

FAST FACTS

HEADQUARTERS
Prague, Czech Republic
Washington, DC

ANNUAL BUDGET
\$142.2 million (FY24)

LANGUAGES
27

AUDIENCE
47.6 million (FY24)

“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)

Since 1950, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) has brought independent media to audiences seeking 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

Operating in some of the world’s most closed media environments, RFE/RL offers a digital-first approach to news with a focus on censorship circumvention and countering Russian and Chinese disinformation. RFE/RL journalists produce award-winning news and information in local languages challenging violence extremism, public corruption, and authoritarianism.

In Iran, RFE/RL’s Persian-language Service continues to be a beacon of independent journalism in a repressive media environment. In Afghanistan,

“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.

RFE/RL's Afghan Service highlights the threat to women's and girls' access to education and employment.

Across Central Asia, RFE/RL is bolstering its coverage of China's influence in the region as Beijing pours money and resources into the area to promote its interests and undermine democracy.

IMPACT

In 2024, RFE/RL's coverage reached more than 47 million people each week, with a combined 9.4 billion video views across social media and websites.

Since 2021, average monthly YouTube views of RFE/RL's Russian-language news content increased from 20 million to 74 million, with a peak of more than 400 million views in February 2022 when Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began.

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 its exposés of corruption also help hold the Ukrainian government accountable.

Despite censorship by the Iranian regime, Radio Farda successfully circumvents censorship to reach growing audiences inside Iran. In the months following Mahsa Amini's death, Radio Farda demonstrated its commitment to countering state propaganda by profiling victims of police violence.

In 2024, 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.