



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists



Concept

The first Meeting of National Focal Points under the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists 'Journalists Matter' took place on 6 October 2023, in Riga. It was held in the margins of the launch of the Campaign within the Conference "The Pen is Mightier than the Sword? Meeting today's challenges to freedom of expression and the safety of journalists", hosted by the Latvian Presidency to the Committee of Ministers.

This meeting provided an opportunity for national focal points to engage in dialogue with the Campaign's secretariat and relevant counterparts, to get a better understanding of the Campaign aim, scope, roadmap, as well as of their role both in the relation with the Council of Europe and as regards the 'national chapters' of the Campaign and set the basis for concrete follow-up action.

In February 2024 the focal points received a questionnaire from the Campaign Secretariat aiming at gathering preliminary information on the state of play of the Campaign implementation in the Council of Europe member states, and in particular on the steps taken to launch the campaign at domestic level and to identify areas where further action is needed under the Campaign nationally.

The questionnaire has also the aim to anticipate and facilitate presentation of such activities at the second meeting of the national focal points.

The second meeting of the national focal points therefore offers a venue for information sharing on the initiation of national consultations for the creation of a national committee or other structure tasked with the assessment of needs and the setting of a list of activities to be implemented at national level under the Campaign.

Additionally, exchanges with Council of Europe concerned structures, such as the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), but also with the partners to the Platform to promote the protection of journalists and Safety of journalists (the Platform) will be facilitated,



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

for information and discussions regarding the latest initiatives and potential ways of cooperation throughout the Campaign.

Finally, the meeting is expected to enable a discussion on subsequent steps under the protection pillar of the Campaign, in 2024, both nationally and internationally, under the Council of Europe framework, and prospects for the Prosecution pillar of the Campaign, to be covered by activities in 2025. It is recalled that regular reports on the advancement of the Campaign are expected to be provided to the Committee of Ministers through the Steering Committee for Media and Information Society (CDMSI), the intergovernmental committee which was tasked with the coordination of the Campaign.



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

Agenda

Day 1
20 June

12.30-14.00

Networking lunch with members of the Steering Committee for Media and Information Society (CDMSI)

Moderators: *Campaign Secretariat*

14.00 - 14.30 Introduction

- **Welcoming remarks:** Irena Guidikova, Head of the Department, Democratic Institution and Freedoms, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity
- **Overview of the latest activities undertaken at the level of the Council of Europe Campaign:** Rodica Ciochina, Campaign Manager, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division

14.30-15.30 *Tour de Table*

Presentations by National Focal Points: Steps taken at national level and prospects for future action (launch of consultations with relevant stakeholders; establishment of national committees; assessment of needs; held/planned activities; etc.)

15.30-15.45 Coffee Break

15.45- 16.45 Continuation of the *Tour de Table* with the National Focal Points

16.45 – 17.45 Exchange with the representatives of Organisations Partners to the Council of Europe Platform to promote journalism and safety of journalists (Platform)

Topics for discussion:

- Expectations from a successful campaign (from both member States and journalists' perspective)
- Involvement of journalists, media organisations and civil society in the National Chapters of the Campaign (cooperation with/inclusion in national Campaign structures and Campaign related work; role of Focal Points)
- Venues for cooperation with the organisations partners to the Platform under the Campaign
- Input of the Platform and its alerts to the Campaign
- Contribution of journalists and media organisations to the Campaign and its promotion/awareness raising including for the larger public



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

Day 2
21 June

9.00-9.30 Welcoming coffee and networking

9.30-9.40 Secretariat: Wrap-up of the Day 1

9.40-10.15 Exchange of views with Valentina Grippo, General Rapporteur on media freedom and safety of journalists, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

- *Role of parliaments and parliamentarians in the protection of journalism and safety of journalists*
- *Venues of cooperation with the PACE, its members and national parliaments under the Journalists Matter Campaign*

10.15-10.45 Exchange with Alina Tatarenko, Head of the Cooperation on Freedom of Expression Division

10.45-11.15 Follow-up action and forthcoming activities under the ‘Protection pillar’

- Forthcoming steps and Calendar for cooperation with/between member States under the Campaign Protection pillar
- Publication of updates/progress from countries
- Discussion

11.15-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-12.00 Prospects for activities in 2025 under the ‘Prosecution pillar’ of the Campaign

- Planned activities
- Expectations and proposals by National Focal Points

12.00-12.15 Closing remarks

- Artemiza-Tatiana Chisca, Head of Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, Secretary of the Steering Committee for Media and Information Society (CDMSI)