



Albania



- Location: Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea
- Area: Total - 28,748, sq km; Land - 27,398 sq km; Water - 1,350 sq km
- Natural Resources: petroleum, natural gas, coal, bauxite, chromite
- Population: 3,600,523 (July 2007)
- Languages: Albanian (official), Greek, Vlach, Romani, Slavic dialects
- Government Type: Emerging Democracy
- Legal System: Civil law system
- Executive Branch: Chief of state: President of the Republic Bamir Topi, Head of Government: Prime Minister Sali Berisha
- Political parties: Socialist Party, Democratic Party, New Democrat Party, Social Democratic Party, Republican PARTY; Socialist Movement for Integration
- National Election: Presidential Election July 24 2007

Challenges:

- Albanian organized crime groups are one of the fastest growing criminal groups in the Balkans and Western Europe. Transparency International estimates that 80% of the Albanian economy is a parallel economy and for every 100 euros of documented capital, another 80 euros are never accounted for.
- Albania has made vast improvements in terms of reducing bureaucratic burdens, particularly in areas of cross border trade and tax payments. However, the difficulties in dealing with licenses, protecting investors, and starting a business are factors that lower Albania's score.
- Local elections were stalled and the election process almost collapsed a number of times in the beginning of 2007 as a result of political disputes within the Albanian government. International election observers monitoring the election reported that elections were not in line with international commitments and standards.

Challenges: Medium



Opportunities:

- Tenders (open and invited) and government procurement opportunities are available upon request.

Actions:

- CIN can identify and recommend local officials that are not influenced by criminal organizations and that are free from corruption.