

The step under review	The Basic Public Prosecution for Organized Crime and Corruption is fully and adequately equipped with specialized prosecutors, financial experts and digital forensic experts
Baseline	2024: 13 public prosecutors in Basic PPO for Organised Crime and Corruption, 21 investigators in the Investigative Centre and 31 administrative staff of the Basic PPO.
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	<p><u>Staffing with Public Prosecutors</u></p> <p>The Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office for Prosecution of Organized Crime and Corruption (BPPOCC) have a total of 12 public prosecutors handling cases, plus the Basic Public Prosecutor (head of the office), who does not handle cases.</p> <p>Taking into account Article 1, Part III, item 28 of the Decision of the Council of Public Prosecutors No. 02-144/4 of 19 July 2023 on determining the number of public prosecutors in public prosecutor’s offices and public prosecutors within public prosecutor’s offices (“Official Gazette” No. 172/23) – (ANNEX 1), the number of public prosecutors in this office should be a total of 18 public prosecutors, consisting of 17 public prosecutors plus the Basic Public Prosecutor of the Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office for Prosecution of Organized Crime and Corruption.</p> <p>Accordingly, in the BPPOCC, instead of the 18 public prosecutors stipulated by the Council of Public Prosecutors’ Decision No. 02-144/4 of 19 July 2023, there are currently 13 public prosecutors, leaving 5 public prosecutor positions vacant.</p> <p>Regarding the specialization of the public prosecutors working in this office, the current situation is as follows:</p> <p>In the specialized department for prosecuting criminal offenses committed by persons with police powers and members of the prison police, the department is staffed by the Head of the department and 2 public prosecutors (a total of 3 public prosecutors), who are also attending training related to the work of this department.</p> <p>2 public prosecutors handle cases involving criminal offenses arising from communications conducted via the SKYECC application, including offenses committed by persons with police powers and members of the prison police.</p> <p>In the Department for Prosecution of Criminal Offenses in the Field of Terrorism and the Department for Prosecution of Criminal Offenses in the Field of Corruption, 2 public prosecutors are assigned to each department. In addition to handling cases in the order they are received, they also specifically handle cases exclusively related to criminal offenses in</p>

	<p>the areas of terrorism or corruption, and continuously attend specialized training on these topics. A total of 4 public prosecutors work across these two departments.</p> <p>1 public prosecutor from this office has been appointed as the Head of the National Unit for Combating Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking.</p> <p>According to the Annual Work Schedule for Public Prosecutors at BPPOCC for 2025 (ANNEX 2), the remaining 2 public prosecutors are not assigned to any of the above departments. They handle cases in the order they are received by the prosecutor’s office, which, according to the Law on Public Prosecutors, fall under the jurisdiction of BPPOCC.</p> <p><u>Staffing of Investigators</u></p> <p>At the Investigation Center of BPPOCC, there are currently 29 investigators, 26 of which are transferred from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2 are transferred from the Financial Police Administration, and 1 investigator is transferred from the Customs Police. These investigators have police authority and conduct investigative actions in criminal cases.</p> <p>The exact number of investigators in the Investigation Centre of BPPOCC is not fixed, as it varies depending on the workload of the Prosecutor’s Office at any given time. The number can therefore be increased or decreased as needed.</p> <p>According to the Strategy for Strengthening Capacities for Conducting Financial Investigations and Asset Confiscation for 2025–2028 (ANNEX 3), by the fourth quarter of 2026 it is foreseen to digitalise the Investigation Centres, which is crucial for conducting effective financial investigations that lead to court decisions on asset confiscation. For this purpose, it is necessary to procure appropriate equipment, as well as software tools and licenses, which would allow faster and easier access to open databases, full implementation of interoperability, and efficient analysis of the obtained data.</p> <p><u>Staffing of the Public Prosecutor’s Administrative Staff</u></p> <p>According to the Rulebook on Internal Organization and Job Classification in the Public Prosecutor’s Office, which is currently in force and applies to the Public Prosecutor’s Service, the situation is as follows: 71 positions are foreseen, 32 positions are filled, and 39 positions are vacant, resulting in a staffing level of 45.07%.</p> <p>At present, a new Rulebook for the Classification of Public Prosecutor’s Administrative Staff is being prepared for the OJOGOKK, which is expected to include financial experts and forensic specialists within the Public Prosecutor’s Office. The new classification is planned to be adopted by June 2026.</p> <p>For the employment of financial experts and forensic specialists, in accordance with the existing Law on the Public Prosecutor’s Service, approval from the Ministry of Finance is also required to secure the necessary financial resources.</p>
<p>Evidence provided</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ANNEX 1 – Decision on determining the number of public prosecutors in public prosecutor’s offices and public prosecutors within the offices (Official Gazette No. 172/23) https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/aadd66ba72454b93a07275b596fc5503.pdf ANNEX 2 - Annual Work Plan of the Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office for Prosecution of Organized Crime and Corruption for 2025

	<p>3. ANNEX 3 – Strategy for Strengthening Capacities for Conducting Financial Investigations and Asset Confiscation for the Period 2025–2028, with an Action Plan for 2025–2026</p> <p>4. ANNEX 4 - Action plan for implementation of the Financial Investigations Strategy EN</p>
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	<p>At this moment, out of the total of 18 public prosecutors envisaged, 13 public prosecutors perform the function of public prosecutor in this prosecution office. According to the existing Act of Systematization for the BPPOCC, a total of 71 job positions for public-prosecutorial administrative staff are envisaged, out of which 32 positions are filled, and 39 are unfilled. The occupancy rate of investigators cannot be expressed in numbers or percentages because in the Investigation Centre of this prosecution office, their representation is fluid i.e. it is variable and depends on the volume of criminal cases, their complexity and the current need. With the amendments to the Act of Systematization which should be prepared and adopted in the forthcoming period, employment of 10 financial experts - forensic experts is required.</p>
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	<p>The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement.</p> <p>The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).</p>
Double funding	<p>Contributions from third parties were not reported in support of the achievement of this step.</p>
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	<p>Not achieved</p>