

International and Regional Cooperation in the Western Balkans: Transcending Borders in the Fight against Corruption

Key findings

International and regional cooperation is a powerful tool for effectively addressing the problem of corruption. Corruption is an intricate issue that requires exchanging experiences and good practices between countries.

01 Corruption in the Western Balkan region remains an overarching challenge that requires a wide variety of mechanisms to help tackle the issue. Aside from the political will of the country, a powerful ally often lies in regional and international cooperation.

02 Almost all Western Balkan countries are signatories of the principal international conventions on the fight against corruption and organised crime. Yet, their anti-corruption practices are not entirely aligned.

03 Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) in its compliance reports noted further efforts in the fight against corruption are needed in the whole region.

04 According to the European Commission reports, neither of the Western Balkan countries has made any progress in the fight against corruption since 2019.

05 The most prominent donor of financial and technical assistance in tackling corruption in the region is the European Union.

06 The COVID-19 pandemic and other urgent challenges, such as the armed conflict in Ukraine, constrained and shifted focus from international and regional anti-corruption cooperation. The pandemic exposed the weakness of governance systems in fighting corruption.

