

## CSSF PROGRAMME SUMMARY

<b>PROGRAMME TITLE: Western Balkans Media, Cyber And Defence (MCD) Programme</b>					
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	<b>Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office (FCO)</b> Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) from 2/9/2020, Ministry of Defence (MOD)				
COUNTRY AND REGION:	Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia				
UNIQUE ID:	CSSF-10-000003				
DAC Code:	15153				
PROGRAMME DURATION: April 2020 – March 2023 (three year programme with a range of one-year and multi-year projects)					
Start Date: April 2020		End Date: March 2023			
IF A NEW PROGRAMME FOR THIS FY, HAVE ANY ELEMENTS DERIVED FROM OLDER PROGRAMMES? IF YES, WHICH ONES? Most of the Programme – on Media, Cyber and Defence continues from the FY19/20 MCD Programme					
FY 20-21 BUDGET ALLOCATION:	ODA: £12m		Non-ODA: £7.5m		
CONTACT DETAILS <a href="mailto:JointFundsUnit@fco.gov.uk">JointFundsUnit@fco.gov.uk</a>					
PROJECT/ COMPONENT	LEAD DEPT	IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION	Implementing Partner Type	CONTRACT START/END DATES	FY20-21 BUDGET (ODA/Non-ODA)*
Media Freedom and Strategic Communications	FCO	Albany Associates, European Endowment for Democracy, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), British Council, Government Communications Service International, Institute of Communication Studies (IKS), The Global Strategy Network, Zinc Network, Palladium, Balkans Investigative Reporting Network, UNICEF	Commercial Partner, Public Body, Academic organisation, UN Agency	Projects under this programme include one-year contracts (April 2020 – March 2021) and multi-year contracts with differing start/end dates between April 2018 and March 2023	£7.1m ODA / £3.1m non-ODA

Cyber Security and Resilience	FCO	Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), Home Office, FCO, NATO	Foundation, Public Body, Multilateral	See above	£1m ODA
Defence Engagement	MoD	UK Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence, Stabilisation Unit, Industry Partners	Government, NGO, Commercial Partners	See above	£2.3M ODA / £4.4m non-ODA
Programme Delivery Costs (Staffing, Monitoring and Evaluation)	FCO	n/a	n/a	April 2020 – March 2021	£1.6m ODA

#### WHAT SUPPORT IS THE UK PROVIDING?

The Western Balkans Media, Cyber and Defence (MCD) CSSF Programme aims to improve the stability of the region. It does this by strengthening critical resilience, including: the sustainability of independent media, countering disinformation, strengthening cyber resilience and the ability to resist a cyber-attack, defence engagement, and supporting reforms required for accession to NATO.

The Programme has four main pillars which are aligned to priority drivers of instability in the region. These pillars are:

1. **Media Freedom and Strategic Communications** which covers strengthening independent media, contributing to a free and more pluralistic media environment in the Western Balkans, supporting media organisations to help citizens hold government to account, and strengthening the capability of governments to communicate transparently and accountably;
2. **Countering Disinformation** which includes developing a better understanding of deliberately inaccurate media reporting in the Western Balkans, and tracking, evidencing and exposing malign activity;
3. **Cyber Security and Resilience** is a key issue as the Western Balkans is susceptible to a range of disruptive cyber activity, as well as cyber-enabled activity. Our work on cyber security focuses on capacity building to help governments across the region develop a stronger national cyber security capacity and an improved ability for the state to identify quickly, respond to and resist cyber-attacks; and
4. **Defence Engagement**, which includes supporting international peacekeeping operations in the region, developing the capacity and resilience of Western Balkans Armed Forces, encouraging greater transparency and accountability in line with NATO standards.

#### WHY IS UK SUPPORT NEEDED?

Years after the end of serious armed conflict in the Western Balkans, the region remains fragile with ongoing risks of instability and violence. There remains potential for conflict: endemic state capture, corruption, lack of media freedom, and a lack of cyber security and resilience are all key drivers of regional instability. Supporting countries on their path towards EU and NATO membership is a key way of contributing to a stable and more resilient Western Balkans, with an improved capacity to tackle its own problems. The programme's overarching contribution to Western Balkans stability is therefore consistent with the CSSF's focus on tackling instability and preventing conflicts that threaten UK interests.

A stable, democratic, prosperous and resilient Western Balkans, able to contribute to European security and deal with threats, is in the interests of the UK. There are a number of factors which contribute towards the UK's comparative advantage in the region. This includes the availability of strong partnerships and recognised UK Government expertise on media freedom, cyber security and democracy coupled with proven experience in delivering flexible, responsive and impactful programmes. The UK also has a strong political commitment to the region and to defending media freedom.

#### **WHAT HMG OBJECTIVE AND WHICH SDGS (IF SPENDING ODA) DOES THIS CONTRIBUTE TO?**

The UK recognises the fundamental impact conflict and instability have on realising sustainable development and poverty reduction. HMG has committed through the UK aid strategy (2015) to use its ODA budget to strengthen global peace, security and governance by investing more to tackle the causes of instability, insecurity and conflict.

The Western Balkans MCD CSSF Programme funds projects, using ODA and non-ODA, to build regional resilience to malign external influence, to support the region's Euro-Atlantic path and to promote positive UK values. This supports the government's overarching objective for a more peaceful, stable and resilient Western Balkans.

The Programme works towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies in recognition of the fundamental importance this has to long term stability. The Programme also works towards aspects of: SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and SDG 10 to reduce inequalities within and between countries.

#### **WHAT RESULTS DOES THE UK EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?**

The Western Balkans MCD CSSF Programme aims to deliver the following overarching **outputs** over the 2020/21 financial year:

- Training and capacity building for a stronger, more independent, media sector able to engage effectively with target audiences on political issues and critically assess political developments.
- Media in the Western Balkans are more sustainably independent.
- State institutions communicate more transparently and engage citizens more effectively.
- Target audiences better able to identify disinformation.
- Facilitate cyber resilience cooperation across the Western Balkans.
- Maintain a safe and secure environment through our commitments to international peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to NATO's Kosovo Force.
- Support the development of professionalised Armed Forces who remain committed to security sector reform.
- The Armed Forces of the Western Balkans region are able to deploy and operate more effectively together, including the support they provide to civil authorities, in line with NATO standards.
- Procedures and regulations (with gender integrated throughout) to increase long-term civilian oversight and democratic control of the Armed Forces in Western Balkans countries.
- Support to institutions in Western Balkan Governments to respond to threats from weapons trafficking and to improve their management of weapons stockpiles.

These outputs should contribute to the following **outcomes**:

- Increased regional stability and greater resilience to malign influence.
- Media content in the Western Balkans is more diverse and encourages more informed, open and active discussion.
- Western Balkans states have the tools, governance, and awareness of cyber issues to be capable of developing their capacity to resist cyber-attack.

- A professionalised military which is able to contribute to peace and security efforts nationally and internationally.