



European
Implementation
Network

EIN Project Protecting Freedom of Expression by Supporting the Implementation of European Court of Human Rights Judgements

EIN Conference “Protecting free speech through ECtHR judgments”

Leipzig (Germany), 20-21 November 2023

The conference aims to empower civil society and its allies across Europe to promote free speech reforms through the implementation of ECtHR judgments.

The first session will provide civil society representatives, lawyers and journalists working on free speech and media freedom with key information about the process for the implementation of European Court of Human Rights judgments and how this process can be used to bring about change through a variety of actions at national and international level, as well as with an overview of relevant judgments pending for implementation before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The second session will give participants the opportunity to share experiences on free speech advocacy with peers working in different European states. The purpose of this exchange will be to identify both best practices and potential risks in the context of free speech-related advocacy activities which aim at advancing the implementation of ECtHR judgments on free speech.

In the third session, participants will be invited to break out in parallel groups with the aim of acquiring first-hand experience in working on submissions to be made in the context of the implementation process and in identifying the measures to be taken to effectively implement ECtHR judgment on free speech.

MEETING VENUE

The EIN Conference will take place at the **Mediencampus Villa Ida**, Poetenweg 28, 04155 Leipzig-Gohlis, GERMANY.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The Conference will be held in English. Please note that no interpretation will be available.



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PROGRAMME

MONDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2023 (09:00 - 16:45)

OPENING

09:00 - 09:30 Arrival of participants and registrations
09:30 - 09:45 Welcome and opening comments by Başak Çalı, EIN Chair

SESSION 1 Introduction into the ECtHR implementation process and how NGOs can use it to advance freedom of expression in Europe

09:45 - 10:30 The ECtHR implementation process and its added value for advancing freedom of expression in Europe: general principles, by Ioulietta Bisiouli, EIN Director
Q&A

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 - 11:30 How can NGOs increase their impact on the ECtHR implementation process? EIN tips for making effective Rule 9 submissions, by Agnes Ciccarone, EIN Programme Manager
Q&A

11:30 - 12:00 Brief outline of the general measures required in the implementation process and presentation of the EIN research note on best practices for free speech advocacy, by Ioana Iliescu, EIN Law and Advocacy Officer

12:00 - 13:30 *Buffet lunch*

SESSION 2 - Part 1 Free speech advocacy: Learning from peers

13:30 - 13:40 Introduction to session 2, by Başak Çalı, EIN Chair

13:40 - 14:30 Defamation and the distinction between statements of fact and value judgments

Panel discussion moderated by Başak Çalı, EIN Chair, with the participation of:

- Georgiana Gheorghe, Executive Director, APADOR-CH
- Tina Đaković, Organization and Program Coordinator, Human Rights House Zagreb
- Nora Wehofsits, International Advocacy Officer, Human Rights House Foundation
- Andreas Takis, President of the Board, Hellenic League for Human Rights



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MONDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2023 (09:00 - 16:45)

- 14:30 - 15:00** **Censorship and state control on media bodies**
Keynote speech by Cristina Frumosu-Durnea, Program Manager, Independent Journalism Centre (MD), facilitated by Vafa Fati-Zada, Justice for Journalists Foundation
Q&A
- 15:00 - 15:30** *Coffee break*
- 15:30 - 16:30** **Protection of journalistic sources and access to public information**
Panel discussion moderated by Ioulietta Bisiouli, EIN Director, with the participation of:
- *Dr. Dariia Opryshko, Senior Fellow - Institute for Information, Telecommunications and Media Law of the University of Münster; consultant of the NGO "Human Rights Platform"*
 - *Wiebke Hangst, Legal Officer, Media Defence*
 - *Ilaria Fevola, Legal officer, Article 19*
 - *Nóra Novoszádek, Senior Legal Officer, Hungarian Helsinki Committee*
 - *Prof. Em. Dr. Dirk Voorhoof, Professor emeritus, Freedom of Expression*
- 16:30 - 16:45** **Final exchange among participants and wrap up of day 1**

Evening free

TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2023

SESSION 2 - Part 2 **Free speech advocacy: Learning from peers**

- 09:00 - 09:10** **Introduction of day 2**
by Ioulietta Bisiouli, EIN Director
- 09:10 - 10:10** **Freedom of expression of magistrates**
Panel discussion moderated by Kerem Altıparmak, IFÖD, EIN Board Member, with the participation of:
- *Adela Katchaounova, Legal Defense Programme Director, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee*
 - *Georgiana Gheorghe, Executive Director, APADOR-CH*
 - *Konrad Siemaszko, Lawyer, Head of the Freedom of Expression Programme, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights*
 - *Erika Farkas, Legal Officer, Hungarian Helsinki Committee*
- 10:10 - 10:30** *Coffee break*



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TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2023

- 10:30 - 11:30** **Safety and security of journalists and other media actors**
Panel discussion moderated by Szabolcs Hegyi, Political Freedoms Project, Senior expert, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU), with the participation of:
- Dr. Dariia Opryshko, Senior Fellow - Institute for Information, Telecommunications and Media Law of the University of Münster; consultant of the NGO "Human Rights Platform"
 - Vafa Fati-Zada, Justice for Journalists Foundation
 - Veysel Ok, Attorney at Law, Co-Director of the Media Law and Studies Association (MLSA)
 - Ilaria Fevola, Legal officer, Article 19
- 11:30 - 12:15** **Challenges for implementing FoE judgments in unfriendly environments, the example of Russia**
Keynote speech by Violetta Fitsner, OVD-Info, facilitated by Ioulietta Bisiouli, EIN Director
Q&A
- 12:15 - 13:30** *Buffet lunch*
- SESSION 3** **Using the implementation process to advocate for free speech – Practical session**
- 13:30 - 13:45** **Introduction to the break-out room sessions**, by Ioulietta Bisiouli, EIN Director
- 13:45 - 14:45** **Parallel break-out rooms: Work on draft submissions and advocacy strategies in selected cases**
- 14:45 - 15:00** *Coffee break: rapporteurs to work on their report for the plenary session, and participants to fill in the evaluation form for the event*
- 15:00 - 15:40** **Presentations from group rapporteurs and discussion on the lessons learnt as to how participants would more effectively engage in the implementation process in particular cases**
- 15:40 - 16:00** **Final remarks and wrap-up**, by Ioulietta Bisiouli, EIN Director



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