



Annual Report **2019**



DEAR FRIENDS OF IREX EUROPE

Despite the political and financial challenges globally 2019 was a remarkable year for IREX Europe. We ended the year securing important opportunities to expand our work in key areas both geographically and thematically. This has allowed us to begin a process of recruitment and growth, ending 2019 in a position of strength.

Our success has been built on a solid foundation of excellent and lasting partnerships in our key countries of action, and of success in building multi-donor funded multi-annual projects.

A highlight of the year was a retreat in June, where we reviewed and revised our strategy, and created a new strategy for the next 5 years. We now have a more clear vision and mission, and better defined core values.

Our Vision of *"We work to develop and maintain peaceful, democratic, fair, and sustainable societies where individuals enjoy equal rights, have access to independent information and are empowered to build the society in which they want to live"* and our

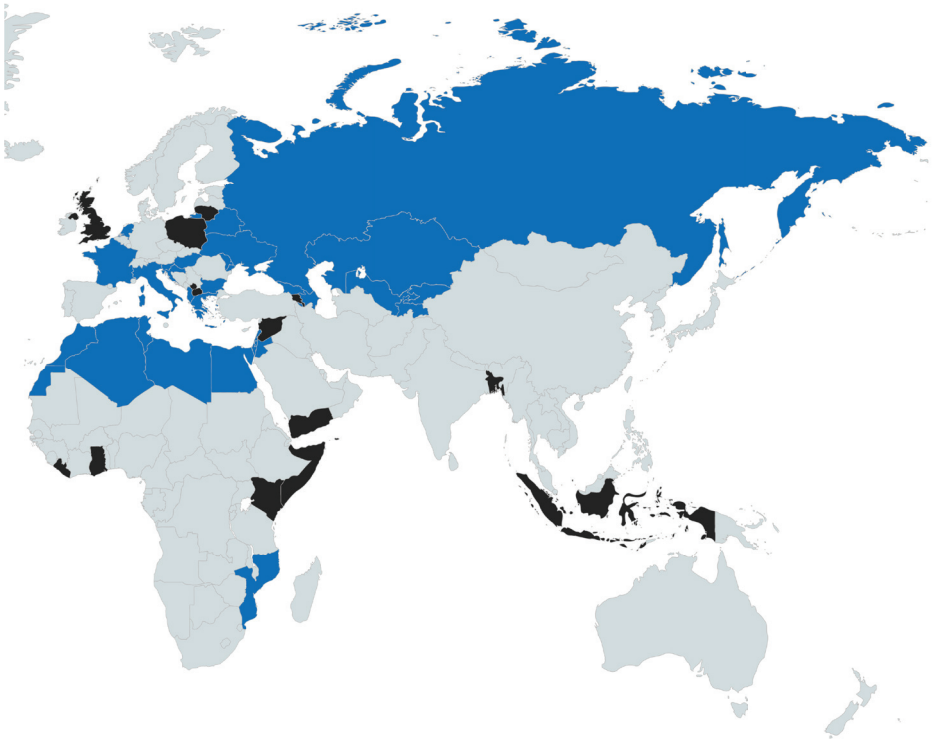
Mission of *"We work to promote human rights, strengthen independent media and civil society and empower individuals through developing critical thinking skills, enabling them to take informed decisions and to claim their rights"* are more in line with how we design and implement our projects, and what we seek to achieve where we work.

However, while we are working to try to make our vision of better societies a reality in Eurasia, the MENA region, Central Asia, and here in Europe, increasing nationalism and the continued spread of populism are making the support for human rights and civil society increasingly difficult. The work of our partners and human rights activists in particular is becoming harder and more dangerous. We would like to salute all those who work with us, most of whom have dedicated their lives at no small personal sacrifice to fighting to make their societies more tolerant, promoting human rights and freedom of information.

Mark Whitehouse
IREX Europe President

Michael de Villiers
IREX Europe Director

WHERE WE WORK



2019 COUNTRIES

- Albania
- Algeria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Egypt
- France
- Georgia
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Moldova
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- The Netherlands
- Occupied Territory of Palestine
- Russia
- Slovenia
- Tajikistan
- Tunisia
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

PAST COUNTRIES

- Armenia
- Bangladesh
- Ghana
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Kosovo
- Liberia
- Lithuania
- Republic of North Macedonia
- Nigeria
- Poland
- Somalia
- Syria
- United Kingdom
- Yemen

ABOUT US

IREX Europe was founded in 2004, in Lyon, France. Our work focuses on supporting **human rights, good governance** and **promoting democracy** by supporting and **working with activists** and civil society organisations directly, by seeking to **improve education, strengthen independent media** and **reduce conflict**.

OUR VISION

We work to develop and maintain peaceful, democratic, fair, and sustainable societies where individuals enjoy equal rights, have access to independent information and are empowered to build the society in which they want to live.

OUR MISSION

We promote human rights, strengthen independent media and civil society and empower individuals through developing critical thinking skills, enabling them to take informed decisions and to claim their rights.

OUR 2 MAIN AREAS OF ACTION

- MEDIA AND MEDIA EDUCATION

To **strengthen local and independent media**, by improving the sustainability, quality and accuracy of reporting and to **develop Media and Information Literacy (MIL)** by empowering citizens so they can critically engage with what they read and by increasing their ability to access accurate and objective information.

- HUMAN RIGHTS

To **promote fundamental human rights** with a particular focus on women's rights, LGBTI rights and freedom of opinion and expression. We work with civil society organisations, human rights defenders, media, journalists and media lawyers, to provide capacity building; emergency and legal support to victims of repression; and national and international networking opportunities.



Media Development



Media & Information Literacy



Freedom of Expression



Human Rights



Gender Equality

DONORS, PARTNERS & NETWORKS

DONORS

- Agence Française du développement (AFD)
- European Union (EU)
- European Endowment for Democracy
- Fondation de France
- Fondation des Droits de l'Homme
- IREX
- Mairie de Lyon
- Métropole de Lyon
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Open Society Foundation (OSF)
- Stefan Batory Foundation
- United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- United States Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)

NETWORKS

- Anna Lindh Foundation
- Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
- EU-Russia Civil Society Forum
- European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)
- PCPA Soyons Active-Actifs
- Plateforme des Droits de l'Homme (PDH)

PARTNERS

- ADALA pour l'accès à un procès équitable
- Alliance Against Discrimination of LGBT
- Alternatives Médias
- ARTICLE 19 MENA
- Association Initiatives Citoyennes
- BAS TV
- Central Media pentru Tineri
- Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights
- Common Frames
- DZZD "Obuchenie"
- EEDC
- FORMA.Azione srl
- GoAct
- Gurdofarid
- Human Rights House Tbilisi
- IREX
- ITET Perugia
- Karpos
- Locals Online
- MediaNet
- Media Support Center Foundation
- Modern Journalism Development Center
- Moldovan Association of Librarians
- Next Step Association Hungary
- Newsmaker
- OWH TV Studio
- PRIZMA Foundation
- ProLGBT
- Radio Free Europe Moldova
- Savoir*Devenir
- Sofia Development Association
- Streha
- Ukrainian Women's Fund
- UNESCO
- Union Tunisienne des Médias Associatifs
- Ziarul de Garda

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT



OUR OBJECTIVES

IREX Europe works to strengthen independent media and help ensure access to alternative sources of information. We support media through capacity building, helping independent media remain competitive where they are increasingly

shut out of local markets, and helping them deal with the impact of the fast changing digital world. We help independent media produce quality content promoting tolerance and understanding while dealing with important human rights issues.



Media Tour on Eco Living in Oliscani farm, Moldova

WHAT WE DO

- **Training and mentoring for journalists and journalism students** to better produce quality content.
- **Video and radio production, multi-media production; issue-based journalism, investigative journalism, in-depth reporting, social media and mobile reporting training and support.**
- **Media Management, financial sustainability; strategic development training and support.**
- **Training and support for media lawyers** including legal analysis of editorial content, as well as legal defence before local courts.
- **Training for media lawyers for European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) case law and support to bring cases before the ECHR.**
- **Core support** to independent media and **small grants** for media projects and strategy implementation.

2019 KEY FIGURES

50 local media supported through subgrants

167 media output produced

212 individuals trained



Young volunteers at Drochia TV, Sofia Village, Moldova

MOLDOVA

In Moldova, IREX Europe provides direct support to independent regional media and supports young journalists through internship programmes. Our direct support includes targeted in-house consultancies focused on management and journalism, as well as outreach to the local community. Building on that support, we are working to help the media better engage with youth in their communities – supporting youth produced programming at the local level and improved youth outreach by independent regional media.

EURASIA

In Eurasia, we provide marketing and financial sustainability trainings as well as capacity building for the media. We also support the annual media sector coordination meetings bringing together media, implementers and donors.



Multimedia Youth Festival on MIL, Chisinau, Moldova

– MEDIA & INFORMATION LITERACY (MIL)



OUR OBJECTIVES

IREX Europe works to empower citizens to engage critically with what they watch, hear and read – increasing their resistance to fake news and helping them access accurate and objective information. We seek to

institutionalise MIL capacity wherever we work, building a cadre of MIL educators and supporting organisations to promoting MIL education for the long term.



MIL Summer Fair, Cimislia, Moldova

WHAT WE DO

We work in Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and in 6 European countries to promote media literacy. IREX Europe has developed a package of MIL tools and activities adaptable to local circumstances including :

- **MIL training of trainers** workshops in libraries, universities, schools and community centres.
- Developing **MIL courses and curricula**.
- Creating an **online platform** for MIL resources and **media corners** in libraries.
- **Public discussions** on reports focused on social issues and **media manipulation** and **propaganda**.
- **MIL summer fairs** to share good practices among stakeholders.
- **An Online game** (website and App version) to build resistance among young people to **hate speech and misinformation**.
- **Media Tours** to raise awareness on how the media works.
- **Media monitoring** to identify country-specific misinformation, hate-speech, fake news and propaganda.

2019 KEY FIGURES

55 librarians and educators received ToTs on MIL resulting in **5,317** people trained.

93 journalists trained in local journalism.

31 public events & discussions were held gathering **1,030** people.

TUNISIA

With our local partners, we promote the inclusion and civic participation of young Tunisians through online and offline media by: promoting media literacy: building a cadre of young media literacy trainers; strengthening the links between media and youth by youth media productions in local community media; and by promoting the financial and institutional viability of local media. We also work to strengthen local community radios and media, supporting local access to information and citizen participation in the governorates of Tozeur, Kébili, Tunis, Gafsa, Gabes, Kasserine and Beja.

MOLDOVA

In Moldova we work to combat propaganda and fake news and promote democracy by increasing media literacy and improving access to fair and unbiased information on key national and international issues. We support training of trainers amongst librarians across the country so that they can provide local trainings in media literacy to their communities and we work to support and increase the professional capacity of local independent media.

EUROPE

In Europe, we work to empower communities and promote social inclusion through media literacy and critical thinking for teachers, students and parents. This is done through training in media and information literacy and civic hackathons to help build critical thinking skills, counter hate speech and encourage people to become active citizens.

MENA REGION

IREX Europe is part of a consortium led by the French Canal France International that work to give young people in the Arab world better access to information, a broader grounding in media topics and increased political and citizen-led involvement in society. We support the development of digital news content that is of interest to young people, increasing the relevance of the content to the youth of today, especially in the regions, and helping the media strengthen their technical and media literacy skills.

CENTRAL ASIA

At the end of 2019, we started an EU-funded project aiming at strengthening resilience of youth in Central Asia to misinformation and hate speech online through promoting critical thinking and media literacy. An online Game will be launched in the summer of 2020.



Media corner at the Public Library Alexandru Donici from Orhei, Moldova

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



OUR OBJECTIVES

IREX Europe provides assistance and capacity building to media organisations, journalists, media lawyers and civil society organisations (CSOs) focused on media freedom and freedom of expression. We seek to improve

freedom of expression and media-related legislation and its implementation. We also provide emergency support and legal support to media and media professionals in need.



LGBT photo exhibition by photographer and activist Loreta Cuka, Tirana, Albania

WHAT WE DO

- **Review and analysis** of key media legislation and the production of **white papers**.
- Support for media coverage of **human rights and social issues** by journalists and bloggers.
- **Legal training for media lawyers** in local and international media law, in particular European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) case law.
- Support for joint initiatives between **media, local communities, youth and civil society**.
- **Support to advocacy and monitoring activities** by journalists, bloggers and CSOs.
- **Training for journalists** and media organisations in media law.
- **Legal support** - providing legal analysis pre-publication, as well as legal defense before the courts for media and media professionals.
- **Peer-to-peer exchange**, regional and international to promote exchange of best practice.
- **Emergency assistance** to media workers, human rights defenders and activists and their families during and after persecution to cover medical, material, living costs and legal advice.

2019 KEY FIGURES

303 journalists and media professionals trained in Freedom of Expression.

39 Human Rights Defenders supported.

Supported **7** independent media to work with **466** new bloggers to cover Human Rights and social issues.



Workshop on MIL in Morocco

SUPPORT TO MEDIA WHERE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION ARE RESTRICTED

IREX Europe works in different regions to support freedom of expression through the promotion of access to information and the protection of media against repressive legislation or selective application of laws. We work to strengthen the capacities of independent media and journalists, helping them cover important social and human rights issues. We provide trainings for lawyers, judges and prosecutors, helping them better combat repressive legislation and/or effectively implement existing laws. We support media professionals before national courts and the European Court of Human Rights. We work with grassroots activists and CSOs to raise awareness on media freedom and human rights, advocating for legislative reform and better conformity to international norms.

MOROCCO

Our project in Morocco aims to foster the effective implementation of a legal framework conducive to freedom of expression, association and assembly and consistent with international standards and best practices. The project is implemented by IREX Europe, in partnership with the local NGO Adala, ARTICLE 19 MENA, the UNESCO office in Rabat and the local NGO "Association Initiatives Citoyennes" (AIC).

TUNISIA

We promote and protect the right to Freedom of Expression (FoE) and the Right to Information (RTI) through an improved and more effectively implemented legal and regulatory framework that is in line with international standards and the Tunisian Constitution. The project is implemented by IREX Europe, in partnership with ARTICLE 19 MENA and the Tunisian CSO Go Act.



OUR OBJECTIVES

Promoting a community of Human Rights supporters and advocates united by shared values. We seek to support Human Rights activists and organisations so that they can

better serve their communities and better advocate for their rights. We also work to strengthen international human rights support coordination in France.

WHAT WE DO

- **Strategic development** for local CSOs.
- **Leadership and financial management** training.
- **Fundraising and outreach support capacity building.**
- Core support for key services such as **LGBTI and women's shelters.**
- **Small grants** support for regional advocacy and outreach.
- **Training for media professionals** in how to better report on **minority issues**, avoiding stereotypes.
- **Positive image campaigns** promoting more tolerant societies .

2019 KEY FIGURES

1 public event on forced LGBTIQ migration from Eurasia held in France

4 small grants to civic activists and media professionals to promote Human Rights in Eurasia

PLATEFORME DES DROITS DE L'HOMME (PDH)

IREX Europe is a founding member of the French NGO network : The Human Rights Platform/*Plateforme des Droits de l'Homme* (PDH). The network was officially founded in July 2018, after two years of preparation. 21 French NGOs, all working to support human rights at the international level are now official members and are working to improve coordination and advocacy at the national French and international level.

<https://www.plateformedh.fr/>

IOI Plateforme IOI Droits de l'Homme

EURASIA

We work to strengthen public understanding of human rights and the role that civil society organizations play in defending them. We raise awareness on the persecution of LGBTIQ people and forced LGBTIQ migration.

GENDER EQUALITY



OUR OBJECTIVES

IREX Europe works with Human Rights Defenders and activists aiming at promoting gender equality, women's and LGBTIQ+ rights, combatting gender-based discrimination and protecting vulnerable members of the community in the long term.

2019 KEY FIGURES

406 women HRDs received training

150 LGBT members directly supported

WHAT WE DO

- **Strategic development** for local CSOs.
- **Leadership and financial management** training.
- **Fundraising and outreach support capacity building.**
- Core support for key services such as **LGBTI and women's shelters.**
- **Small grants** support for regional advocacy and outreach.
- **Training for media professionals** in how to better report on **minority** issues, avoiding stereotypes.
- Positive image campaigns promoting more tolerant societies.



PRIDE Celebrations in Tirana, Albania

ALBANIA

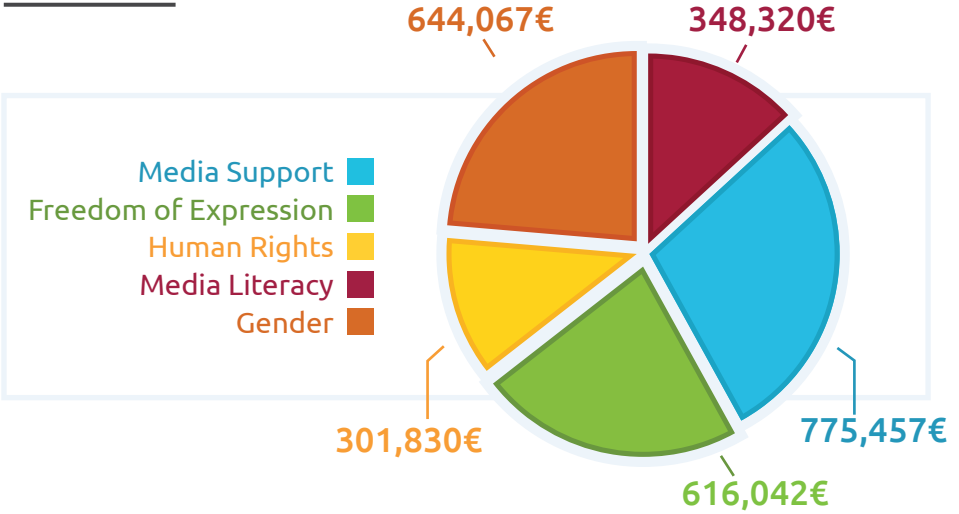
IREX Europe works with its local partners to strengthen LGBT organisations and activists' role in promoting acceptance, inclusion and protection of the LGBT minority in rural and urban Albania, with a particular focus on protecting at-risk marginalised youth LGBTs, and to promote respect for LGBTs' fundamental rights.

EURASIA

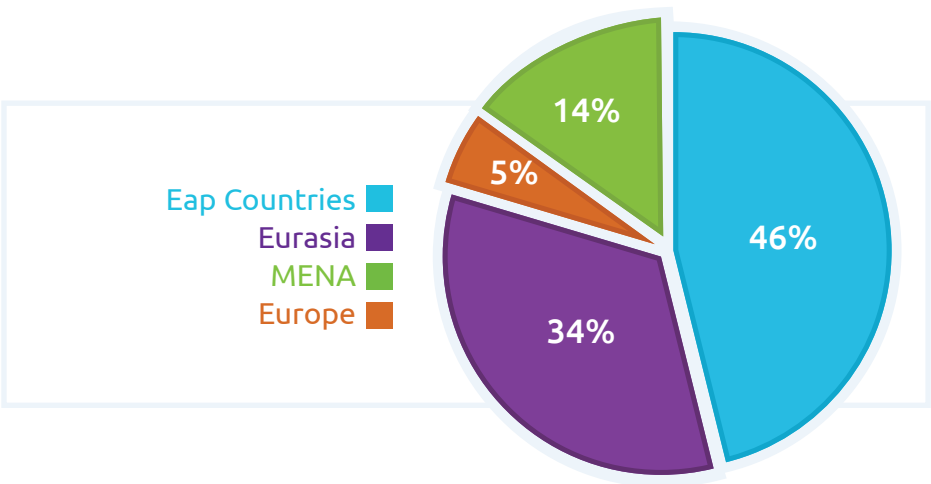
We supported young and emerging HRDs (age 18-30) in five Eurasian countries through capacity building training, networking opportunities, small grants and mentoring. Throughout 2018 and 2019, we ran 'Leadership Academies' in each of the five countries where sessions focused on creative campaigning; working with the private sector; fundraising and marketing. We also trained lawyers working to promote women's and girl's rights in international law and making applications to the European Court of Human Rights.

FIGURES AND FINANCES

IREX EUROPE PROJECTS BY FOCUS AREA

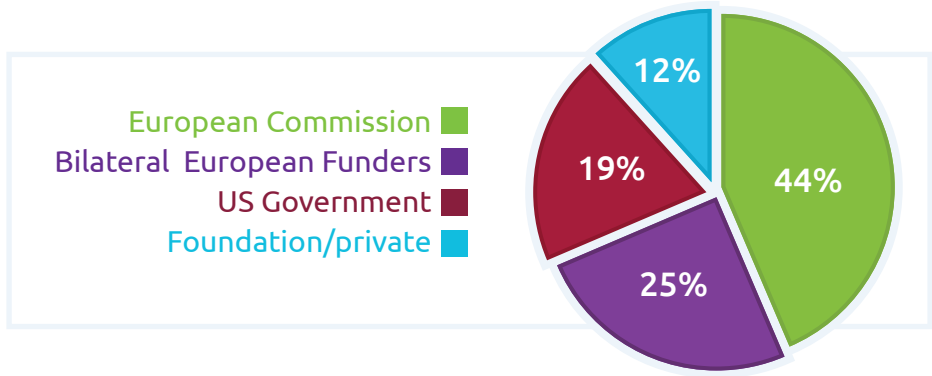


IREX EUROPE PROJECTS BY REGION



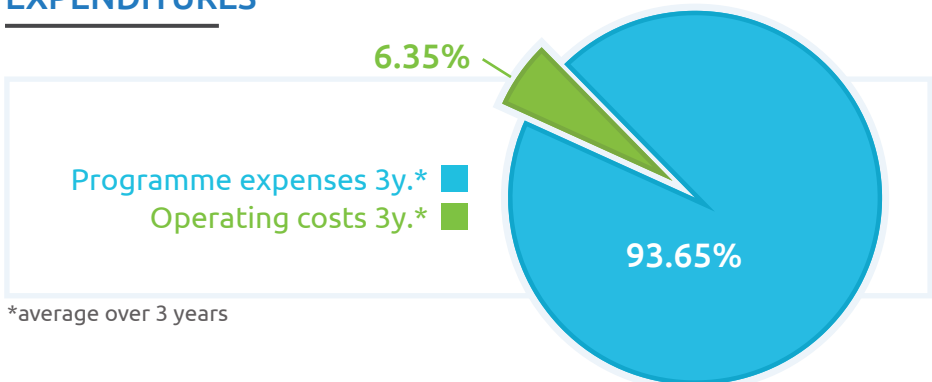
FIGURES AND FINANCES

IREX EUROPE PROJECTS BY FUNDERS



2019 **2.7**
Turnover : Million €

IREX EUROPE EXPENDITURES



*average over 3 years



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