



Basic Facts



The Mission

EULEX Kosovo was launched in 2008 as the largest civilian mission under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the European Union. EULEX's overall mission is to assist the Kosovo authorities in establishing strong and independent rule of law institutions.

The Mission supports Kosovo judicial authorities and law enforcement agencies in their progress towards sustainability and accountability in developing an independent, multi-ethnic justice system, as well as multi-ethnic police and customs services, ensuring that these institutions are free from political interference and adhering to internationally recognised standards and European best practices.

The Mission's current mandate has been extended until 14 June 2018. EULEX works within the framework of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244. EULEX has an authorised strength of 800 staff. The EULEX mandate consists of two operational objectives: monitoring, mentoring and advising and executive functions. This is delivered through the Strengthening and the Executive Division.



EULEX KOSOVO
Partnership for Justice

The Strengthening Division

The Strengthening Division, in close cooperation with other EU actors, supports the senior management level of Kosovo's rule of law institutions in their progress towards sustainability and accountability. It essentially aims to strengthen criminal justice, with an emphasis of fighting political interference, through monitoring, mentoring and advising. This includes monitoring of selected Kosovo cases and support to the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina by assisting the implementation of the remaining dialogue agreements in the sphere of rule of law.

The Strengthening Division works closely with the Ministry for Internal Affairs, Kosovo Police, Kosovo Customs, Ministry of Justice, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Civil Registration Agency and the Kosovo Correctional Service.

The Division monitors selected Kosovo cases dealing with serious crimes, such as corruption, organised crime, inter-ethnic crimes and war crimes and provides advice concerning the prosecution and investigation.

In addition, it provides structured support to further develop the capacity and competence of the Kosovo Judicial Council and Kosovo Prosecutorial Council. It supports the Kosovo Correctional Service with advice on how to deal with high-profile detainees and the management of prisons and detention centres, including Mitrovica Detention Centre.

The Division provides support to the Kosovo Police senior management to address structural and organisational weaknesses and to improve targeting of serious criminality, including terrorism, corruption and organised crime.

It provides monitoring, mentoring and advising to the Regional Police Directorate in Mitrovica North. It monitors and assists Kosovo Border Police and Kosovo Customs in the implementation of the Kosovo Integrated Border Management (IBM) and migration strategies, including freedom of movement and IBM agreements and joint activities with FRONTEX.

The Division supports the Civil Registration Agency in implementing the agreements in the framework of the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

The Executive Division

The Executive Division of EULEX is focused on delivering law services until the progress of local authorities allows a complete transition of executive functions to local institutions.

EULEX judges and prosecutors are embedded in Kosovo institutions and serve in accordance with Kosovo law. The focus of the investigation, prosecution and adjudication is on the support to constitutional and civil justice, as well as on the prosecution and adjudication of residual and selected criminal cases, both exclusively and jointly with the Kosovo judicial authorities.

All cases over which EULEX does no longer have jurisdiction since 15 April 2014 will continue to be dealt with exclusively by the judicial and prosecutorial authorities of Kosovo. The EULEX Chief Prosecutor identifies ongoing cases that can be transferred to Kosovo prosecution. In extraordinary circumstances, the EULEX Chief Prosecutor can request new cases to be assigned to EULEX prosecutors.

Joint cases are investigated and prosecuted by mixed teams consisting of Kosovo prosecution authorities and EULEX prosecutors. In these cases, the Executive Division also engages in peer-to-peer mentoring of their counterparts.

EULEX continues to deal with highly sensitive cases related to war crimes, terrorism, organised crime and corruption.

Upon the appointment and integration of judicial personnel to the Mitrovica Basic Court and Prosecution Office, all EULEX cases in Mitrovica region will be considered as joint cases.

EULEX Police supports the investigation and prosecution of EULEX sensitive criminal cases. It maintains a witness protection programme and fosters contacts with the police authorities in the region and beyond, including EUROPOL and INTERPOL. EULEX Police provides assistance to the Institute of Forensic Medicine. EULEX forensic experts embedded in the Institute of Forensic Medicine support and train its staff and carry out their executive functions with reference to missing persons and war crimes.

The EULEX Formed Police Unit deals with limited public disorder incidents and assists the Crowd and Riot Control Police in Kosovo.

The Executive Division supports the implementation of best European practices concerning, among other things, human rights and other vital legal principles. The Division also works with Kosovo authorities in strengthening international cooperation in police, justice and custom issues. EULEX is dedicated to the inclusion of human rights as well as a gender perspective and gender-mainstreaming standards in all of its activities, both within the Mission and while working with Kosovo institutions.