



PRESS RELEASE

The Media Dialogue project will announce the winners of grant competitions for media monitoring and producing parliamentary elections related materials for voters

Bishkek, September 09, 2020

The Media Dialogue project will provide grants to eleven media organizations in Kyrgyzstan to monitor media sources, including social media on avoiding of hate speech use and the production of information materials for voters about their right to participate in the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 4, 2020.

The projects will last from 2 to 6 months and are part of the overall goal of the current and upcoming Media Dialogue project contests to strengthen the media environment in Kyrgyzstan, support international journalism standards and promote media policy reform.

The goal of the grant competition for media organizations and civil society organizations was monitoring of social networks and media resources during the upcoming campaign of the 2020 parliamentary elections. These projects will focus on monitoring hate speech and controversial, inflammatory narratives by key electoral actors.

The production of information materials for voters about their right to take part in the parliamentary elections is intended to provide an equal opportunities for political debates and help voters make a balanced choice with the help of materials prepared by the Media Dialogue project grantees.

The main goal of the Media Dialogue project grant program is to support media and civil society organizations that protect freedom of speech and enforce the rule of law, also offer an open platform for debate and educate the public, thereby ensuring a democratic electoral process. The grants program is managed by ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy.

At the first official online meeting with the finalists of the competition, a presentation on project cycle management, project implementation process and reporting requirements will be shared with the Media Dialogue grantees. They will have an information about the media electoral regulations during the pre-election period, and improvements to their applied methodology for monitoring social media will be proposed too.

The Media Dialogue project is funded by the European Union and runs until late spring 2021. 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 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. The project 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 election environment. 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.

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.



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The European Union is made up of 28
Member States who have decided to
gradually link together their know-how,
resources and destinies. Together, during
a period of enlargement of 50 years, they
have built a zone of stability, democracy
and sustainable development whilst
maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and
individual freedoms. The European Union
is committed to sharing its achievements
and its values with countries and peoples
beyond its borders.



The project is implemented by a consortium of
five organisations: The European Partnership
for Democracy, ALDA - European Association
for Local Democracy, Media Policy Institute,
ARTICLE 19 and the Westminster Foundation
for Democracy.

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In response to the evolving COVID-19 situation, Media Dialogue has been adjusting its activities in line with WHO recommendations and national regulations of the countries involved in the project. Our priority is not to expose any beneficiaries, experts or staff to risks associated with the virus but at the same time to continue delivering the planned Action with every effort made to meet its objectives and maintain its effectiveness in the limiting and challenging circumstances.