

Reporting Digital Rights and Freedoms

Duration: 01.01.2023 - 31.12.2025

Countries:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro,
North Macedonia, Serbia

EU contribution: € 1 170 000

Total budget: € 1 299 973

Implementer:

BIRN Kosovo (project lead), BIRN Albania, BIRN Bosnia
and Herzegovina, BIRN Macedonia, BIRN Hub, BIRN
Serbia

Website(s): balkaninsight.com/digital-rights/

Project description:

The 'Reporting Digital Rights and Freedoms' project strengthens the ability of media and civil society actors in the Western Balkans and Turkey to monitor, report, and respond to digital rights violations and disinformation. Through daily media reporting based on local monitoring, the project raises public awareness about digital threats and helps citizens better understand their rights in the digital space.

Journalists and civil society organisations receive tailored support, including mentorship, editorial guidance, legal assistance, and funding opportunities to enhance their advocacy efforts. These activities improve their capacity to track digital rights violations and push for policy change.

Each year, regional findings are compiled into comprehensive reports and presented at high-level conferences that bring together key internet governance stakeholders—civil society, media, academia, tech companies, and public institutions.

By combining sub-granting, capacity-building, content production, and strategic outreach, the project empowers both local and regional actors to promote digital rights and influence policy at national and EU levels.

Expected results:

By the end of the project, the following results are expected to be achieved:

- Policy recommendations issued to relevant institutions based on research papers, annual reports, and continuous monitoring of digital rights violations.
- Approximately 1,500 cases of digital rights violations to be identified, documented, and stored in dedicated databases.
- An estimated 20 million citizens in the Western Balkans to be reached through 500 published articles and the wide dissemination of project results.
- Over 150 journalists and civil society organisations to report enhanced skills and capacity to counter digital threats.
- Around 3,000 citizens across the region to actively use a specialised engaged citizens reporting tool.
- At least 15 media outlets and CSOs to benefit from sub-grants and mentoring support, while 30 individuals to receive fellowships to report on digital rights and freedoms.

