

Assistance and co-operation work in the field of media and freedom of expression

Assistance and co-operation activities are the essential tools for promoting the practical implementation of the Council of Europe's standards as regards freedom of expression, of information and of media. This work targeted at the organisation's 47 member states has recently expanded to other countries such as Morocco, Tunisia and Belarus.

The assistance and co-operation activities include legal expertise, training programmes, seminars, conferences and other events with the participation mainly of public officials, media professionals and civil society. The constant strive to look for links and synergy between the various projects is an added value of co-operation activities. Best practices and results achieved are constantly shared with others through bilateral and regional networking.¹

The overwhelming part of the assistance and co-operation work is supported by external funding – mainly from the European Union and Council of Europe member states. Eight externally financed cooperation projects are currently underway amounting to 6 088 000 Euros in total (part of it dedicated to data protection). One of the projects (JUFREX 2) is in fact a broad programme which includes one regional and six national actions.

The projects are implemented by twenty-some team members (some of them employed only half time). This number is constantly shifting. Some team members are based in Strasbourg but most of them are in the field. The staff costs are covered by the projects' budgets, i.e. by extra budgetary funds.

Proper Council of Europe funds – the so-called ordinary budget – cover only a few activities per year. As to staff, the ordinary budget pays only the salary of one staff member – the Head of the Cooperation Unit. The cooperation team, i.e. everyone else, is expected to implement the externally-funded projects under which they are employed. In reality, they, together with the head of the unit, have to take on numerous other responsibilities such as developing new project proposals, contributing to general Council of Europe reporting and information requests and providing help in organising activities under the ordinary budget.

Even under these difficult circumstances, the team has managed to develop numerous project proposals for external funding. At this point, eight of them (included in this document) stand realistic chances of being funded in the immediate future. This is clearly not a sustainable situation.

In order to keep up with the increasing need for guaranteeing and promoting freedom of expression in Council of Europe member states and in neighbouring countries, the cooperation team continues to need staff reinforcements to deal, among other things, with new project development and with the organisation of activities financed by the ordinary budget.

Last but not least, externally-funded projects rarely follow one after the other without interruption. Financing to cover these gaps needs to be systematically ensured in order to retain the professional, experienced project staff and to ensure that the momentum achieved with beneficiaries and partners in the target countries is maintained.

¹ More information on our projects on our website: http://val-www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/media/default_en.asp and our Facebook page: [Information Society Group](#)

ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Gender equality and media freedom in Azerbaijan

Beneficiary	Azerbaijan
Funding	Council of Europe (voluntary contributions)
Duration	16 months (1 March 2018 – 30 June 2019)
Total funds	€ 250 000
Objective	To promote gender equality in and through media in Azerbaijan: media contributes to changing attitudes and eliminating gender stereotypes and promotes gender equality and women's empowerment; and the general public has increased opportunity to access more information on gender equality through media.
Specific objectives	<p>Review and update the Code of Ethics for journalists from a gender equality perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Promoting CoE standards on gender equality and media freedom as well as updated Code of Ethics for journalists among journalists and media professionals in Baku and regions- Improving the quality of journalism education by developing new curriculum and teaching course on Gender equality and media freedom
Partners	Azerbaijan Press Council; Trade Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan; Women Journalists Association of Azerbaijan; Journalism faculties of the Baku State University, Baku Slavic University and Azerbaijan University of Languages
Target groups	Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Republic; Azerbaijan Press Council
Final beneficiaries	Azerbaijan Press Council; Trade Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan; Women Journalists Association of Azerbaijan; Journalism faculties of Baku State University, Baku Slavic University and Azerbaijan University of Languages; journalists; media professionals, the general public

Expected results

- Code of Ethics for journalists is more in line with the CoE standards on gender equality and media freedom and envisages specific provisions on media coverage of gender equality issues
- Journalists have a better understanding on media coverage of gender equality issues, respect ethical rules and are trained on CoE standards on gender equality and media freedom
- The Council of Europe standards on gender equality and media have been translated into Azerbaijani and available online
- The quality of journalism education is improved through new curriculum and teaching course on Gender equality and media freedom

Main activities

Legal expertise, expert meetings, training sessions, conference, awareness raising activities

2. Council of Europe Action plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021 – Support to the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Funding

Council of Europe

Duration

7 months (May 2019 – December 2019)

Total funds

€ 73 000

Main Objective

The overall objective of the project is to support the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the Action Plan 2018 – 2021.

Expected results

1. Review of the legal framework on media freedom in BiH and the most common breaches
2. Creation of recommendations on journalist reporting from human rights perspective, including the spokespersons and PR staff of public institutions
3. Study-Compilation of the practice on reporting on marginalised groups in BiH media, for the purpose of promoting counter-narratives, or good practice.

Target groups

Journalists and other media actors, spokespersons and PR staff of public institutions, legislator, media NGOs.

Main activities

- 1 international expert will lead the process and coordinate the work of the international and local experts with local stakeholders and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, who requested the action, as well as other Ministries that may be concerned.
- 2 international and 1 local media/legal experts will be engaged for the analysis of legal framework for media freedom in Bosnia and Herzegovina (most probably to include: defamation

laws, law on free access to information, draft laws on transparency of media ownership and protection of media pluralism and on advertising).

- Upon the analysis they will draft recommendations on how to bring the relevant legislation in line with European standards.

- The experts will also provide a compilation of good practices on reporting on marginalised groups and other relevant recommendations on journalistic reporting from a human rights perspective, addressing journalists, media actors and spokespersons and PR staff of public institutions.

- In order to do so, a country visit will take place in BiH, in order to interview the stakeholders in preparation of the analysis/recommendations.

- The legal analysis and recommendations will be made available to the Ministry while other studies and recommendations will be published and distributed to journalists and media professionals.

- In order to raise awareness on the issues at stake at country level, 2 events will be organised, namely: a press conference at the beginning of the action, and the promotion of the publication at the end.

3. Supporting Freedom of Media and Internet in Georgia

Beneficiary Georgia

Funding VC within the CoE Action Plan for Georgia 2016-2019

Duration 24 months (1 February 2019 – 31 January 2021)

Total funds € 540 000

Main Objective (Impact) The overall objective of the project is to promote freedom of expression, freedom of the media and internet in line with CoE standards, to contribute to establishment of professional, ethically responsible and diverse media landscape and ensure that citizens have access to remedies to guarantee human rights protection on the internet.

Expected results

(Intermediate outcomes)

Component 1:

Legal and policy framework and practice on audio-visual services and media literacy are brought in line with the CoE and European standards.

Component 2:

Professionalism, responsibility and respect of ethical rules among journalists is further improved.

Component 3:

Further development and proper implementation of Internet

related legal framework and regulations is ensured.

Component 4:

The protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is strengthened through the reinforcement of the protection of individuals with regard to their right to privacy and right to data protection.

Main beneficiaries and target groups

National Communications Commission (GNCC) (including Media Literacy Department), Charter of Journalistic Ethics, Journalistic faculties of national universities, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Small and Medium Telecom operators Association, Data protection Inspectorate. Journalists, internet intermediaries.

Immediate outcomes

Regulatory Authority

- The national regulator (National Communications Commission) has internal guidelines and its staff has skills and knowledge to properly apply those guidelines designed to implement the new legislative framework in line with CoE standards.

Self-regulation

- The self-regulatory body has capacity and tools to counter hate speech in media, promote gender equality in media and address other relevant issues with regard to ethical journalism.

Media actors

- Media literacy programs, publications are developed and available for general public, youth and journalism students.

Internet stakeholders

- The national regulatory framework is developed with regard to on-demand services and online copyright issues, safety of children online.

4. Horizontal Facility – Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe – one regional and six national actions (JUFREX 2)

Beneficiaries	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo ² , Montenegro and Serbia
Funding	Council of Europe/European Union - Joint Programme
Duration	36 months (May 2019 – May 2022)
Total funds	€ 3 700 000

² All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text, shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Main Objective (Impact) The overall objective of the Programme is to promote freedom of expression and freedom of the media in line with CoE standards. In particular, legal professionals and police officers are more aware of media actors' rights, duties and responsibilities according to European standards on freedom of expression and the media and enact them; the capacities of Media Regulatory Authorities are reinforced; the media environment is safer and more pluralistic.

Expected results
(Intermediate outcomes) The JUFREX Programme continues to be structured upon 6 national actions and a regional one. Expected outcomes and outputs are similar for all actions with few specifications.

Component 1:

Members of the judiciary, legal professionals and police officers' awareness of European standards on freedom of expression and freedom of the media, with a specific focus on protection of journalists, is further strengthened. National training institutions' capacities to provide trainings on freedom of expression and freedom of the media are further developed.

Component 2:

Media Regulatory authorities' capacities are reinforced with a focus on specific topics, such as independence of regulator, media literacy, information disorder, FoE online.

Component 3:

Universities are more aware of their role and the relevant issues, have better understanding on the FoE related topics and are more able to contribute to an enabling environment for freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

Target groups Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, media regulatory authorities, parliamentarians, journalists and other media actors, students.

Immediate outcomes
(Regional)

1 Legal professionals

- Training material on Article 10 ECHR related issues is made available, both online and on paper, for adaptation to national contexts.
- Regional forum of legal trainers on FoE – including judges, prosecutors and lawyers, is maintained to exchange good practices and provide mutual support for the development of domestic case-law in line with ECtHR case law on media issues, namely Article 6, 8 and 10.
- Police officers' role to protect journalists is reinforced and supported through the regional network.

2 Regulatory Authority

- Regional co-operation between media regulators is continued and improved; exchange of good practices and lessons learnt is regularly maintained.

3 Media actors

- Students of Faculties of Law and Journalism are aware of Council of Europe standards on Freedom of expression and the media.

Immediate outcomes
(National actions)

1 Legal professionals

- Attendees of trainings seek further information and ways to apply newly acquired knowledge on FoE.
- Regular pre-service and in-service training on topics related to FoE are provided to judges and prosecutors. In-service training for lawyers on the topics is provided.
- Police officers' understanding of their role to protect journalists in line with CoE standards is reinforced.

2 Regulatory Authority

The media regulatory authority works proactively on strengthening media freedoms through work on topics related to EU standards on commercial communications, media concentration and transparency of media ownership, media literacy, hate speech, collective management of re-transmission rights, access to media for people with sensory disabilities etc.

3 Media actors

- Dialogue is established between different categories, including journalists, parliamentarians and police officers on protection of journalists and the role of the media in a democratic society.
- Students show increased interest in FoE and Freedom of the media related matters.

Projet d'appui aux instances indépendantes en Tunisie



5. Support to the National Independent Authorities PAII-T

Beneficiary	Tunisia
Funding	CoE-EU Joint Project PAII-T
Duration	36 months (January 2019 – January 2022)
Total funds	€ 600 000
Objectives	Reinforce the application of the legislative, institutional and professional framework aiming at promoting a pluralistic media landscape and right to access to information in Tunisia.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The establishment of the constitutional independent body of the audiovisual sector is supported. -The constitutional independent body is fully functioning and operates with transparency, independence, pluralism and in line with CoE standards. -The constitutional body for the right to information is supported in carrying out its activities and capacity building are ensured for its personnel.
Main Partners	Public authorities (Members of the Parliament, relevant ministries, the Audiovisual Regulatory Authority (Haute autorité indépendante de la communication audiovisuelle - HAICA), journalism schools in Tunisia, journalism professional associations, self-regulatory bodies, national human rights NGOs.
Target Groups	Members of the Parliament, representatives of public authorities, members of the HAICA (Haute autorité indépendante de la communication audiovisuelle), representatives and staff of public and private media, networks of citizen journalists, civil society.
Main activities	Thematic round-tables and seminars, legal analysis and expertise, workshops and training sessions.



6. Promoting freedom of expression and a positive role of the media in combating gender stereotypes and violence against women

Countries	Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon
Duration	40 months (March 2018 – March 2020)
Funding	€ 45 000 <i>South Programme</i>
Objectives	<p>Specific objective 1:</p> <p>Media potential in combating gender stereotypes and preventing violence against women, together with an enabling environment to freedom of expression is supported and valued by public authorities and civil society.</p> <p>Specific objective 2:</p> <p>Media positive role in shaping how society views women and men and how it understands gender based violence materialized through the elaboration and implementation of internal and external policies by media organisation.</p>
Target group	Audio-visual regulatory bodies, other relevant public authorities, journalists, editors, other media professionals, journalists and edited press council and civil society organisations working in the field of human rights and gender equality.
Final beneficiaries	Journalists, other media professionals, civil society, public at large
Expected results	<p>Expected results for specific objective 1:</p> <p>Key stakeholders including media regulators, journalists, representatives of the media and of civil society from the region exchange information, meaningful initiatives, cases and best practices at the national level and with their peers in the region and beyond.</p> <p>Council of Europe work and standards in the field of gender equality and media freedom have been promoted and transmitted to key stakeholders.</p> <p>Expected results for specific objective 2:</p> <p>Transmission of knowledge and skills to media professionals on how to ensure a balanced reporting on gender sensitive issues with a specific focus on gender based violence/ violence against women is fostered.</p>

Transmission of knowledge on how to set up and /or improve media accountability mechanisms and sharing of lesson learned/experiences in Member states of the Council of Europe and in the region is ensured.

7. Promoting Media Freedom and Pluralism in Morocco

Beneficiary	Morocco
Funding	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Duration	24 months (January 2019 – January 2021)
Requested contribution	€ 280 000
Final beneficiaries	Public authorities, media professionals, civil society, public at large
Objectives	Reinforce the application of the legislative, institutional and professional framework aiming at promoting a pluralistic media landscape in Morocco.
Specific objectives	A legal and institutional environment, which provides safeguards for freedom of expression, independence of the media, access to information and internet freedoms, is further strengthened and more conducive for the work of journalists.
Expected results	<p>The development of the legislation in the field of freedom of expression and media freedom is supported;</p> <p>Representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Regulatory Authority (HACA); the newly established National Press Council, journalist associations and civil society have a better understanding of CoE standards on freedom of expression and media freedom.</p> <p>Media self-regulation systems are supported, especially the establishment of the future national press council.</p> <p>Journalists of "traditional" and "new media" are more aware of their rights and responsibilities and their capacities are on gender issues and coverage of migration.</p>

8. Strengthening freedom of media, access to information and reinforcing public broadcasting system in Ukraine

Beneficiary	Ukraine
Funding	VC within the CoE Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021
Duration	12 month (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019)
Total funds	€ 600 000
Objective	To enhance the role of media, its freedom and safety, and the public broadcaster as an instrument for consensus building in the Ukrainian society, particularly during the election period
Specific objectives	<p>Specific objective 1: Ensured and guaranteed by law independence of the Public Service Broadcaster and its increased capacity to provide unbiased and trustworthy coverage of the events.</p> <p>Specific objective 2: Regulatory and self-regulatory mechanisms for ensuring balanced and unbiased coverage of elections strengthened, a concept of new legal framework on political advertising during elections is developed.</p> <p>Specific objective 3: Enhanced safety of journalists, particularly during election period, as a result of increased protection by the legal framework and practices as well as effective fight against impunity of those who attack them</p>
Expected results	<p>Expected results for Specific objective 1:</p> <p>1.1. Improved capacity of PSB to manage the transition from a state-owned company.</p> <p>1.2. Capacity of the public broadcaster to enable the production of higher-quality programming is increased.</p> <p>1.3. Increased institutional capacity of the public broadcaster's Supervisory Board.</p> <p>1.4. Coverage of elections by the Public Broadcaster is improved and meets European standards and practices.</p>

Expected results for Specific objective 2:

2.1. Capacity of local stakeholders and civil society to effectively fight violations in media coverage of elections and applying self-regulatory tools and counteracting information disorder and propaganda increased.

2.2. Improved access to public information held by authorities to media professionals and general public, while protected individual rights to privacy and to control personal data.

2.3. Awareness of the staff of the Ministry of Information Policy and other stakeholders on the Council of Europe standards in information security, particularly in election period, increased.

Expected result for Specific objective 3:

3.1. Improved capacity of the law-enforcement agencies to protect safety of journalists, investigate crimes against journalists and freedom of expression and working conditions of journalists in coverage of elections improved.

Partners

National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (UA:PBC), Parliamentary Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information Policy, National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson), Presidential Administration of Ukraine, Ministry of Information Policy, civil society and media organisations, relevant professional associations.

Target groups

Policy-makers, journalists, editors, media managers, relevant professional associations, officials of national authorities, representatives of law-enforcement agencies, employees of the Public Broadcasting Company, civil society representatives.

Main activities

In the area of Public Broadcasting

Support to transition to PSB through developing procedures for improving the quality of content (especially for minorities, children and on gender), peer-to-peer exchange with European public broadcasters.

Expert and methodological support to Supervisory Board.

Awareness raising activities on the need to ensure sustainable mechanism of proper funding of the Public Broadcaster jointly with Verkhovna Rada and civil society.

Improving the skills to produce high quality content of regional editorial offices of UA:PBC on the topics regarding national minorities.

Training on the role of public broadcaster in coverage of elections for the staff and management of UA: PBC.

Awareness campaign on public broadcasting.

In the area of media coverage of elections

Media monitoring and counteracting information disorder during upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine and support in creating mechanism of quick responses to propaganda and other violations.

Developing self-regulatory rules for balanced and unbiased coverage of elections in partnership with self-regulatory bodies and presenting it to journalists at a series of regional seminars.

Carrying out an expert legislative gap analysis to identify most problematic areas in regulation of media coverage of elections and defining new effective model of regulating political advertising during elections. Expert support to Regulator's work during elections.

Training on ethical standards, regulation, physical and digital safety of journalists in context of elections.

Support in implementation of the Council of Europe expertise of articles of the Ukraine's Criminal Code (prepared in 2017) on safety of journalists.

Strengthening capacity of the Ministry of Information Policy and other stakeholders in area of information security, particularly during election period, in line with the European standards.

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

1. Promoting Freedom of Media and Internet in Armenia

Beneficiary country:	Armenia
Duration:	24 months
Budget:	€ 750 000
Project beneficiaries:	National Commission on Television and Radio, Public TV Company of Armenia, Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies, Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia, media professional organisations, journalists self-regulatory bodies, internet intermediaries/internet service providers, journalists, media professionals, journalistic faculties of national universities.
Expected outcomes	<p>Ensuring further development and proper implementation of the media-related legal framework (notably in public service broadcasting, independence of media regulators, access to public information, concentration and transparency of media ownership, freedom of expression, including on the internet) based on European standards in the fields of freedom of expression and internet freedom;</p> <p>Increased compliance of national legislation and regulations with European standards to provide better framework for the protection of journalists;</p> <p>Increased awareness of national authorities with regard to effective prevention and investigation of crimes against journalists;</p> <p>Promoting professionalism, responsibility and respect for ethical rules among journalists as well as better understanding of their rights and responsibilities;</p> <p>Assisting in the improvement of the training of journalists in higher educational institutions;</p> <p>Developing effective regulatory instruments for monitoring media related violations during elections.</p>

2. Reinforcing gender equality and other ethical standards in Azerbaijani media

Beneficiary: Azerbaijan

Funding: 500 000 EUR
Requested contribution from the Dutch Embassy in Azerbaijan

Duration: 36 months

Overall objective

Promoting gender equality and other ethical standards in and through media in Azerbaijan

Specific objective 1:

Review the legal framework on media from a gender equality perspective and provide recommendations to bring these in line with the European standards

Specific objectives 2:

Survey data collection on gender in Azerbaijani media including detailed statistics on women's employment in the media sector and research on women in Azerbaijani media

Specific objective 3:

Strengthen capacity of Azerbaijan Press Council on gender equality and other ethical issues in media and promote the CoE standards on gender equality and media freedom among journalists and media professionals in Baku and regions

Specific objective 4

Improve the quality of journalism education by developing textbooks on "Journalism ethics" and "Gender equality and media freedom"

Specific objective 5

Raise awareness of legal professionals (judges, lawyers, advocates, prosecutors as well as law students) and train them on the CoE standards on gender equality, media freedom and freedom of expression

Expected results

Expected result for Specific objective 1

1.1. An expert opinion on the legal framework on media from a gender equality perspective including the recommendations to bring these in line with the European standards is available

1.2 A multi-stakeholder dialogue has been established to mediate on bringing the relevant legislation in line with the European standard

Expected result for Specific objective 2

2.1 Statistics on women's employment in the media sector as well as research on women in Azerbaijani media are available

Expected result for Specific objective 3

Professional capacities of the Board members of Azerbaijan Press Council on gender equality and other ethical standards in media are strengthened;

3.2. Journalists have a better understanding on media coverage of gender as well as children issues, respect ethical rules and are trained on CoE standards on gender equality and media freedom;

3.3. The general public has increased opportunity to access more information on gender equality through media.

Expected result for Specific objective 4

4. The capacity of Journalism faculties is strengthened and the textbooks on "Journalism ethics" and "Gender equality and media freedom" are available

Expected result for Specific objective 5

5. Legal professionals (judges, lawyers, advocates, prosecutors) enhanced their knowledge about Council of Europe standards and case law of ECtHR on dealing with cases concerning gender equality, media freedom and freedom of expression

Main activities	ER 1: legal expertise; recommendations; working meetings; round tables; ER 2: data collection; survey; expertise; round tables, publications; ER 3: training sessions, round tables, translation of the CoE standards, publications, study-visits; peer exchange with other countries; participation in the activities of Regional Network of Press Councils; ER 4: development of materials/handbook; working meetings; round tables, publications
National partners	Milli Majlis (the Parliament), Ministry of Education, State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs, Ombudsman Office, Azerbaijan Press Council; Azerbaijani Journalists' Trade Union, Journalism Faculties, Women Journalists Association; journalists and media professionals, civil society

3. Promoting the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards in Azerbaijan

Beneficiary	Azerbaijan
Funding	600 000 EUR Requested contribution from the EU Delegation in Azerbaijan
Duration	36 months
Overall objective	Providing targeted assistance in view of the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Azerbaijan and strengthening European gender equality standards in Azerbaijan

Specific objective 1

Legislative review of Azerbaijani criminal law, civil law and media law in light of the standards established by the Istanbul Convention and provide recommendations to bring these in line with the European standards

Specific objective 2

Raising awareness on the Istanbul Convention and other European standards on gender equality among legal professionals and strengthen capacity of justice sector officials and members of Azerbaijan Bar Association to respond to cases involving violations of women's rights through gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches

Specific objective 3

Raising awareness on the Istanbul Convention and other European standards on gender equality among journalists, media professionals, women and the general population and strengthen capacity of the Board members of Azerbaijan Press Council on gender equality standards in the media

Specific objective 4

Improving the quality of journalism education by developing textbook on "Gender equality and media freedom"

Expected results

Expected result for Specific objective 1:

1. Azerbaijan signed the Istanbul Convention;
 - 1.1. Expert opinions on Azerbaijani legislation (criminal law, family law and media law) from a gender equality perspective including the recommendations to bring these in line with the European standards are available;
 - 1.2. A multi-stakeholder dialogue has been established to mediate on bringing the relevant legislation in line with the European standards;
 - 1.3. The State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs and the Ministry of Justice provided with expertise with a view to amending existing legislation in line with Council of Europe standards.

Expected result for Specific objective 2:

- 2.1. Legal professionals are well aware about the standards established by the Istanbul Convention as well as other European gender equality standards;
- 2.2. Justice sector officials and members of Azerbaijan Bar Association enhanced their knowledge about Council of Europe standards and case law of ECtHR on dealing with cases concerning gender equality and respond to cases involving violations of women's rights through gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches.

Expected result for Specific objective 3

- 3.1. Journalists and media professionals are well aware about the standards established by the Istanbul Convention and have a better understanding on media coverage of gender issues and violence against women;
- 3.2. Professional capacities of the Board members of Azerbaijan Press Council on gender equality and other ethical standards in media are strengthened;
- 3.3. Women and the general public have increased opportunity to access more information on gender equality through media.

Expected result for Specific objective 4

4. The capacity of Journalism faculties from a gender equality perspective is strengthened and new textbooks on "Journalism ethics" and "Gender equality and media freedom" reflect the norms established by the Istanbul Convention and other European gender equality standards.

Main activities:

- ER 1: legal expertise; recommendations; working meetings; round tables;
- ER 2: training sessions; round tables; translation of the CoE

standards; publications; study-visits; peer exchange with other countries; conference;
 ER 3: training sessions, round tables, translation of the CoE standards; publications, conference;
 ER 4: development of textbooks, expertise, expert meetings, round tables.

National partners	Milli Majlis (the Parliament), Ministry of Justice, Judicial Legal Council, State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs, Ombudsman Office, Ministry of Education, Academy of Justice, Law Faculties, Journalism Faculties, Azerbaijan Press Council, Azerbaijan Bar Association, civil society.
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4. Supporting Data Protection and Internet Governance in Belarus

Beneficiary country	Belarus
Duration	24 months
Budget	€ 600 000
Project beneficiaries	Data protection authority, National Centre of Legislation and Legal Research of the Republic of Belarus, Ministry of Communications and Informatization, Operational-analytical Centre under the President of Republic of Belarus, National Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, judiciary, internet intermediaries, civil society organisations.
Expected outcomes	<p>Internet governance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The national legal framework is reviewed in light of Council of Europe standards 2. The capacities of national authorities in the field of internet governance are enhanced; 3. Dialogue between national internet governance stakeholders is supported; 4. International co-operation on internet governance is enhanced and information on best practices and experience is provided. <p>Data protection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommendations by Council of Europe experts regarding the legal and regulatory frameworks on data protection are taken into account by the national authorities; 2. A data protection system complying with international standards in the field of data protection is established with the help of best practices and experience of the member States, and effectively implemented; 3. An independent supervisory authority entrusted with the task of overseeing the implementation of the data protection legislation is established; 4. The expertise and capacities of the independent supervisory authority are enhanced.

5. Council of Europe Action plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021 –
Support to the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina
(second phase)

Beneficiary country	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Funding	Council of Europe
Duration	24 months (January 2020 – December 2021)
Total funds	€ 700 000
Main Objective	The proposed action is a continuation of the action implemented in 2019, encompassing the review of the legal framework on media freedom in BiH, developing recommendations for journalist reporting from human rights perspective, including the spokespersons and PR staff of public institutions: and a Study- compilation of the practice on reporting on marginalised groups in BiH media, good practice.
Expected results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of Guidebook for journalists on reporting from the human rights perspective 2. Training sessions for editors, journalists and journalism professionals in accordance to human rights approach 3. Training for spokespersons and PR persons of public institutions, on media and communication on human rights issues 4. Guidebook for enhancing access to public media to marginalized groups 5. Capacity building of the journalists recognized as the minority rights advocates 6. Organisation of the events (round tables, and workshops) on hate speech and marginalized groups in media, with the focus on cyber space 7. Conference on a hate speech online and identification of current legal mechanisms to prevent it, with the best international practice in this sense 8. Qualitative analysis of Public Broadcast Services Media content 9. Analysis of the legal framework on freedom of assembly in BiH 10. Follow up public advocacy on the quality of freedom of assembly laws / campaign 11. Actions against Information disorder
Target groups	Journalists and other media actors, spokespersons and PR staff of public institutions, legislator, media NGOs.
Main activities	<p>The action would be implemented by the local staff in Sarajevo (Project Officer and Project Assistant 50% each), supported by the Programme Manager in Strasbourg.</p> <p>The Guidebooks as well as training sessions would be developed and conducted by international and local experts/consultants, working in pairs. This approach ensures integration of Council of Europe's human rights standards into the training programmes, but also additional enhancement of the capacities of local experts, who are working with international experts.</p>

Events on hate speech and marginalised groups, with focus on cyber space will be organised for different audiences, such as public servants; parliamentarians; media representatives, civil society representatives and general public. The combination of local and international panelists will be introduced as speakers at these events.

International conference on hate speech online: what can BiH learn from the best practices in the region and wider. The conference would be the platform for sharing the newest standards of Council of Europe and Court of Human Rights in regards to hate speech online, as well as the local, regional and international practices in combating hate speech.

Freedom of Assembly legal framework is not in accordance to European standards. And lately, in BiH there are active initiatives to amend the law, and civil rights groups /including experts and international organisations, are claiming that the amendments are step back in regards to respect the standards of CoE. The analysis would be conducted by CoE international experts. The subject to the analysis should be 2 entities laws, 10 cantonal and 1 of Brcko District – 13 in total.

Follow up activities would include public campaign informing citizens on the attempted reforms making bad laws even worse, and raising awareness on the issue.

6. Promoting Media Literacy and Quality Journalism in Morocco

Duration 24 months

Requested contribution € 400 000

Objectives

Overall Objective:

Ethical and professional standards of digital and traditional media are further brought in line with Council of Europe standards and guidelines

Specific objective 1:

Young people and students in particular have a critical approach towards news, especially online and have a conscious approach toward hate speech and disinformation

Specific objective 2:

Media Literacy is recognized as a crucial element by different stakeholders of the media sector at the national level and a co-ordinated action plan is designed which involves the Ministry of Communication and Culture, Ministry of Education, Regulatory Authority

Target group

Journalists, editors, other media professionals, journalism trainers, Public service media (PSM), media self-regulatory bodies, audio-visual regulatory bodies, public authorities

Final beneficiaries

Journalists, other media professionals, civil society, public at large

Expected results	<p>Expected results for specific objective 1: Journalism students and young professionals are empowered through media and information literacy to effectively access and critically analyse information and media content</p> <p>Expected results for specific objective 2: A national dialogue on media literacy is established with the participation of different stakeholders and concrete measure are taken to implement it</p>
Main Activities	<p>Set up of the working group on the development of Media literacy Action Plan.</p> <p>Conference to present the conclusions and possibly adopt the plan</p> <p>Pilot activities of implementation of media literacy action plan: to set up of the working group for the development of the Media Literacy Modules within ISIC and other training institutions</p> <p>Capacity building for journalists on professional ethics and the CoE standards fight against hate speech, the portrayal of women in the media, how to address information disorder</p> <p>Dissemination sessions at the regional level</p>

7. Promoting Media Literacy and Quality Journalism in Tunisia

Duration	24 months
Requested contribution	€ 540 000
Objectives	<p>Overall Objective: Ethical and professional standards of digital and traditional media are further brought in line with Council of Europe standards and guidelines</p> <p>Specific objective 1: Journalism students and young professionals in particular have a critical approach towards news, especially online and have a conscious approach toward hate speech and disinformation</p> <p>Specific objective 2: The role of independent authorities in protecting freedom of expression, media diversity and pluralism and the right to access to information is better known by the public at the national and regional level</p>
Target group	Journalists, editors, other media professionals, journalism trainers, Public service media (PSM), media self-regulatory bodies, audio-visual regulatory bodies, public authorities
Final beneficiaries	Journalists, other media professionals, civil society, public at large

Expected results	<p><i>Expected results for specific objective 1:</i> Journalists and other media professionals, self-regulatory bodies and journalists' associations and trade unions (SNJT) are more aware of their rights and responsibilities foreseen in the national legal framework and of the relevant Council of Europe standards and have a better understanding of access to information procedures and usages</p> <p><i>Expected results for specific objective 2:</i> Awareness-raising initiatives are developed at the regional and national level to enhance public knowledge about the rights protection provided by independent authorities</p>
Main Activities	<p>Capacity building for journalists on professional ethics and the CoE standards fight against hate speech, the portrayal of women in the media, how to address information disorder.</p> <p>Development of a training program for local journalists' training institutions and universities</p> <p>Dissemination sessions at the regional level on the role of independent authorities</p>

8. EU and Council of Europe working together to support freedom of media in Ukraine

Beneficiary	Ukraine
Funding	Requested contribution from the EU Delegation in Ukraine
Duration	24 months
Total funds	€ 1 182 851
Impact	Enhance the role of media, its freedom and safety, and the public broadcaster as an instrument for democracy and consensus-building in the Ukrainian society
Intermediate outcomes	<p>The governance system of public broadcaster is built, it is financially sustainable and enjoys editorial independence to fulfill its role of public service media.</p> <p>The reform of communal print outlets is finalised, they are strengthened and provide quality journalism at local level.</p> <p>Enhanced safety of media actors as a result of guaranteed protection by law and strong nationally owned Rapid Response mechanism for protection of media actors.</p> <p>The Law "On Audiovisual Services" is in line with EU AVMS Directive and the Council of Europe standards and ensures the independence of the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine.</p> <p>Access to public information and transparency in operations of the information holders is ensured.</p> <p>Media coverage of elections is effectively regulated and mechanisms for fighting information disorder and propaganda are introduced resulting with increased transparency of electoral</p>

process.

National partners

Public Joint Stock Company "National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine" (UA:PBC), the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine, the Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine, the Parliamentary Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information Policy; the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine; Presidential Administration of Ukraine; Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, leading civil society organisations in Ukraine in the media field as CSO "Institute of Mass Information", NGO "Detector Media", CSO "EIDOS" and Coalition of CSOs "Reanimation Reform`s Package".

