



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Media and Data
Converging Media and Content

Media Freedom – Pilot Projects

In 2015, the European Commission selected two projects following a call for proposals in the field of violations of media freedom and pluralism. The call, on a "European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF)", was published in 2014 and invited proposals to address challenges faced by journalists, in the exercise of their work, and to monitor and coordinate existing activities in this field. Share this

Creation of a European Centre for Press and Media Freedom

The project's mission is to unite Europe's highly fragmented media freedom community and to address media freedom violations in EU member states and beyond. Violations of press freedom will be observed, researched, registered and reported to both the public and the political sphere.

A central element of the project is [the establishment, formalised in June 2015 of the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom \(ECPMF\)](#) as an independent non-profit European Cooperative Society in Leipzig. It will organise solidarity with threatened journalists across Europe, thus promoting media freedom as a constitutive element for open and democratic societies. It works - based on the European Charter for Press Freedom - as a registration office, and as contact point for organizations and individuals.

The project is supported by more than 30 journalists' and human rights organizations, investigative journalists' associations, academic institutions, trade unions, media houses and institutes of media law from across Europe. It is run by a consortium composed of six organizations from four European countries, all committed to promote media freedom:

- [Media Foundation of Sparkasse Leipzig](#), Germany (coordinator);
- Italian think tank and online journal [Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso](#), headquartered in Rovereto;
- Vienna-based [South East Europe Media Organisation \(SEEMO-IPI\)](#)
- Italian journalist organisation [Ossigeno per l'informazione](#) based in Rome;
- the [Institute of European Media Law \(EMR\)](#), a Saarbrücken-based Europe-wide network of over 180 legal experts;
- [Journalismfund.eu](#), headquartered in Zellik, Belgium, a Europe-wide initiative for investigative journalists.

Mapping and Defending Media Freedom in Europe

[Index on Censorship](#) will build on the existing [mapping media freedom platform](#), to provide further assistance to journalists and disseminate knowledge about media freedom in Europe.

In partnership with the [European Federation of Journalists](#) and [Reporters Without Borders](#), Index will continue to monitor and report on violations to media freedom. This action will be complemented by digital training, detailed, analytical reports from data submitted into the platform, and campaigning actions to bring acute cases of media freedom violations to the attention of MEPs, EU officials and the wider public.