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Media Dialogue Project Summary

“Working together to reform the media sector in election time in Kyrgyzstan”

Project implemented by a consortium led by the European Partnership for Democracy



Our Media Dialogue project is funded by the European Union through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and runs until late spring 2021 to cover the period around the parliamentary election in October 2020. Its objective is to harness the power of the media in safeguarding conflict-free elections. We have been delivering training and capacity-building activities to help media actors supply accurate and trustworthy election-related content to the citizens of Kyrgyzstan so that they can make informed choices. We conducted an in-depth assessment of the media landscape and its legal environment in the country before launching an ambitious project of media policy and regulatory reform.

We work with print, online and broadcast media outlets as well as production houses, individual journalists, online activists and influencers. Our events serve to improve their editorial standards, upgrade their digital skills, and inject an innovative spirit into the content they produce. We support the production of their election-related outputs not only in editorial terms, but also financially by giving out grants for creative and socially beneficial media and advocacy projects.

Our Media Policy Dialogue is engaging government officials, parliamentary deputies, non-governmental and civil society organisations as well as members of the Central Electoral Commission and its territorial branches in an effort to create a more conducive environment for the October poll and the post-electoral period. We collaborate with the media and civil society communities to enhance self-regulation in the media sector and make it more robust and resilient to political manipulation or restrictive measures. Our workshops and a campaign against hate speech embrace not only the media but also decision makers, political parties and parliamentary candidates.

The Media Dialogue grants programme will help improve the media environment in Kyrgyzstan, engender public service value content and support high-quality journalism. It will also encourage grantees to promote media policy reform. Sub-grants will enable media institutions to deliver better advocacy campaigns to raise public awareness of the need to maintain and promote freedom of expression, high quality journalism, access to information and other constituents of a free and democratic media environment.

Our programme includes activities to increase the economic independence of the media by providing monetisation workshops, innovative digital content generation events and innovative media start-ups initiatives. We also cooperate with Kyrgyz universities and institutions providing journalism education to boost their curricula and link them up with European counterparts through exchange programmes. All our activities are delivered by a mix of international and local trainers and consultants exploiting areas of expertise offered by each of the Consortium Partners.

For more information about the Project or current and forthcoming opportunities, please get in touch with our Communications Officer, Gulaiym Shigaibaeva at +996552201234 or gulaiymshigaibaeva@epd.eu, or the Project Manager, Cholpon Nogoibaeva, at +996504222407 or cholponnogoibaeva@epd.eu.