

Safe Journalists Network

Duration: 01.04.2023 - 31.07.2026

Countries:

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

EU contribution: € 1 299 905

Total budget: € 1 444 340

Implementer:

Association of Journalists of Kosovo, Association of Journalists of Macedonia, BH Journalists Association, Croatian Journalists' Association, Independent

Website(s): www.safejournalists.net

Project description:

The 'SafeJournalists Network (SJN)' works to protect journalists and promote media freedom across the Western Balkans. One of its key tools is the System of Early Warning and Prevention (SEWP), which tracks and documents attacks on journalists and issues alerts or letters of concern when serious incidents occur.

The Network also produces regular research, including the Indicators on Media Freedom and the Index of Journalists' Safety—now merged into a single annual report for each country. In 2024, a new report will focus on gender-based violence and the specific pressures faced by women journalists.

SJN actively engages with decision-makers, civil society, and international partners to advocate for stronger protections for journalists, regularly submitting policy recommendations and monitoring relevant media legislation. Through financial and practical support, the Network also empowers grassroots organisations to act as local contact points, helping to document violations and provide assistance to journalists in need.

By combining monitoring, advocacy, and local support, SJN helps build a safer and more resilient environment for media

Expected results:

- At least 12 SafeJournalists Network members will boost their advocacy skills to promote journalists' safety and media freedoms at both national and international levels, backed by five updated stakeholder maps.
- The Network will produce and share 22 evidence-based reports on media freedom covering 7 countries, with a strong focus on women journalists. These reports will be presented at over 21 national and regional events.
- The Network's findings and recommendations will shape key policy and legal reforms.
- Seven national reports on gender-based threats will be developed with 20 women's rights organisations. At least 30 civil society and institutional actors will work to protect women journalists.
- Local journalists will be better equipped to report violations. 25 grassroots initiatives will develop baseline reports.
- Around 2,000 journalists will be trained on their rights and protection tools. A 20% increase in reported cases is expected.



Social media:

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<https://x.com/wbjournalists?s=21&t=W8fMsWU0t-2bxr6ICKEesw>