



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

SOJ(2024)03

Date and venue: 26-27 September 2024, Palais de l'Europe, Room 7, Strasbourg

Seminar

The Role of the Police in the Protection of the Safety of Journalists

Concept

Organised within the framework of the Council of Europe's [Campaign for the Safety of Journalists – Journalists Matter](#), this 2 half-days event will provide an opportunity for participants to explore one of the main areas of concrete support action as highlighted under the **Protection pillar** of the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors.

This event is supported by Germany in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the Fundamental Law of the Federal Republic of Germany and the founding of the German Council of the European Movement. These milestones are deeply interconnected, tracing their roots back to the seminal Congress of Europe in The Hague in May 1948, which served as the catalyst for the democratic reconstruction of Western Europe.

The seminar **aims** at addressing the role of the police in ensuring the safety of journalists doing their job, particularly in the face of increasing threats and attacks witnessed in recent times. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, exchange of good practices, the event is expected to provide both an incentive and tangible support to the implementation of the 'Journalists Matter' Campaign at national level.

Discussion **topics** will look into pathways to improve cooperation between journalists and police members around journalist safety, fostering enhanced comprehension of the role and specificities of journalistic work, the risks that it entails, and related protection needs. Central to the discourse will be the implementation of concrete measures by law enforcement bodies in the field, with a focus on public demonstrations and other events where journalists doing their job may be exposed to safety risks.

Through **interactive sessions** and expert insights, participants will explore existing rules, strategies and best practices in the action of the police forces across Council of Europe member states for enhancing journalist safety, likely to serve as source of inspiration for national policies in the field. Challenges faced in the field in this area, examples of lack/less successful protection measures will also be discussed.

Participants to the event on behalf of the member States will include national focal points for the Campaign/other member states representatives/members of existing national committees for the

Campaign, representatives of police forces, and representatives of journalists' associations, civil society, as well as Council of Europe relevant bodies and partners.

Outcomes:

- The event will facilitate networking opportunities, fostering collaboration among police forces, media organisations, civil society, and other stakeholders to address journalist safety comprehensively and effectively.
- The event will notably allow and promote communication between journalists and the members of the police - an often-missing link for a free media and safe environment for journalists.
- Through discussions and presentations, participants will identify best practices in terms police's action and cooperation mechanisms with journalists for the protection of journalists' safety.
- National attendees will be able to build on Council of Europe standards and best existing practices and initiatives when designing future national action plans and concrete protection measures to be taken by the police forces to safeguard journalists' safety.
- Best practices and existing mechanisms in this area will be collected to fill in the Journalists Matter Campaign data base for future use, information and reference.

Agenda

Day 1- 26 September

13.30-14.00: Registration and Welcome Coffee

14.00-14.30: Opening Session: Introduction of the event and welcoming remarks

Moderator: Peter Ter Velde, Project manager, PersVeilig

- Matjaz Gruden, Director for Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
- Heike Thiele, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Council of Europe
- Bernd Hüttemann, Secretary General, European Movement Germany

14.30-15.00: Setting the scene: Journalist safety challenges and the role of the Police

- Pavol Szalai, Head of EU-Balkans Desk, Reporters Without Borders
- Thomas Tausch, Police Chief Inspector, Federal Ministry of Interior and Community, former Chair of the Council of Europe Police Network, Germany

15.00-16.00: Session 1: Applicable standards, legal frameworks, codes of conduct

- Artemiza-Tatiana Chisca, Head of Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division
- Ali Bozkaya, Lawyer and Freedom of Expression case-law Coordinator at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights
- Peter Noorlander, Council of Europe Consultant, Reporters Shield Adviser
- Rebecca Harms, Vice Director of Executive Board, ECPMF
- Q/A

16.00-16.15 Break

16.15-17.30 Session 2: Addressing specific challenges

- Testimony: Franziska Klemenz, Journalist, Berlin-Table
- Marek Kordik, Associated professor, Faculty of Law, University in Bratislava
- Uliana Zinina, Head of Public Policy, META
- Digital safety trainings: *open floor for examples from the countries*
- Q/A

17.45-19.30 Networking Cocktail

Day 2- 27 September

09:00 – 09:30: Networking and welcome coffee

9.30-11.00 Session 3: Existing practices

Journalists covering public demonstrations and interaction with the police

- Testimony: Bojana Guberac, Freelance journalist, Croatia

Practices from countries:

- Wim Hoonhout, Team Leader and Coordinator, Central Police Central, The Netherlands
- Brigadier Ernst Albrecht, Federal Ministry of Interior, Federal Police, Directorate, Special Police Operations, Austria
- Superintendent Birgit Surauer, Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, for Sports and Integration, Germany
- Jasna Vaniček-Fila, National Focal Point, Director of Directorate for Media and Development of Cultural and Creative Industries, Ministry of Culture and Media, Republic of Croatia
- Martina Lindberg, Crimes against democracy expert and operations developer, National Operations Department, Swedish Police Authority
- Q/A

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.15 Continuation of Session 3 – Existing practices, capacity building and trainings

- Shahin Abbasov, Programme manager, Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression
- Jonathan Price, Barrister, Council of Europe Expert/ Trainer (*online*)
- Inspector Damian Boland, Garda National Crime Prevention Unit, Ireland
- Kai Spurkeland, Police Attorney, Norway
- Q/A

12.15- 12.30: Wrap-and Closing Remarks

- Matjaz Gruden, Director for Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe