



Regional Action

Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in South-East Europe (JUFREX)

What is the goal?

- ▶ to promote freedom of expression and freedom of the media in line with European standards in this domain;
- ▶ to improve the application of those standards by engaging a range of actors in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, responsible to apply such standards as part of their daily work, namely: judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, representatives of media regulatory authorities and students;
- ▶ to consolidate a platform for regional cooperation, discussion and exchange of good practices

Who benefits from the project?

- ▶ Training Institutions for legal professionals (Judicial Academies and Bar Associations);
- ▶ Ministries of Interior;
- ▶ Regulatory Authorities for Electronic Media;
- ▶ Universities;
- ▶ judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers;
- ▶ students;
- ▶ through strengthened freedom of expression and freedom of the media and better protected right to seek, impart and receive information, citizens of the region are able to genuinely participate in democratic processes.

How will the project 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), implemented from 2016 to 2019;
- ▶ activities for the various professional categories adopt an inclusive approach and a dynamic methodology for adult learning and a peer-to-peer model;
- ▶ the strong interconnection between JUFREX Regional action and JUFREX actions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and 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 the 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 Authorities for Electronic Media are further strengthened;
- ▶ Universities contribute to an enabling environment for freedom of expression and freedom of the media.



How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the action is 740,000 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 do we get more information?

- ▶ Directorate General I: Human Rights and Rule of Law:
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/ufrex-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 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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