

**Steering Committee on Media
and Information Society –
CDMSI**



28 March 2018

**Implementation Strategy for Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 on
the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists and Other
Media Actors**

- 1)** Identify priority areas of implementation of CM/Rec(2016)4. To this end, devise a questionnaire for NGOs and journalist associations active in the area of safety of journalists asking them to rate the importance of the indicators against which progress in the implementation of the Recommendation can be assessed, identified for each pillar of the Recommendation.
- 2)** Once the priority areas have been identified, request NGOs and journalist associations active in the area of safety of journalists to identify best practices in those areas. To that end:
 - ✓ Send a request for input by e-mail
- 3)** Draft an implementation/Technical guide to the recommendation on the priority area/s identified by civil society
 - a)** Intermediary steps:
 - i)** Send a Questionnaire with detailed questions to the authorities on the implementation of the areas of the Recommendation identified as priority by civil society.
 - ii)** Once responses are collected from the authorities on the implementation of the areas of the Recommendation identified as priority, compile best practices and include them in the Implementation/Technical Guide.
 - b)** Aims and objectives of the implementation/Technical guide:
 - ✓ Explain and provide context to the recommendation;

- ✓ Establish indicators for the protection of journalism and safety of Journalists and other media actors against which progress in the implementation of the Recommendation can be assessed;
 - ✓ Identify current best practices on the basis of studies carried out by relevant international organizations, the input provided by NGOs and journalist associations and contributions provided by Member States.
 - ✓ Offer suggestions for implementation.
 - ✓ Offer a self-assessment tool for Member States in the form of a questionnaire to help them review the state of implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 in their jurisdiction.
- 4)** Send the Implementation/Technical Guide to Journalists and Journalist associations for comments.
 - 5)** Organise regular exchange on best practices, where appropriate also with law enforcement officials, in which best practices will be discussed and practical difficulties and challenges shared, the aim being to encourage MS to seek inspiration from the compilation of best practices and use it in ways which advances the aim of the Recommendation.
 - 6)** Launch a database on the Media and Internet website with the list of best practices divided by pillars, which would be updated on a rolling basis. The best practices could be a law, case-law, procedure, institution or institutional practice, cooperative initiative, training programme, promotional measure, etc. Each example should be accompanied by a description of the features that explain *why it functions well and should be regarded as a best practice*.
 - 7)** Use the Implementation/Technical Guide as a manual for training on the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists, including in the context of Council of Europe co-operation activities. The Manual could also include results of the analysis made on the specific risks which journalists face, contained in the Study Journalists under pressure. Training would specifically be addressed to journalists so that they are familiar with their rights, as well as law enforcement authorities, prosecutors and the judiciary to improve the protection of journalists and in order to stem impunity. In this connection, synergies with the HELP programme (European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) and with the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists, should be sought.
 - 8)** Draft a comparative study on the implementation of the identified priority areas of the Recommendation. As a first step identify a number of willing countries with whom to pilot the comparative study (Netherlands, Sweden).