

Region/country: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania

Timeframe/dates: 2001/2003

Funder: The European Community, The European Cultural Foundation, The Freedom Forum, The Guardian Foundation, IREX - the Open Society Institute, The U.S. Department of State, The Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Partners: Albanian Media Institute (Tirana), Association of Independent Electronic Media (Belgrade); Beta News Agency (Belgrade); Centre for Multicultural Understanding and Cooperation (Skopje); Center for Democracy and Human Rights (Podgorica); Center for Independent Journalism (Bucharest); Center for Independent Journalism (Budapest); Center for War, Peace and the News Media (New York); Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (Belgrade); International Centre for Education of Journalists (Zagreb); International Federation of Journalists (Brussels); Macedonian Institute for Media (Skopje); Media Development Centre (Sofia); Media Plan Institute (Sarajevo); Media Centar (Sarajevo); Roma Press Centre (Budapest); STINA News Agency (Split); Vijesti Daily (Podgorica).

Project Description

A large-scale, two-year media diversity project targeting journalists, media decision-makers, journalism academics, and minorities NGOs. Activities ranged from producing manuals and conducting workshops, to news agency training schemes and university journalism curriculum development. The project was intended to combat xenophobia, promote improved inter-ethnic relations and conflict resolution, and help secure minority rights by changing the way media in that region covers and reports on such issues.

It pursued a comprehensive strategy comprising six programmatic elements addressing inter-related media objectives, ranging from training journalists - and the professors who teach them, and the editors who manage them - to assisting minority groups get their voices heard. The project placed particular emphasis on influencing the media "decision-makers" and on practical concrete reporting projects.

