

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

“EU and Council of Europe working together to support freedom of media in Ukraine”

On 1 September 2019, the media component of the *Joint Project of the European Union and the Council of Europe “EU and Council of Europe working together to strengthening protection of the human rights in Ukraine”* (hereinafter – the Project) was launched. The Project will be implemented by 09 July 2021. It is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe. The Project’s global objective is to support the alignment of the national legislation and practice in Ukraine with the European standards in the areas of media freedom and human rights protection. The Project’s components are aimed at supporting priorities included in the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021 as well as at facilitating implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, ratified in September 2014.

Media component “EU and Council of Europe working together to support freedom of media in Ukraine” is one of three Project’s components. It is aimed at supporting independence of the public broadcasting, improving safety of journalists and enhancing access to public information. The total budget of the media component amounts to EUR 1 172 300.

Expected results of the media component:

- 1) The governance system of public broadcaster is built, it is financially sustainable and enjoys editorial independence to fulfill its role of public service media;
- 2) The reform of communal print outlets is finalized, they are strengthened and provide quality journalism at local level;
- 3) 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;
- 4) The Law “On Audiovisual Services” is adopted and implemented 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;
- 5) Access to public information and transparency in operations of the information holders is ensured.
- 6) Media coverage of elections is effectively regulated and mechanisms for fighting information disorder and propaganda are introduced resulting with increased transparency of electoral process.

The key partners of the media component are PJSC “Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine” (UA:PBC), National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine, Parliamentary Committees on Humanitarian and Information Policy and on the Freedom of Speech, relevant ministries, the Presidential Office of Ukraine, State Committee for Television and Radio

Broadcasting, Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, law enforcement agencies of Ukraine, Central Election Commission, educational institutions, civil society organisations working in the sphere of media, relevant professional associations etc.

Media component is a continuation of the support to the ongoing reforms in the field of media after the completion of the [Council of Europe Project “Strengthening Freedom of the Media, Access to Information and Reinforcing a Public Broadcasting System in Ukraine”](#), implemented within the period of 01 July 2018 – 31 August 2019 in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021.