

FAST FACTS

HEADQUARTERS

Prague, Czech Republic
Washington, DC

ANNUAL BUDGET

\$142.2 million (FY24)

LANGUAGES

27

AUDIENCE

42.1 million (FY23)

“People are hungry for the unbiased information that RFE/RL provides, and we are committed to supporting it, despite the Kremlin’s efforts to suppress media freedom.”

– Rep. Mike McCaul (R-TX)

For 70 years, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) has brought independent media to audiences hungry for the truth. More critical than ever, RFE/RL is reaching growing audiences, countering disinformation, and reporting from the frontlines of global events from Russia and Ukraine to Iran and Afghanistan.



MISSION

RFE/RL’s mission is to promote democratic values by providing accurate, uncensored news and open debate in countries where a free press is threatened, and disinformation is pervasive. RFE/RL reports the facts, undaunted by pressure. RFE/RL adheres to strict [ethics](#) of professional journalism and editorial independence.

PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES

RFE/RL has comprehensive strategies to counter Russian and Chinese disinformation that is prevalent across its broadcast areas. For example, new offices in Riga and Vilnius will house expanded reporting teams with the Russian Service and Current Time, a 24/7 Russian-language platform, to reach growing audiences with investigative journalism, programming about the Baltic region, and non-news content, among other initiatives. Many RFE/RL Services report on Chinese investment and other forms of influence for their audiences across Eurasia.

“We need you now more than ever before. You are a critical voice, a credible voice, to counter the propaganda and disinformation of Russia.”

– Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)

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
ABC

In January 2023, RFE/RL was the subject of CBS' "60 Minutes" on reporting from the frontlines of the war in Ukraine and RFE/RL's central role combatting Russian malign influence.

In many coverage markets, RFE/RL is an important antidote to violent extremism. RFE/RL's Afghan Service and Pashto-language Service for Pakistan's tribal areas provide local news using diverse voices. Each has profiled victims of attacks and provided emergency and public health information. As a result, these services are considered trusted public broadcasters.

RFE/RL's local services are also known for their deep investigative reporting, frequently focused on exposing public corruption. RFE/RL's Central Asian services, for example, regularly cover abuses of state authority, often receiving international recognition.

In partnership with the Open Technology Fund, RFE/RL successfully circumvents state censorship to bring audiences truthful reporting. From Russia to Iran, RFE/RL promotes the use of free and effective VPNs. RFE/RL also uses mirror sites, community messaging platforms, and Tor for safe and anonymous browsing.

IMPACT

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, traffic to RFE/RL websites from within Russia increased to record numbers despite significant Kremlin censorship. Both at the war's [start](#) and at [key moments](#), video views from within Russia surged, demonstrating the immense appetite of Russian-language audiences for truthful coverage. RFE/RL's [award-winning](#) coverage is meeting this demand with extensive reporting on [Russian atrocities](#), [conscription](#), and [more](#). Based on a 2022 national survey, 10% of the adult Russian population report consuming RFE/RL content weekly.

The Ukrainian Service's investigative reporting unit "Schemes" has broken news repeatedly about alleged Russian war crimes in Ukraine that has been carried by multiple international media outlets. Schemes' probes into domestic political events and exposés of corruption help hold the Ukrainian government accountable for its actions.

While sanctioned in December 2022 by the Iranian regime, Radio Farda successfully circumvents censorship to reach growing audiences inside the country. In the months following Mahsa Amini's death, Radio Farda has demonstrated its commitment to countering state propaganda by profiling victims of police violence.

In 2022, RFE/RL documented numerous incidents targeting its journalists across its broadcast regions in connection with their work. Despite the Kremlin's systematic crackdown on RFE/RL to targeted attacks in Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, and beyond, RFE/RL remains committed to bringing the whole truth to its audiences.