

HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

DROITS DE L'HOMME,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT

TURNING POINT FOR MEDIA FREEDOM

Presentation at the conference “Free European Media”
(15-16 February 2018, Gdansk, Poland)

PATRICK PENNINGCKX
HEAD OF INFORMATION SOCIETY DEPARTMENT
COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Köln Carnival, 27 February 2017

Legal guarantees
for the freedom of
expression

Protection of
journalists and other
media actors

Media
independence

Freedom of expression

Media pluralism
and diversity

Protection of
freedom of
expression on the
Internet

Are we going into the right direction ?

- Growing distrust in democratic institutions contributes to delegitimising the press
- Impunity endures: **18 murderers remain free**
- 137 journalists are detained in Turkey, Azerbaijan the Russian Federation and Ukraine.
- 33 violations of Article 10 found by the ECHR in 2017
- Independence of media is undermined by arbitrary shutdown and financial manipulation
- Internet is arbitrary blocked and filtered



Platform Partner Organisations Raise Alarm after Grim Record in 2017 and Urge Close International Scrutiny over the Investigation into Daphne Caruana Galizia's Murder

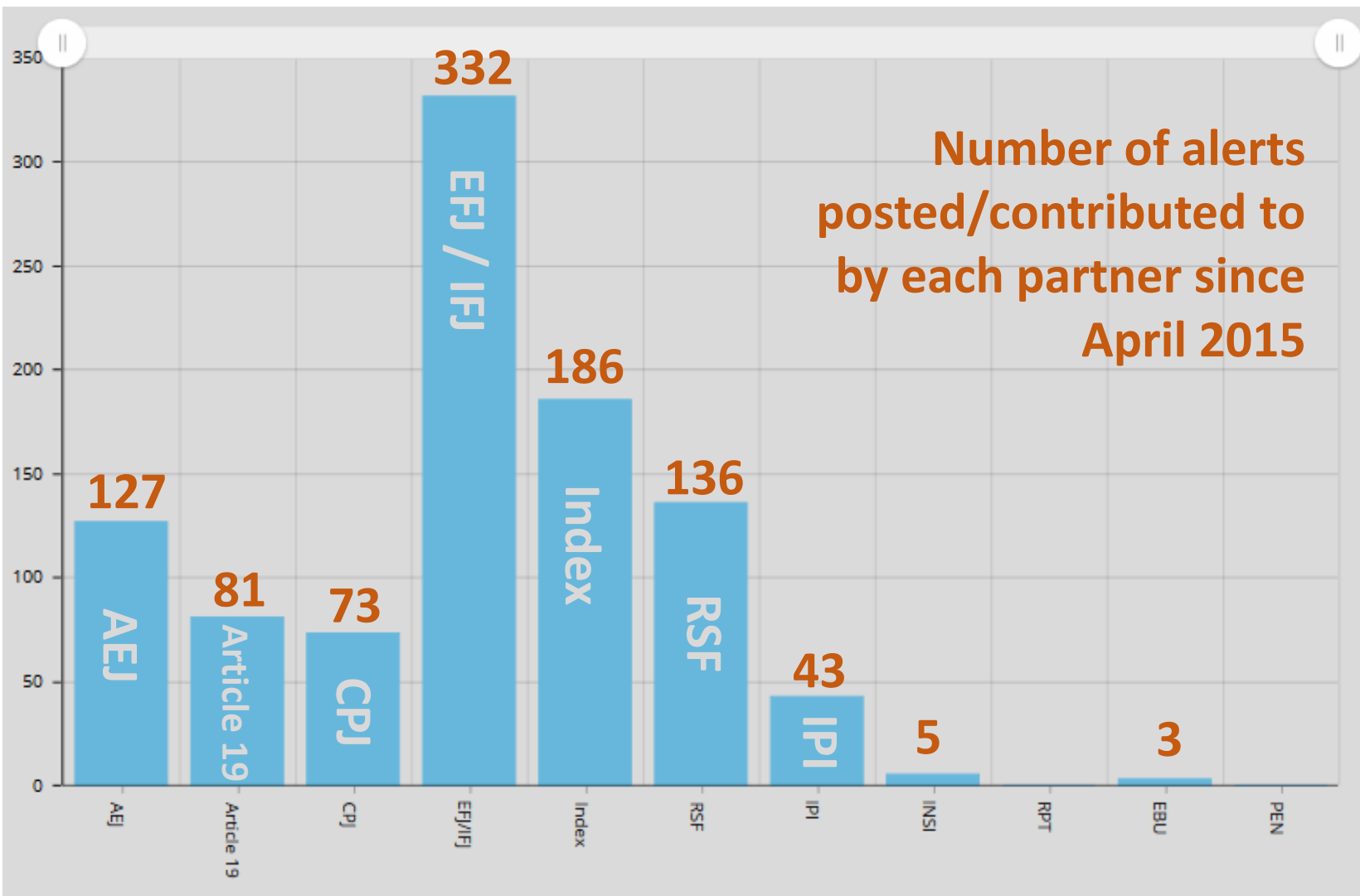
STRASBOURG | 19 JANUARY 2018

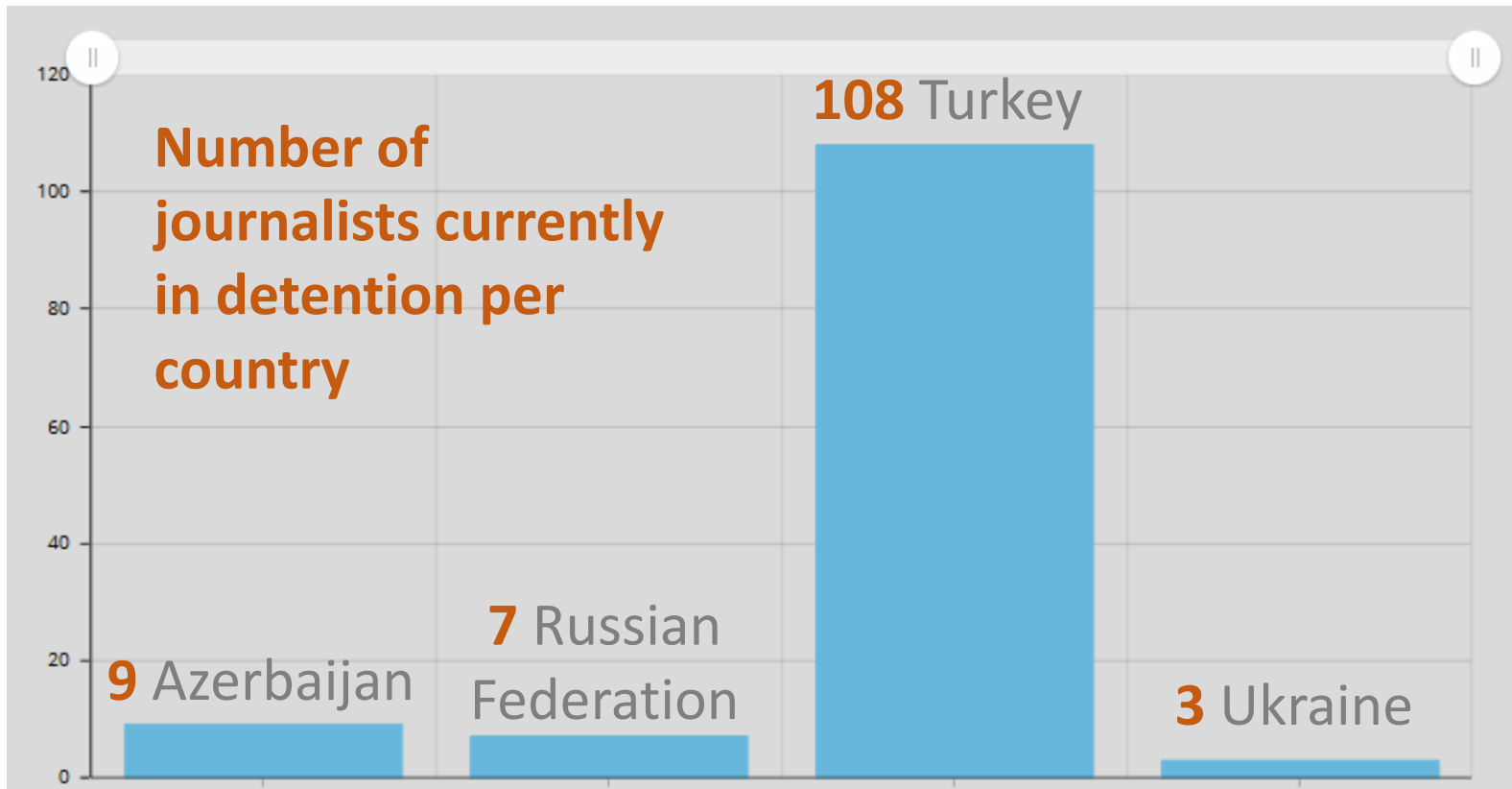
CURRENTLY **126** journalists in detention **14** cases of impunity for murder

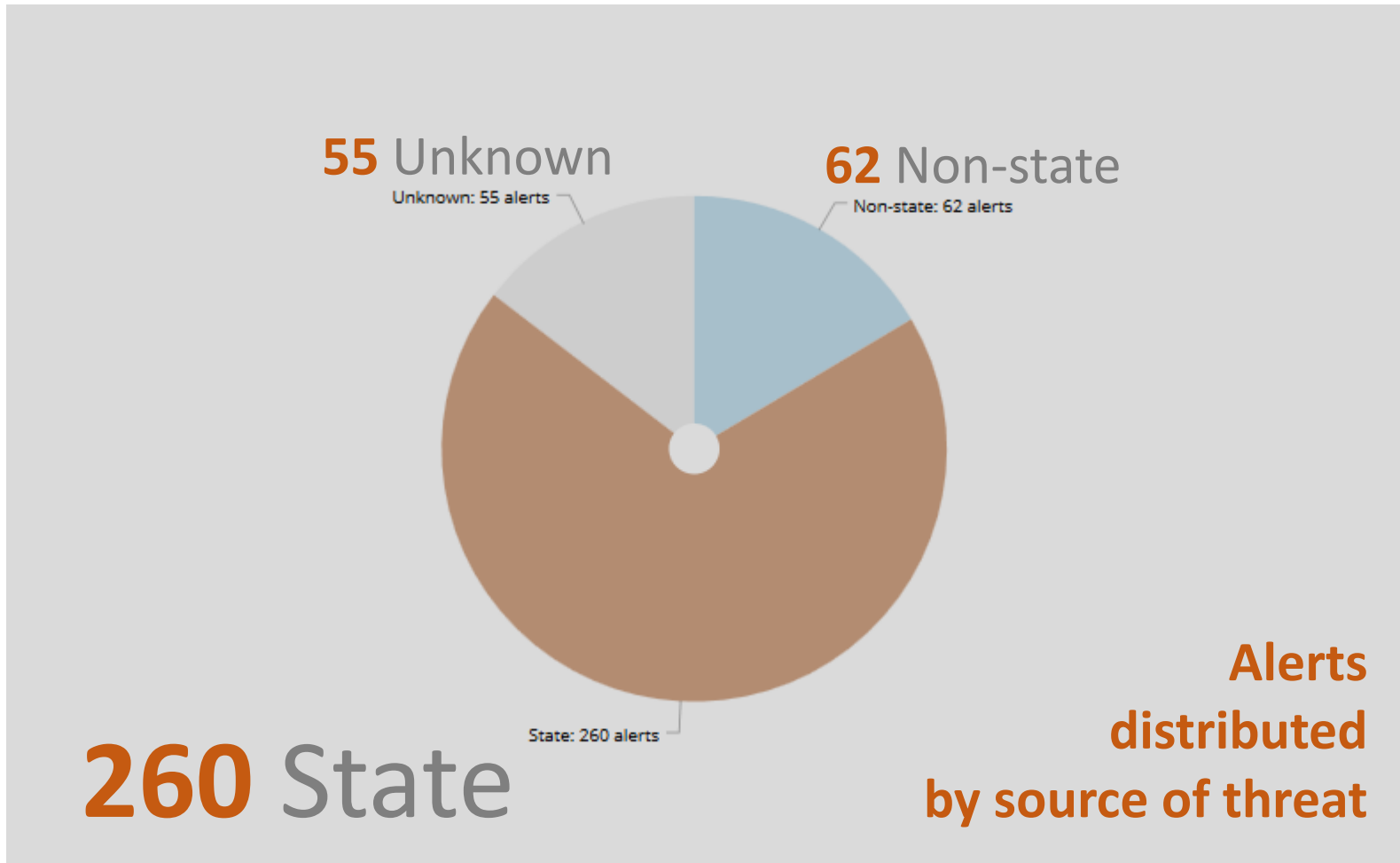


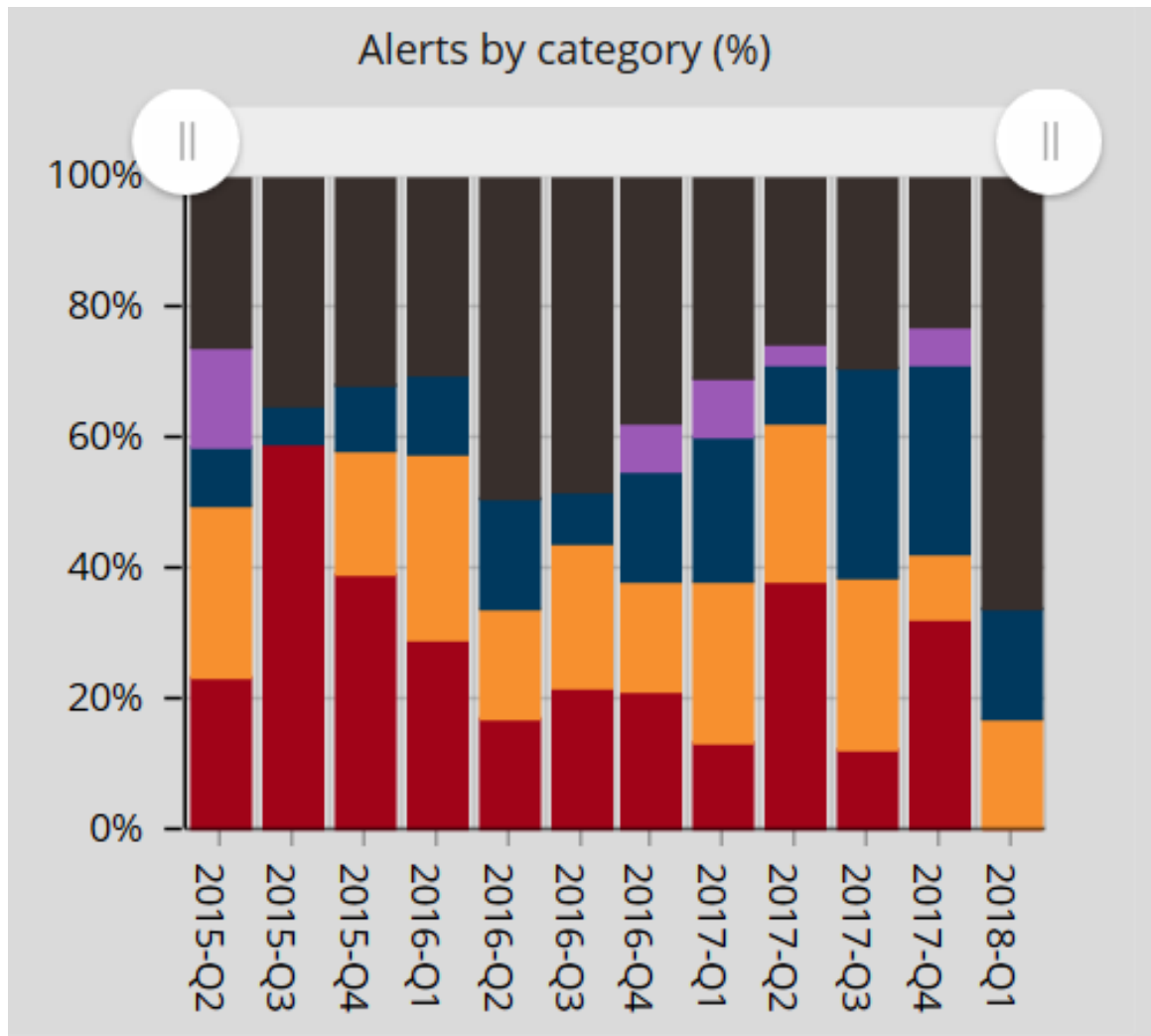
FIGURES SINCE APRIL 2015 (Platform launch date)

[VIEW ALL CHARTS](#)









Acts with chilling effect

Impunity

Harassment

Detention

Physical attacks

377

Total number of registered alerts

55% Alerts with a member state reply or a CoE follow-up

45% Alerts with neither a member state reply nor a CoE follow-up



377

Total number of registered alerts

108

alerts in 25 countries

74

alerts where a
member state
replied

in 2015 since April

157

132

alerts in 29 countries

44

alerts where a
member state
replied

in 2016

REPLIES

131

alerts in 29 countries

39

alerts where a
member state
replied

in 2017

377

ALERTS

6

alerts in 6 countries

0

alert where a
member state
replied

in 2018

Information Disorder Report

First Draft Partner Network Meeting

July 3rd , 2017
Strasbourg

Impact of Closed Networks on the
French Election

Impact of Fighting Fake News as they
Are Being Spread

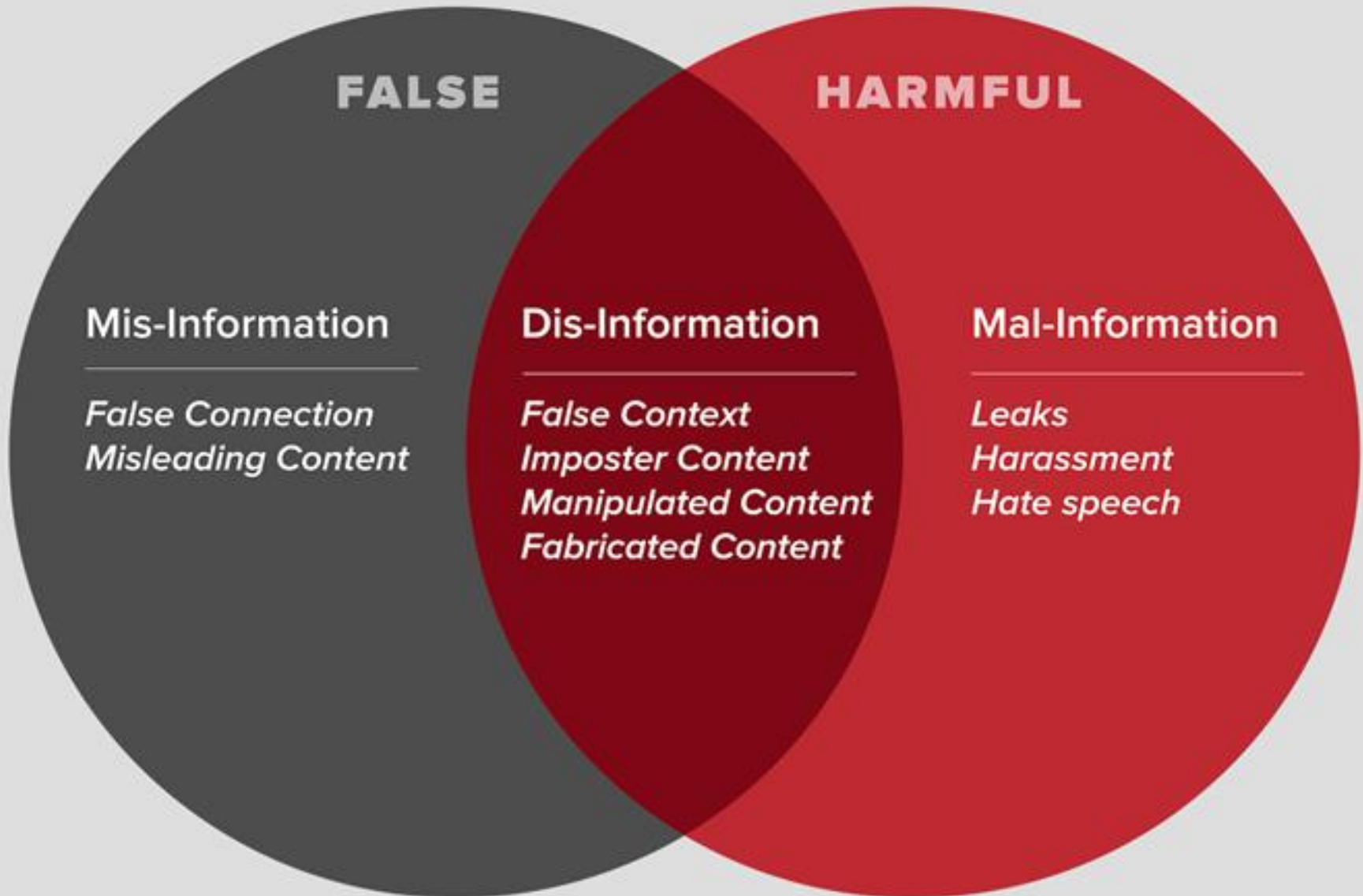
Newship as a Tool for Identifying
whether and how Misinformation is
Spreading Online

Launch of the InVId Verification
Toolbox

CrossCheck project

seminar on fake news and

addressing disinformation



Proposed Actions and Recommendations

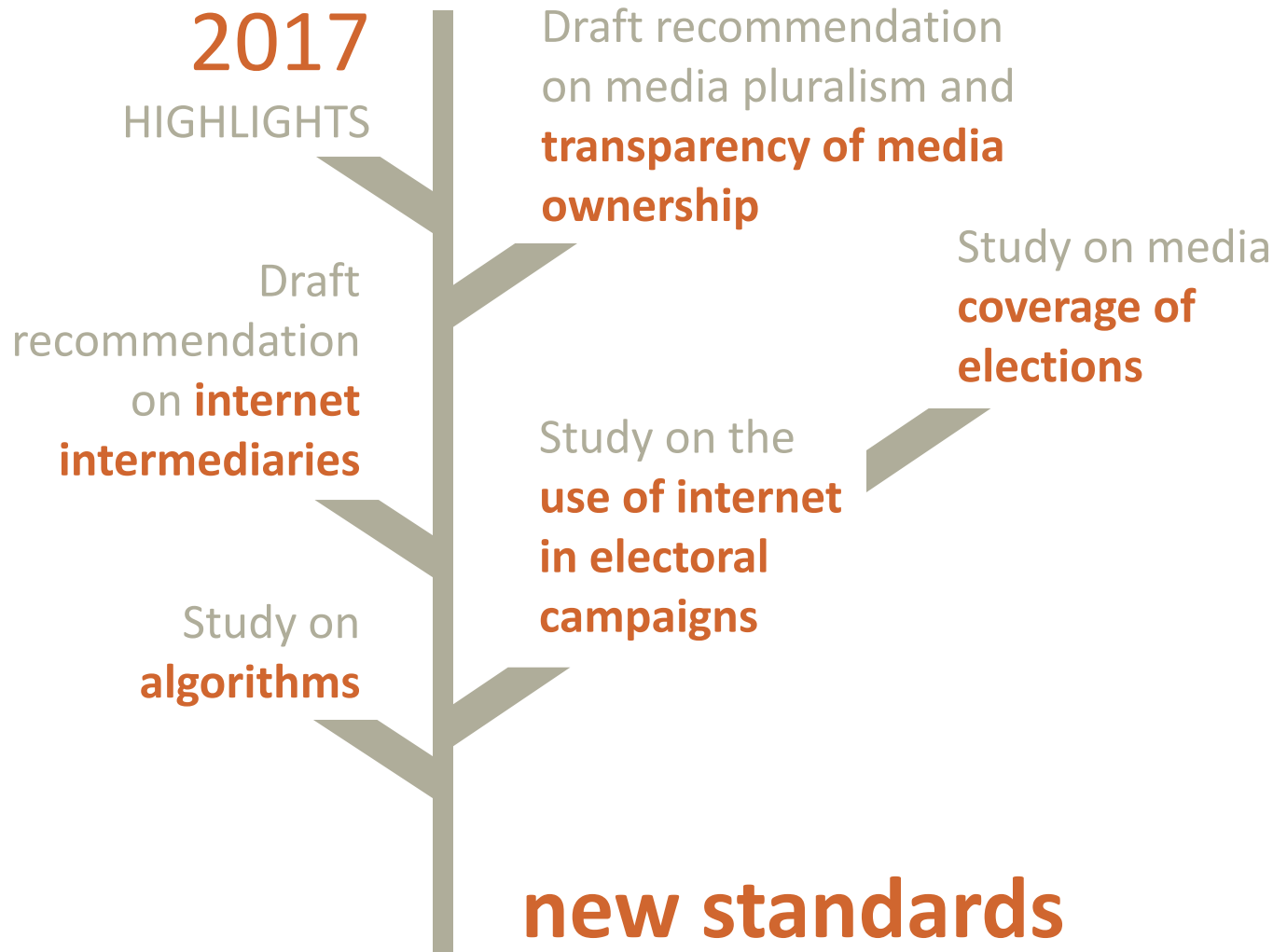
in the Media Field

- 
- **Support professional journalism**
 - **Develop information literacy programmes**
 - **Support the prevention of hate speech**
 - **Promote safety of journalists**

Proposed Actions and Recommendations

to Member States

- Refrain from misusing defamation and anti-terrorism laws
- Ensure effective investigation of offences committed against journalists
- Ratify the Convention on Access to Official Documents
- Assure sustainable funding for public service media

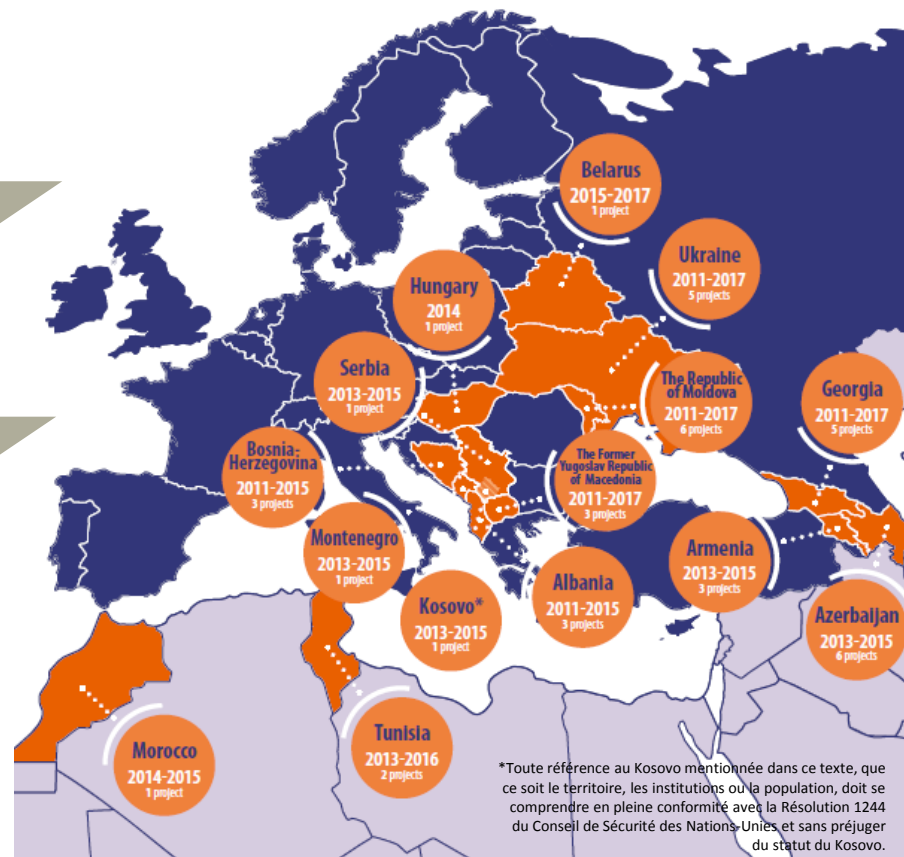


2017

HIGHLIGHTS

Assessments
of national
legislation: Ukraine,
Albania, Poland

12

 Programmes
and Projects

co-operation projects



2018
2020

Recommendation for
quality journalism in the
digital age

Tailored
responses to
**information
disorder**

Study on the liability
and jurisdictional issues
of **defamation laws**

strategy on
digital technologies

 Albania - Albanie Tirana	 Estonia - Estonie Tallinn	 Lithuania - Lituanie Vilnius	 San Marino - Saint-Marin San Marino - Saint-Marin
 Andorra - Andorre Andorre-la-Vieille Andorre-la-Vieille	 Finland - Finlande Helsinki	 Luxembourg Luxembourg	 Serbia - Serbie Belgrade
 Armenia - Arménie Yerevan - Erevan	 France Paris	 Malta - Malte Valletta - La Valletta	 Slovakia - Slovaquie Bratislava
 Austria - Autriche Vienna - Vienne	 Georgia - Géorgie Tbilisi - Tbilissi	 Republic of Moldova - République de Moldova Chişinău	 Slovenia - Slovénie Ljubljana
 Azerbaijan - Azerbaïdjan Baku - Bakou	 Germany - Allemagne Berlin	 Monaco Monaco	 Spain - Espagne Madrid
 Belgium - Belgique Brussels - Bruxelles	 Greece - Grèce Athens - Athènes	 Montenegro - Monténégro Podgorica	 Sweden - Suède Stockholm
 Bosnia and Herzegovina Bosnie-Herzégovine Sarajevo	 Hungary - Hongrie Budapest	 Azerbaijan - Azerbaïdjan Baku - Bakou	 Switzerland - Suisse Bern - Berne
 Bulgaria - Bulgarie Sofia	 Iceland - Islande Reykjavik	 Norway - Norvège Oslo	 "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" "L'Ex-République yougoslave de Macédoirie" Skopje
 Croatia - Croatie Zagreb	 Ireland - Irlande Dublin	 Poland - Pologne Warsaw - Varsovie	 Turkey - Turquie Ankara
 Cyprus - Chypre Nicosia - Nicosie	 Italy - Italie Rome	 Portugal Lisbon - Lisbonne	 Ukraine Kyiv - Kiev
 Czech Republic - République tchèque Prague	 Latvia - Lettonie Riga	 Romania - Roumanie Bucharest - Bucarest	 United Kingdom - Royaume-Uni London - Londres
 Denmark - Danemark Copenhagen - Copenhague	 Liechtenstein Vaduz	 Russian Federation - Fédération de Russie Moscow - Moscou	

