The Rule of Law in Kosovo

Key Findings from the General Population Poll and Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires
Acknowledgements

The Rule of Law in Kosovo: Key Findings from the General Population Poll and Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires was produced by the World Justice Project under the research oversight of Alejandro Ponce and the executive direction of Elizabeth Andersen.

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Priyanka Khosla and Courtney Babcock were the graphic designers for this report.

Photo for cover provided by Allan Leonard, Flickr (CC BY-NC 2.0).

Sampling, fieldwork and data processing for the General Population Poll were conducted by IDRA Research & Consulting.

The findings in this report are taken from the Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires and General Population Poll conducted for the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index®. The Index’s conceptual framework and methodology were developed by Mark D. Agrast, Juan Carlos Botero, and Alejandro Ponce. Data presented in this report were gathered and analyzed by the World Justice Project’s global research staff: Lindsey Bock, Erin Campbell, Alicia Evangelides, Emma Frerichs, Joshua Fuller, Amy Gryskiewicz, Camilo Gutiérrez Patiño, Ayyub Ibrahim, Sarah Chamness Long, Rachel L. Martin, Jorge A. Morales, Alejandro Ponce, Natalia Rodriguez Cajamarca, and Adriana Stephan, with the assistance of Claudia Bobadilla, Gabriel Hearn-Desautels, Maura McCrery, Emma Poplack, and Francesca Tinucci.

This report was made possible with the support of USAID. The views expressed in this report are those of the survey respondents and do not necessarily represent the views of USAID.

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About This Report
STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW is an important objective for governments, donors, and civil society organizations around the world. To be effective, however, strengthening the rule of law requires clarity about the fundamental features of the rule of law, as well as an adequate basis for its evaluation and measurement. This report presents select findings drawn from two original data sources collected by the World Justice Project: a series of Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires and the General Population Poll.

As an overview of the country’s rule of law situation, this report presents Kosovo’s country profile from the WJP Rule of Law Index® 2020, which aggregates data from both the Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires (QRQs) and the General Population Poll (GPP). The profile presents Kosovo’s ranking and scores for each of the WJP Rule of Law Index’s factors and sub-factors, and draws comparisons between Kosovo’s scores and the scores of other indexed countries in the same regional and income groups. In order to provide a more in-depth view of the data underlying Kosovo’s WJP Rule of Law Index scores, this report also presents question-level data from the QRQs and the GPP that can provide more insights on the country’s performance across various dimensions of the rule of law.

This report represents the voices of people in Kosovo and their experiences with the rule of law in their country.

The Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires are administered online to in-country practitioners and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law; constitutional law, civil liberties, and criminal law; labor law; and public health. These questionnaires gather timely input on a range of topics from practitioners who frequently interact with state institutions. Such topics include information on accountability mechanisms, corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, the strength of regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice. In total, 51 expert practitioners completed the QRQs in Kosovo in 2019.

The General Population Poll was conducted through face-to-face interviews in 1,000 nationally representative households in Kosovo in 2019. This poll was designed to capture data on the experiences and perceptions of the general public on a variety of themes related to the rule of law. Such themes include government accountability, corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

The data derived from the QRQ and GPP is presented in this report as 10 thematic briefs, each one highlighting a different facet of the rule of law from the perspective of Kosovars. The thematic briefs are designed to call attention to governance issues in Kosovo from the perspective of the people, while simultaneously illuminating comparisons across the following peer countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia. These peer countries were selected based on their regional comparability and inclusion in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2020. The thematic briefs address issues of government accountability, corruption across institutions, bribery victimization, fundamental freedoms, perceptions of the police, perceptions of the criminal justice system, perceptions of the criminal courts, interactions with the police, crime victimization, and trust in institutions.
Executive Summary

1 GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
There is a high perception of impunity in Kosovo. When presented with a hypothetical situation in which a high-ranking government officer is caught embezzling government funds (Chart 1a), 24% of Kosovars believed that the accusation would be completely ignored by authorities, and only 21% of Kosovars believed that the government officer would be prosecuted and punished. However, compared to other peer countries, more Kosovars believe that the high-ranking government officers would be punished than respondents in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

Chart 1b illustrates that Kosovars have mixed perceptions of checks on government powers, as 53% of respondents believe it is more important to have a government that can get things done even if citizens have no influence over what it does, than to have a government accountable to the people. When asked about presidential power and adherence to law, most Kosovars believe the President is bound by laws or court decisions (71%), and that citizens should obey the government in power no matter who they voted for (74%).

2 CORRUPTION ACROSS INSTITUTIONS
Kosovars believe that a moderate number of authorities are involved in corrupt practices. In Kosovo, members of the Parliament are perceived as the most corrupt authority, with 47% of respondents reporting that most or all members are involved in corrupt practices. Kosovars perceive the police as the least corrupt authority (20%), followed by local government officers (36%), judges and magistrates (39%), and national government officers (45%). Among respondents in peer countries, members of the police are also viewed as the least corrupt.

3 BRIBERY VICTIMIZATION
Bribery victimization is common in Kosovo. In the last three years, 21% of Kosovars paid a bribe in order to request public benefits or government assistance. Approximately one out of 10 respondents reported that they paid a bribe to use any public health services (11%) or to request a government permit or process a document (10%). Kosovars paid bribes least often to obtain a birth certificate or government-issued ID (3%). Although bribery victimization rates vary across peer countries, more respondents reported paying a bribe to request a government permit or document in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia than for any other service.

4 FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
Kosovars have mixed views of their fundamental freedoms (Chart 4a). About half (49%) of respondents on average believe that media freedoms are guaranteed in Kosovo. Meanwhile, a majority of respondents, on average, believe that their political (60%) and religious (73%) freedoms are guaranteed, though perceptions vary for specific freedoms in these categories. Almost three-quarters (74%) of respondents agreed that people can join together to draw attention to an issue or sign a petition, but only 45% of respondents agreed that civil society organizations can express opinions against the government. In addition, 45% of respondents agreed that the media can expose cases of corruption.

Across peer countries, more respondents agreed that religious freedoms are guaranteed, while media freedoms are perceived as a challenge in the region (Chart 4b).

5 POLICE PERFORMANCE
Kosovars have moderate views on police accountability, but generally have more positive views on police performance compared to peer countries (Chart 5a). The majority of respondents believe that the police always or often act according to the law (77%) and perform serious and law-abiding investigations to find perpetrators (67%).

Within Kosovo, perceptions of police vary across regions (Chart 5b). While respondents in Gjilan and Mitrovica on average feel more positive about police performance than Kosovars in other regions, respondents in Pristina and Peja have more negative views. In Gjilan and Mitrovica more than 80% of respondents believe that the police respect the basic rights of suspects. In Pristina and Peja, 49% and 46% of Kosovars believe the same, respectively.

6 PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Kosovars report moderate levels of confidence in the criminal justice system. As illustrated in Chart 6a, the majority of respondents are confident that the criminal justice system ensures uniform quality by providing equal service regardless of where they live (65%), makes sure everyone has access to the justice system (63%), and that the system is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice (62%). Kosovars are less confident that victims are able to receive the services and support they need (54%), and that the system allows victims to seek justice regardless of who they are (55%).

These concerns are echoed by Kosovar criminal justice experts, who identified the lack of prosecutorial independence, corrupt investigators, and inadequate witness protection as the most serious problems faced by the criminal investigative services in Kosovo (Chart 6b).
7 PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIMINAL COURTS
Kosovars have negative views of the courts in their jurisdiction. When referring to the most serious problems faced by criminal courts (Chart 7a), criminal justice experts view delayed cases, lack of judicial independence, and poor judicial decisions as the biggest challenges.

Roughly half of respondents believe that the courts always or often guarantee a fair trial (52%) and only 34% said that the courts do not decide cases according to the interests of those who have more money or influence (Chart 7b).

8 INTERACTIONS WITH THE POLICE
Out of those surveyed for this study, only 7% of Kosovars report that they voluntarily contacted the police in the past year (Chart 8a). The most common reason for contacting the police was to report an accident (42%), and respondents were generally satisfied with their interactions (83%).

Meanwhile, 25% of respondents experienced involuntary contact—contact that they did not initiate—with the police in the past year (Chart 8b). Of this, an overwhelming majority (96%) were stopped in a vehicle by police while only 4% were approached at their home, work, or in public. For those stopped in a vehicle, 54% were stopped as part of a routine check. Few respondents stopped in a vehicle were asked to pay a bribe by the police (4%).

9 CRIME VICTIMIZATION
Approximately 3% of Kosovars in this study were the victims of a crime in the last 12 months. Categories of crimes include property crimes; crimes against life and the integrity of individuals; and corruption, finance, and commercial crimes.

10 TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS
Kosovars have a fairly high degree of trust in their fellow members of society, with 67% reporting they have a lot or some trust in other people living in Kosovo. Across institutions, respondents have the most trust in the police (79%), and the least trust in national government officers (39%). Kosovars have similar perceptions of trust in the local government officers and the courts (53% and 52%, respectively). When compared to peer countries, Kosovars generally report a higher degree of trust in institutions than respondents in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia.
WJP Rule of Law Index®
Country Profile
How to Read the Country Profile

This section presents the country profile for Kosovo as included in the *WJP Rule of Law Index® 2020* report.

The profile presents scores for each of the *WJP Rule of Law Index*’s factors and sub-factors, and draws comparisons between the scores of the featured country and the scores of other indexed countries in the same regional and income groups. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score (strong adherence to rule of law) and 0 signifies the lowest possible score (weak adherence to rule of law). The country profiles consist of four sections, outlined below.

**Section 1:** Displays the country’s overall rule of law score; its overall global, income, and regional ranks.

**Section 2:** Displays the country’s individual factor scores, along with its global, regional, and income group rankings. The global, regional, and income rankings are distributed across three tiers—high, medium, and low—as indicated by the color of the box where the score is found.

**Section 3:** Displays the country’s disaggregated scores for each of the sub-factors that compose the *WJP Rule of Law Index*.

The country’s score is represented by the purple bar and is labeled at the end of the bar. The average score of the country’s region is represented by the orange line. The average score of the country’s income group is represented by the green line.

**Section 4:** Presents the individual sub-factor scores underlying each of the factors listed in Section 3 of the country profile.

Each of the 44 sub-factors is represented by a purple line drawn from the center to the periphery of the circle. The center of the circle corresponds to the worst possible score for each sub-factor (0), and the outer edge of the circle marks the best possible score for each sub-factor (1).
The scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Score</th>
<th>Regional Rank</th>
<th>Income Rank</th>
<th>Global Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>17/42</td>
<td>54/128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Regional Rank</th>
<th>Income Rank</th>
<th>Global Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constraints on Government Powers</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>21/42</td>
<td>71/128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absence of Corruption</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>5/14</td>
<td>22/42</td>
<td>62/128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Government</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>11/42</td>
<td>44/128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Rights</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>15/42</td>
<td>52/128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order and Security</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>1/42</td>
<td>25/128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Enforcement</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>36/42</td>
<td>97/128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Justice</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>13/14</td>
<td>34/42</td>
<td>93/128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>18/42</td>
<td>56/128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates statistically significant change at the 10 percent level

Region: Eastern Europe & Central Asia
Income Group: Upper Middle

### Constraints on Government Powers
1. Limits by legislature
2. Limits by judiciary
3. Independent auditing
4. Sanctions for official misconduct
5. Non-governmental checks
6. Lawful transition of power

### Absence of Corruption
1. In the executive branch
2. In the judiciary
3. In the police/military
4. In the legislature

### Open Government
1. Publicized laws & gov't data
2. Right to information
3. Civic participation
4. Complaint mechanisms

### Fundamental Rights
1. No discrimination
2. Right to life & security
3. Due process of law
4. Freedom of expression
5. Freedom of religion
6. Right to privacy
7. Freedom of association
8. Labor rights

### Order and Security
1. Absence of crime
2. Absence of civil conflict
3. Absence of violent redress

### Regulatory Enforcement
1. Effective regulatory enforcement
2. No improper influence
3. No unreasonable delay
4. Respect for due process
5. No expropriation w/out adequate compensation

### Civil Justice
1. Accessibility & affordability
2. No discrimination
3. No corruption
4. No improper gov’t influence
5. No unreasonable delay
6. Effective enforcement
7. Impartial & effective ADRs

### Criminal Justice
1. Effective investigations
2. Timely & effective adjudication
3. Effective correctional system
4. No discrimination
5. No corruption
6. No improper gov’t influence
7. Due process of law

Section II: WJP Rule of Law Index Country Profile
Thematic Findings from the General Public and Expert Practitioners
Government Accountability

Views in Kosovo and select peer countries regarding accountability under the law.

**Chart 1a. Perceptions of Accountability in Kosovo and Select Peer Countries**
Most likely outcome if a high-ranking government officer is caught embezzling public funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Prosecuted and Punished</th>
<th>Opened but Never Reaches a Conclusion</th>
<th>Completely Ignored by the Authorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Macedonia</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2017 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia), 2018 (Albania), and 2019 (Kosovo)

**Chart 1b. Checks on Government Power**
Kosovars’ views on the relative importance of government power and accountability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government Accountability</th>
<th>Presidential Power</th>
<th>Adherence to Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if citizens have no influence over what it does.</td>
<td>A: The President should not be bound by laws or court decisions that s/he thinks are wrong.</td>
<td>A: It is important for citizens to obey the government in power, no matter who they voted for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if it means decisions are made more slowly.</td>
<td>B: The President must always obey the laws and the courts, even if s/he thinks they are wrong.</td>
<td>B: It is not necessary for citizens to obey the laws of a government they did not vote for.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Government Accountability**
  - A: 53%
  - B: 45%

- **Presidential Power**
  - A: 26%
  - B: 71%

- **Adherence to Law**
  - A: 74%
  - B: 23%

* Percentage of respondents who very strongly agreed or agreed with Statement A or Statement B
Corruption Across Institutions

Data on perceptions of corruption across institutions in Kosovo and select peer countries.

Chart 2. Perceptions of Corruption in Kosovo and Select Peer Countries
Perceptions about the number of authorities involved in corrupt practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Albania</th>
<th>Bosnia and Herzegovina</th>
<th>Kosovo</th>
<th>North Macedonia</th>
<th>Serbia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Government Officers</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges and Magistrates</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Officers</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Police</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data removed because it could not be validated.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2017 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia), 2018 (Albania), and 2019 (Kosovo)
Bribery Victimization

Data on bribes paid in Kosovo and select peer countries to access public services.

Chart 3. Bribery Victimization in Kosovo and Select Peer Countries by Service

Percentage of respondents who had to pay a bribe in the last three years to...

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2017 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia), 2018 (Albania), and 2019 (Kosovo)
**Fundamental Freedoms**

Views on the extent to which various political, media, and religious freedoms are effectively guaranteed.

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**Chart 4a. Fundamental Freedoms in Kosovo**

Views on specific political, media, and religious freedoms in Kosovo.

**Political**

- Percentage of Kosovars who agree that people can express opinions against the government: 59%
- Civil society organizations can express opinions against the government: 45%
- Political parties can express opinions against the government: 50%
- People can attend community meetings: 63%
- People can join any political organization: 71%
- People can organize around an issue or petition: 74%

**Media**

- Percentage of Kosovars who agree that media can express opinions against the government: 53%
- Media can expose cases of corruption: 45%

**Religious**

- Percentage of Kosovars who agree that religious minorities can observe their holy days: 73%

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**Chart 4b. Averages of Fundamental Freedoms**

Average views on fundamental freedoms in Kosovo compared to those of select peer countries.

- Albania: 52% Political, 45% Media, 92% Religious
- Bosnia and Herzegovina*: 45% Political, 71% Media
- Kosovo: 60% Political, 49% Media, 73% Religious
- North Macedonia: 60% Political, 36% Media, 83% Religious
- Serbia: 67% Political, 43% Media, 87% Religious

*Data removed for Media Freedoms because it could not be validated.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2017 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia), 2018 (Albania), and 2019 (Kosovo)
Perceptions of the Police

Views on police accountability in Kosovo and select peer countries.

Chart 5a. Police Accountability
Percentage who believe that the police always or often...

Albania
- Act according to the law: 63%
- Perform serious investigations to find perpetrators: 46%
- Respect the basic rights of suspects: 49%
- Are punished for violating the law: 45%

Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Act according to the law: 52%
- Perform serious investigations to find perpetrators: 47%
- Respect the basic rights of suspects: 55%
- Are punished for violating the law: 34%

Kosovo
- Act according to the law: 77%
- Perform serious investigations to find perpetrators: 67%
- Respect the basic rights of suspects: 65%
- Are punished for violating the law: 60%

North Macedonia
- Act according to the law: 52%
- Perform serious investigations to find perpetrators: 45%
- Respect the basic rights of suspects: 49%
- Are punished for violating the law: 41%

Serbia
- Act according to the law: 72%
- Perform serious investigations to find perpetrators: 65%
- Respect the basic rights of suspects: 68%
- Are punished for violating the law: 39%

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2017 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia), 2018 (Albania), and 2019 (Kosovo)
Section III: Thematic Findings from the General Public and Expert Practitioners

Chart 5b. Perceptions by Region of Kosovo

Percentage who believe that the police always or often...

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2019

Legend:
- Green: Act according to the law
- Orange: Perform serious investigations to find perpetrators
- Blue: Respect the basic rights of suspects
- Yellow: Are punished for violating the law
Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System
Perceptions of the performance of the criminal justice system in Kosovo.

Chart 6a. Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System in Kosovo
Percentage of respondents who are confident that the criminal justice system...

- 62% is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice
- 57% safeguards the presumption of innocence by treating those accused of crimes as innocent until proven guilty
- 58% ensures timeliness by dealing with cases promptly and efficiently
- 58% ensures equal treatment of the accused by giving all a fair trial regardless of who they are
- 54% provides victim support and services to crime victims
- 55% ensures equal treatment of victims by allowing all victims to seek justice regardless of who they are
- 56% gives appropriate punishments that fit the crime
- 63% makes sure everyone has access to the justice system
- 65% ensures uniform quality by providing equal service regardless of where you live

Chart 6b. Problems Impacting the Investigative Services in Kosovo
Average score for the most serious problems faced by the criminal investigative services, on a scale of 1 to 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Not Serious</th>
<th>Very Serious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Prosecutorial Independence</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrupt Investigators</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Witness Protection</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrupt Prosecutors</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incompetent Investigators</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficient Mechanisms to Obtain Evidence</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Resources</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Proactive Investigation Methods</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2019 (Chart 6a); WJP Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires 2019 (Chart 6b)
Perceptions of the Criminal Courts

Perceptions of the performance of criminal courts in Kosovo.

Chart 7a. Problems Impacting the Criminal Courts in Kosovo

*Average score for the most serious problems faced by the criminal courts, on a scale of 1 to 10.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delayed Cases</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Judicial Independence</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Judicial Decisions</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive Pre-Trial Detention</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Alternative Dispute Resolution</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient Criminal Defense Availability</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Resources</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bias Against Marginalized People</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 7b. Perceptions of the Criminal Courts in Kosovo

*Percentage of respondents who believe that the courts always or often...*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guarantee everyone a fair trial</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are more concerned about providing justice than procedures</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not decide cases according to the interests of those who have more money or influence</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WJP Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires 2019 (Chart 7a); WJP General Population Poll 2019 (Chart 7b)
Interactions with the Police

Data on the experiences of people in Kosovo who interacted with the police in the last 12 months.

Chart 8a. Voluntary Contact with the Police

*Incidence of voluntary interactions with the police, reasons for contact, and reported experiences.*

- 7% of respondents in Kosovo voluntarily contacted the police.
- 18% contacted the police in person.
- 82% contacted the police remotely.
- 82% reported that the police solved the problem remotely.
- 83% of respondents were satisfied with their police interaction.
- Reasons for contacting the police:
  - 42% to report an accident
  - 22% to report a crime
  - 10% to report a fight or domestic violence
  - 10% to request information
  - 16% to request other help

Chart 8b. Involuntary Contact with the Police

*Incidence of involuntary interactions with the police, reasons for contact, and reported experiences.*

- 25% of respondents in Kosovo were involuntarily contacted by the police.
- 96% were stopped in a vehicle.
- Reasons for being stopped:
  - 54% as part of a routine check
  - 43% due to a traffic violation
  - 3% to check if the driver was drunk
- 4% were asked to pay a bribe.
- 4% were approached at their home, work, or in public.
- 94% felt the police were kind and respectful.

*The sample size for those approached at home, work, or in public was too small to disaggregate by reason for being stopped. Therefore, the reasons for being stopped for this kind of involuntary contact have been removed.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2019
Crime Victimization
Data on crimes experienced in Kosovo.

Chart 9. Crime Victimization in Kosovo by Category of Crime*
Percentage of respondents in Kosovo that experienced any crime in the last year, overall and by category of crime.

Overall Crime Rate

3%

Property Crimes

1%

Categories under Property Crimes
- Theft of car
- Theft from car
- Vandalism or property damage
- Theft of moped, motor scooter, or motorcycle
- Theft of bicycle
- Theft of livestock
- Theft of personal property or pickpocketing

Crimes Against Life and Integrity of Individuals

2%

Categories under Crimes Against Life and Integrity of Individuals
- Burglary
- Attempted burglary
- Robbery
- Assualts/threats
- Kidnapping
- Rape or sexual assault
- Hate crime

Corruption, Finance, and Commercial Crimes

1%

Categories under Corruption, Finance, and Commercial Crimes
- Extortion
- Bribery/corruption by public officials
- Consumer fraud

*The crime rates are calculated as the percentage of respondents that experienced a crime out of the entire sample of 1,000 respondents. As a result, crime rates are low. The question phrasing also affects the response rate. Respondents are first asked if they have been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months. If they answer "yes," then they are asked about the last crime that they suffered. Only those that say that they experienced a crime in the past 12 months are asked about the type of crime.

Note: The crime rates for the three categories of crimes do not add to the overall crime rate due to rounding.

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2019
Trust in Institutions

Data on the extent to which people in Kosovo and select peer countries trust various groups and institutions.

Chart 10. Trust in Kosovo and Select Peer Countries
How much trust do people have in...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Kosovo</th>
<th>Albania</th>
<th>Bosnia and Herzegovina</th>
<th>North Macedonia</th>
<th>Serbia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Government Officers</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges and Magistrates</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Officers</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Police</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Living in this Country</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WJP General Population Poll 2017 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia), 2018 (Albania), and 2019 (Kosovo)
Project Design
Methodology
Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires and General Population Poll

Data Sources
To portray the rule of law as experienced by ordinary people, the findings of this report are drawn primarily from two original data sources collected by the World Justice Project in Kosovo: a series of Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires (QRQs) and a General Population Poll (GPP). These two data sources collect up-to-date firsthand information that is not otherwise available at the global level, and constitute the world’s most comprehensive dataset of its kind. They capture the experiences and perceptions of ordinary people and in-country practitioners concerning the performance of the state and its agents and the actual operation of the legal framework in their country.

Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires
The Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires (QRQs) were conducted for the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index® by the World Justice Project’s research team based in Washington, DC. The surveys were administered online from June 2019 through November 2019. The QRQ surveys are conducted annually, and the questionnaires are completed by in-country experts and practitioners selected from directories of law firms, universities and colleges, research organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as through referrals from the WJP global network of practitioners. All participants are vetted by WJP staff based on their expertise.

These questionnaires encompass four areas of practice, including civil and commercial law; constitutional law, civil liberties, and criminal law; labor law; and public health. They gather timely input on a range of topics from practitioners who frequently interact with state institutions, and who represent the voice of the people in their countries. Such topics include information on the efficacy of courts, the strength of regulatory enforcement, and the reliability of accountability mechanisms. The questionnaires contain closed-ended perception questions and several hypothetical scenarios with highly detailed factual assumptions aimed at ensuring comparability across countries.

The expert surveys are administered in five languages: English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. The QRQ data for the 2020 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index report includes more than 4,000 surveys, which represents an average of 32 respondents per country. In Kosovo, a total of 51 expert practitioners completed the QRQs, with 12 practitioners completing the Civil and Commercial Law QRQ; 27 practitioners completing the Constitutional Law, Civil Liberties, and Criminal Law QRQ; eight practitioners completing the Labor Law QRQ; and four practitioners completing the Public Health QRQ.

General Population Poll
The General Population Poll in Kosovo was conducted for the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index with sampling, survey administration, and data processing by IDRA Research and Consulting based in Pristina, Kosovo. The survey fieldwork was conducted face-to-face between October 15, 2019, and November 3, 2019, using a multi-stage stratified cluster sampling design. The target population for this survey was Kosovars, 18 years of age or older, living in the regions of Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, and Pristina.

SAMPLING SIZE AND SAMPLING FRAME
The achieved sample size was 1,000 interviews distributed proportionally throughout the regions of Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, and Pristina. The sample was proportionally stratified by region, urbanization, gender, age, and socioeconomic status.

SAMPLING
For the sample, voting centers were the primary sampling units and were sampled using probability proportionate to size sampling. The secondary sampling units were households and were selected using a random route method. Respondents were randomly selected using the last birthday method.
Description of the Sample

**COVERAGE:** Interviews were conducted to create a nationally representative sample. The regions with the most interviews conducted are Pristina (26%), Prizren (23%), and Peja (13%).

**GEOGRAPHY:** 39% of respondents reside in rural areas, villages, and towns. 61% of respondents reside in metro areas or cities.

**ETHNICITY:** Most respondents identified themselves as Albanian (90%), or Serbian (5%).

**GENDER:** 50% of respondents were female and 50% were male.

**EDUCATION:** Over a third of respondents (40%) reported that they had received a high school level education, and another 39% of respondents received a middle school diploma or less.

Interviewing and Quality Control

A team of 32 interviewers worked on this project, including 19 women. The interviewers were trained on conducting the questionnaire, random route procedures, and household selection. All interviews were conducted in Albanian, Serbian, and Turkish.

The average length of an interview was 31 minutes and ranged from 25 minutes to 1 hour and 53 minutes.

Additional Countries

The report includes comparisons to Eastern European and Central Asian peer countries previously surveyed by the World Justice Project. These countries are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The countries listed above are a portion of the 128 countries included in the *World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2020* report. The surveys in these Eastern European and Central Asian countries are administered using a probability sample of 1,000 respondents in nationally representative samples or the three largest cities of each country. Detailed information regarding the methodology of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* is available at [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org).

The WJP Rule of Law Index

The *WJP Rule of Law Index 2020* is the latest report in an annual series measuring the rule of law based on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country experts and practitioners worldwide. The Index presents a portrait of the rule of law based on eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice. This year’s and previous versions of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* are available online at [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org). In addition to the Index report, an interactive online platform for *WJP Rule of Law Index* data is available at [https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/](https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/). The interactive data portal invites viewers to browse each of the 128 country profiles and to explore country, factor, and sub-factor scores. The site features the Index’s dataset, as well as global, regional, and income group rankings.
Appendix
Methodological Materials

**QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS’ QUESTIONNAIRES (QRQS)**
The Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires (QRQs) measure the experiences and perceptions of in-country experts and practitioners in the fields of civil and commercial law; constitutional law, civil liberties, and criminal law; labor law; and public health. These questionnaires address the performance of the state and its agents, and the actual operation of the legal framework in their countries. Administered annually, the QRQs gather timely input on a range of topics, including information on accountability mechanisms, corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, the strength of regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

*World Justice Project Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires 2019 – Survey Instruments*

**GENERAL POPULATION POLL (GPP)**
The General Population Poll (GPP) was designed to capture high-quality data on the realities and concerns of the general public on a variety of themes related to the rule of law, including government accountability, corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

*World Justice Project General Population Poll 2019 – Survey Instrument*

**VARIABLES USED TO CONSTRUCT THE WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX®**
This table lists the question-level variables from the Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires and the General Population Poll used to construct the eight factors and 44 sub-factors of the *WJP Rule of Law Index*. It also lists the third party sources (TPS) that are used in select factors and sub-factors.

*Variables Used to Construct the WJP Rule of Law Index® 2020*
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 justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights.

WJP builds and supports a global, multidisciplinary movement for the rule of law through three lines of work: collecting, organizing, and analyzing original, independent rule of law data, including the WJP Rule of Law Index®; supporting research, scholarship, and teaching about the importance of the rule of law, its relationship to development, and effective strategies to strengthen it; and connecting and building an engaged global network of policymakers and activists to advance the rule of law through strategic partnerships, convenings, coordinated advocacy, and support for locally led initiatives.
Other Publications

For more information or to read these reports, visit
worldjusticeproject.org/our-work