector is responsible for the verification of complaints, investigation of violations on its own initiative and the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against all judges and prosecutors, members of the High Judicial Council, the High Prosecutorial Council and the Prosecutor General. The Inspector is elected upon three fifth majority of all members of the Assembly, for a nine-year term, without the right to re-election, among the ranks of prominent jurists. A judge/prosecutor may be dismissed for committing serious professional or ethical misconduct which discredited the position and the image of the judge/prosecutor in the course of performing the duty, or in case s/he is sentenced by a final court decision for a criminal offence. Against a decision on dismissal a magistrate may appeal to the Constitutional Court. A judge may be transferred to another court without his/her consent for disciplinary, organisational and other reasons (establishing family relationship amounting to an environmental incompatibility).

The High Council of Justice (HCJ) and High Prosecutorial Council (HPC), operating pursuant to the Law "On the governance institutions of the justice system", both consists of 11 members who serve full-time of which six are judges/prosecutors of all levels. The tenure of the elected members is five years, without the right to immediate re-election.

Operational arrangements in place to avoid over-concentration of powers in the same hands concerning the different functions to be performed by members of the HCJ include determining permanent commissions, their competences, number of members, limitation of memberships in the permanent commissions to only two, limitation of chairmanship of the permanent commissions to only one, incompatibility of a membership of the Ethical and Professional Activity Evaluation Commission with a membership of the Career Development Commission, limitation of membership in a commission to two and a half years etc. Similar operational arrangements regarding permanent commissions are in place regarding the HPC.

Accountability measures in place regarding the activities of the HCJ as well as of the HPC include publication of the activity reports, decisions which are reasoned as well as of minutes of meetings and recordings. The authorities also report that agendas and detailed announcements of sessions are also published.

## Selection and recruitment of judges and prosecutors

### Procedure of recruitment of judges and prosecutors

Recruitment and career of judges and prosecutors is regulated by the Law No. 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors”. Magistrates (includes judges and prosecutors) are appointed and dismissed by the Councils (the High Council of Justice and the High Prosecutorial Council). The selection process starts with the call for admission of candidates to the School of Magistrates which is conducted based on open competition and the entry criteria are announced as part of a public call. Against the results of the training, an appeal is possible to the administrative court. Candidates are then appointed by the Councils. Against a decision on appointment, an appeal is possible to the Administrative Court of Appeal.

The criteria and procedure for recruitment of judges, including checking their integrity in the procedure as regulated by the Law No. 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors” remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II “Dashboard Western Balkans II”" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

### Mandate of judges and prosecutors

The legal framework on the mandate of judges and prosecutors as set out in the Law No. 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors”, which prescribes a life-tenure remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - “Dashboard Western Balkans II” - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

Both judges and prosecutors have life-tenure, until they reach the retirement age of 67 (70 years for judges of the High Court), with the possibility of extending this period upon a magistrate’s request as envisaged by Article 64, Law No. 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors”, until reaching the age of 70.

## Promotion for judges and prosecutors

The Councils (the High Council of Justice and the High Prosecutorial Council) are competent for the promotion of magistrates (judges and prosecutors) based on provisions of the Law No. 96/2016 “On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors”. The promotion procedure starts with a public call published by the Councils. Special requirements and two previous work appraisals are taken into account in the procedure. An appeal against the decision is possible to the first instance administrative court which should decide within two weeks. The appeal does not suspend the implementation of the decision. The criteria and procedure for promotion of judges as regulated by the Law No. 96/2016 “On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors” remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II “Dashboard Western Balkans II”" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

## Confidence and satisfaction of the public with their justice system

### Compensation of users of the judicial system

Based on the Civil Procedure Code, a sole jurisdiction to decide on claims for protection of the right to trial within reasonable time belongs to courts. They have to deal with such requests within a set time limit which is 45 days after receiving the request. As regards complaints about the functioning of the judicial system, they are filed with the High Justice Inspector and the Ombudsman. Based on Article 119 of the Law No. 96/2016 "On the status of judges and prosecutors", the High Justice Inspector is competent to verify the complaints in order to ascertain whether unjustified delays have impinged on the rights of the parties or the administration of justice. Requests for compensation in case of excessive length of proceedings and non-execution of court decisions have been regulated in the Civil Procedural Code. The Criminal Procedure Code regulates the right to compensation for the detention suffered by those who have been found innocent by a final court decision, except in cases where it has been proven that the wrongful decision or failure to discover the unknown fact in due time is caused, wholly or in part, by the person himself/herself.

The legal framework on protection of the right of citizens to seek compensation in case they have suffered pecuniary or non-pecuniary damage, procedure as well as costs and expenses due to the violation of the right to a trial within reasonable time or for non-execution of court decisions remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

The Albanian authorities have not provided any statistical information on number of requests for compensation as well as on number of compensations awarded for the period between 2019 and 2024.

### Procedure to challenge a judge

There is a procedure in place to effectively challenge a judge in case a party considers the judge is not impartial. The procedure is regulated in the procedural laws.

The legal framework on a procedure in place to effectively challenge a judge in case a party considers the judge is not impartial remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

The total number of initiated procedures to challenge a judge in 2022 was 1092 and the total number of recusals pronounced was 60. In 2023, 3.203 procedures to effectively challenge a judge were initiated and 123 recusals were pronounced. In 2024, 14 recusals were pronounced (no information has been provided as regards number of procedures initiated).

**Instructions to prosecute or not addressed to public prosecutors**

The Constitution guarantees independence of the prosecution office as a separate entity among state institutions as well as internal independence of prosecutors to investigate and prosecute. However, the Law "On the Organisation and Functioning of the Prosecution in the Republic of Albania" allows senior prosecutors to issue non-binding specific instructions in a concrete individual case in writing. Such instructions shall be reasoned and in writing, in exceptional cases also given orally, but then they are confirmed in writing within reasonable time.

The legal framework regarding the position of the prosecution services of a separate entity among state institutions and the independence they enjoy, as well as regarding the prohibition to interfere with a prosecutor's activities and the possibility to give specific instructions and in what manner as set out in the Constitution and the Law "On the Organisation and Functioning of the Prosecution in the Republic of Albania" remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

No information is available on number of non-binding instructions for concrete cases addressed to prosecutors to prosecute or not in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

## Promotion of integrity and prevention of corruption

### Independence of judges and prosecutors

Safeguards guaranteeing independence of judges and prosecutors are set in the Constitution, the Law No. 96/2016 “On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors”, the Law on the Organisation and Functioning of the Judicial Power, the Law on the Governance Institutions of the Justice System and the Law on the Organisation and Functioning of the Prosecution in the Republic of Albania.

The legal framework safeguarding independence of magistrates remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - “Dashboard Western Balkans II” - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

### Breaches of integrity for judges, prosecutors and court staff

Possible breaches of integrity of prosecutors and judges are described in the Law No. 96/2016 “On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors”, in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania and the Law No. 9049/2003 “On the Declaration and Audit of Assets, Financial Obligations of the Elected and certain Public Officials.

As regards court staff possible breaches of integrity are described by internal rules and regulations of courts which are to be approved by the High Council of Justice, as provided by the Law No. 98/2016 “On the Organisation of Judicial Power in the Republic of Albania”.

The legal framework as regards breaches of integrity for judges, prosecutors and court staff remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - “Dashboard Western Balkans II” - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

### Existence of specific measures to prevent corruption

Specific measures to prevent corruption for judges and prosecutors exist (such as gifts rules, safe complaints mechanisms, specific training, obligations to submit asset declarations, ethics advisors) and remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - “Dashboard Western Balkans II” - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

**In-service training on ethics**

There is an optional in-service training on ethics, corruption prevention and conflict of interest occasionally offered to both prosecutors and judges. No change has been reported for 2024, apart from the fact that a continuous training on these topics is provided to the magistrates also as in integral part of continuous training within the School of Magistrates.

**Codes of conduct for judges and prosecutors and bodies giving opinions on ethical questions**

Both judges and prosecutors have separate codes of conducts and bodies giving opinions on ethical questions. Both codes are publicly available as well as guidelines/opinions provided by these bodies. The body competent to provide opinions to judges is composed of judges, and the Council assign one Ethics Advisor from the ranks of judges who meet legal requirements to be a member of the High Court and who has the experience and knowledge on ethics matters to act as a Ethic Advisor. . Similar, the body competent to provide opinions to prosecutors is composed only by prosecutors and the High Prosecutorial Council appoints an Ethics Advisor from among the prosecutors who meet the legal requirements to be a prosecutor of the General Prosecutor's office and who has experience and knowledge on ethics issues..

The legal framework as regards codes of conducts, their publication, bodies providing guidelines and/or advice as well as public availability of those opinions or/and advice remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

In 2024, the body competent to provide opinions to prosecutors issued 2 opinions.

**Established mechanisms to report influence/corruption on judges and prosecutors**

Various mechanisms for reporting attempts on influence/corruption on judges and prosecutors exist as prescribed in the Criminal Procedure Code, the Law No. 96/2016 "On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors" and the Law No. 95/2016 "On the Organisation and Functioning of Institutions to Combat corruption and Organised Crime". Also, in cases where there is credible evidence that a prosecutor has committed a disciplinary offense, the complaint is submitted to the High Justice Inspector by the following entities: a) the Minister of Justice; b) a single member of the Council; c) the president of the court or prosecution office.

The legal framework regulating the possibility to report influence or corruption exerted on judges and prosecutors remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

**Transparency in distribution of court cases**

Transparency in distribution of court cases is ensured through application of the principle of random allocation of cases (completely by random algorithm). A reassignment of court cases is possible due to conflict of interest declared by the judge or by the parties in a proceeding, due to a recusal of the judge or when requested by the parties and due to physical unavailability (illness, longer absence) of the judge. All reassignments of cases are reasoned and processed through the random allocation of cases via computerised system and are thus registered.

As regards transparency in distribution of court cases the situation remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

**Number of criminal cases against judges and prosecutors**

The table below shows number (absolute and per 100 judges/prosecutors) of criminal cases initiated and completed against judges and prosecutors as well as number of sanctions pronounced:

| | 2019 | | | | 2020 | | | | 2021 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Judges | | Prosecutors | | Judges | | Prosecutors | | Judges | | Prosecutors | |
| | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 |
| Number of initiated cases | NAP | NAP | 1 | 0,33 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 2 | 0,61 | NA | NA |
| Number of completed cases | NAP | NAP | 1 | 0,33 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Number of sanctions pronounced | NAP | NAP | 1 | 0,33 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA |

| | 2022 | | | | 2023 | | | | 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Judges | | Prosecutors | | Judges | | Prosecutors | | Judges | | Prosecutors | |
| | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 |
| Number of initiated cases | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Number of completed cases | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Number of sanctions pronounced | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |

## Declaration of assets for judges and for prosecutors

The disclosure regime applicable to both judges and prosecutors is laid out in the Law No. 9049/2003 "On the Declaration and Audit of Assets, Financial Obligations of the Elected and certain Public Officials" (LDAA) from 10th April 2003, amended by the Law No. 42/2017 "On some addenda and amendments to Law No. 9049 "On the Declaration and Audit of Assets, Financial Obligations of the Elected and certain Public Officials" adopted on 6th April 2017. The Constitution provides for an obligation of candidates for a position of a judge to declare assets which are to be verified prior to their appointment by the High Council of Justice (HCJ). Also, the Law No. 96/2016 "On the status of judges and prosecutors" further elaborates the obligation of candidates for the positions of judges and prosecutors to undergo a verification of their assets prior to their admission to the School of Magistrates, prior to the appointment to the position of magistrates and every time they apply for a position at a higher level. Both judges and prosecutors are obliged to declare their assets, income, liabilities and interests to the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflicts of Interest (HIDAACI). Such declarations are to be made within 30 days from taking up duties, by 31 March annually and not later than 15 days after departure from office. The prosecutors are also to submit a Periodic/Annual Private Interest Statement every time when applying for promotion and are approved by the HIDAACI. The declarations of magistrates include assets of a magistrate's spouse, cohabitant and adult children, as well as on other related persons. As of 2022, the declarations are to be submitted to the HIDAACI via the online declaration system (EACIDS) and are made public (previously submitted declarations are public upon request and published on the website of the HIDAACI). The body competent for checking the declarations is the HIDAACI. Infringements of the law may constitute misdemeanour accountability as well as disciplinary and criminal accountability and may result in fines, a dismissal or imprisonment.

The legal framework regulating declarations on assets of both judges and prosecutors, on deadlines for submission of such declarations, the responsible body and procedure for checking the declarations as well as sanctions in case of breaches of the rules remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

No data are available with regard to number of proceedings against magistrates for violations or no declaration of assets in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

| Albania | Judges | | | | | | Prosecutors | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of initiated cases | | Number of completed cases | | Number of sanctions pronounced | | Number of initiated cases | | Number of completed cases | | Number of sanctions pronounced | |
| | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 |
| **2023** | 18 | 7,29 | 18 | 7,29 | 3 | 1,21 | 8 | 3,85 | 8 | 3,85 | 6 | 2,88 |
| **2024** | 30 | 9,01 | 30 | 9,01 | 4 | 1,20 | 23 | 11,11 | 23 | 11,11 | 0 | 0,00 |

In 2023, 18 administrative investigations have been initiated with regard to judges and 8 with regard to prosecutors. 3 judges and 6 prosecutors have been fined.

The Albanian authorities have reported on a vetting process that judges and prosecutors are currently undergoing, due to the new constitutional amendments. In the vetting process, on the basis of the Law "On the re-evaluation of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania" judges and prosecutors are being re-evaluated base on three criteria: 1) asset assessment; 2) background assessment; and 3) proficiency assessment. Asset assessments are made by HIDAACI which is conducting a full audit procedure based on declarations of assets. Based on its findings, HIDAACI prepares a reasoned detailed report in which one's declaration is assessed as: 1) accurate; 2) false; 3) lacking legitimate resources to justify assets; 4) assets hidden; or 5) assessee found in a situation of conflicts of interest. Due to HIDAACI's work, a considerable number of judges and prosecutors have been dismissed by vetting bodies which undertake a more in-depth investigation based on the HIDAACI's reports. The Albanian authorities also provided some statistical data on the vetting process, namely: from 8th February 2018 to 31st December 2019 the first vetting body dismissed 50 judges, 31 prosecutors and 2 legal advisors. 178 subjects were under assessment process conducted by HIDAACI: no problems were identified with regard to 119 subjects, while for 59 subjects HIDAACI reported some problems with regard to their asset declarations. After a more in-depth investigation conducted by the vetting body 80 subjects were found not in violation with their obligation /without discrepancy on reporting their assets while with regard to 98 subjects violations/discrepancies were found and most of these subjects were dismissed as a result. In 2020, the first vetting body dismissed 32 judges and 12 prosecutors as a result of the vetting process. No valid updated information were provided for 2023.

The data for the year 2024 represents administrative investigations conducted by the HIDAACI and the sanctions issued were fines.

## Conflict of interest for judges and for prosecutors

**Procedures and mechanisms for managing potential conflict of interest of judges and prosecutors**

The legal framework for the prevention and the resolution of conflicts of interest applicable to judges is provided by the relevant provisions ofthe Constitution, the procedural laws, the Law No. 986/2016 "On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors in the Republic of Albania, the Law No. 9367/2005 "On Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Exercising Public Functions , the Code of Judicial Ethics Regulation on combining the profession of a judge with other functions/professional activities.

The legal framework for the prevention and the resolution of conflicts of interest applicable to prosecutors is provided by the relevant provisions of the Constitution, the procedural laws, the Law No. 9367/2005 "On the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest in Exercising Public Functions", the Law No. 986/2016 "On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors in the Republic of Albania, the Decision no. 32, dated 24th February 2022 "On the approval of the standards of ethics and rules of conduct of the prosecutor", the Decision no. 26, dated 22nd February 2019 "On the activities out of function of the prosecutors", the Decision no. 407, dated 17th December 2021 "On the approval of the Regulation "On the organisation and internal functioning of the High Council of the Prosecution".

The Law No. 986/2016 "On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors in the Republic of Albania, also set rules for a magistrate (namely, a judge or a prosecutor).

Both legal frameworks prescribe rules on managing *ad hoc* conflict of interest, accessory activities, incompatibilities, gifts and post-employment restrictions. Magistrates may perform certain accessory activities (teaching, research and publication – with remuneration) – however, a prior authorisation from the High Council of Justice/High Prosecutorial Council is needed in case these activities are remunerated. A magistrate may participate in outside activities (without remuneration), outside the judicial/prosecutorial function, without the approval of the High Judicial Council/High Prosecutorial Council only in specific cases - in these cases s/he must inform the Council and must report yearly on the type of activities and time spent on these activities. Procedure for breaches of the rules are regulated in the Law No. 96/2016 "On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors in the Republic of Albania and in the Law No. 9367/2005 "On Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Exercising Public Functions (LPCI). Procedure to sanction breaches of the rules on conflicts of interest is regulated in different laws, namely: the procedural laws, the Law No. 96/2016 "On the Status of Judges and Prosecutors in the Republic of Albania", and the Law No. 9367/2005 "On Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Exercising Public Functions".

The legal framework regulating conflicts of interest regime remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

| | | With remuneration | | Without remuneration | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Judges | Prosecutors | Judges | Prosecutors |
| Combine work with other functions/activities | Teaching | √ | √ | | √ |
| | Research and publication | | √ | √ | √ |
| | Arbitrator | | | | |
| | Consultant | | | | |
| | Cultural function | | | | |
| | Political function | | | | |
| | Mediator | | | | |
| | Other function | | | | √ |

**Breaches of rules on conflict of interest**

Absolute number of procedures for breaches of rules on conflict of interest for judges and prosecutors in 2023 and 2024:

| Albania | Judges | | | Prosecutors | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of initiated cases | Number of completed cases | Number of sanctions pronounced | Number of initiated cases | Number of completed cases | Number of sanctions pronounced |
| **2023** | 18 | 18 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| **2024** | 30 | 30 | 1 | NA | NA | NA |

No data are available with regard to number of proceedings for breaches of rules on conflict of interest against magistrates in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

## Discipline against judges and prosecutors

**Description of the disciplinary procedure against judges and prosecutors**

The High Justice Inspector has authority to investigate disciplinary violations and appeals against all judges (apart from those of the Constitutional Court) and prosecutors as well as to inspect courts' and prosecutors' offices. The High Justice Inspector is responsible for the verification of complaints, investigation of violations on its own initiative and the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against all judges and prosecutors, members of the High Judicial Council, the High Prosecutorial Council and the Prosecutor General. The Inspector is elected upon three fifth majority of all members of the Assembly, for a nine-year term, without the right to re-election, among the ranks of prominent jurists. A judge/prosecutor may be dismissed for committing serious professional or ethical misconduct which discredited the position and the image of the judge/prosecutor in the course of performing the duty, or in case s/he is sentenced by a final court decision for a criminal offence. Against a decision on dismissal a magistrate may appeal to the Constitutional Court. A judge may be transferred to another court without his/her consent for disciplinary, organisational and other reasons (establishing family relationship amounting to an environmental incompatibility).

The legal framework regulating disciplinary liability, procedure and disciplinary sanctions regarding judges as set out in the Constitution, the Law No. 96/2016 "On the status of judges and prosecutors" and the Law No. 115/2016 "On governance institutions of the justice system" remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).

| | | 2019 | | | | 2020 | | | | 2021 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Judges | | Prosecutors | | Judges | | Prosecutors | | Judges | | Prosecutors | |
| | | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 | Abs | Per 100 |
| Number of disciplinary proceedings initiated during the reference year | Total number (1 to 5) | NA | NA | 1 | 0,33 | 7 | 2,28 | 3 | 1,00 | 11 | 3,34 | 6 | 2,93 |
| | 1. Breach of professional ethics (including breach of integrity) | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,33 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 2. Professional inadequacy* | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 4 | 1,30 | 3 | 1,00 | 5 | 1,52 | 6 | 2,93 |
| | 3. Corruption | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,33 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 4. Other criminal offence | NA | NA | 1 | 0,33 | 1 | 0,33 | 0 | 0,00 | 4 | 1,22 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 5. Other | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 0 | 0,00 |
| Number of cases completed in the reference year against | Total number (1 to 5) | NA | NA | 1 | 0,33 | 6 | 1,95 | 3 | 1,00 | 6 | 1,82 | 2 | 0,98 |
| | 1. Breach of professional ethics (including breach of integrity) | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,33 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 2. Professional inadequacy* | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 4 | 1,30 | 3** | 1,00** | 4 | 1,22 | 2 | 0,98 |
| | 3. Corruption | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 4. Other criminal offence | NA | NA | 1 | 0,33 | 1 | 0,33 | 0 | 0,00 | 2 | 0,61 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 5. Other | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 |
| Number of sanctions pronounced during the reference year | Total number (total 1 to 10) | NA | NA | 1 | 0,33 | 2 | 0,65 | 1 | 0,33 | 6 | 1,82 | 6 | 2,93 |
| | 1. Reprimand | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 3 | 1,46 |
| | 2. Suspension | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 3. Withdrawal from cases | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |
| | 4. Fine | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |
| | 5. Temporary reduction of salary | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | NAP | NAP |
| | 6. Position downgrade | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |
| | 7. Transfer to another geographical (court) location | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 11 | 3,34 | 6 | 2,93 |
| | 8. Resignation | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 9. Other | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 1 | 0,33 | 5 | 1,52 | 6 | 2,93 |
| | 10. Dismissal | NA | NA | 1 | 0,33 | 2 | 0,65 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,30 | 0 | 0,00 |

The Albanian authorities have explained the lack of information for judges for the year 2019 as due to the fact that the High Justice Inspector had only been appointed in January 2020 which means that no proceedings were conducted against judges and prosecutors.

*The Albanian authorities informed that all cases regarding professional inadequacy are pending trials.

**With regard to prosecutors' disciplinary proceedings initiated and completed on grounds of professional inadequacy have been for reasons such as delays in starting juridical process, non-compliance with the code of Ethics etc.

For 2024, the authorities indicated that the statistics on number of cases completed refers to the total number of disciplinary proceedings requests brought before the HJC for a disciplinary hearing.

"Professional inadequacy" as per Law no. 96/2016 "On the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania" includes the following disciplinary violations: manifest disregard of the law or facts caused intentionally or due to serious negligence or being blatantly professionally incompetent; failure to submit a request for recusal from the proceeding or from the trial of a case, when mandatory under the law, if the magistrate is aware or should be aware of the circumstances; filing a request for recusal from proceeding or trial of the case, if this is contrary to the law, done with an aim to create unfair benefit for the parties and third parties or aiming to shrink the legal responsibility to review the case or aiming at creating the possibility of assigning the case to another magistrate; non-submission of the request immediately after becoming aware of the ground; misconduct during the exercise of function as a magistrate, in particular action, omission or behaviour which is a serious or repeated disregard of material and procedural legislation or erroneous implementation of that legislation, when established by higher court, issuance of unreasoned acts or acts containing in the reasoning only conclusions on the applicable law without presenting circumstances of the fact.

| | | 2022 | | | | 2023 | | | | 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Judges | | Prosecutors | | Judges | | Prosecutors | | Judges | | Prosecutors | |
| | | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 | Abs | per 100 |
| Number of disciplinary proceedings initiated | Total number (1 to 5) | 37 | 14,07 | 12 | 11,65 | 3 | 1,11 | 11 | 9,82 | 6 | 1,80 | 5 | 2,42 |
| | 1. Breach of professional ethics (including breach of integrity) | 37 | 14,07 | 12 | 11,65 | 2 | 0,74 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 2. Professional inadequacy | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 3. Corruption | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 4. Other criminal offence | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 5. Other | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,37 | NA | NA | 6 | 1,80 | 5 | 2,42 |
| Number of cases completed | Total number (1 to 5) | 35 | 13,31 | 0 | 0,00 | 2 | 0,74 | 16 | 14,29 | 5 | 1,50 | 3 | 1,45 |
| | 1. Breach of professional ethics (including breach of integrity) | 35 | 13,31 | 0 | 0,00 | 2 | 0,74 | 12 | 10,71 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 2. Professional inadequacy | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 3. Corruption | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 4. Other criminal offence | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 |
| | 5. Other | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 5 | 1,50 | 3 | 1,45 |
| Number of sanctions pronounced | Total number (total 1 to 10) | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 6 | 1,80 | 5 | 2,42 |
| | 1. Reprimand | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | 2 | 0,97 |
| | 2. Suspension | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,89 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA |
| | 3. Withdrawal from cases | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NAP | NAP | NAP | NAP |
| | 4. Fine | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA |
| | 5. Temporary reduction of salary | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 1 | 0,89 | 0 | 0,00 | 3 | 1,45 |
| | 6. Position downgrade | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP |
| | 7. Transfer to another geographical (court) location | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP | 0 | 0,00 | NAP | NAP |
| | 8. Resignation | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | 9. Other | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA |
| | 10. Dismissal | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | NA | NA | 6 | 1,80 | NA | NA |

## Council for the Judiciary / Prosecutorial Council

**Council for the Judiciary/ Prosecutorial Council**

The High Council of Justice (HCJ) and High Prosecutorial Council (HPC), operating pursuant to the Law "On the governance institutions of the justice system", both consists of 11 members who serve full-time of which six are judges/prosecutors of all levels. The tenure of the elected members is five years, without the right to immediate re-election.

Operational arrangements in place to avoid over-concentration of powers in the same hands concerning the different functions to be performed by members of the HCJ include determining permanent commissions, their competences, number of members, limitation of memberships in the permanent commissions to only two, limitation of chairmanship of the permanent commissions to only one, incompatibility of a membership of the Ethical and Professional Activity Evaluation Commission with a membership of the Career Development Commission, limitation of membership in a commission to two and a half years etc. Similar operational arrangements regarding permanent commissions are in place regarding the HPC.

Accountability measures in place regarding the activities of the HCJ as well as of the HPC include publication of the activity reports, decisions which are reasoned as well as of minutes of meetings and recordings. The authorities also report that agendas and detailed announcements of sessions are also published.

The legal framework regarding the positions of the Judicial Council, its competences, composition, the term in position, operational arrangements in place to avoid an over-concentration of powers in the same hands accountability measures in place regarding its activities remained the same as in 2023 (please see the Beneficiary Profile for 2023 - Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans – phase II - "Dashboard Western Balkans II" - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)).