

CSSF PROGRAMME SUMMARY

PROGRAMME TITLE: Counter Disinformation and Media Development (formally Russian Language)				
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) , Ministry of Defence (MoD), Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Cabinet Office			
COUNTRY/REGION:	Europe			
UNIQUE ID:	CSSF-05-000006			
PROGRAMME DURATION: April 2018 – March 2019				
IF A NEW PROGRAMME FOR THIS FY, HAVE ANY ELEMENTS DERIVED FROM OLDER PROGRAMMES? IF YES, WHICH ONES? : Not applicable				
FY 18-19 BUDGET ALLOCATION:		ODA: £1m	Non-ODA: £19.1m	
PROGRAMME DOCUMENT TOTAL VALUE: £ 20.1m				
CONTACT DETAILS				
PROJECT/COMPONENT	LEAD DEPT	IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION	CONTRACT START/END DATES	FY18-19 BUDGET (ODA/Non-ODA)
Enhancing independent media and NGOs	FCO	Various	Various	£16.9m (£1m ODA, £15.9m non-ODA)

Engaging with audiences potentially vulnerable to disinformation	FCO	Various	Various	£2.7m (non-ODA)
Programme Delivery Costs	FCO	-	-	£500,000 (non-ODA)

WHAT SUPPORT IS THE UK PROVIDING?

The UK is working with a range of partners to enhance the quality of public service and independent media (including in the Russian language) so that it is able to support social cohesion, uphold universal values and provide communities in countries across Eastern Europe with access to reliable information. The types of support given varies from mentoring with UK media organisations; consultancy on programming; funded co-productions and support for regional Russian language media initiatives. In the coming year we will be investing over £8m in supporting public service and independent media. This will include projects in the Baltic States and Ukraine, as well as pan-regional initiatives.

The UK is seeking to engage and build connections with local communities in the Baltic States that support youth empowerment and greater engagement through sport, the arts and social enterprise so as to increase social cohesion and make the population less susceptible to attempts to drive wedges through the use of disinformation. We are prioritising work that enhances social cohesion.

The UK also supports efforts by Civil Society to chronicle and expose disinformation so as to strengthen defences to disinformation amongst overseas audiences.

WHY IS UK SUPPORT NEEDED?

The UK is a world leader in soft power. The BBC is the world's leading public broadcaster. Our independent media producers are globally acknowledged as the best in the business. The UK has a unique position to use its world leading media industry, its knowledge of capacity building elsewhere in the world, its network of Posts across Eastern Europe and its ability to convene other countries to make a real difference.

Access to reliable information is crucial to the ongoing security of Europe. The UK does not seek to fight propaganda with propaganda. Instead this programme promotes the free circulation of accurate information and positive engagement with those most impacted by Russian disinformation.

The Russian Government invests heavily in propaganda which was deployed as part of illegal actions in Georgia and Ukraine. It has an in-built advantage in generating propaganda in the Russian-language, enjoying a dominant position in the provision of Russia-language media inside and outside Russia.

WHAT RESULTS DOES THE UK EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?

The UK expects to strengthen our defences against disinformation across Eastern Europe through greater variety and balance in Russian language media giving audience reliable access to reliable information, increased awareness of the problem of disinformation and increased support for universal values.

The UK also expects to achieve greater awareness of disinformation and increased resilience to it in a range of audiences across Europe.