

Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Albania (JUFREX)

What is the goal?

- ▶ to promote freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Albania in line with Council of Europe standards;
- ▶ To increase awareness among members of the judiciary, legal professionals, and police officers of media actors' rights, duties and responsibilities according to European standards and enact them in their case practice;
- ▶ to strengthen the Media Regulator's professional capacities and independence to contribute to its role in safeguarding freedom of the media;
- ▶ to create a media environment which is safer, more pluralistic, and media actors are more aware of their ethical boundaries.

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ national training institutions for legal professionals such as School of Magistrates and Bar Association;
- ▶ Albanian Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA);
- ▶ Albanian Media Council, ResPublica, Faculty of Law and of Journalism;
- ▶ professionals in the field such as judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers, journalists, other media actors, university students, and ultimately the Albanian society at large.

How will the project work?

- ▶ the capacity building activities for various professional categories adopt an interactive methodology for adult learning and peer-to-peer model, while the strong interconnection between regional and local Actions ensures strengthened cooperation and exchange of good practices and lessons learnt;
- ▶ the Action uses an all-inclusive approach in order to generate dialog between the different actors and relevant stakeholders;
- ▶ the action is structured upon three main components addressing specific target groups: (I) judiciary, legal professionals and law enforcement; (II) Media Regulatory Authorities; (III) journalists, other media actors and students.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ members of the judiciary, legal professionals and police officers improve application of European Convention on Human Rights standards and the European Court of Human Rights case-law on freedom of expression and freedom of the media;
- ▶ the professional capacities of the Albanian Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) are strengthened and media community has greater confidence in AMA in terms of safeguarding freedom of media while maintaining independence and impartiality;
- ▶ media actors, parliamentarians, universities, other relevant stakeholders contribute to an enabling environment for freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

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How much will it cost?

- ▶ total budget of the Action: 415,000 EUR;
- ▶ budget allocated to the overall Horizontal Facility programme: 41 Million EUR (85% funded by the European Union, 15% by the Council of Europe).

How to get more information?

- ▶ Directorate General I: Human Rights and Rule of Law: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/jufrex-2>
- ▶ Martina Silvestri, Programme Manager, Martina.SILVESTRI@coe.int, +333 90 216 339
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- ▶ Horizontal Facility website: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility/home>
- ▶ Marija Simić, Horizontal Facility Communication Officer, Marija.SIMIC@coe.int, +381 63 601 337
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About Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey

The “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022” is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe that enables the Beneficiaries to meet their reform agendas in the fields of human rights, rule of law and democracy and to comply with the European standards, including where relevant within the framework of the EU enlargement process. This three-year programme covers actions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, as well as Kosovo* and it is implemented by the Council of Europe from May 2019.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.*

The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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The Member States of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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