

## **Jiri Dienstbier Journalism Fellowship**

The Jiri Dienstbier Journalism Fellowship is a joint program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and RFE/RL, funded by the Ministry. Launched in 2014, it is inspired by Jiri Dienstbier Sr.'s contributions to the fields of journalism, foreign policy, and human rights, and intended to further RFE/RL's legacy of promoting more just and open societies through journalism.

### **Goal**

The goal of the program is to strengthen the capacity of aspiring journalists from the Western Balkans region to pursue their profession in support of democracy and human rights. Selected Fellows are placed with the Balkans service in the company's Prague headquarters, where they receive on-the-job training and mentoring while working alongside RFE/RL's seasoned professionals. The program equips them with cutting edge multimedia skills, while involving them in the daily editorial debates and discussions that inform a professional, independent press. It helps position them to be both standard-bearers of their profession and leaders in their communities, on-line, on air, and in the world.

### **Program Description**

Fellowships are for a term of eight months, with six months spent at RFE/RL's Prague headquarters and the first and last months spent with a local RFE/RL bureau. In addition to training and mentoring with RFE/RL professionals, the program features workshops with other media experts, roundtables with journalists and policymakers, visits to local media agencies and NGOs in Prague, and professional development opportunities in the Czech Republic and elsewhere.

Journalists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia are eligible for the Fellowship.