

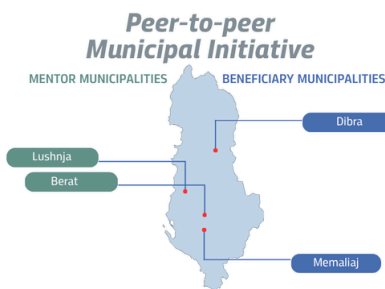


## Head of Presence meets Justice Minister, People's Advocate

Ambassador Michel Tarran met with Minister of Justice Toni Gogu, on 20 April, congratulating him on his appointment and reaffirming the Presence's strong partnership in advancing justice and security sector reforms. Tarran emphasized the importance of continuing the comprehensive reform, highlighting the Presence's active support in these efforts. Earlier, on 3 April, Ambassador Tarran met People's Advocate Endrit Shabani and reiterated the Presence's commitment to supporting the further strengthening of the institution in protecting human rights.

## Forum on judicial reform and justice efficiency

On 23 April, the OSCE Presence brought together senior representatives from the justice system and key institutions at the forum "Judicial reform in action: Implementing key recommendations for fair and effective justice". The aim: supporting a more effective administration of justice in cases related to corruption and organized crime. The forum discussed recommendations to strengthen fairness, efficiency and capacity in handling corruption and organized crime cases. The event was part of the EU-funded OSCE Regional Trial Monitoring Project.



## Peer-to-peer municipal initiative takes off

On 28 April, the Presence held the first co-ordination meeting under its peer-to-peer initiative between municipalities, which aims at strengthening co-operation and capacity development. The programme offers a structured exchange, with Berat and Lushnja municipalities as mentors and Dibra and Memaliaj as beneficiaries. The initiative is implemented together with the office of Minister of State for Local Issues, National Association of Albanian Municipalities and Association of Municipalities and Local Elected Officials.



## State Police strengthen witness protection skills

Staff of the State Police's Witness Protection Directorate strengthened skills on risk and threat assessment in a week-long training by the Presence, on 20-24 April. Ambassador Tarran and State Police Deputy General Director Bizhga highlighted the importance of strengthening professional capacities in safeguarding witnesses and upholding the rule of law. Delivered by an Austrian expert, the programme combined practical and strategic approaches to assessing threats and managing risks. The activity was funded by Norway.



## Regional co-operation against violent extremism



Online radicalization was the focus of a cross-border roundtable on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism organized by the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Mission to Skopje, in Pogradec, on 16 April. The event brought together representatives from national and local authorities, law enforcement, civil society and community actors from Albania and North Macedonia to exchange experiences and strengthen cross-border co-operation. The meeting was part of OSCE efforts to promote safer and more resilient communities across the region.

## Anti-corruption training for Constitutional Court

On 22 April, together with long-standing partner Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Presence supported the Constitutional Court with an advanced training on public procurement and anti-corruption measures. This is the second time that the Presence supports the Constitutional Court with such a tailored training, with the different Court's departments and offices onboard. The dynamic training explored some of key principles of public procurement and Albania's legal framework, combining in-depth insights and hands-on exercises to ensure knowledge meets action.



## Training prosecutors, police on tech trafficking



To address the rise of technology-facilitated human trafficking, the Presence organized a training for prosecutors, police officers and social workers from shelters, on 8-9 April. The event aimed to strengthen institutional capacities to investigate trafficking cases involving a digital dimension and to ensure victim-centred responses. On 27 April, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Presence convened the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Inter-Institutional Working Group for the development of the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy (2026-2030) and its accompanying Action Plan (2026-2028), which are being developed with the Presence's technical expertise.

## International Elections Working Group meets

On 16 April, the Presence organized the first International Elections Working Group meeting of 2026 to discuss ongoing electoral reform efforts and other key election-related developments with representatives of the international community and the Central Election Commission (CEC). The discussion focused on the recent work of the parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform, legal initiatives and CEC activities. The Presence remains committed to supporting Albanian authorities and all stakeholders in advancing the electoral reform process and implementing OSCE/ODIHR recommendations.



## Supporting parliamentary outreach



On 31 March and 1 April, the Presence facilitated and joined thematic briefing and information sessions of three parliamentary committees with local stakeholders in Saranda. The participating committees were the Committee on Natural Resources, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development, the Committee on Culture, Tourism and Diaspora, and the Committee on Citizen Initiatives, Co-operation and Institutional Oversight. On 24 April, Amb. Tarran joined the 1<sup>st</sup> information/consultative meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Public Administration, the Committee on Civic Initiatives, Co-operation and Institutional Oversight, and the Commissioner for Civil Service Supervision in Lezha.

## Local Youth Councils meet in Berat



Members of Local Youth Councils from municipalities across southern Albania came together in Berat, from 22 to 24 April, to exchange ideas, discuss the challenges they face and build stronger future co-operation. The hands-on workshop – jointly organized by the OSCE Presence, RYCO and the National Youth Agency – focused on youth participation, advocacy, community engagement and the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. The result: practical tools, real-life case studies and mini action plans that participants can take back to their councils.

## Youth lead forum on public safety and inclusion

On 3 April, Ambassador Michel Tarran and staff of the OSCE Presence joined a youth-led forum on public safety in Elbasan, engaging directly with young people, local institutions and civil society. The discussions offered a reminder of the value of listening to youth perspectives from the ground. Topics covered prevention, trust and shared responsibility for public safety. Through an exhibition of paintings and creative works, young people used art as a powerful medium to express concerns, hopes and alternative narratives around safety and social inclusion.



## Enhancing firearms deactivation capabilities



Two experts from Banc National Épreuve des armes – an accredited European institution for deactivation of firearms – visited Tirana on 21 and 22 April to meet with the Ministry of Interior and the State Police with the aim of strengthening Albania's capabilities in the deactivation of firearms. The OSCE Presence facilitated the visit as part of its Small Arms and Light Weapons project, launching a year-long capacity-building programme focused on strengthening skills and systems for firearm deactivation. This initiative is implemented by the Presence, with support from the EU, Germany and France.

## Committed to Roma inclusion and equal rights

In a social media message marking the International Roma Day, celebrated on 9 April, the OSCE Presence in Albania reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to promoting the rights, inclusion and equal opportunities of Roma national minority in the country. The message highlighted the importance of continued efforts to address barriers faced by Roma people and to ensure their full participation in public life. "Building an inclusive society requires integrating Roma issues into the work of all institutions, especially national human rights institutions," the Presence stressed in its message.



## Strategic planning for the Presence's future activities



On 29 and 30 April, the Presence organized a strategic planning meeting to develop its strategic priorities for the next three years. Joining part of the meeting were Ardiana Hobdari, Director of the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, and Swiss Ambassador Ruth Huber, whose country holds the OSCE Chairpersonship, who commended the work of the OSCE staff. Amb. Huber highlighted the five priorities of the Swiss Chairpersonship: the Helsinki Principles - for lasting peace; inclusive multilateral diplomacy; anticipating technologies – for a safe and humane future; democracy, the rule of law and human rights; and the OSCE's ability to act.