



## **Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the media in Kosovo\***

### **Ethical court reporting, with special focus on Kosovo Specialist Chambers. The rights and responsibilities of journalists**

**28 April 2021**

The EU/CoE action on Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the media in Kosovo (JUFREX2) in cooperation with the Association of Journalists of Kosovo organised a training for media actors and other relevant stakeholders on ethical court reporting, on 28 April 2021.

Around 30 journalists from different media outlets attended the training.

Thematic areas such as the concept of ethical reporting on court proceedings, the journalists' rights and responsibilities according to European Court of Human Rights standards; International institutional and legal framework; Freedom of expression of judges, authority and impartiality of the judges, disclosure of confidential information and presumption of innocence, were elaborated during the first part of the training.

The discussions during the training provided a great opportunity for the journalists to understand their rights and responsibilities and the concept of ethical reporting from courts.

The added value of the meeting was the presence of the communication team of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers invited to take part as guest speakers. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the internal functioning, procedures and competencies of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. Moreover, topics such as Plenary hearings, rights of suspects, storage of information, classification, public status of the indictment, open hearings, live reporting from court hearings, oversight of the proceedings in the courtroom, non-compliance with the order of the trial panel, private/closed hearings were covered during the training.

This action is a part of the joint European Union/Council of Europe programme "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey II", implemented by the Council of Europe, which aims at assisting Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans region and Turkey to comply with the Council of Europe standards and European Union *acquis* in the framework of the enlargement process, where relevant.

Find more about JUFREX: <https://bit.ly/2QtZrT6>

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence