

The influx of international assistance over the last two decades and the creation of new institutions since independence in 2008, represented an opportunity to get governance right from the start. As a result, Kosovo's legal framework is well-designed. Unfortunately, reflexes of clientelism still stand in the way of transparency and accountability in governance and oversight of security.

Condition of democratic oversight of security



CULTURE

A culture of demanding accountability from the executive among parliamentarians, civil servants, and civil society actors, is not developed yet.



CAPACITY

The human and institutional potential available, is not optimally used, blocking effective oversight of government.



COOPERATION

The main stakeholders in security oversight lack a common demeanour of holding the government to account.

International democracy rankings

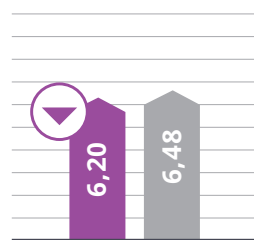
FREEDOM HOUSE, NATIONS IN TRANSIT – DEMOCRACY SCORE



3.18 in 2020 compared to 2.93 in 2010. (On a scale of 1 to 7, 1 is the lowest and 7 the highest level of democratic progress).

Measures 29 countries from Central Europe and Central Asia on National Democratic Governance; Electoral Process; Civil Society; Independent Media; Local Democratic Governance; Judicial Framework and Independence; and Corruption.

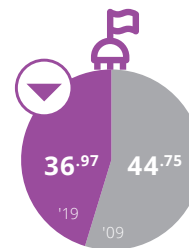
BERTELSMANN FOUNDATION – TRANSFORMATION INDEX



6.20 in 2020 (ranking 50 out of 137 countries), compared to 6.48 in 2010 (on a scale of 1 to 10).

Analyses and evaluates transformation processes of democracy, market economy and governance in 137 developing and transition countries.

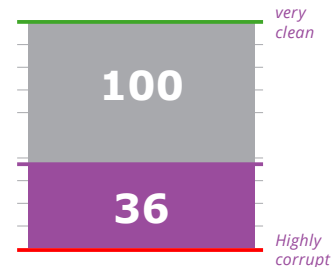
WORLD BANK – WORLD-WIDE GOVERNANCE INDICATORS



36.97 in 2019, compared to 44.75 in 2009 (average of 6 indicators) (ranking of 0 to 100 among countries worldwide).

Ranking over 200 countries and territories over the period 1996–2019 on six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability; Political Stability and Absence of Violence; Government Effectiveness; Regulatory Quality; Rule of Law; and Control of Corruption.

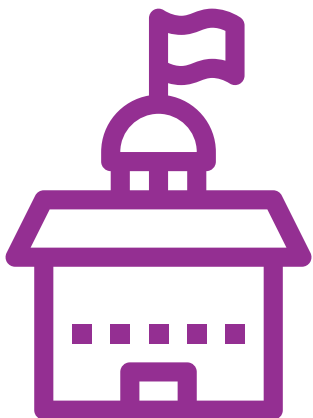
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL – CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX



36 points in 2020 (out of 100) (ranking 104 out of 180 countries).

Ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business representatives.

ASSEMBLY OF KOSOVO



Unicameral Assembly of 120 seats. Members are elected for 4-year terms.

100 members are directly elected through an open-list proportional representation vote, while 20 seats are reserved for non-majority communities (10 for Serbs and 10 for other ethnic minorities).

The Assembly has a gender quota that ensures that at least 1 in 3 MPs is female.



UNICAMERAL ASSEMBLY OF 120 SEATS



THE ASSEMBLY HAS A GENDER QUOTA THAT ENSURES THAT AT LEAST 1 IN 3 MPS IS FEMALE



100 MEMBERS ARE DIRECTLY ELECTED, WHILE 20 SEATS ARE RESERVED FOR NON-MAJORITY COMMUNITIES



The committee on Security and Defence Affairs
(9 members, of which 1 is female)



The Committee for the Oversight of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency
(11 members, of which 2 are female)

Among its key responsibilities, the Assembly:

- Oversees the work of the government and other public institutions that report to the Assembly in accordance with the Constitution and the law;
- Approves the budget of the Republic of Kosovo; and
- Oversees foreign and security policies.

The Committee on Security and Defence Affairs is (among many other matters) responsible for:

- Exercising parliamentary control of the rule of law on security sector institutions;
- Overseeing the implementation of international security standards, gender representation and human rights protection for members of security institutions; and
- Strengthening cooperation with stakeholders, civil society, international organisations with a mission in Kosovo, citizens, and media. The Committee meets about once per week.

The Committee for the Oversight of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency is led by an MP from the opposition, and is responsible for:

- Overseeing the legality of the work of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency;
- Seeking and investigating information concerning the work of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency; and
- Reviewing and approving the budget of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency.

The Ombudsperson

The Ombudsperson of Kosovo is elected by the Assembly for a 5-year term. The Ombudsperson is independent and monitors, defends, and protects the rights and freedoms of individuals from unlawful or improper acts or failures to act by the public authorities. Every state institution in Kosovo is bound to respond to the requests of the Ombudsperson.

There is no specific ombudsperson for the security sector, but special attention is paid to issues such as those relating to the police and safeguarding minority communities. The Ombudsperson can initiate investigations and recommendations and handle incoming complaints.

In 2019, about **2,000 complaints** were received, of which half were addressed by the Ombudsperson office. In the same year, about **160 recommendations** were filed by the Ombudsperson, of which two dealt with police matters.



INDEPENDENT
5-YEAR TERM
2,000 COMPLAINTS (2019)
160 RECOMMENDATIONS (2019)

Independent Audit Institution

The National Audit Office of the Republic of Kosovo is independent and:

- Promotes high standards of transparency and accountability in financial management and performance of the public administration;
- Gives recommendations and contributes to a sound management of public funds; and
- Submits audit reports to the Assembly and audited entities.



The Auditor General is appointed by the Assembly for a 5-year term. The office produces regular audits, performance audits and IT audits. **The National Audit Office produces about 130 audits per year, as well as over 1,000 recommendations.** On average, there is **an equal representation** of women and men among the **Office's staff** (about 165 people, of which 138 are auditing personnel).

Civil society

The position of civil society is anchored in the Constitution of Kosovo and in the Law on Freedom of Association in Non-Governmental Organisations. The law sets out rules for the establishment, registration, internal management, activities, and termination of non-governmental legal bodies registered as NGOs in Kosovo.



10,256 NGOS REGISTERED (2020)

In 2020, there were 10,256 NGOs registered in the Department of NGOs (DNGO) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration, which is responsible for the registration of civil society organisations and keeping a publicly available database.

Cooperation with the legislature is taken up in the rules of procedures of the Assembly, whereby a committee may invite other persons or representatives of institutions and of civil society to attend its committee meetings.

Reviewing and simplifying rules of procedure for parliamentarians and staff, with a view to boosting parliamentary work, from developing legislation to oversight of policy and spending.

2

Discussing the negative impacts of clientelism and the lack of meritocracy on governance and promoting a critical stance in holding the executive to account.

1

Strengthening the 'information position' of the Assembly through building research capacity and input of civil society.

3

About DECOS

The 'Developing Capacity, Cooperation and Culture in Overseeing the Security Sectors of Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia' project (2019-22) seeks to empower democratic institutions and actors in their function of democratic oversight of security. It does so by increasing *capacities*, enhancing *cooperation*, and fostering a culture of oversight of the security sectors of Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. DECOS consists of a *capacity building* and a *research component* that are directed at democratic oversight actors – parliaments, independent institutions, and advisory bodies; and civil society organisations – in Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia.

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The Centre for European Security Studies (CESS) collaborates in DECOS with the Albanian Institute for Political Studies (IPS), the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) from Albania, the Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED), and the Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis' Skopje (IDSCS) from North Macedonia. DECOS is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands