



Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Serbia (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 ensure protection of journalists and contribute to creation of enabling, safer and more pluralistic media environment;
- ▶ To strengthen skills and knowledge of the actors who are responsible to apply such standards as part of their daily work, namely: judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, employees of Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media, students and other media actors.

Who benefits from the Action?

- ▶ Training institutions for legal professionals (Judicial Academy and Bar Association of Serbia);
- ▶ Ministry of Interior;
- ▶ Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media;
- ▶ Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade;
- ▶ Ombudsman and journalistic associations;
- ▶ Judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers;
- ▶ Students;
- ▶ Through strengthened freedom of expression and freedom of the media and ensured right to seek, impart and receive information, citizens of Serbia will be able to genuinely participate in democratic processes.

How will the Action work?

- ▶ The Action builds upon a previous EU/CoE Regional Joint Programme Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe (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 JUFREX Regional Action and JUFREX Action in Serbia ensures strengthened co-operation, exchange of good practices and lessons learnt.

What do we expect to achieve?

- ▶ Legal professionals – judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers improve application of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights case-law on freedom of expression;
- ▶ Professional capacities of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media are further strengthened;
- ▶ Faculty of Political Sciences and other relevant stakeholders contribute to an enabling environment for freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

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HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY 2019-2022

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How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the Action is 689.000 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>
- ▶ Maja Stojanovic, Senior Project Officer, Maja.STOJANOVIC@coe.int; +381 11 71 555 10
- ▶ Irena Draskovic, Project Assistant, Irena.DRASKOVIC@coe.int; +381 11 71 555 15
- ▶ 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.

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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