



COUNCIL
OF EUROPE
CAMPAIGN FOR
**THE SAFETY OF
JOURNALISTS**



JOURNALISTS MATTER
Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

CAMPAGNE
DU CONSEIL DE
L'EUROPE POUR
**LA SÉCURITÉ DES
JOURNALISTES**



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Context

As documented by the **Platform for the protection of journalism and safety of journalists** and highlighted by the **Annual Reports of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe**, the last decade witnessed a rising number of threats to journalists' safety and security throughout member states.

A number of policy documents have been issued to address it, including in particular the **Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4** on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors and its **Implementation guide** "How to protect journalists and other media actors?"

The **Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society** held in June 2021 invited the Council of Europe to carry out a comprehensive campaign at European level dedicated to the promotion of the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists, as provided for in a related Resolution.

Objectives

The Campaign aims to raise awareness, stimulate effective tackling of pressing issues and ultimately increase the safety of journalists and other media actors in all situations by:

- ▶ **promoting** the setting up of corresponding campaigns at national level;
- ▶ **changing** the situation effectively and significantly in practice;
- ▶ **providing** help to the development of appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at national level;
- ▶ **encouraging** states to take measures towards the adoption of national Action Plan for the safety of journalists.

Target groups

- ▶ **Journalists** will be called to play a crucial role in campaigning for their safety and media freedom in general;
- ▶ **Press councils**, national and international associations and institutions dealing with media freedom and journalists' rights will be called to enhance their involvement in and support to the protection of journalists' safety;
- ▶ **Media outlets** will be called to more effectively and actively contribute to protecting journalists' safety;
- ▶ **Judges, prosecutors, law enforcement** and other relevant public authorities will be called to raise their awareness and enhance their capacity for a more effective protection of the journalists' safety;
- ▶ **Public officials**, elected bodies and political parties will be called to improve the policies and legislations affecting journalists' safety and the freedom of expression;
- ▶ **Civil society**, including relevant independent human rights institutions will be called to take proactive steps and sensitise public authorities and the society in general on the situation in the field.
- ▶ **Educational institutions**, including secondary schools and universities, to provide information about relevant aspects concerning the safety of journalists, engage in the discussion, provide inputs and increase awareness and sense of urgency to act against journalists' threats to safety.

Methodology

Four thematic events throughout the duration of the campaign:

- Protection
- Prosecution
- Prevention
- Promotion of information, education and awareness raising

Each thematic session will include the presentation of best practice examples and discussion of priority areas to identify aspects deserving further consideration and ground-breaking solutions. As outcome, the relevant section of a model national action plans will be produced, with a view to facilitate a more effective implementation of legislative and other frameworks.

National Chapters - the Council of Europe will encourage, accompany and facilitate the organisation of 'national chapters' by the member States according to the national needs identified in cooperation with the national committees. National activities could take the form of thematic sessions, training programmes and awareness-raising activities linked to the scope of the campaign, including through Council of Europe's cooperation activities and projects in the field. The support will be provided also by ensuring the participation of relevant stakeholders, such as representing staff and experts, and mobilising, as appropriate, the partners/activists for change such as journalists and their associations, media, NGOs, politicians, IGOs and governmental representatives. Such activities will follow the launch event but may be organised in preparation of, or as a follow-up to, the yearly Council of Europe thematic event.

Implementation

- ▶ CDMSI was tasked by the Committee of Ministers with the launch and coordination of the campaign.
- ▶ **States' designated national focal point** and further on - **national coordination multi-stakeholder structures** in charge of coordination of related activities at domestic level and will take steps for the improvement of the journalists' safety, including the adoption of **national action plans** and other specific **protection mechanisms**.
- ▶ **Annual meetings** with the national focal points will be organised by the Council of Europe.

Campaign partners

- ▶ **Key international partners**, such as the Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists and its Partner organisations;
- ▶ **Relevant services of international organisations** such as the United Nations, notably UNESCO; the European Union; the Office of the OSCE Representative on Media Freedom, and others;
- ▶ **Other relevant stakeholders** acting as campaign partners, such as journalists and volunteers;
- ▶ **Prominent personalities**, e.g., internationally renowned journalists, human rights activists and political authorities.

Expected results

- ▶ enhance protection
- ▶ increase awareness
- ▶ join forces

Journalists across Europe enjoy a safe environment they need to play freely and more assertively their role of "public watchdogs".

National Action Plans - where relevant - are adopted.

Enhanced legal and institutional safeguards are in place.

Effective remedies against the attacks against journalists and other media actors are set up.

Better investigations of crimes against journalists and proper sanctioning of perpetrators are effective.

Increased awareness of the positive role of journalists is acknowledged both by the general public and the decision makers in 46 member States.

Roadmap

Activities 2023

- ▶ 5 October 2023 – launch of the Campaign in Riga, under the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.
- ▶ Creation and first meeting of the network of national focal points;
- ▶ Launch of the revised Implementation guide;
- ▶ Elaboration of a "Pocket Guide, an action scheme for the safety of journalists";

Activities 2024

- ▶ Thematic event on protection;
- ▶ National and regional meetings on selected topics;
- ▶ Annual meeting of national focal points;

Activities 2025

- ▶ Thematic event on prosecution;
- ▶ National and regional meetings on selected topics;
- ▶ Annual meeting of national focal points;
- ▶ Mid-term review;

Activities 2026

- ▶ Thematic event on prevention;
- ▶ National and regional meetings on selected topics;
- ▶ Annual meeting of national focal points;

Activities 2027

- ▶ Thematic event on promotion;
- ▶ National and regional meetings on selected topics;
- ▶ Final review and Closing event.

Contact points

The campaign is coordinated by the Media and Internet Governance Division, Information Society Department.

The contact points are:

- ▶ Artemiza Chisca (artemiza-tatiana.chisca@coe.int)
- ▶ Rodica Ciocina (rodica.ciocina@coe.int)
- ▶ Giulia Lucchese (giulia.lucchese@coe.int)