**REPORT**

**on the activities of the Public Foundation for Support and Development of National Mass Media during 2024**

In 2024, the Public Foundation for Support and Development of National Mass Media celebrated its fifth anniversary. Since its establishment in November 2019, the Foundation has steadily developed as a respected and independent organisation, contributing to the formation of a professional, sustainable and open media environment in Uzbekistan. Throughout this period, the Foundation's activities have covered key areas: supporting journalists and bloggers, promoting freedom of speech, developing media literacy and strengthening professional standards in the media.

An important organisational event in 2024 was the appointment of new leadership for the Foundation: on May 30, by decision of the Board of Trustees, Akramjon Fozilov was appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, whilst Jakhongir Azimov took up the position of Director

Over the course of the year, the Foundation conducted an extensive programme of educational and awareness-raising activities—seminars, training sessions and roundtables—aimed at developing journalists' competencies, discussing current industry challenges and implementing modern approaches to work in the media sphere.

Among the notable events were activities dedicated to environmental journalism, including roundtables on March 14 and 26, where the role of media in climate change issues was discussed. These were organised with the participation of the Ekolog.uz association and students from Webster University in Tashkent.

Topics of professional ethics and sustainable media development were examined on March 28 at a roundtable with the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, as well as during a session of the CFI Central Asian Media Forum on May 8, where issues of financial stability and effective media management were discussed.

One of the most intensive training events was a five-day workshop conducted from May 9 to 14 for journalists from non-state television channels, with the participation of experts from France Médias Monde. It was aimed at improving professional skills, covering international standards and exchanging experiences.

A significant place in the educational programme was occupied by the Summer Media Camp–2024, which opened on June 11. It was attended by 50 young journalists from across the country, who received training on modern media standards and were involved in cultural and project activities.

Special attention in 2024 was given to developing journalists' skills in correct and ethically balanced coverage of judicial proceedings. From April to December, with the support of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, USAID and the East-West Management Institute, regional training sessions were conducted for journalists and bloggers in Fergana, Urgench, Bukhara, Termez, Tashkent region, as well as training sessions for students. The events covered topics of legal access to information, transparency of judicial proceedings and coverage of cases related to gender-based violence.

In early 2024, the Mass Media Foundation became the national implementing partner for the SHE LEADS (*Supporting Her Empowerment: Leading Engagement and Digital Safety to Stop TFGBV*) project in Uzbekistan. The project, coordinated by the international NGO Search for Common Ground, aims to promote digital security, strengthen the role of women in the online space and counter technology-facilitated gender-based violence. As part of this initiative, from July to November, the Foundation organised a series of events, including a roundtable on digital security in Tashkent (July 18), participation in a regional training in Bishkek (July 30), as well as a series of training sessions in November (in Tashkent and Fergana) on digital rights, internet security and creating gender-sensitive content. On December 3, as part of the global campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence", an information campaign was conducted on social media with the participation of bloggers and activists, aimed at highlighting the problem of violence in the digital environment.

Additionally, on November 13, in partnership with the office of the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Uzbekistan and the Republican AIDS Centre, a training session was organised on the appropriate coverage of HIV and AIDS topics, aimed at reducing social stigmatisation.

One of the significant events in promoting freedom of speech was a seminar-training on "Legislative Foundations for Ensuring Freedom of Speech and Information: Parliament and Independent Mass Media", held on July 3 in Bostanlyk district. The event, organised jointly with the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, became a platform for discussing journalists' rights, access to official information and mechanisms for increasing transparency in the activities of government structures.

In 2024, the Mass Media Foundation actively participated in a number of international initiatives, collaborating with foreign organisations, diplomatic missions and international experts. On March 12, the leadership of the Mass Media Foundation held a meeting with representatives of the French Embassy and CFI (Agence française de développement médias), during which media development and preparation for a regional forum were discussed.

On June 7, a roundtable on "Media Transformation in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" was held at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, where the challenges and opportunities of AI in the media sphere were discussed. During the event, a memorandum of cooperation was also signed with the Faro Foundation (Mongolia).

On September 29, a memorandum of cooperation was signed with UNFPA in Uzbekistan, aimed at promoting gender equality, reproductive health and combating violence against women and girls.

On October 3, the Director of the Mass Media Foundation, Jakhongir Azimov, spoke at the OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, where he discussed the role of media in Uzbekistan, reforms in the media sphere and prospects for the development of journalism.

On October 17, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Mass Media Foundation and the East-West Management Institute. The agreement is aimed at developing media, supporting non-governmental organisations and developing civil society in Uzbekistan.

On December 20, a meeting was held with the participation of the Mass Media Foundation, the European-Uzbek Association for Economic Cooperation (EUROUZ) and media representatives, during which prospects for the development of the media industry, corporate communications and professional development of journalists were discussed.

Beyond educational and international projects, the Foundation initiated and supported a number of significant cultural and social activities.

On January 19, the exhibition "Memory Tunnel" dedicated to Jadidism opened at the Gallery of Fine Arts. A few days later, on January 23, a mural honouring Jadid educators was created at the "Shahidlar Xotirasi" memorial complex.

On March 11, as part of a greening campaign in Tashkent, more than 100 trees were planted—an initiative implemented jointly with Breathe Tashkent and Ekolog.uz.

On June 27, on the Day of Press and Media Workers, the Foundation issued a video message acknowledging the contribution of young journalists to the development of the industry.

On December 3, as part of the global campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence", an information campaign was conducted on social media with the participation of bloggers and activists, aimed at highlighting the problem of violence in the digital environment.

The report on the activities of the Public Foundation for the Support and Development of National Mass Media for 2024 was discussed by members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees on 25 December 2024. They noted that during the reporting period, the Foundation had managed to make a significant contribution not only to the support and development of the media sphere in Uzbekistan, but also to strengthening independent journalism, promoting the principles of freedom of speech, developing digital security and supporting social initiatives aimed at improving media literacy.