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JOURNALISTS MATTER
Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists



Defending Truth: Comprehensive approaches to journalistic safety and quality journalism

Journalists Matter Campaign - Prevention Pillar

Date: 23 April 2026,

Venue: Mimi Hotel (former Jolly-Alon hotel), 37 Maria Cibotari Street, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Organised under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Concept Note

Organised under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the event aims to address one of the key conditions for resilient democracies: a safe, pluralistic, and trusted information environment. Independent and quality journalism is a cornerstone of democratic life, and when journalists are exposed to intimidation, disinformation - driven harassment, or political pressure, democratic debate is weakened and public trust in institutions is eroded. In this context, the conference contributes to broader Council of Europe efforts to strengthen democratic resilience, and to the [New Democratic Pact](#).

Held within the framework of the [Journalists Matter](#) Campaign (2023 - 2027) and focusing on its prevention pillar, the event advances the Campaign's shift from reactive responses - already addressed during the preceding years under the 'protection' and 'prosecution' pillars - towards early, systemic, and sustainable prevention of threats, pressure or attacks targeting journalists. This forward - looking approach echoes wider priorities to anticipate risks, strengthen institutional and societal resilience, and act before harm occurs. By bringing together public authorities, journalists, media regulators, civil society, youth actors, and international partners, the conference promotes prevention as a shared responsibility.

The event also highlights journalists' safety and quality journalism as mutually reinforcing pillars of democratic resilience, recognising that ethical and trusted journalism reduces vulnerability to polarisation, manipulation, and violence, while effective safety frameworks enable journalists to fulfil their public - interest role. By addressing disinformation, electoral interference, and investigative reporting in high - risk contexts, the conference underlines that protecting journalists is closely linked to safeguarding democratic processes, including elections.

Through a dedicated youth dimension, the conference also reflects the inclusive spirit of the New Democratic Pact, engaging young people as informed citizens and contributors to prevention efforts. In doing so, it offers a practical space where the objectives of the *Journalists Matter* Campaign align with the Council of Europe's broader democratic agenda, translating standards into concrete action to strengthen trust, participation, and democratic resilience across Europe.



This initiative is a contribution towards the
New Democratic Pact for Europe



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AGENDA

08.30 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 - 09.30 Opening session

Moderator: Daniel Voda, IPRE Associated Senior Foreign Policy and StratCom Expert, former speaker of the Government of the Republic of Moldova

Opening address:

- **Cristian Jardan**, Minister of Culture, Republic of Moldova
- **Liliana Nicolaescu - Onofrei**, Chair of the Parliamentary Commission for on Culture, Education, Research, Youth, Sport and Media, Republic of Moldova
- **Roberto Olla**, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe

09.30 - 10.00 International Partner Organisations perspectives

- **Carla - Codrina Fitoiu**, Policy Officer, DG Connect, European Commission
- **Andrea Cairola**, Senior Programme Specialist, Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section, UNESCO

10.00 - 10.20 Mid - term review of the *Journalists Matter* Campaign (2023 - 2025)

- **Artemiza Tatiana Chisca**, Head of the Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, Council of Europe

10.20 - 11.20 Session 1 - Prevention: Field realities, legal and operational responses

- **Viorica Tataru**, TV8 Reporter
- **Giulia Lucchese**, Co - Secretary to CDMSI, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, Council of Europe
- **Anton Ialau**, Head of Media Policy Department, Ministry of Culture, Moldova
- **Flutura Kusari**, Senior Legal Advisor at European Centre for Press & Media Freedom (ECPMF)
- **Q/A**



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11.20 - 11.35 Coffee Break

11.35- 12.45 Session 2 - Quality journalism and trust building

- **Inge Welbergen**, Senior Legal Advisor, Media and Creative Industries Directorate at the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science, the Netherlands, CDMSI member
 - **Viorica Zaharia**, Chair, Press Council of Moldova
 - **Bertrand Mossiat**, Manager, Journalism Trust Initiative, Reporters without Borders
 - **Olga Rudenko**, Editor-in-chief, the Kyiv Independent
 - **Q/A**
-

12.45 - 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 15.30 Session 3 - Journalists' safety in the digital information ecosystem

- **Natalia Zaharescu**, Journalist, Ziarul de Gardă
 - **Petru Macovei**, Director of Association of Independent Press of Moldova
 - **Andrin Eichin**, International Relations, Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC, Federal Office of Communications OFCOM, Switzerland
 - **Aneta Gonta**, Deputy Chair, Audiovisual Council, Moldova
 - **Q/A**
-

15.30 - 15.45 Coffee Break

15.45 - 17.00 Session 4 - Youth path of the *Journalists Matter* Campaign

- **Rodica Ciocina**, *Journalists Matter* Campaign Manager
- **Adam Lambe**, Member of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
- **Mariuța Nistor**, Journalist, Ziarul de Gardă



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- **Stela Untila**, Journalist, NewsMaker
 - **Q/A**
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17.00 - 17.30 Closing Session

- **Roberto Olla**, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
- **Marcela Nistor**, State Secretary, Ministry of Culture of Moldova



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