



MEDIA AND INTERNET CO-OPERATION PROJECTS

The Council of Europe provides demand-driven human rights expertise and assistance to media and new-media actors, as well as guidance to governments and media regulatory authorities with the aim to facilitate democratic transition and to foster an enabling environment for freedom of expression across Europe and in its neighbourhood.

Brief overview of the Council of Europe cooperation projects to enhance freedom of expression in Europe and beyond

Capacity
Building

Information
Society

www.coe.int/freedomofexpression

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Promoting standards

Assistance and co-operation activities are instrumental in promoting the implementation of Council of Europe standards in the fields of freedom of expression and information and media freedom, both online and offline.

These standards encompass the principles enshrined in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights and various policy instruments (recommendations, declarations and guidelines) adopted by its 47 member states.

Addressing evolving needs

Assistance work in the media field began in the late 90s to support the processes of democratisation in Central and South East European countries, the South Caucasus region, Ukraine, Moldova, Turkey and the Russian Federation.

Since then, the Organisation responds to the challenges of a changing media environment by providing human rights expertise and assistance to media and new media actors, as well as guidance to governments and independent regulatory authorities in its member states and more recently in the Southern Mediterranean Region.

Providing expertise

The Council of Europe's action in the fields of media and internet includes:

- ▶ preparing legal opinions and recommendations to improve the media and internet-related legislation and policy as well as its implementation;
- ▶ training different actors, including public officials, journalists, media professionals, civil society representatives, media regulatory authorities, university professors and students, judges, lawyers, prosecutors and law enforcement agents;
- ▶ developing training curricula on- and off-line;
- ▶ conducting research and studies;
- ▶ sharing best practices, in particular by organising exchanges and visits for media and state actors;
- ▶ reinforcing the press councils and the creation of networks;
- ▶ support the development of codes of ethics and codes of conduct;
- ▶ translating and publishing European instruments and tools, such as handbooks, online courses, compilations and analysis of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights in the languages of the Council of Europe member states.

Implementing ongoing projects

During the last two decades the Council of Europe has developed and implemented over 40 projects in member states and partner countries promoting media freedom. This was done with the help of an extensive network of experienced experts and prominent partners. The Council of Europe's budget, the joint programmes with the European Union, the voluntary contributions by the member states and other donors enabled the implementation of multi-year programmes, regional and/or country-specific projects.

The portfolio of co-operation projects evolves continuously and currently focuses on:

- ▶ AZERBAIJAN - Reinforcing gender equality and other ethical standards in media;
- ▶ GEORGIA - Supporting freedom of media and internet;
- ▶ MOLDOVA - Promoting European standards in the audio-visual regulation;
- ▶ MOROCCO - Promoting freedom of expression and media pluralism;
- ▶ REGIONAL PROGRAMME - Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in South-East Europe (JUFREX);
- ▶ ALBANIA - Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Albania (JUFREX);
- ▶ BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina (JUFREX);
- ▶ BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – Human rights reporting and the role of media;
- ▶ BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – Media literacy and combating Hate Speech;
- ▶ KOSOVO* - Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Kosovo* (JUFREX);
- ▶ MONTENEGRO - Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Montenegro (JUFREX);
- ▶ NORTH MACEDONIA - Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in North Macedonia (JUFREX);
- ▶ SERBIA - Freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Serbia (JUFREX);
- ▶ SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN – promoting freedom of expression a positive role of the media in combating gender stereotypes and violence against women;
- ▶ TUNISIA - Support for independent bodies;
- ▶ UKRAINE - EU and Council of Europe working together to support freedom of media in Ukraine;

Developing partnerships

In order to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the work, during the past decade co-operation has been established with many other international and national governmental and non-governmental organisations such as EU, UNESCO, OSCE, EBU, EPRA, etc.

* All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.