**Terms of Reference**

**RESEARCHER ALBANIA**

**Background**

In 2016 the European Commission commissioned a project *Western Balkan’s Regional Platform for advocating media freedom and journalists’ safety* (hereinafter: WBP) that gathered regional journalists’ association – Independent Journalists Association of Serbia (IJAS), Association of BH Journalists (BHJ), Croatian Journalists Association (CJA), Association of Journalists of Kosovo (AJK), Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM) and the Trade Union of Media of Montenegro (TUMM). The action was developed in cooperation between six organisations as a result of growing restrictions of media freedoms by the state in our societies, as well as a statement of readiness to tackle our position in cooperation. The project allowed partners to form an informal network and build own capacities to monitor levels of media freedoms and safety of journalists, resulting in an online [database of attacks against journalists](https://safejournalists.net/homepage/) and annual [national and biannual regional (comparative) reports](http://safejournalists.net/portfolios/2018-reports-published/).

In 2018 the project continued with support of other donors, while in 2020 a new, three year project was commissioned by the EC. The project, named safejournalists.net, envisages inclusion of Albania, resulting in a need to engage and train a researcher who will be the WBP’s contact point in Albania. S/he will be responsible for monitoring of media freedoms and safety of journalists, update the database of incidents, produce annual report and participate in the overall project activities when necessary. As a special section on the safejournalists.net website will be opened to include Albania, researcher will work together with an online expert to maintain it.

The overall goal of the project is strengthening participatory democracy in the WB countries through regional cooperation of professional and reliable CSOs and their engagement in the process of relevant policy development and monitoring of their implementation. In case of Albania, the consortium does not have an adequate partner but will contribute to national efforts related to this issue.

As in other WB counties journalists' safety in Albania is under increasing risk and the trends indicate the use of variety of new tools to exert pressure and curb media freedoms. All relevant reports (EC Country reports, reports by Reporters Without Borders, Freedom House, etc.) and expressed views by OSCE, Council of Europe etc. agree that journalists' safety in the WB is still a very serious concern. New trends identified by the consortium include pressures via smear campaigns, public naming, administrative harassment, discrimination, financial exhaustion etc. add to chilling effect and impeding citizens’ right to information.[[1]](#footnote-1) WBP database [www.safejournalists.net](http://www.safejournalists.net) details attacks on journalists (but not cases of journalists murdered before 2015[[2]](#footnote-2) and newly included forms of intimidation through pressures):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of incident | Threats against lives  | Other threats | Actual attacks | Freedom House score | Press FreedomIndex |
| Year | ‘17 | ‘18 | ‘17 | ‘18 | ‘17 | ‘18 | ‘18 | ‘19 | ‘17 | ‘18 |
| Albania[[3]](#footnote-3) | 0  |  | 0 |  | 1 |  | 68 | 68 | 82 | 75 |
| BH | 19  | 2 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 55 | 53 | 63 | 62 |
| Croatia | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 86 | 85 | 64 | 69 |
| Kosovo  | 5 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 52 | 54 | 75 | 78 |
| Montenegro | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 67 | 65 | 104 | 103 |
| N. Macedonia | 19 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 59 | 95 | 109 |
| Serbia | 16 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 74 | 67 | 90 | 76 |

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**Reports to:** IJAS Project Manager

**Key obligations include\***

* + Production of three (3) annual reports based on adopted methodology in English language (to be translated into Albanian upon finalisation). Estimated time of research is 6 months per country, to be finalised by December, 31 each year.
	+ Participation in training by the Head Researcher and perform additional check if necessary for national and comparative (regional) reports
* Daily monitoring of violation of journalists’ rights and media freedoms in Albania in accordance with the adopted protocols and alerts Project Manager in case of an incident
* Implementation of initial research in accordance with the SEWP Mechanism to determine if a reaction is needed and verifies incident in accordance with guidelines
* Recording, updating and archiving relevant data and documents regarding reported violations in accordance with HR guidelines
* Maintenance of the online database of attacks on safejournalists.net
* Providing relevant data to the WBP related to incidents against journalists in Albania
* Translation the regional reactions to Albanian and distribute to Albanian media
* Implementation follow – ups with journalists, victims of attacks
* Communication with the Online Communication Officer based in Albania regarding online promotion
* Preparation of input for 6 months Regional reports regarding situation and trends in Albania
* Representing WBP on meetings with international stakeholders and participates in its meetings/training events (approximately 3 events per year in one of the WB countries, except
* Responsibility for safe archiving and updates of all project documentation

**Required Skills and Experience**

**Education**

* Bachelor Degree in Journalism, Law, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology or related field in the Social Sciences

**Knowledge, skills and experience**

* At least 2 years of practical working experience, preferably related to one or more of the Project’s core focus areas
* Knowledge of the state of the media and journalism in the country
* Basic knowledge of social science research methods
* Excellent oral and written communication, with the ability to write analytical research papers

**Language**

* Written and spoken fluency in English and Albanian

**Functional competences**

* Self-motivated with ability to self-manage, work with minimum supervision and manage multiple priorities according to deadline
* Promotes a knowledge-sharing and learning culture in the office
* Sensitivity to and responsiveness to all partners, respectful and helpful relations with all staff
* Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude

**Timeline and duration of assignment**

* Timeline: 01 April 2020 – 01 February 2021

**Remuneration**

* Envisaged monthly fee for the role is 1,000 EUR gross.
* Contract will be signed with the Project Lead, Independent Journalists’ Association of Serbia
* Travel expenses, including accommodation will be covered by the Project

**References**

* Please provide two written references in English language.
* In case of shortlisting, IJAS may contact named references for more details.

*\*Detailed ToR will be shared with the shortlisted candidates.*

1. See <http://safejournalists.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/indicators_on_the_level_of_media_freedom_WB_2018.pdf> for the 2018 WB comparative report on Indicators on the level of media freedoms and journalists’ safety [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Unsolved murders of journalists per country: Serbia – 3 and Montenegro -1 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Albania is not WBP member, source: CoE Platform [↑](#footnote-ref-3)