

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

! *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	101196593] - [Udruzenje Balkanska Istrazivacka Regionalna Mreza] ([BIRN Hub])
PIC number:	[924380901]
Project name and acronym:	[Strengthening reconciliation and non-recurrence through the empowerment of diverse communities in the Western Balkans] — [RECONCILE]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	3
Event name:	SPECIALIZED TRAINING - THE ROLE OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE
Type:	[Training], [Public Panel], [Public Exhibition]
In situ/online:	<i>[in-situ]</i>
Location:	[Bosnia and Herzegovina], [Sarajevo]
Date(s):	[20, 21, 22 January 2026], [8 April 2026]
Website(s) (if any):	How Late is Too Late? Reassessing Bosnia's Path to Transitional Justice Investigative Journalism and Transitional Justice Training Held in Sarajevo - BIRN
Participants	
Female:	100
Male:	56
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Bosnia and Herzegovina]:	74
From country 2 [Serbia]:	34
From country 3 [Kosovo]:	14
From country 4 [Montenegro]:	11
From country 5 [Croatia]:	3

From country 6 [Germany]	2		
From country 7 [Belgium]	3		
From country 8 [Austria]	2		
From country 9 [Czech Republic]	3		
From country 10 [France]	2		
From country 11 [Spain]	1		
From country 12 [Netherlands]	2		
From country 13 [Sweden]	2		
From country 14 [Slovenia]	1		
From country 15 (Italy)	2		
Total number of participants:	156		From total number of countries: 15

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Work Package 4, specifically Task 4.1 was successfully completed in January 2026. The [open call for the specialised training on transitional justice](#) was published in December 2025 with the aim to attract participation from journalists, students, CSOs and activists from BiH, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro to join a 3-day training in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. A total of 102 applications were received, from which 23 participants were selected in order to maintain a focused group size and ensure the high quality and interactive nature of the training sessions. As an introduction to the training, BIRN [hosted a public panel](#) that examined the transitional justice process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The panel attracted a diverse group of stakeholders, from international community, civil society, to media. After the training completion, the training participants had a task to transfer the knowledge gained into their own local communities. In April 2026, BIRN produced and hosted an exhibition [Reporting War: The Role of the Media in the Collapse of Yugoslavia](#), where more than 50 stakeholders attended the opening. In total, WP4 engaged 156 participants.

Public Panel Session: How Late is Too Late? Assessing Bosnia's Path to Transitional Justice

Date and place: 20 January, 2026.

Number of participants per country:

BiH 28

Austria 1

Netherlands 2

Belgium 2

Czech Republic 2

France 2

Spain 1

Germany 2

Sweden 2

Total number of participants: 42

On 20 January training opened with a public panel discussion [How Late is Too Late? Reassessing Bosnia's Path to Transitional Justice](#) on the current state of transitional justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina, attended by more than 60 guests from representatives of victims' associations, international organisations, diplomatic missions, media, students and civil society. This component ensured broader stakeholder engagement and enhanced the visibility of project objectives.

The panel featured:

- Lejla Gačanica, Human Rights Officer for Transitional Justice, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Klaudia Kuhulj, Head of Programme, TRIAL International BiH
- Bakira Hasečić, Founder and President, Association of Women Victims of War
- Prof. Dr. Goran Šimić, Criminal Law Expert
- Fermin Cordoba, Policy Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The discussion was moderated by Denis Džidić, Executive Director of BIRN BiH. The panel critically assessed the pace, gaps and political challenges of Bosnia and Herzegovina's transitional justice trajectory, while also addressing institutional responsibilities and the role of international actors.

Regional Training on the Role of Investigative Journalism in Transitional Justice

Dates and place: 20 to 23 January 2026, Sarajevo

Number of participants per country:

Kosovo 14

BiH 15

Serbia 34

Montenegro 11

Croatia 1

Total number of participants: 75

On the second day, 21 January, training focused on strengthening participants' understanding of transitional justice mechanisms and equipping them with practical tools for ethical, evidence-based reporting.

The day opened with an introduction by Nejra Mulaomerović, Senior Project Manager at BIRN Hub, who framed the objectives of the sessions and connected them to the broader capacity-building and knowledge-sharing objectives.

Katarina Zrinjski, Head of Programme at BIRN BiH, delivered a foundational session on transitional justice and its four pillars (criminal justice, truth-seeking, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence) providing participants with the conceptual and legal framework underpinning accountability processes.

Lamija Grebo, journalist at BIRN BiH media outlet [Detektor](#), led two sessions. The first analysed the differences between domestic and international criminal justice, clarifying jurisdictional mandates, procedural distinctions, and the regional legacy of international tribunals. Her second session focused on interviewing war crime victims, with particular emphasis on safeguarding guidelines, trauma-sensitive approaches, and ethical standards in survivor-centred reporting.

Džana Brkanić, Deputy Editor of Detektor, conducted practical sessions on monitoring criminal justice proceedings and reporting on missing persons. Participants were introduced to methods for tracking indictments and court hearings, interpreting judgments, and navigating institutional frameworks related to missing persons, while maintaining professional accuracy and sensitivity.

The day concluded with a brainstorming session facilitated by Nejra Mulaomerović, during which participants began developing their individual in-situ knowledge-sharing plans. To ensure sustainability and multiplier effects, participants were tasked, following completion of the training, with developing concrete knowledge-sharing plans related to the topics covered. **The participants were required to transfer acquired skills and insights within their respective newsrooms, organisations, or professional networks, thereby extending the action's impact beyond the immediate beneficiary group and contributing to improved public discourse and accountability reporting across the region. As a result of the implementation of these knowledge-sharing activities, a total of 38 additional participants (including journalists, media professionals, students and civil society representatives) were reached across Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, further amplifying the regional impact and cross-border exchange of good practices in reporting on transitional justice.**

On 22 January and the final day, the training broadened the discussion to include extrajudicial mechanisms, the role of media in memorialisation, and the contemporary challenges of disinformation and denial.

The morning opened with a session by Katarina Zrinjski on extrajudicial measures, including reparations and truth and reconciliation commissions. The session critically assessed comparative international experiences, highlighting both structural limitations and enabling factors.

Denis Džidić, Executive Director of BIRN BiH, delivered two sessions. The first examined the evolution of investigative journalism in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region, addressing structural

constraints and professional standards. The second conceptualised memorialisation as a “fifth pillar” of transitional justice, exploring the media’s role in documentation, public record-building, and memorialisation practices.

In the afternoon, Nermina Kuloglija-Zolj, journalist at Detektor, conducted an extended session on fact-checking, countering disinformation, and responding to war crime denial. Through case-based analysis, participants engaged with verification techniques and editorial approaches aimed at safeguarding factual integrity in polarised environments.

The day ended with a screening of the BIRN BiH production [Pravda & Правда](#) at the [Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), followed by closing reflections and summary remarks, consolidating key lessons from the training.

TRAINING AGENDA 20-22 January 2026.

The Role of Investigative Journalism in Transitional Justice Process

Date: 20-22 January

Location: Sarajevo, Europe House and Hotel Holiday

Target Countries: BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia

Training language: English

20 January - DAY 1

Venue: Europe House

12:00 - 13:30 **Panel Session - How Late Is Too Late? Reassessing Bosnia’s Path to Transitional Justice**

Speakers:

Lejla Gačanica - Human Rights Officer for Transitional Justice, OHCHR

Klaudia Kuhlj- Head of Programme, TRIAL International BiH

Bakira Hasečić - Founder and President Association of Women Victims of War

Prof. Dr. Goran Šimić - Criminal Law Expert

Fermin Cordoba - Policy Officer EU Delegation

with

Denis Džidić - Executive Director, BIRN BiH (*moderator*)

(13:30 - 14:00 Reception)

21 January - DAY 2

09:00 – 09:30 Introduction Session, *Nejra Mulaomerovic, Senior Project Manager BIRN HUB*

09:30 – 10:30 What is Transitional Justice - Four Pillars, *Katarina Zrinjski, BIRN BiH Head of Programme*

10:30 – 10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45 – 11:45 Domestic Criminal Justice vs International Criminal Justice, *Lamija Grebo, Journalist, Detektor*

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch break*

13:00 – 14:00 Monitoring Criminal Justice - How to Report and Monitor Court Cases, *Džana Brkanić, Detektor Deputy Editor*

14:00 - 15:00 Interviewing with War Crime Victims – Safeguarding Guidelines, *Lamija Grebo, Journalist, Detektor*

15:00 – 15:15 *Coffee break*

15:15 – 16:15 Missing Persons – How to Report on Missing Persons, *Džana Brkanić, Detektor Deputy Editor*

16:15 – 16:45 Brainstorming session on developing each participant's in-situ knowledge-sharing plan (*Where and how can you apply this knowledge immediately after returning to your institution?*) *Nejra Mulaomerović, Senior Project Manager BIRN Hub*

22 January - DAY 3

09:00 – 10:00 Extrajudicial Measures: Reparations, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (Successes and Failures) *Katarina Zrinjski, BIRN BiH Head of Programme*

10:00 – 10:45 Development of Investigative Journalism in Post-War BiH and region, *Denis Džidić, Executive Director BIRN BiH*

10:45 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:00 The Role of Media in Documentation and Memorialisation (5th pillar), *Denis Džidić, Executive Director BIRN BiH*

12:15 – 13:30 *Lunch break*

13:30 – 14:30 Fact-checking, Countering Disinformation and War Crime Denial, *Nermina Kuloglija-Zolj, Journalist, Detektor*

14:30 – 15:30 Fact-checking, Countering Disinformation and War Crime Denial, *Nermina Kuloglija-Zolj, Journalist, Detektor*

15:30 – 15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45 – 16:30 Film Screening *Pravda & Правда, BIRN BiH Production (Historical Museum of BiH)*

16:30 – 17:15 Summary and closing remarks

Exhibition Reporting War: The Role of the Media in the Collapse of Yugoslavia

Dates and place: 8 April, 2026, Sarajevo, BiH

Number of participants per country:

BiH 31

Austria 1

Italy 2

Belgium 1

Czech Republic 1

Croatia 2

Slovenia 1

Total number of participants: 39

In April 2026 the exhibition "[Reporting War: The Role of the Media in the Collapse of Yugoslavia](#)" was successfully launched at the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The exhibition represents a key intervention at the intersection of media, memory, and transitional justice, aiming to deepen public understanding of the role media played in shaping narratives and enabling violence during the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. The opening of the exhibition was visited by more than 50 stakeholders (international organisations, media, academia, embassies and general public). Its placement in a central public institution ensures ongoing accessibility to diverse audiences, including students, researchers, and international visitors.

The primary objectives of the exhibition are to:

- Increase public awareness of the role of media in conflict dynamics.
- Encourage critical reflection on propaganda, disinformation, and narrative construction.
- Contribute to dialogue on accountability, memory, and reconciliation in the Western Balkans.
- Engage diverse audiences through accessible and visually compelling storytelling formats.

Opening Event and Audience Engagement

The opening event attracted a diverse audience, including representatives of civil society organisations, diplomatic missions, academia, media professionals, and the general public. This broad attendance reflects strong stakeholder interest and confirms the relevance of the topic across multiple sectors. **More**

than 100 invitations were sent across different sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while more than 50 people visited the opening of the exhibition, including Ambassadors from Italy, Sweden, UK, Czech Republic and Belgium, media and civil society representatives, as well as the general public. 39 participants have been registered through RSVP attendance list, while additional participants include organical reach of the general public. The exhibition remains open daily to the public until further notice, ensuring continued outreach beyond the initial launch and enabling sustained engagement with local and international visitors.

Outcomes and Impact

Key outcomes of the exhibition include:

- High-level engagement from diverse stakeholder groups at the opening event.
- Increased public awareness of the role of media in conflict and transitional justice processes.
- Strengthened visibility of BIRN Hub's work in linking journalism, memory, and accountability.
- Contribution to regional dialogue on reconciliation through a cultural and educational platform.

The exhibition also supports broader programme objectives by fostering critical media literacy and encouraging audiences to question dominant narratives, an essential component in preventing the recurrence of conflict and strengthening democratic culture.

It should be noted that no formal participant registration list was maintained for the exhibition opening, as the event was designed as an open public gathering to encourage broad and inclusive attendance. This approach aligns with the objective of maximising accessibility and engagement with diverse audiences, including members of the general public who may not typically attend structured or invitation-only events.

BIRN also has a list of confirmed guests for the opening of the exhibition, while precise attendee records are therefore not recorded, the opening was visually documented, and a [comprehensive set of photographs is available](#). These materials provide clear evidence of attendance (estimated at over 50 visitors) and illustrate the diversity of the audience, as well as the overall atmosphere and engagement during the event.

Sustainability and Continued Outreach

In addition to formally registered training participants, WP4 activities included a range of public-facing and informal engagement opportunities, among them the “Reporting War” exhibition and student visits to the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Participants reached through these activities, including community members, students, and civil society representatives represent meaningful and intentional engagement with the project's core themes of transitional justice, memorialization, and media literacy. Where formal registration was not applicable, participation has been documented through photos as attendance evidence. **These forms of engagement reflect the project's commitment to reaching beyond traditional training audiences and embedding its outputs within the wider civic and educational landscape of the region.**

By remaining open in a central public institution, the exhibition continues to provide access to a broad and diverse audience beyond the timeframe of the project's core activities.

This extended duration enables the organisation of additional structured visits, particularly for student groups, academic institutions, and civil society organisations. It also ensures ongoing accessibility for the general public and international visitors, including tourists, thereby expanding the exhibition's reach incrementally over time. As such, participant numbers are expected to continue growing beyond the reporting period, contributing to the achievement of the original target in the longer term.

These types of targeted, facilitated engagements enhance the educational dimension of the exhibition and support its function as an ongoing platform for dialogue. By encouraging critical thinking and intergenerational exchange, the exhibition moves beyond a one-time event and becomes a sustainable, living resource that continues to generate value for different audiences over time.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).

