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 national 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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Promoting standards

Assistance and co-operation activities are instrumental in promoting the implementation of the 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.

Adressing 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, broadcasting regulatory authorities, data protection authorities, judges, lawyers and prosecutors;

► developing curriculum modules;

► conducting research and studies;

► sharing best practices, in particular by organising exchanges and visits for media and state actors;

► supporting the press councils and the creation of networks;

► developing codes of ethics and codes of conduct;

► translating and publishing European instruments and tools, such as handbooks, in the languages of the Council of Europe member states.

Implementing ongoing projects

During this decade the Council of Europe has developed and implemented over 20 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.

Number of projects per country from 2011 until 2017

* 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.

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

► Addressing challenges of the information society in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus (eight projects covering media, internet governance and data protection);

► Reinforcing judicial expertise on freedom of expression and the media in Southeast Europe (JUFREX);

► Promoting freedom of expression, media independence and plurality in Morocco;

► Promoting media freedom and pluralism in the Republic of Moldova;

► Promoting freedom of expression, independence and plurality in Tunisia ;

► Strengthening freedom of media and establishing a public broadcasting system 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.