



The role of the media regulatory authorities in the Western Balkans in the new media paradigms

BUDVA, online, 9-10 September 2021 - In order to discuss and exchange views on the role of the media regulatory authorities in the new media paradigms, a Regional Conference was organised with the participation of media regulatory authorities from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

The Conference enabled maintaining of the yearly dialogue among media regulatory authorities in the region and supported further implementation of the relevant European standards in the media field. This year, the Conference ensured an open platform for further discussion about elections, media pluralism, hate speech, new developments in efforts of fighting against disinformation and the Council of Europe's recent work in this field. The current European regulatory models to create a safer and more open digital space were also discussed, as well as their impact on the region of the Western Balkans.

This Conference allowed regulators from the region to share their experiences and opinions on important aspects related to their role, enhancing and strengthening peer-to-peer exchange and agree upon further steps and mutual support towards enhanced media freedom in the region.

This event was organised by the [action on Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in South-East Europe \(JUFREX\)](#), part of the EU and Council of Europe joint Horizontal Facility II programme and promotes freedom of expression and freedom of the media in South-East Europe in line with European standards.

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