

UNDER EMBARGO – DO NOT PUBLISH UNTIL:

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ALBANIA RANKED 68 OUT OF 113 COUNTRIES ON RULE OF LAW, RISING FOUR POSITIONS

World Justice Project (WJP) Releases 2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index

WASHINGTON, DC (31 January 2018) – The World Justice Project (WJP) today released the *2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index*[®] which measures rule of law adherence in 113 countries worldwide based on more than 110,000 household and 3,000 expert surveys. Featuring primary data, the *WJP Rule of Law Index* measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

Albania rose four positions for overall rule of law performance (from 72 in the *2016 WJP Rule of Law Index*) to 68 out of 113 countries in the 2017-2018 edition. Its score places it at 6 out of 13 countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region* and 21 out of 36 among upper middle income** countries.

The top three overall performers in the *2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index* were Denmark (1), Norway (2), and Finland (3); the bottom three were Afghanistan (111), Cambodia (112), and Venezuela (113).

Globally, a majority of countries worldwide saw their scores decline since the publication of the last *WJP Rule of Law Index* (in October 2016) in the areas of human rights, checks on government powers, and civil and criminal justice.

Regionally, Eastern Europe and Central Asia's leader in the Index is Georgia, ranking 38th out of 113 countries worldwide, though it has fallen 4 positions since 2016. Kazakhstan showed the greatest improvement in rank, rising 9 positions to 64th place worldwide, while Belarus fell 8 spots to 65th place. The region showed a general decline in scores for Open Government and Fundamental Rights, with negative factor trends in 4 and 3 countries respectively. At the same time, the region showed a general improvement in Order and Security scores, with four countries in the region experiencing factor trends in that area.

The *WJP Rule of Law Index*[®] is the world's leading source for original data on the rule of law. The *Index* relies on more than 110,000 household and 3,000 expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived in practical, everyday situations by the general public worldwide. Performance is measured using 44 indicators across eight primary rule of law factors, each of which is scored and ranked globally and against regional and income peers: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

“Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of equity, opportunity, and peace,” said William H. Neukom, WJP founder and CEO. “No country has achieved a perfect realization of the rule of law. The *WJP Rule of Law Index* is intended to be a first step in setting benchmarks, informing reforms, stimulating programs, and deepening appreciation and understanding for the foundational importance of the rule of law.”

The complete 2017-2018 report—including country profiles, data visualizations, methodology, and download options—is available on January 31 at: www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index

ALBANIA RANKINGS

WJP Rule of Law Index 2017-2018 performance (1 is best)

ALBANIA OVERALL GLOBAL RANK: 68/113

ALBANIA OVERALL REGIONAL RANK*: 6/13

FACTOR	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**	GLOBAL RANK
Constraints on Government Powers	2/13	17/36	70/113
Absence of Corruption	9/13	34/36	94/113
Open Government	10/13	28/36	87/113
Fundamental Rights	1/13	9/36	41/113
Order and Security	8/13	10/36	43/113
Regulatory Enforcement	11/13	33/36	91/113
Civil Justice	12/13	31/36	87/113
Criminal Justice	5/13	17/36	57/113

*Countries measured in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, FYR, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

** Upper-middle income countries: Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Iran, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, FYR, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela

ABOUT THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT:

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for communities of equity, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. Learn more at: www.worldjusticeproject.org

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