

FAST FACTS

HEADQUARTERS

Prague, Czech Republic

Washington, DC

ANNUAL BUDGET
\$126.5 million (FY21)

LANGUAGES

27

AUDIENCE

37.2 million (FY21)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reaches 37 million people every week with locally-oriented, multimedia content that promotes democratic values and institutions in 23 countries where a free press is banned or not fully established.



PROGRAMS

Current Time, the 24/7 digital network led by RFE/RL in cooperation with Voice of America, provides a fresh alternative to Kremlin-controlled media and reaches a Russian-speaking audience of 7.8 million in 29 countries through a network of nearly 280 distributors & affiliates.

The Russian Service is one of Russia's most-cited multimedia outlets, with an expanding platform for independent opinion, investigation, and debate. RFE/RL and nine of its reporting projects for Russia have been targeted by an expanded "foreign agent" law passed by Russian legislators and signed by President Putin.

RFE/RL's Balkan Service is unique among regional media in providing an informed alternative to ethnic narratives and disinformation in Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Kosovo, while reporting on the local dynamics that drive division, extremism, and radicalism in the region.

RFE/RL's five Central Asian services provide unparalleled reporting about the region's politics, borders, economy, migrants, religious movements, extremism, conflict, and Chinese influence. The research and documentary project "Not

IN FY2021

748 MILLION
visits to RFE/RL websites

RFE/RL content was viewed

7.0 BILLION
times across social media

and RFE/RL had

564 MILLION
engaged users on Facebook

JOURNALISTS UNDER THREAT

70
INCIDENTS

including physical assault, online harassment, interrogations, detentions, prison, and threats in connection with their reporting

ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020, RFE/RL JOURNALIST MOHAMMAD ILYAS DAYEE

was murdered in a targeted car bombing near his home in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan

In Our Name” is the first regional program to address extremist recruitment in the region, and empower communities to work together to prevent the spread of violence and extremism.

MISSION

RFE/RL’s promotes democratic values and institutions and advance human rights by reporting the news in countries where a free press is banned by the government or not fully established. RFE/RL’s journalists provide what many people cannot get locally: uncensored news and open debate. RFE/RL strives to meet the highest standards of objective journalism and report the facts, undaunted by pressure or attempted influence. Based on the conviction that the first requirement of democracy is a well informed citizenry:

- RFE/RL’s independent journalism provides fair and objective news, analysis, and discussion of domestic, regional, and international issues crucial to healthy democracies and free markets.
- RFE/RL strengthens civil societies by projecting democratic and pluralistic values.
- RFE/RL combats all forms of intolerance and promotes mutual understanding among peoples.
- RFE/RL provides a model for local media, assists in training to enhance media professionalism and independence, and develops partnerships with local media outlets.

IMPACT

RFE/RL’s breaking news and multimedia reporting across its target region earns daily citations in global media, including The Washington Post, The New York Times, AP, Reuters, USA Today, Politico, CNN, NBC, CBS, and ABC.

The Dari- and Pashto-language Afghan Service draws on its extensive network of sources to maintain its reporting presence inside Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, and Radio Mashaal provides unparalleled expertise on politics and militancy along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Radio Farda breaks through official censorship in Iran to provide audiences a platform for informed discussion and debate. Despite being barred from any official reporting presence on the ground in Iran, Farda is one of the few news media that effectively employs in-country sources and community journalism to report news from inside Iran.

The Ukraine Service’s investigative program “Schemes” delivers high-impact reporting on corruption among Ukraine’s political elites that has informed official investigations, led to high-level dismissals, and contributed to greater public accountability.

In 2020, RFE/RL documented at least 70 incidents targeting its journalists in no fewer than 16 countries in connection with their work. Reprisals included online campaigns, the denial of credentials, and retaliatory lawsuits.