



EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

FACT SHEET

R&J - THEATRE PLAY ROMEO AND JULIET

With the support of the European Union, **Radionica integracije** from Belgrade in partnership with **Qendra e Arteve Vizuele Multimedia** from Prishtina are working together on creation of a **joint Serbo-Albanian art and cultural product** – a theatre production based on a famous Shakespeare play “**Romeo and Juliet**”. This is a well-known story about the tragic love that is made impossible because of the inherited animosities and hostilities between the two families whose history is fulfilled with revenge and hate, which resulted in a tragic death of the two lovers. Having this in mind, it is easy to draw parallels between the play’s basic setting and Serbo-Albanian relations throughout the history. This is the reason why this partnership is initiated and project created.

The project was supported through EU grant scheme Strengthening Media freedom; the **EU donation amounted to €129,100.67**, while €14,631.98 was secured by Open Society Foundation.

Project beneficiaries are Radionica integracije, Serbia and Qendra e Arteve Vizuele Multimedia, Kosovo*. The geographical area covered by the project: Belgrade, Serbia and Pristina, Kosovo*.

As a part of the project, 8-10 theatre plays will be presented in Pristina and 5 in Belgrade. After each theatre play public discussion will be held as well. Also, a documentary movie will be created presenting the life cycle of the project implementation. Direct impact will be immediately visible at the level of cultural workers. However, it is expected this project will reach 1,5 million of citizens through different project activities and will have influence on the policy makers in the sector of culture.

This theatre play will be bi-lingual: in Serbian and Albanian. By using both languages in the context of conflict and misunderstanding, the project will try to discover a way in which people can communicate and understand each other even if they are of different origin and background, focusing on similarities rather than differences. In long term it is expected that this theatre play will contribute to the changing of attitudes, feelings and prejudice of one community toward another as citizens will become more and more familiar each to other.

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

