



# RADIO FREE EUROPE RADIO LIBERTY

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# What is Radio Free Europe (RFE)?

- one of the most comprehensive media organizations in the world
- produce radio, Internet and television programs in countries where a free press is either banned by the government or not fully established
- provide uncensored news, responsible discussion, and open debate



# Datas

- ◉ **Platforms:** Radio, Internet, Television
- ◉ **Audience:** 24.6 million/week (radio, web, streaming audio)
- ◉ **Employees:** 500 at Prague headquarters and Washington office; 400 full-time journalists and 750 freelancers
- ◉ **Budget:** \$83,000,000
- ◉ **Countries:** 20
- ◉ **Languages:** 28

# Type of organization

- RFE/RL is a private, nonprofit corporation
- President: **Jeffrey Gedmin** named in 2007
- funded by the U.S. Congress through the **Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG)** (includes Voice of America, Radio Free Asia)





# HISTORY

- RFE and RL originally separate organizations
- founded in **1950**, broadcast to **Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania**
- three years later RL began broadcast to the **Soviet Union**
- broadcasts to **Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania** in 1976
- the two corporations were merged into RFE/RL, Inc. in 1976



# The period of the Iron Curtain

- provided an unbiased, professional substitute for the free media
- the programs focused on local news not covered in state-controlled domestic media as well as religion, science, sports, Western music and locally banned literature and music
- the programs were produced primarily at the radios' Munich headquarters and broadcast from Germany, Spain, Portugal



# Personalities

- Ferdinand Peroutka, Pavel Tigrid, Karel Kryl, Yvonne Přenosilová, Jožka Pejskar, Jaroslav Pecháček (“balloon information”)





# After the Velvet revolution

- ⦿ the **Hungarian** service was closed in **1993**
- ⦿ the **Polish** service in **1997**
- ⦿ the **Czech** broadcasts ended in **2002**
- ⦿ broadcasts to **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia,** and **Bulgaria** were closed in **2004**
- ⦿ broadcasts to **Romania** ended in **2008**

# Today

- 20 states:  
Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
- rebroadcasting to local stations is prohibited in **Belarus, Iran, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan**, and most recently **Azerbaijan**



# Headquarters

- relocated its broadcasting center to the former Czechoslovak parliament building in Prague in 1995
- 2009 move to a custom built building



Web page



[www.rferl.org](http://www.rferl.org)



Thank you for your attention!