

EVALUATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE SUPPORT TO THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (2019)



Evaluation covered activities of

- Secretary General
- Committee of Ministers
- Parliamentary Assembly
- European Court of Human Rights
- Commissioner for Human Rights
- Venice Commission
- Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists
- Media and Internet Governance Division
- Steering Committee on Media and Information Society

Time period covered: 2014-2018

Methodology

6 country case studies: Georgia, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Tunisia and Ukraine

12 cooperation projects assessed

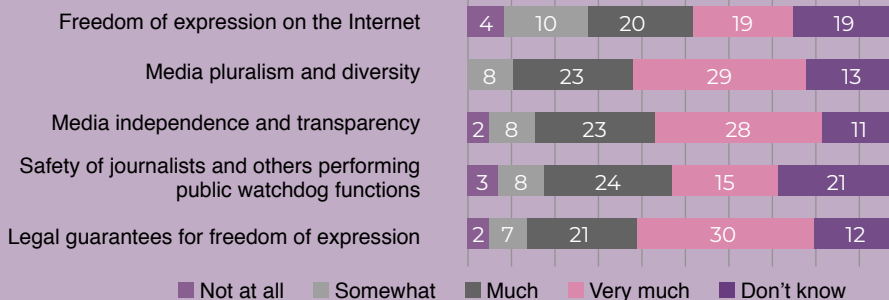
103 semi-structured interviews with CoE staff, national authorities, representatives of media and civil society, experts

82 quantitative survey responses

5 Evaluation Criteria: Relevance, Effectiveness, Coherence and Coordination, Added Value, Sustainability

1 Inclusive and participatory evaluation process

Perceived effectiveness of Council of Europe activities per thematic area



STRENGTHS

- Platform for protection of journalism promotes compliance with CoE standards
- Task Force on Freedom of Expression ensures coherence of action
- Adequate thematic coverage
- Member States, international organisations and civil society effectively use CoE standards
- Cooperation activities:
 - offer expertise,
 - are comprehensive,
 - are aligned with needs of member States
- Sustainability through systematic involvement of civil society and multipliers
- The Court and the Commissioner are the most known defenders of standards

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish an overarching strategy
- Prioritise capacity development for civil society and ombudspersons
- Strengthen human resources in the field on specific thematic areas
- Strengthen leadership and coordination by designating an advisor/representative
- Ensure translation and dissemination of CoE products
- Increase visibility of the Platform for the protection of journalism