

RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty



In Brief

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is an independent, international news and broadcast organization whose programs – radio, Internet and television – reach influential audiences in 20 countries such as Russia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and the republics of Central Asia. RFE/RL is funded by the U.S. Congress through the Broadcasting Board of Governors. RFE/RL journalists provide our audiences what many people cannot get locally: responsible discussion and open debate of local and international news, politics, history, culture, religion, arts, and literature.

Strategy/Operations

Concentrating on events within this complex region, RFE/RL provides balanced, reliable information to bolster democratic development and market economies in countries struggling to overcome autocratic institutions, violations of human rights, centralized economies, ethnic and religious hostilities, regional conflicts, and controlled media.

RFE/RL operates one of the most comprehensive news operations in the region, with 19 bureaus throughout Europe and the former Soviet Union and over 750 freelancers reporting local news and current affairs.

Programs are broadcast in the following 28 languages:

Albanian (to Kosovo)	Bosnian	Kazakh	Russian
Arabic (Radio Free Iraq)	Chechen	Kyrgyz	Serbian
Armenian	Circassian	Macedonian	Tajik
Avar	Crimean Tatar	Montenegrin	Tatar
Azerbaijani	Croatian (w/i S.Slavic regional program)	Pashto (Radio Free Afghanistan)	Turkmen
Bashkir	Dari (Radio Free Afghanistan)	Persian (Radio Farda)	Ukrainian
Belarusian	Georgian	Romanian (to Moldova)	Uzbek

RFE/RL broadcasts nearly 1,000 hours of programming a week across 11 timezones from its broadcast center, located in the former Czechoslovak federal parliament building on Wenceslas Square in Prague, the Czech Republic. RFE/RL's corporate headquarters are located in Washington, D.C.

RFE/RL programs can be heard on shortwave frequencies by listeners across the entire broadcast region. Since 1996, RFE/RL has also built a broad network of affiliate partner organizations that relay programs on the AM, FM and UKV ("Eastern FM") bands and on cable and wired distribution systems. Political circumstances do not currently permit local rebroadcasting in Belarus, Iran, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. More than 58 percent of all listeners to international radio in RFE/RL's 20-country broadcast region are regular listeners to RFE/RL.

RFE/RL is also gaining a large new audience through the Internet. Its multilingual website www.rferl.org features both live and on-demand audio and text. In September 2008, the RFE/RL websites registered nearly 9.3 million page views and 3.4 million site visits, while more than 2.8 million visitors listened to 884,000 hours of live and on-demand RFE/RL Internet audio broadcasts.

Management/Oversight

Dr. Jeffrey Gedmin was named President of RFE/RL, Inc. on February 2, 2007. Immediately prior to his appointment, Dr. Gedmin had served since November 2001 as Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin. Previously, Dr. Gedmin was a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, where he also served as Executive Director of the New Atlantic Initiative.

RFE/RL is a private, nonprofit corporation chartered in Delaware, which receives federal funding as a private, nonprofit grantee. RFE/RL's corporate board of directors is composed of nine presidential appointees to the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which has oversight responsibility for all nonmilitary U.S. government-funded international broadcasting activities.

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