

Coordination meeting between EU funded media projects in Western Balkans and Media Days

11-13 September 2019, Podgorica

Back to back to the EU/Western Balkan Media Days, European Union has organised a meeting between representatives of EU funded regional projects and representatives of European Union delegation in charge of media.

“The follow-up to the joint EU/CoE programme JUFREX is conceived to promote freedom of expression and freedom of the media in South-East Europe in line with Council of Europe standards. In the next three years, the programme will use inclusive approach and work with all relevant beneficiaries from judicial training institutions, judges and prosecutors, to police officers, journalists, representatives of media regulatory authorities, students and other media actors – in order to ensure not only education and capacity building but also dialog between all actors relevant for the exercise and protection of freedom of expression and freedom of the media”, said Martina Silvestri, Council of Europe Programme Manager for Actions on Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in South East Europe – JUFREX 2, implemented under the joint EU/CoE Horizontal Facility II for Western Balkans and Turkey. The meeting enabled exchange of information on ongoing activities and plans in the media field and enhanced the synergies both between the regional projects, and also between regional and bilateral activities implemented in this region by international and civil society organisations.

The EU – Western Balkans Media Days were held on 12-13 September 2019. At the opening, Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations addressed participants via video message stressing: “Freedom of media is one of the fundamental principles of the European Union and a key political indicator in the EU accession process. We must and we will continue to work on concrete ways to sustain and increase independent and professional journalism, help use of new technologies and favour regional cooperation, reconciliation and exchanges. The EU-Western Balkans Media Days are an important step in this direction.”

Around 350 representatives of media and civil society organisations as well as policymakers from the Western Balkans and the EU attended the event. Participants discussed the role of media in societal changes, its impact on key reforms on the path towards the EU, also identifying forward-looking actions to strengthen independent media. Please find more information on the EU-Western Balkans Media Days at https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/third-eu-western-balkans-media-days-12-13-september-montenegro-ensuring-media_en