

Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes:
Regional programme on Civil Society – Media component in South-East Europe

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** 2007/019-636
- 1.2 Title:** Strengthening Regional News Exchange from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code:** 06.10 – Information society and media
- 1.4 Location:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia including Kosovo (as defined by UNSCR 1244)¹ and The Hague

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Contracting Authority: European Community represented by the Commission of the European Communities for and on behalf of the beneficiary countries².

1.6 Implementing Agency: N.A.

1.7 Beneficiary: Media, civil society and general public in the Western Balkans and international justice and human rights professionals and organizations worldwide

- 1.8 Overall cost:** €670,997
- 1.9 EU contribution:** €200,000
- 1.10 Final date for contracting:** 30/11/2008
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** 30/11/2010
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements:** 30/11/2011

¹ Hereafter referred to as Kosovo

² "Beneficiary countries" includes Kosovo in the whole document

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective:

The overall objective is to inform the public in the countries of the Western Balkans about the functioning of the international tribunals and courts of The Hague, their work and mission, to raise public support for cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and for domestic prosecution of war crimes.

2.2 Project purpose:

The purpose of this project is to provide local media in the countries of the Western Balkans with reliable, objective and non-biased information primarily about events at the ICTY but also other international courts, i.e. the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). This means bringing international justice closer to the victims and general public so that they can see that justice is done and how it is done, and therefore contributing to reconciliation and democratisation process in the region.

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA:

EU' assistance to media is not only a financial commitment but also a political commitment to common values. The supporting countries will be measured on their capacity and willingness to build a democratic society based on all aspects of the rule of law including free and independent media.

The media sector has been identified in the European Partnerships as one of the key action priorities of great importance in the region to be addressed by supported countries. Encouraging media news exchange will help the Western Balkans countries with their reforms and preparations for future membership.

2.4 Link with MIPD:

The Media Programme appears as a priority in the Multi-Beneficiary MIPD under Section 2.2.6 "Support to Civil Society".

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification

The consequence of the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia and the wars which followed was a significant lack of interest in cooperation in the whole Balkan region, and a rise of extreme forms of nationalist perceptions of neighbouring countries. Therefore, it became necessary to increase the flow of information to and between the countries in the Balkan region. Mass media, especially television, was recognised as the most influential media to use in order to broadcast information about neighbouring countries and on issues concerning these countries and the region such as the transmission to the Western Balkans of the procedures in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Accordingly, The Regional Strategy Paper stresses that the development of free, independent and professional media is key to sustaining stability and peace in the region.

Since its inception in 1998, the SENSE Agency has regularly been covering all the trials and other activities at the ICTY, as well as the proceedings related to the Western Balkans countries before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Daily reports – articles and audio

reports from The Hague - are regularly published/broadcast by the press and the electronic media in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and by Western radio stations such as Deutsche Welle, broadcasting in Bosnian, Croatian or Serbian languages (BCS).

SENSE News Agency is the only agency today that covers all the trials and other relevant activities at the ICTY - regularly, systematically, impartially and professionally. It is a unique media project not only in the Western Balkans but in the world. Its target audience is the media, civil society and the public in the Western Balkans and interested general public.

In addition to daily reports and weekly TV programmes, SENSE News Agency has so far produced six documentary films: *Triumph of Evil*, about the Srebrenica genocide trial (2001), *Against All Odds*, about the first ten years of the ICTY (2003), *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, about Srebrenica 10 years after (2005) and three documentaries about the case of Dr. Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic - *The Fugitives* (2004), *Life and Deeds of Radovan Karadzic* (2005) and *Rise and Fall of General Mladic* (2005).

In the previous years SENSE News Agency answered numerous requests from the Western Balkans and international media for video archives from the court proceedings. As the court is entering in to final phase of its work this demand is even bigger. Many trials are already concluded with appeals judgments and media, television production companies, researchers, academics and interested public from all around the world are turning to SENSE News Agency for footage or just advice on court statistics or way to find material. In a way SENSE News Agency became that one source of knowledge and material which is easy accessible and well researched.

Since SENSE News Agency is the only media organization fully technically equipped for production of television programmes inside Tribunal, it is also serving as a technical support and editing hub for their colleagues. Television stations in the Western Balkans are poor and badly equipped and they still don't have enough funds or equipment to send technicians with camera and editing unit to follow even the most important events. In these cases SENSE News Agency was providing technical support to journalists - editing facility, viewing station and access to archive and recordings.

Being the only regional news service from the ICTY, SENSE News Agency has already made an important contribution in disseminating truthful and reliable information about the policies and intentions of the international community and, especially, about the overall work of the ICTY in establishing the facts and responsibility for the crimes committed during the wars in the Western Balkans.

The European Commission has been supporting the SENSE News Agency's work in The Hague since 1998, and this project will build upon and extend previous support.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact:
N.A.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

The "results" of this project are daily written and audio reports and regular weekly TV programme about the work of the ICTY, ICJ and ICC. At average, SENSE's correspondents from the Tribunal are preparing 5 to 8 written and audio reports daily (on some days when activities are increased up to 12 reports) and at least one 30 minutes TV program weekly. So

far, since the start of production (3 March 2000), SENSE-TRIBUNAL team has produced some 320 programs, which is more than a number of working weeks in the Tribunal (August, Christmas and New Year recess, and different UN holidays).

The number of SENSE daily reports from The Hague depends on activities of the ICTY. Most of the time there are hearings on six on-going trials and SENSE News Agency produces at least one daily report from each of them. It also reports from the ICTY press conferences and about different documents (orders, motions, decisions and other) of the Trial Chambers, Office of the Prosecution and Registry. It is also sometimes making interviews with court officials for television program and then produces articles from this material for written press.

SENSE News Agency is as well reporting from visits to Tribunal by national officials (members of government, MPs, officials in charge of co-operation with Tribunal) and NGOs representatives. In addition, when there is particularly big event such as Oral Hearing in case Bosnia and Herzegovina vs Yugoslavia at the ICJ, it was producing at least 2 more written reports a day and weekly television story for TV Tribunal.

For the duration of the project, SENSE News Agency will generate approximately 70 weekly TV TRIBUNAL weekly television up-dates. It will be also producing short daily pieces from the most important events to be sent by satellite to its clients.

3.4 Activities:

In line with the work to be performed from 2008 in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC), the SENSE project will continue to guarantee exchange of regional news items through a regional news exchange network including a free flow and access to information of the procedures on the beneficiaries of stakeholders in the Western Balkans region and the international communities.

In June 2007, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia President and the Chief Prosecutor presented their regular report to the UN Security Council. They did note that some trials might continue into 2009, but the Security Council members have yet to indicate if the deadline for the completion of all first-instance trials might be extended. ICTY President Fausto Pocar said that all first-instance trials should be completed “no later than 2009”. It would then take another two years to complete all appellate proceedings.

According to the latest (02 July 2007) estimated trial schedule, all first instance trials should be closed by the end of 2009. This estimate is based upon running 7 trials simultaneously, in 3 courtrooms. Estimated timeline of the remaining trials are:

Prlic et al. case – ending date: February 2009
 Milutinovic et al. case – ending date: March 2008
 Popovic et al. case - ending date: February 2009
 Mico Stanisic case - ending date: November 2009
 Haradinaj et al. case - ending date: February 2008
 Simatovic et al. case - ending date: March 2009
 Dragomir Milosevic case – ending date: October 2007
 Vojislav Seselj case - ending date: September 2009
 Boskoski et al. – ending date: March 2008
 Momcilo Perisic – ending date: July 2009

Rasim Delic – ending date: July 2008

Gotovina et al. – ending date: December 2009

The project will therefore cover the following main project activities:

3.4.1. Daily Tribunal Updates (written and audio reports)

3.4.2. Weekly television program – TV Tribunal

3.4.3. Technical and information support to media in the Western Balkans

3.4.1. Daily Tribunal Updates

BCS (Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian) language news service

Coverage and reporting from all on going trials at the ICTY (including witness testimonies, forensic evidence, investigations, indictments, judgments and other subjects related to international justice) and sending daily written audio and TV reports to newspapers and radio and TV stations all over the Western Balkans.

English language news service

Selected Sense daily reports from the Tribunal will be translated into English and made available on the Sense web-site www.sense-agency.com.

3.4.2. Weekly television program – TV Tribunal

Recording of all court proceedings in the SENSE office-studio in the ICTY (from the close-circuit Court TV) and the courtroom events (interviews, press conferences, and visitor statements).

Production of regular weekly TV updates about the work of the ICTY (pre-editing and editing stories about trials, victims and witnesses testimonies, presentation of forensic evidence like mass-grave exhumations or reports about different aspects of the Tribunal's work (victims and witnesses protection, Tribunal's languages, prosecutors and defence lawyers opinions on some relevant subjects, condition in the UN Detention unit)) through the TV TRIBUNAL which is transmitted via satellite from EbS studio in Brussels to the region every Friday at 21.00.

3.4.3. Technical and information support to media in the Western Balkans

Sense will provide support and information to the Western Balkans media not only about court procedures but also technical facilities. Since filming is not allowed in the court and Sense receives video and audio through internal network connected to the feed box in the press lobby Sense will give support to other media in order to be able to connect to the system. Sense will also provide spare cables, light bulbs, batteries and other small material that the need in order to record sound and picture from the courtroom or stand up of their journalist in front of the building.

SENSE News Agency will serve as an information point for the Western Balkans media on production facilities in The Hague, uplinks and feed points as well as facilitate contacts with Dutch production companies, broadcasters and feed points.

The project will be implemented through a new direct grant agreement with the SENSE News Agency with an EU contribution of €200,000 and for 18 months in accordance with Article 168 (c) of the Implementing Rules.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

N.A.

3.6 Linked activities:

The ICTY Outreach Programme was established to communicate the activities and accomplishments of the Tribunal to the communities it serves in the states and territories that emerged from former Yugoslavia. The programme seeks to communicate the work and relevance of the Tribunal, as well as forge partnerships with key bodies in the former Yugoslavia. The programme is the public face of the Tribunal in the region of the former Yugoslavia, maintaining offices in Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo and Zagreb, sustaining close ties with the media, the legal community, governmental and non-governmental organizations, victims' associations, international organizations and diplomatic representatives. The Outreach programme ensures that key Tribunal documents are available in the local language of Bosnia-Croatia-Serbia, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. These include indictments, decisions, orders and judgements. Additionally, basic legal documents (such as the Statute, Rules of Procedure and Evidence, Rules governing Defence and Detention matters, etc.) are made available. The programme also provides press releases in these languages.

3.7 Lessons learned

Media in countries of the former Yugoslavia – especially in Croatia and Serbia - tend to focus more on the national accused than in victims. To balance the issue, Sense News Agency has put emphasis on victims in the centre of its written reports and TV stories, trying to present a "voice of the victims."

Since Sense News Agency is dealing with very vulnerable public, which is still in denial and not ready to face a past, it learned that its reports will be more credible – or difficult to dismiss – if it is communicated on the language spoken by the community to which the accused belong to. This approach helps those communities concerned to better understand all the work performed in the ICTY and not dismiss the truth about atrocities committed during the war.

Finally, Sense News Agency realised very early in the project that their users and subscribers are poor and not used to paying for a news service. Due to years of war, economic sanctions, lack of legal regulation in the area of public information as well as lack of mechanisms for law implementation created a gap in which media are allowed to use written articles, video and audio products without copyright concerns. At some point Sense News Agency had to decide what is more important: to spread information about ICTY work and war crimes or to use restrictive policy and cut their access to the reports. The Sense News Agency realised that the best approach was to introduce small subscription fees (that are financially possible for users) than to really achieve some economical gain.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

Activities	TOTAL COST	SOURCES OF FUNDING										
		EU CONTRIBUTION				NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE	
		Total	% *	IB	INV	Total	% *	Central	Regional	IFIs	Total	% *
	670,997											
TOTAL	670,997	200,000	29.8								470,997	70.2

* expressed in % of the Total Cost

SENSE Agency is actively working on securing complete funding for 2008/2009. SENSE TRIBUNAL project has been supported by the European Commission, Governments of The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Germany, and the Open Society Institute. Governmental budgets are still not decided (July 2007) for next year and therefore most of its funders are not able to pledge exact amounts in support of this project. However it received insurances from Governments of The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany that its request for funding will be positively answered.

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1: Direct Grant Agreement	N.A.	Q1 2008	Q2 2010

6. Cross cutting issues

N.A.

ANNEXES

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3- Details per EU funded contract

ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche: Strengthening Regional News Exchange from the International War Crimes Tribunal (ICTY), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).	Programme name and number 2007/019-636	Regional programme on Civil Society – Media component in South-East Europe
	Contracting period expires: 30/11/2008	Disbursement period expires: 30/11/2011
	Total budget : €70,997	IPA budget: €200.000

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
The overall objective is to inform the public in the countries of the Western Balkans about the functioning of the international tribunals and courts of the Hague, their work and mission, , to raise public support for cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and for domestic prosecution of war crimes.	Daily production of five to six articles from on going trials. Written reports include also reports from ICTY press conference, various Court documents, visits of officials and NGOs from Western Balkans, interviews with court officials, Oral Hearings related to Western Balkans at the ICJ etc.	Timely and accurate reporting about events at the ICTY and other international courts. It can be verified through content of written reports, audio and television reports available to users. Regular interim (6 months) and annual reports about the activities. EU Monitoring report.	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To provide local media in the countries of the Western Balkans with reliable, objective and non-biased information primarily about events at the ICTY but also other international courts. This means bringing international justice closer to the victims and general public so that they can see that justice is done and how it is done, and therefore contributing to reconciliation and	The products (written and audio reports as well as television program) are broadcast by users in the Western Balkans.	Subscribers and users of sense-tribunal services Bosnia & Herzegovina: TV BH 1 (Public Broadcasting Service) – Sarajevo, RTRS (Republika Srpska RTV) – Banja Luka, KTV Sarajevo (Cantonal TV), KTV Tuzla (Cantonal TV), KTV Bihac (Cantonal TV), RTV Mostar (Local TV), TV	In order to achieve purpose of this project SENSE has already established an office at the ICTY building in The Hague fully equipped for carrying out activities foreseen.

<p>democratisation process in the region..</p>		<p>Vogosca (Local TV), TV Bijeljina (Local TV) – Republika Srpska, Radio BH1 (Public Broadcasting Service), Oslobodjenje (Daily newspaper) – Sarajevo, Dnevni Avaz (Daily newspaper) – Sarajevo, Nezavisne novine (Daily newspaper) nja Luka, Republika Srpska, Dani (Weekly magazine) - Sarajevo</p> <p>SERBIA: TV B92 (National TV station) – Belgrade, Danas (Daily newspaper) – Belgrade, TV Enter (Local TV) – Belgrade, TV Panovizija (Local TV) – Vrsac, TV Kraljevo (Local TV) – Kraljevo RTV Prima (Local TV) – Bajina Basta, NVT 017 (Local TV) - Vranje RTV Nisava (Local TV) – Nis, TV Trstenik (local TV) – Trstenik, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights – Belgrade, ANEM (Association of Independent Electronic Media) – Belgrade</p> <p>MONTENEGRO: RTV CG (Public Broadcasting Service) – Podgorica, TV Montena (Local TV) – Podgorica, Monitor (Weekly magazine) – Podgorica</p> <p>CROATIA: HRT (Croatian TV) – Zagreb, NOVA TV (Zagreb) RTL – Zagreb, TV Marjan – Political Magazine Cenzura (Local TV) – Split, CCN (Local TV Network) – Zagreb</p> <p>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: A1 TV (National TV station) – Skopje, Kanal 5 (National TV station) – Skopje</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL: Deutsche Welle</p>	
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		(Bosnian and Serbian program) – Koln, International Justice Watch	
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Result of SENSE activities are written, audio reports and weekly television program TV Tribunal. These products are distributed to the media in the Western Balkans and available to general public through local broadcasters and internet.	SENSE is producing annually approximately 1000 (calculation based on 2006 average of 987 written reports) and 43 issues of weekly TV program TV Tribunal (201 stories). In 18 months about 60 issues of weekly television program TV Tribunal will be produced.	SENSE products can be verified on web site: www.sense-agency.com . All articles are daily sent to users but also placed on web site where they can be verified at any given moment. Web version of the television program TV TRIBUNAL with summaries is placed on web site every Friday.	Scheduled activities depend largely on court schedules. Volume of weekly activities is estimated based on short term (week) schedules provided by the courts. Changes in the court schedule affects schedule and volume of the activities.
Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
Production of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Tribunal Updates BCS (Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian) language news service English language news service • Weekly television program (TV Tribunal) • Technical and information support to media in the Western Balkans 	The project will be implemented through a new direct grant agreement with the SENSE Agency with an EU contribution of €200,000 and for 18 months in accordance with Article 168 (c) of the Implementing Rules. Means required to implement these activities are already in place: human resources, office, editing suite e.g. studio, video equipment, office equipment	Total cost €670,997 Euro, EC contribution €200,000	Complement positive results of ongoing project. Users of SENSE services have expressed their high regard for the project's professional team and their objective, balanced and non-biased reporting.

ANNEX II: Amounts (in €) contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

Contracted	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	Q1 2009	Q2 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2009	Q1 2010	Q2 2010
Contract 1	200,000									
Cumulative	200,000									
Disbursed										
Contract 1	106,000				74,000					20,000
Cumulative	106,000				180,000					200,000

Annex III Details per EU funded contract

The project will be implemented through a new direct grant agreement with the SENSE agency with an EU contribution of €200,000 and for 18 months in accordance with Article 168 (c) of the Implementing Rules.