PROJECT FACTSHEET

Funded by the European Union

EU4Reconciliation: Further increasing war crimes accountability and supporting reconciliation in the Western Balkans



Duration: 01.01.2024 - 12.12.2026

Countries:
Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia

EU contribution: € 3 000 000

Total budget: € 3 000 000

Implementer:
United Nation International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Website(s): irmct.org/en/mip

Project description:

The action promotes peace and cooperation in the Western Balkans by enhancing accountability for war crimes committed during the 1990s conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and supporting victims' rights.

It has two main components:
1) strengthening domestic prosecution of war crimes through peer-to-peer mentoring and capacity-building in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.
2) increasing public knowledge and understanding of the crimes committed since 1991, targeting teachers, students, journalists, and civil society organisations.

Implemented by the IRMCT, the action builds on prior cooperation with the European Union and regional initiatives. It addresses persistent backlogs in war crime cases, promotes cross-border judicial cooperation, and counters denial, hate speech, and revisionist narratives. By disseminating factual findings of the ICTY and facilitating stakeholder engagement, the Action contributes to societal cohesion, the rule of law, and reconciliation in the region.

Expected results:

• Improved capacity of domestic judicial authorities to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate war crimes and complex cases.
• Access to justice enhanced for victims, including cases involving sexual- and gender-based crimes.
• Increased knowledge and use of ICTY/IRMCT archival material for teaching, research, and public engagement.
• Strengthened societal resilience and reduced denial, hate speech, and glorification of war criminals.
• Expanded cooperation and coordination among regional judicial authorities, universities, media, and civil society organisations.