

## **Accomplished and ongoing projects in the field of media and freedom of expression online and offline**

**From 1 January 2016 to 30 April 2016**

### **Summary**

In the field of media and freedom of expression, two cooperation projects with external funding have been successfully accomplished: Strengthening information society in Ukraine funded by the European Union and Promoting freedom of expression and media independence funded by the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Since January four new projects have been signed. Twelve cooperation projects with external funding (voluntary contribution or jointly funded by the European Union) are currently underway amounting to 7 229 398 Euros in all. Some activities are also financed by the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe.

Approximately 85 activities were organised since January 2016. The work in the field of freedom of expression and media freedom included a very broad range of activities such as legal expertise, training programs, seminars, conferences and other events with the participation mainly of public officials, media professionals and civil society. The constant strive to look for links and synergy between the various projects is an added value of cooperation activities. Best practices and results achieved are constantly shared with others through bilateral and regional networking.

For more information on our projects please visit our website:  
[http://val-www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/media/default\\_en.asp](http://val-www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/media/default_en.asp)  
And on our Facebook page: Information Society Group

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

### 1. Strengthening information society in Ukraine

Country	Ukraine
Funding	European Union (EU)
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	23 months (February 2014 – December 2015)
Total project funds received	€ 2 500 000
Objectives	<p>To strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms through :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greater freedom, diversity and pluralism in the media;</li> <li>- An open, inclusive, sustainable, people-centred and human rights-based approach to the Internet;</li> <li>- An effective system of protection of individuals with regard to their right to privacy and right to control their personal data.</li> </ul>
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To help the legislators to develop a strategy until 2015 for the approximation of media legislation to the European regulatory framework, focusing on the EU-Ukraine association related terms and the Council of Europe standards;</li> <li>- To provide targeted expert assistance to the stakeholders as to the implementation of the strategy;</li> <li>- To provide assistance in establishing the right of access to information via enhancing the stakeholders' capacity to implement the law;</li> <li>- To strengthen the capacity of the Ukrainian public officials, civil society and Internet private sector in governing the Internet as they could better promote the open and unimpeded free flow of information and expression based on the relevant Council of Europe standards;</li> <li>- To raise the civil society's public awareness and monitoring capacity on the rights of Internet users;</li> <li>- To strengthen open, inclusive and transparent multi-stakeholder Internet governance dialogue in Ukraine based on Council of Europe human rights standards;</li> <li>- To enhance compliance of the legal framework with regard to data protection with international standards;</li> <li>- To secure and develop the independence and capacity of public</li> </ul>

authorities to oversee data protection;

- To better implement data protection safeguards and mechanisms in all relevant sectors, in full respect of other rights and freedoms, such as freedom of expression.

Partners	<p>Core government agencies and regulatory authorities of Ukraine within the scope of the project; Relevant Parliamentary Committees; Ombudsperson (Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights);</p> <p>Civil society organisations; Internet service providers; educational authorities and academic institutions.</p>
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Media professionals and their self-regulatory bodies; national stakeholders involved in the implementation and policy making of the data protection system and internet governance, both in the public and private sector.</li> <li>- State institutions, civil society, professional, technical and business communities.</li> </ul>
Final beneficiaries	The society at large, each and every individual.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A strategy for approximation of media legislation to the European regulatory framework until 2015 is developed and implemented;</li> <li>- Progress is made as regards the elimination of the state or authority-owned media;</li> <li>- The safeguards for fair and balanced media coverage of elections are developed in line with the European standards and the EU-Ukraine association-related criteria;</li> <li>- Journalists' work conditions free from threats and actual violence are promoted via exposure to best practices and reforming legislation on the protection of professional activity of journalists;</li> <li>- The legal framework for access to public information is further improved;</li> <li>- Internet governance and human rights courses are included in the Curricula of national institutions;</li> <li>- Increased knowledge and awareness of Internet users on Internet governance and human rights adopted and promoted by the Council of Europe as well as knowledge and capacity of the Internet service providers;</li> <li>- Enhanced participation of the Ukraine key stakeholders in the international Internet governance and human rights debates;</li> <li>- The data protection law is reviewed and aligned with international and European standards in the field.</li> <li>- Independence and capacity of the Ombudsperson (Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights) overseeing data protection is</li> </ul>

built up;  
 - Data protection is implemented by sectors.

**2. Promoting freedom of expression and media independence**

Country	Morocco
Duration	26 months (January 2014 - February 2016)
Total project funds received	EUR 35 000
Main Objective:	To promote freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Morocco in the context of the on-going reform process of the legal and institutional framework governing media
Target group(s)	Journalists, media organisations, public authorities, civil society
Final beneficiaries	Journalists, media organisations, public authorities, civil society, public at large
Expected results	Increased awareness among public authorities and journalists of European and International standards that promote and protect freedom of expression and media freedom in a democratic society

## ONGOING PROJECTS

### 1. Freedom of expression and media freedom

Country	Azerbaijan
Funding	Council of Europe/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) 2015-2017
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	36 months (January 2015-December 2017)
Total project funds received	€ 800 000
Main Objective	The main objective is to enhance the national legislation and media regulation in accordance with Council of Europe standards to secure freedom of expression and information. The Council of Europe will assist national authorities by making sound proposals of legal reforms to ensure the safety of journalists in their role to uphold freedom of expression and access to information.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support the implementation of legal frameworks and infrastructures, including remedial actions, in accordance with European standards concerning freedom of expression and access to information;</li> <li>- To review media legislation and regulation to bring these in line with European standards, including ethical standards for media professionals;</li> <li>- To raise-awareness on Council of Europe standards with respect to freedom of expression and media freedom;</li> <li>- To promote and ensure the safety of journalists.</li> </ul>
Partners	All activities will be implemented in consultation and co-operation with the relevant public authorities, national and international experts, media professionals and local NGOs in the country.
Target groups	Public authorities, parliament, judicial training structures, universities, journalists' organisations and NGOs.
Final beneficiaries	Media professionals, judges, legal professionals, the general public.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Higher number of investigations and judicial actions that result in conviction, in cases of physical and legal harassment (including detention) of journalists;</li> <li>- In line with the European Convention on Human Rights and</li> </ul>

respective case-law, the legislation on defamation (in particular with regards to criminal sanctions for defamation) is removed from the Criminal Code. Civil sanctions for defamation are introduced which are reasonable and proportionate;

- A sustainable independent legal service for the protection of the rights of journalists is put in place;

- Policies for broad internet access are enhanced.

Main activities                      Legal expertise, expert meetings, training, conferences, awareness-raising activities.

## **2. Promoting freedom, professionalism and pluralism in the media**

Country	Georgia
Funding	Council of Europe/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) 2015-2017
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	36 months (January 2015-December 2017)
Total project funds received	€ 250 000
Main Objective	The main objective is to enhance freedom of expression and access to information with an opened, independent and pluralistic media, in accordance with Council of Europe standards.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To review media legislation and regulation to bring these in line with European standards, including ethical standards for media professionals;</li> <li>- To support the implementation of legal frameworks, including remedial actions;</li> <li>- To promote the safety of journalists.</li> </ul>
Partners	All activities will be implemented in consultation and co-operation with the relevant public authorities, national and international experts, media professionals and local NGOs in the country.
Target groups	Public authorities, parliament, media professionals, journalists' organisations and NGOs.

Final beneficiaries	Public authorities, media professionals, civil society, the general public.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To improve professionalism, responsibility and respect of ethical rules among journalists by continuing to raise awareness on their rights and professional ethics;</li> <li>- To improve the quality of journalism education and training, to address their particular rights and responsibilities;</li> <li>- To continue to promote the independence of the broadcasting regulatory bodies and the public service broadcasters;</li> <li>- To improve the visibility of minority groups in the media and increase promotional activities that address hate speech and intolerance.</li> </ul>
Main activities	Legal expertise, expert meetings, conferences, awareness-raising activities.

**3. Promote professional and responsible journalism by supporting regional networks of self-regulatory bodies**

Country	Regional (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus)
Funding	Council of Europe/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) 2015-2017
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	36 months (January 2015-December 2017)
Total project funds received	€ 409 000
Main Objective	The main objective is to support the regional network of self-regulatory bodies and build it into an effective and eventually sustainable association to ensure professional and responsible journalism. For this purpose, the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the network is reinforced with discussions, decisions and the implementation at national and regional levels of measures to improve the relevance and effectiveness of self-regulatory bodies and cooperation in resource-raising.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hold national and regional meetings to build the capacities of the national self-regulatory bodies and of the Network itself sustainably to uphold freedom of expression and access to information in accordance with Council of Europe standards at national and regional levels;</li> <li>- Promote the importance of the role of national self-regulatory bodies in accordance with European standards;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The number of complaints against journalistic ethics, which result in disciplinary action is increased;</li> <li>- Establish a plan for sustainable and long-term funding.</li> </ul>
Partners	National self-regulatory bodies and the regional Network, national and international experts, networks of journalists.
Target groups	Media professionals, civil society
Final beneficiaries	Media professionals, civil society, the public at large
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To improve the visibility, relevance and effectiveness of existing self-regulatory bodies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and to create new ones where relevant;</li> <li>- To ensure regular exchange of information and experience among the self-regulatory bodies;</li> <li>- To empower individual self-regulatory bodies to find more legitimacy in their respective countries;</li> <li>- To examine and solve more cross-border complaints;</li> <li>- To develop a self-sustainable model of funding after the end of the project;</li> <li>- Cooperation between media freedom NGOs and governments is established and promoted.</li> </ul>
Main activities	National seminars, regional conferences, awareness-raising activities

**4. Protecting Internet freedom through legislation and arrangements for multi-stakeholder dialogue**

Country	Georgia
Funding	Council of Europe/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Cooperation Framework (PCF) 2015-2017
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	18 months (January 2015 – June 2016)
Total project funds received	€ 400 000



Main Objective	The main objective is to enhance good governance in the digital age through increased protection of human rights and rule of law on the Internet within promotion of good governance and Human rights policies in accordance with the Council of Europe standards at national level.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To increase proportion of Council of Europe recommendations on Internet legislation drafted by national authorities in line with Council of Europe and international human rights standards;</li> <li>- To enhance legal policy and regulatory framework related to Internet governance, which is: in line with ECHR, based on international based practice standards and developed through a multi-stakeholder consultation process, including governments, the private sector, civil society and the technical community;</li> <li>- To establish a national Internet Governance Forum in the country;</li> <li>- To promote guarantees for human rights respect in terms of services of national Internet service providers in line with Council of Europe human Rights Guidelines for ISPs.</li> </ul>
Partners	Presidency of Georgia, National Security Council of Georgia, Ministry of Justice, Data Exchange Agency, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Georgian National Communications Commission, parliament Of Georgia and its Committee on Human Rights and Civil integration, national NGOs.
Target groups	National stakeholders involved in the implementation and policy making of Internet governance, both in private and public sector.
Final beneficiaries	The society at large, each and every individual.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased compliance of national legal frameworks and policies with Council of Europe standards on freedom of expression;</li> <li>- Increased knowledge of relevant state authorities about Council of Europe Internet governance and Human rights standards and related European Court of human rights case-law;</li> <li>- Increased knowledge and awareness of Internet users about available remedies and redress when human rights online are violated;</li> <li>- Increased commitment of Internet service providers to protect human rights online in conformity with Council of Europe related standards;</li> <li>- Internet governance policies are prepared and debated through</li> </ul>

a multi-stakeholder national Internet Governance Forum;

- Enhanced participation of key Georgian stakeholders in the international Internet governance and human rights debates: Internet Governance Forum (IGF), European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG).

Main activities                      Legal expertise, expert meetings, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, roundtables and regional conferences.

**5. Strengthening the respect for human rights in the implementation of the Republic of Moldova’s Digital Agenda**

Country	Republic of Moldova
Funding	Council of Europe/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) 2015-2017
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	18 months (January 2015 – June 2016)
Total project funds received	€ 400 000
Main Objective	The main objective is to increase awareness and respect for human rights, in particular freedom of expression and private life, in developing the information society in the Republic of Moldova.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To increase proportion of Council of Europe recommendations on Internet legislation drafted by national authorities in line with Council of Europe and international human rights standards;</li> <li>- To increase number of Internet users who know how to protect their human rights online in case of violations;</li> <li>- To establish a national Internet Governance Forum in the country.</li> </ul>
Partners	Ministry of Information Technology and Communications; National regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology; Ministry of Public Administration; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Internal affairs; Public Administration Academy of Moldova; Public Policies Institute.
Target groups	National stakeholders involved in the implementation and policy making of Internet governance, both in private and public sector.

Final beneficiaries	The society at large, each and every individual
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National authorities have increased knowledge about Council of Europe adopted standards on human rights and internet and make use of this knowledge in the implementation of the national information society development strategy, Digital Moldova 2020;</li> <li>- Internet users in general and children and youth in particular have an increased awareness and capacity to monitor the respect of their human rights on Internet;</li> <li>- Internet service providers (ISPs) have increased commitment to human rights in line with the Council of Europe Human Rights Guidelines for ISPs;</li> <li>- An Internet governance forum, which empowers decision-making in Internet governance based on the multi-stakeholder principle, is established in the Republic of Moldova.</li> </ul>
Main activities	Public awareness campaign, expert's reports, workshops, trainings, seminars, roundtables and regional conferences.

**6. Enhancing respect for the protection of human rights online through capacity building, regional co-operation and participation to global Internet governance policies shaping**

Country	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine
Funding	Council of Europe/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) 2015-2017
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	18 months (January 2015 – June 2016)
Total project funds received	€ 300 000
Main Objective	The main objective is to increase the knowledge and understanding of IG stakeholders in EaP countries about the new technologies/ Internet policies and practices vis-à-vis human rights standards of the Council of Europe.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To create and further develop a permanent Internet governance school programme by the Council of Europe;</li> <li>- To increase proportion of Council of Europe recommendations on Internet governance;</li> <li>- To enhance legal policy and regulatory framework related to</li> </ul>

Internet governance, which is in line with ECHR, based on international based practice standards and developed through a multi-stakeholder consultation process, including governments, the private sector. Civil society and the technical community;

- To strengthen the balance among participants in national Internet governance environment.

Partners	Core government agencies and regional regulatory authorities, European Summer School on Internet Governance (EuroSIG), civil society organisations, Internet service providers, educational authorities and academic institutions.
Target groups	National stakeholders involved in the implementation and policy making of Internet governance, both in private and public sector.
Final beneficiaries	The society at large, each and every individual
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A partnership and exchanges with the European Summer School on Internet Governance (EuroSIG) are established;</li> <li>- Summer/winter internet governance schools are organised annually for a minimum of 6 participants from each of the EaP countries;</li> <li>- Experts from all EaP countries have increased knowledge and capacity to represent their countries, and to take part in regional and global internet governance policy-making;</li> <li>- The development of national internet policies that take into consideration the related human rights aspects;</li> <li>- Increased participation of EaP countries in the regional/global internet multi-stakeholder dialogue;</li> </ul>
Main activities	Legal expertise, Internet Governance Summer School, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, roundtables.

**7. To develop and strengthen national data protection systems**

Country	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus
Funding	Council of Europe/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Cooperation Framework (PCF) 2015-2017
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	36 months (January 2015 – December 2017)
Total project funds received	€ 300 000

Main Objective	The main objective is to enhance the right to data protection in the 6 target countries by developing further the rights-based legislative and regulatory frameworks on data protection and implementing effectively principles of data protection in the region.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To increase the proportion of recommendations of the Council of Europe regarding legal, policy and regulatory framework on data protection that are implemented by national authorities in all EaP countries bring them in line with international standards;</li> <li>- The reports and recommendations of the supervisory authorities reflect international standards as a result of training provided to their staff in all EaP countries.</li> </ul>
Partners	Governments, public agencies and supervisory authorities, civil society organisations and academic institutions.
Target groups	National stakeholders involved in the implementation and policy making of the data protection system, both in the public and private sector.
Final beneficiaries	The society at large, each and every individual.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhanced data protection legislation, regulations and policies in line with international and European data protection standards, to secure the highest level of protection of individuals, including through the effective oversight of the implementation of the legislation in all EaP countries;</li> <li>- Enhanced capacity of the supervisory authority to secure the highest level of protection for individuals and effective oversight.</li> </ul>
Main activities	Legal expertise, reports, roundtables, seminars, workshops, publications, press reviews.

## **8. Strengthening Freedom of the Media and Establishing a Public Broadcasting System in Ukraine**

Country	Ukraine
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	12 months (January 2016 – December 2016)
Requested contribution	€ 557 371
Main Objective	To strengthen the legal and institutional guarantees for the effective exercise of the right to freedom of expression and information in Ukraine.
Specific objectives	<p><b>Specific objective 1:</b></p> <p>To enhance the regulatory framework in the sphere of information policy and media in line with European norms and standards.</p>

**Specific objective 2:**

To facilitate the establishment of the genuine public broadcasting system in Ukraine via providing expert assistance. To ensure respect for, professional and ethical standards of broadcasting.

**Specific objective 3:**

To improve access to official documents and information held by public authorities while individual rights to privacy and to control personal data are protected.

**Specific objective 4:**

To enhance the safety of journalists in Ukraine and to raise public awareness of existing international standards for the protection of journalists.

**Specific objective 5:**

To enhance the role of the media in Ukraine as an instrument for consensus building in the society.

Expected results

***Expected result for Specific objective 1:***

1. Concrete recommendations are developed regarding media regulatory framework, which foster media freedom and independence.

***Expected results for Specific objective 2:***

1. Expert advice on consolidation of a genuine public broadcaster is provided in 2016-2017.
2. Capacity of the public broadcaster to enable the production of higher-quality programming is increased.
3. Ethical and professional standards with regard to broadcasting are promoted via co-regulatory solutions.

***Expected results for Specific objective 3:***

1. Expert assistance and extensive training is provided to public officials of national and local authorities with regard to applying public interest test in the process of classifying documents.
2. Capacity of an independent supervisory body for access to information is further reinforced.
3. Enabling environment for "information champions" is created in Ukraine via launching a sustainable annual independent award in line with best international

practices.

**Expected results for Specific objective 4:**

1. Journalists are trained on means of protection (physical integrity and technical means of protecting communications, data and sources).
2. State authorities are better informed on their positive obligation under the ECtHR to protect the journalists.
3. Regular dialogue between law-enforcement bodies and journalists' organisations on improving the investigation process involving media representatives is provided.

**Expected results for Specific objective 5:**

1. Public trust to media is enhanced and audience outreach is improved serving to the broader consensus in the society.

Partners	State TV and Radio Committee of Ukraine, National Broadcasting Council of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada Committee for Freedom of Speech and Information, future public broadcaster of Ukraine (expected to be established in 2015), civil society groups and professional associations.
Target groups	Policy-makers, journalists, editors, media managers, relevant professional associations, officials of national authorities, judges, civil society representatives.
Main activities	Legal expertise, expert meetings and seminars, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, roundtables conferences, publications and public debates on TV.

**9. Strengthening the capacities of media actors for support of pluralism in Ukraine (PCF) 2015-2017)**

Country	Ukraine
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	12 months (January 2016 - December 2016)
Requested contribution	€ 175 000
Main Objective	To strengthen the legal and institutional capacities of the media actors for the effective exercise of pluralism and freedom of expression in Ukraine.
Specific objectives	<b>Specific objective 1:</b>

To enhance the capacity of media professionals to implement the new law on Audio-visual Media Services.

**Specific objective 2:**

To enhance the capacity of the regulator in implementation of the law on transparency of media ownership, digital switchover and oversight of the public broadcaster.

**Specific objective 3:**

To facilitate development of the new community media outlets in the regions.

**Specific objective 4:**

To increase public awareness about the importance of the public service broadcaster.

Expected results

**Expected result for Specific objective 1:**

1. The capacity of media professionals to implement the new law on Audio-visual Media Services, is increased, new by-laws are developed;

**Expected results for Specific objective 2:**

1. The capacity of the regulator, the National TV and Radio Council of Ukraine in implementation of the law on transparency media ownership, digital switchover, implementation of sanctions to broadcasters, transition from licensing to permissions system, oversight of the public broadcasted, is increased. The web-site of the regulator to perform the new functions for transparency of media ownership is modernised in accordance with the Council of Europe expert recommendations.

**Expected results for Specific objective 3:**

1. More community media outlets in the regions of Ukraine, including in the areas where ethnic minorities live, is established. Awareness of the MPs and authorities on media policy on community basis is increased, the legislation in this area is improved.

**Expected results for Specific objective 4:**

1. Public awareness about the role and importance of the public service broadcaster is increased.

Partners

State TV and Radio Committee of Ukraine, National Broadcasting Council of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada Committee for Freedom of Speech and Information, future public broadcaster of Ukraine (expected to be established in 2015), civil society groups and professional associations.

Target groups

Policy-makers, journalists, editors, media managers, relevant professional associations, officials of national authorities, judges, civil society representatives.

Main activities

Expert meetings and seminars, workshops, trainings and



awareness-raising activities, roundtables and conferences, publications.

## **10. Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe**

Locations	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo <sup>1</sup> , Montenegro and Serbia
Funding	European Union
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	36 months (April 2016 – March 2019)
Requested contribution	€ 3 100 012
Main Objective	To promote freedom of expression and freedom of the media in line with Council of Europe standards, with a specific focus on the Judiciary in South-East Europe.
Specific Objectives	<p><u>Support to Judiciary</u></p> <p><b>Specific objective 1:</b> To enhance the application of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case-law in the field of freedom of expression in the daily work of the judiciary through the interpretation and implementation of the legislation in line with European standards.</p> <p><b>Specific objective 2:</b> To strengthen the capacity of the national courts to apply the case-law of the ECtHR on freedom of expression.</p> <p><b>Specific objective 3:</b> To increase the awareness and capacity of public prosecutors and lawyers dealing with freedom of expression issues on CoE standards and the case-law of the ECtHR.</p> <p><u>Support to media regulatory authorities</u></p> <p><b>Specific objective 4:</b> To enhance the independence and effectiveness of the bodies responsible for broadcasting regulation, in line with European standards.</p> <p><u>Training of media professionals</u></p>

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<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

**Specific objective 5:**

To promote rights and responsibilities of journalists and develop professionalism, responsibility and respect of ethical rules among journalists based on the ECtHR case-law and other CoE legal instruments.

Target groups	Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, media regulatory authorities, public media services, journalists and other media actors
Final beneficiaries	Citizens and society in whole
Expected results	<p><u>Support to Judiciary</u></p> <p><b>Expected result 1:</b> Domestic judgments reflecting application of Article 10 and ECtHR case-law are increased;</p> <p><b>Expected result 2:</b> The training curricula and capacity of the national training institutions with regard to freedom of expression and the media are improved;</p> <p><b>Expected result 3:</b> Judges/public prosecutors and lawyers awareness of CoE standards and the Court case-law on Article 10 and 8 are strengthened.</p> <p><u>Support to media regulatory authorities</u></p> <p><b>Expected result 4:</b> Studies on independence of the regulatory authorities continue to be provided after request of the national authorities; Regional co-operation between regulators is developed; exchange of good/bad practices is established.</p> <p><u>Training of media professionals</u></p> <p><b>Expected result 5:</b> Dialogue between media professionals, self-regulatory bodies, judiciary, politicians, parliamentarians, police and human rights defenders is established at national and regional level. The "<i>legal dictionary</i>" for journalists is prepared.</p>
Main activities	Expert meetings, assessments, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, round tables, regional conferences, study visits, studies, expertise.

**11. Accompanying the transitional process towards democracy in Tunisia with the promotion of freedom of expression, independence of the media and public access to information**

Country	Tunisia
Funding	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affaires
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	18 months (December 2014 – June 2016)
Total project funds received	€ 238 015
Main Objective	The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Tunisia.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A legal and institutional environment, which provides safeguards for freedom of expression, independence of the media and public access to information, which is more conducive for the work of journalists and which takes into account the significant differences between print, broadcast and online media, is in place;</li> <li>- The independence and the effective functioning, including sufficient human and financial resources, of the audiovisual regulatory body are promoted; its members and staff receive training and technical advice in order to effectively implement the laws including through developing and enforcing secondary legislation; cooperation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe (in particular the European Audiovisual Observatory) is strengthened;</li> <li>- The transition to genuine public-service media, as required in a democratic society, is initiated; a governance system is put in place with a view to ensure independence, transparency, and accountability of the public-service media.</li> </ul>
Expected results	<p><b>For specific objective 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The media related legislative and regulatory framework comes closer to international and Council of Europe standards and is completed accordingly;</li> <li>- The conclusions and recommendations included in the legal opinions are reflected in the legislation.</li> </ul> <p><b>For specific objective 2:</b></p>

- Formal and de facto independence of the regulatory body is ensured in line with the international and Council of Europe standards;
- Fair and transparent licensing procedures are put in place and implemented in line with international and European standards;
- A monitoring unit and a complaints mechanism are set up and cases of violations are handled effectively and fairly, especially during electoral periods;
- The members and the staff participate in relevant regional and international professional networks and discussion groups;
- Cooperation with/membership in the European Audiovisual Observatory is established;
- Increased diversity and pluralism in the broadcasting sector.

**For specific objective 3:**

- Legal safeguards to protect the independence of the public-service media are put in place;
- The statutory and governance framework of the public service media guarantees editorial and operational independence as well as appropriate funding;
- Internal guidelines and codes are elaborated and/or reviewed;
- Number of staff members and journalists trained on the specific culture of public service media, in particular transparency and responsibility.

The project is implemented in consultation with international financial and technical partners

Public authorities (Members of the Parliament, relevant ministries, the Audiovisual Regulatory Authority (Haute autorité indépendante de la communication audiovisuelle - HAICA), journalism schools in Tunisia, journalism professional associations, self-regulatory bodies, national human rights NGOs

Beneficiaries involved in the support to the Tunisian media sector

Members of the Parliament, representatives of public authorities, members of the HAICA (Haute autorité indépendante de la communication audiovisuelle), representatives and staff of public media, networks of citizen journalists, civil society.

Main activities

Thematic round-tables and seminars, legal analysis and expertise, workshops and in-house trainings.

## 12. Promoting freedom of expression and media independence

Country	Morocco
Duration	24 months (January 2016 – December 2017)
Requested contribution	€ 300 000
Main Objective	Promoting freedom of expression and media independence and plurality through enhanced press freedom
Target groups	Representatives of public authorities, regulatory authority, judges, lawyers media professionals, journalist's union, media self-regulatory mechanisms
Final beneficiaries	Public authorities, media professionals, civil society, public at large
Expected results	<p>Journalists of "traditional" and "new media" are more aware of their rights and responsibilities and their capacities are strengthened-Media self-regulatory bodies and tools are more equipped to monitor and enforce ethics rules online;</p> <p>A legal and institutional environment, which provides safeguards for freedom of expression, independence of the media, access to information and internet freedoms, is further strengthened and more conducive for the work of journalists;</p> <p>The capacities of the judicial and enforcement authorities with regard to respect and protection of freedom of the media are further strengthened.</p>

## **SUBMITTED PROJECTS**

### **1. Promoting media freedom and pluralism in Republic of Moldova**

Country	Republic of Moldova
Funding	European Union
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	24 months
Requested contribution	€ 600 000
Funding status	Ensured (awaiting signature)
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The regulatory framework relevant for freedom of expression and media pluralism is aligned with Council of Europe standards to ensure transparency of media ownership and prevention of excessive concentration;</li> <li>- The digital switch-over is facilitated in accordance with best European practice while promoting media pluralism;</li> <li>- The functioning of the broadcasting regulatory body and the public service broadcasters' supervisory bodies is improved with a view to enhance their independence, transparency and efficiency;</li> <li>- The public service broadcasters enhance their professionalism;</li> <li>- Civil society is enabled to provide additional guarantees for the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, notably concerning concentration of media ownership and pluralism.</li> </ul>
Proposed action	<p>The proposed activities are structured in two modules: the first module will focus on improving the legal framework as concerns transparency of media ownership and prevention of excessive concentration which might threaten pluralism of views in the media. The Council of Europe will also facilitate the digital switch-over in accordance with best European practice and to increase the capacity of the broadcasting regulatory authority to work in an independent and transparent manner in accordance with the Council of Europe standards and in the public interest, notably when issuing licenses.</p> <p>Under the second module, the public service broadcasters, Teleradio-Moldova and Teleradio-Gagauzia, will benefit from a range of activities aimed, among other things, at consolidating them as professional broadcasters with sufficient public funding and ensuring the functioning of independent supervisory bodies in both institutions. In addition, awareness-raising activities will be conducted to inform the public about the benefits of the digital transition as a way of content diversification and access to information.</p>

**2. Promoting the improvement and enforcement of professional and ethical standards by media professionals to promote tolerance and mutual understanding on the Internet and in the new media ecosystem**

Countries	All Council of Europe member States
Total duration of the action (months):	24 months (July 2016 – June 2017)
Requested Contribution	EUR 250 000
Target group(s)	Media professionals, editors, bloggers, journalism trainers, civil society representatives
Final beneficiaries	Media professionals, civil society, bloggers, public at large
Estimated results	<p>-Media professionals are more aware of their rights and responsibilities having regards to the fight against terrorism, incitement to hatred, hate speech and radicalisation</p> <p>-Media self-regulatory bodies and tools are more equipped to monitor and enforce ethics rules online</p>
Main activities	<p>-Regional and national training sessions for media professionals on their rights and responsibilities focusing on the right to freedom of expression on the Internet and the fight against terrorism, hatred, hate speech and radicalisation</p> <p>-Development and dissemination of teaching materials on how to report and comment on acts of racism, terrorism, intolerance and hatred focusing on the relevance of Council of Europe standards</p> <p>-Encouraging the co-operation and exchange of experiences between national media self-regulatory bodies by supporting participations in regional conferences and professional networks</p>

**3. Promoting freedom of expression and information, independence of the media and access to information in Tunisia**

Country	Tunisia
Duration	18 months (January 2016 – December 2017)
Requested contribution	EUR 230 000
Main Objective:	Promoting freedom of expression and media independence and plurality through enhanced press freedom
Target group(s)	Representatives of public authorities, regulatory authority, media

	professionals, Journalist union, self-regulatory mechanisms
Final beneficiaries	Public authorities, media professionals, civil society, public at large
Expected results	<p>A legal and institutional environment, which provides safeguards for freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information is strengthened and more conducive for the work of journalists;</p> <p>The independence and the effective functioning of the audiovisual regulatory body is preserved in the legislation and in practice;</p> <p>The transition to genuine public-service media, as required in a democratic society, is initiated; a governance system is put in place with a view to ensure independence, transparency, and accountability of the public-service media;</p> <p>The capacities of journalists to engage in responsible and professional journalism is strengthened; awareness on the rights and responsibilities of media professionals increases</p>

**4. Media Cooperation: Implementation of the guide by the Internet users 2016-2017**

Countries	All CoE member states
Funding	European Union
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	24 months
Requested contribution	€ 600 000
Main Objective	Media Cooperation: Implementation of the guide by the Internet users, 2015-2017
Specific Objectives	<p><b>Specific objective 1:</b> Research report mapping existent national remedies, expert opinions and recommendations</p> <p><b>Specific objective 2:</b> Educational kits for human rights online are prepared for each target group. They include e-learning modules, tests, quiz, printed materials, adapted versions of the Guide, video, teachers' package, etc.</p> <p><b>Specific objective 3:</b> Authorities and Internet users in member states have increased awareness, knowledge on the Guide to human rights for Internet users, and capacity to implement it at national level.</p>
Target groups	Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, media regulatory authorities, public media services, journalists and other media actors



Final beneficiaries	Citizens and society in whole
Expected results	<p><b>Expected result 1:</b> Research report mapping existent national remedies, expert opinions and recommendations</p> <p><b>Expected result 2:</b> Educational kits for human rights online are prepared for each target group. They include e-learning modules, tests, quiz, printed materials, adapted versions of the Guide, video, teachers' package, etc.</p> <p><b>Expected result 3:</b> Authorities and Internet users in member states have increased awareness, knowledge on the Guide to human rights for Internet users, and capacity to implement it at national level.</p>
Main activities	Expert meetings, assessments, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, round tables, regional conferences, study visits, studies, expertise.

**5. Enhancing the protection of human rights on the Internet**

Country	Albania
Funding	European Union
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	24 months
Requested contribution	€ 800 000
Main Objective	To enhance the protection of human rights on the Internet and contribute to sustainable democracy and development, in line with the Council of Europe's Strategy on Internet Governance
Specific Objectives	<p><b>Specific objective 1:</b> The capacity of public officials is enhanced to better understand policies and practices relating to human rights and new technologies, including CoE standards and European Court of Human Rights' case law related to the Internet</p> <p><b>Specific objective 2:</b> The national Strategy on Information Society is reviewed in order to support Internet policies which maximise the protection of human rights</p> <p><b>Specific objective 3:</b></p>

The capacity of the private sector is raised to understand and respect human rights and transparency of services provided to internet users

**Specific objective 4:**

A National Internet Governance Forum is established to promote Albanian participation in European and global discussions on Internet governance

**Specific objective 5:**

Media literacy skills are developed, a safe Internet for children is promoted, in line with CoE instruments including the CoE Internet Strategy, and relevant Committee of Ministers' Recommendations, notably the Guide to human rights for Internet users

**Specific objective 6:**

Awareness-raising activities take place to further public knowledge of human rights on the Internet, notably by promoting the Guide to human rights for Internet users

Target groups Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, media regulatory authorities, public media services, journalists and other media actors

Final beneficiaries Citizens and society in whole

Expected results

**Expected result 1:**

The capacity of public officials is enhanced to better understand policies and practices relating to human rights and new technologies, including CoE standards and European Court of Human Rights' case law related to the Internet

**Expected result 2:**

The national Strategy on Information Society is reviewed in order to support Internet policies which maximise the protection of human rights

**Expected result 3:**

The capacity of the private sector is raised to understand and respect human rights and transparency of services provided to internet users

**Expected result 4:**

A National Internet Governance Forum is established to promote Albanian participation in European and global discussions on Internet governance

**Expected result 5:**

Media literacy skills are developed, a safe Internet for children is promoted, in line with CoE instruments including the CoE Internet Strategy, and relevant Committee of Ministers' Recommendations, notably the Guide to human rights for Internet users

**Expected result 6:**

Awareness-raising activities take place to further public knowledge of human rights on the Internet, notably by promoting the Guide to human rights for Internet users

Main activities Expert meetings, assessments, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, round tables, regional conferences, study visits, studies, expertise.

**6. Promoting freedom of expression and information and freedom of the media**

Country	Albania
Funding	European Union
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	24 months
Requested contribution	€ 600 000
Main Objective	To develop legal and institutional guarantees for freedom of expression, higher quality journalism and a pluralistic media landscape, in line with Council of Europe standards
Specific Objectives	<b>Specific objective 1:</b> To contribute to full decriminalisation of defamation and promote best practices in the field
Target groups	Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, media regulatory authorities, public media services, journalists and other media actors
Final beneficiaries	Citizens and society in whole
Expected results	<b>Expected result 1:</b> To contribute to full decriminalisation of defamation and promote best practices in the field
Main activities	Expert meetings, assessments, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, round tables, regional conferences, study visits, studies, expertise.

**7. Media Cooperation Armenia: Supporting the development of journalism**

**teaching, Monitoring of the media coverage of elections**

Country	Armenia
Funding	European Union
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	24 months
Requested contribution	€ 675 000
Main Objective	Media Cooperation Armenia: Supporting the development of journalism teaching, Monitoring of the media coverage of elections
Specific Objectives	<p><b>Specific objective 1:</b> Journalists have a better understanding of their rights, respect ethical rules and are trained to exercise their work in a professional and responsible manner, as recommended under the applicable CoE standards and ECHR case law.</p> <p><b>Specific objective 2:</b> The quality of journalism education is improved, notably through introducing new courses, or enhancing existing ones, on the rights and responsibilities of journalists (graduates have better knowledge and understanding of European standards).</p> <p><b>Specific objective 3:</b> New curricula, new textbooks and other teaching materials are prepared.</p> <p><b>Specific objective 4:</b> The implementation of the media-related regulatory framework and self-regulation are improved in line with CoE standards and ECHR case law.</p>
Target groups	Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, media regulatory authorities, public media services, journalists and other media actors
Final beneficiaries	Citizens and society in whole
Expected results	<p><b>Expected result 1:</b> Journalists have a better understanding of their rights, respect ethical rules and are trained to exercise their work in a professional and responsible manner, as recommended under the applicable CoE standards and ECHR case law.</p> <p><b>Expected result 2:</b> The quality of journalism education is improved, notably through introducing new courses, or enhancing existing ones, on the rights and responsibilities of journalists (graduates have better knowledge and understanding of European standards).</p>

**Expected result 3:**

New curricula, new textbooks and other teaching materials are prepared.

**Expected result 4:**

The implementation of the media-related regulatory framework and self-regulation are improved in line with CoE standards and ECHR case law.

Main activities                      Expert meetings, assessments, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, round tables, regional conferences, study visits, studies, expertise.

**8. Strengthening of Internet governance ethics as a tool for increasing the protection of human rights**

Location                              Kosovo\*

Funding                                European Union

Implementation                      Council of Europe

Duration                                18 months

Total project funds requested    € 1 000 000

Main Objective                      To improve the protection of human rights on the Internet, particularly freedom of expression and privacy in line with Articles 10 and 8 of the ECHR

Specific Objectives                **Specific objective 1:**  
Increased cooperation between the CoE and the Government of Kosovo\* on Internet governance and human rights.

**Specific objective 2:**  
Increased knowledge of relevant state authorities about Internet governance principles and human rights standards of the Council of Europe, and the related European Court of Human Rights case-law.

**Specific objective 3:**  
Increased knowledge and awareness of civil society, including media representatives and bloggers on Internet and human rights adopted and promoted by the CoE.

**Specific objective 4:**  
Increased knowledge and capacity of the Internet service providers to protect human rights and Internet governance standards as adopted and promoted by the CoE.

**Specific objective 5:**

Increased capacity of educators and parents to advise and protect children for their safety and human rights on the Internet.

Target groups	Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, media regulatory authorities, public media services, journalists and other media actors
Final beneficiaries	Citizens and society in whole
Expected results	<p><b>Expected result 1:</b> Increased cooperation between the CoE and the Government of Kosovo* on Internet governance and human rights.</p> <p><b>Expected result 2:</b> Increased knowledge of relevant state authorities about Internet governance principles and human rights standards of the Council of Europe, and the related European Court of Human Rights case-law.</p> <p><b>Expected result 3:</b> Increased knowledge and awareness of civil society, including media representatives and bloggers on Internet and human rights adopted and promoted by the CoE.</p> <p><b>Expected result 4:</b> Increased knowledge and capacity of the Internet service providers to protect human rights and Internet governance standards as adopted and promoted by the CoE.</p> <p><b>Expected result 5:</b> Increased capacity of educators and parents to advise and protect children for their safety and human rights on the Internet.</p>
Main activities	Expert meetings, assessments, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, round tables, regional conferences, study visits, studies, expertise.

**9. Supporting Freedom of Expression through professional and ethical Media in Kosovo\***

Location	Kosovo*
Funding	European Union
Implementation	Council of Europe
Duration	36 months

Total project funds requested	€ 750 000
Main Objective	to enhance the professional and technical skills of journalists, media professionals, public officials and the various regulatory and self-regulatory bodies based on CoE Standards and ECtHR jurisprudence
Specific Objectives	<p><b>Specific objective 1:</b> Independence and effectiveness of the bodies responsible for broadcasting regulation enhanced and public-service broadcasting system enabled to better fulfil its remit</p> <p><b>Specific objective 2:</b> Professionalism, responsibility and respect of ethical rules among journalists developed</p> <p><b>Specific objective 3:</b> Media self-regulatory bodies supported</p> <p><b>Specific objective 4:</b> Awareness raised among citizens on media standards and importance of professional media reporting</p>
Target groups	Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, media regulatory authorities, public media services, journalists and other media actors
Final beneficiaries	Citizens and society in whole
Expected results	<p><b>Expected result 1:</b> Independence and effectiveness of the bodies responsible for broadcasting regulation enhanced and public-service broadcasting system enabled to better fulfil its remit</p> <p><b>Expected result 2:</b> Professionalism, responsibility and respect of ethical rules among journalists developed</p> <p><b>Expected result 3:</b> Media self-regulatory bodies supported</p> <p><b>Expected result 4:</b> Awareness raised among citizens on media standards and importance of professional media reporting</p>
Main activities	Expert meetings, assessments, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities, seminars, round tables, regional conferences, study visits, studies, expertise.

\* "All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in the project documents shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo."