

CSSF PROGRAMME SUMMARY

PROGRAMME TITLE: Russian Language Programme			
HMG Partners (Lead in bold)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office , Department for International Development , Ministry of Defence, Cabinet Office		
COUNTRY/REGION:	Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus		
PROGRAMME DURATION: April 2017 - March 2018			
FY17-18 BUDGET:	ODA:	Non-ODA: £8m	
PROJECT/COMPONENT	LEAD DEPT	IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION*	FY17-18 BUDGET
Enhancing independent media	FCO	Various	£5,950,000
Engaging with Russian speakers in the Baltic states	FCO	Various	£1,950,000
Programme Delivery Costs	FCO		£100,000
*INFORMATION HAS BEEN WITHHELD FROM PUBLICATION ON SECURITY GROUNDS			
WHAT SUPPORT IS THE UK PROVIDING?			
<p>The UK is working with a range of partners to enhance the quality of public and independent Russian language media so that it is able to support social cohesion, uphold universal values and provide Russian speaking 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 detailed in the European Endowment for Democracy's landmark report from July 2015.</p> <p>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 helping develop education systems, especially to implement improvements in English language teaching and learning and to highlight the value of inclusiveness, diversity, citizenship and internationalism. We will give people the opportunity to acquire the skills, attitudes and opportunities they need to be included in society, and to participate actively in decision-making in their own communities, country and beyond. We are prioritising work that enhances social cohesion.</p> <p>The UK also supports efforts by the international community's capabilities to chronicle and expose disinformation so as to build resilience to disinformation amongst audiences</p>			
WHY IS UK SUPPORT NEEDED?			
<p>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.</p> <p>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 reliable information and positive engagement with those most impacted by Russian disinformation.</p> <p>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.</p>			

WHAT RESULTS DOES THE UK EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?

The UK expects to build resilience to propaganda across Eastern Europe through greater plurality 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.