

Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Montenegro - JUFREX

What is the goal?

- ▶ To promote freedom of expression and freedom of the media and to improve the application of European standards in this domain
- ▶ To strengthen skills and knowledge of the actors who are responsible to apply such standards as part of their daily work (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, representatives of media regulatory authorities, journalists, students and other media actors)

Who benefits from the Action?

- ▶ Local training institutions for legal professionals (Academy of Judges and Prosecutors and Bar Association);
- ▶ Media Regulatory Authority and Ministry of Culture;
- ▶ Universities/Faculties of Law and Political Science;
- ▶ Association of Professional Journalists and Media Trade Union;
- ▶ Judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers;
- ▶ Students;
- ▶ Civil society organisations;
- ▶ Citizens of Montenegro, who will be able to receive quality information through media content

How will the Action work?

- ▶ The Action builds upon a previous EU/CoE Regional Joint Programme (JUFREX)
- ▶ The capacity building activities for the various professional categories adopt a dynamic methodology for adult learning and peer-to-peer model
- ▶ The action uses an inclusive approach in order to generate dialog between the different actors and relevant stakeholders
- ▶ The strong interconnection between regional and Beneficiary-specific Actions ensure strengthened co-operation, exchange of good practices and lessons learnt

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ Members of the judiciary (Training centre in judiciary and state prosecutor's office), legal professionals (Bar Association of Montenegro) and police officers (Police Academy of Montenegro) improve application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Court case-law on Freedom of Expression
- ▶ Media Regulatory authority's professional capacities are further strengthened (Agency for electronic media, Association of professional journalists and Media Trade Union)
- ▶ Media actors and relevant stakeholders, including Universities contribute to an enabling environment for freedom of expression and freedom of the media

How much will it cost?

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HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY 2019-2022

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- ▶ The total budget of the Action is 500.000 EUR
- ▶ The budget allocated to the overall Horizontal Facility programme amounts to ca. 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
- ▶ Boris Ristovic, Senior Project Officer, Boris.Ristovic@coe.int, +382 69 317 791
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Besnik Baka, Horizontal Facility Communication Officer, Besnik.BAKA@coe.int, +355 69 217 8430

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 46 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.

www.coe.int

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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