

Regional Highlights: Progress and Challenges

Albania: Between Fear and the Desire to Speak Out

Despite existing legal protections, whistleblowers in Albania continue to face intimidation, retaliation, and suppression. The Coalition's latest reports highlight the impact of media concentration, which limits independent investigations into whistleblower cases and discourages disclosures. Our efforts have focused on amplifying whistleblower voices and ensuring journalistic independence to shed light on suppressed cases.

Romania: From Whistleblower to Activist

In Romania, whistleblowing has become a stepping stone to activism. A former forest inspector, frustrated by institutional failures to curb illegal logging, turned his whistleblower experience into a national advocacy movement. His story reflects a wider regional shift, where whistleblowers, facing legal and institutional pushback, are increasingly turning to activism, media engagement, and public protests to push for reform.

Read more about these stories in our [Whistleblowing Chronicles](#)

Bosnia & Herzegovina: Advocating for Patient and Whistleblower Rights

Coalition member Association Baby Steps is leading efforts to address systemic obstetric violence and institutional accountability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A key initiative has been the establishment of a whistleblowing channel for healthcare professionals, providing a safe space to report medical malpractice and ethical violations.

 <https://babysteps.ba/whistleblowing/>

“Even when whistleblowers remain anonymous, they fear being identified in a market where media, political, and business interests are intertwined. If their identity is exposed, they risk losing their jobs, facing intimidation, threats, or worse”

INA ALLKANJARI, ALBANIAN JOURNALIST



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 **Bulgaria: Legal Reforms and Implementation Challenges**

The Media Development Center continues its work on monitoring the implementation of Bulgaria’s Whistleblower Protection Act. While the law has been strengthened, early findings indicate that external reporting mechanisms are used far more frequently than internal ones, signaling limited institutional trust. Our upcoming joint publication with partners in Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, and Romania will provide a comparative analysis of EU Directive implementation and key recommendations for improvement.



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 **Kosovo: Expanding Awareness Through Podcasts & Social Media**

Internews Kosova/KALLXO.com has launched a new media initiative, featuring two podcasts and short videos aimed at educating the public on whistleblower protections. These efforts leverage KALLXO.com’s massive online reach (168M views annually) to bring critical discussions on corruption, legal safeguards, and institutional accountability to a wider audience.



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Looking Ahead: The 2025 Coalition Annual Meeting

 In April 2025, the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistleblower Protection will take place in Prishtina, Kosovo, hosted by Coalition member, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI).

This three-day regional gathering will bring together civil society organizations, legal experts, policymakers, and international representatives to discuss whistleblower protection, judicial reforms, and accountability mechanisms.


-  Key sessions include:
- ✓ Beyond Retaliation: Strengthening Legal and Cultural Safeguards for Whistleblowers
- ✓ The 10th Anniversary of the Coalition: Reflecting on Progress and Challenges
- ✓ Lessons from EU Directive Implementation: What Comes Next?
- ✓ Judicial Reform & Access to Justice in the Western Balkans
- ✓ Screening of Whistleblower Documentary



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New Initiatives & Calls for Action

✓ Whistleblower Chronicles: Second Round of Investigative Reports Published!

Following the success of our first round of publications, we've released new case studies that document firsthand whistleblower experiences, including judicial manipulation, employer retaliation, and media suppression.

✓ Joint Publication on EU Whistleblower Directive Implementation

We are finalizing our comparative analysis on the progress and gaps in implementing the EU Directive, featuring country-specific insights from Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, and Romania.

✓ Expanding Our Assistance to Whistleblowers

Our website's 'Assistance to Whistleblowers' section is being updated with country-specific resources, offering whistleblowers an easier way to navigate reporting mechanisms, legal protections, and institutional contacts.

Do you have a whistleblower story to share?

 Check our [website](#) for our contact information!