



International Federation of
Reproduction Rights Organisations

IFRRO Eastern European/Balkan Development Project

Funded by KOPINOR

Singapore AGM RRO Meeting

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IFRRO Development Project

Supporting Licensing in the Balkans

Project Scope & Participants

- IFRRO Balkan Development Project
 - Funded by KOPINOR | Started 2024 | Scoping and Mentoring Phases
 - 7 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey
 - 12 RROs: ORIGINAL (BiH), ZANA & DZNAP (Croatia), OFA (Montenegro), COPYRO, VISARTA & OSRO (Romania), OORP (Serbia), LITA (Slovakia), YAYBIR, EGITIM YAYBIR & TBYM (Turkey)
 - Key Meetings: Ljubljana Regional Meeting (March 2025) | Educational Licensing Workshop (September 2025) | Country visits | Moldova WIPO Conference (September 2025)

Common Regional Pattern - Three-Tier Challenges

Political/Governmental Resistance

- PLR blocked despite legal approval (Serbia)
- 75% levy retention in Ministry funds (Turkey)
- Inspection services non-compliance (Bosnia)
- Cable tariffs revoked (Montenegro)

Legislative Implementation Deficits

- EU-aligned reform/legislations stalled (B&H, Turkey)
- Improper DSM transposition (Romania, Slovakia)
- very broad exceptions (Slovakia, Croatia)

Operational Constraints

- User non-compliance/refusal to pay (Montenegro, B&H)
- Outdated tariff structures (Croatia)
- Small teams managing complex regulatory environments (Croatia)

Enforcement & Governance Issues

Bosnia

- Tax Office information exchange terminated May 2024
- Inspection services non-compliant with Law 63/2010
- IFRRO support letter sent August 2025 to Federal Administration for Inspection Affairs
- Importers bypass through Serbian companies

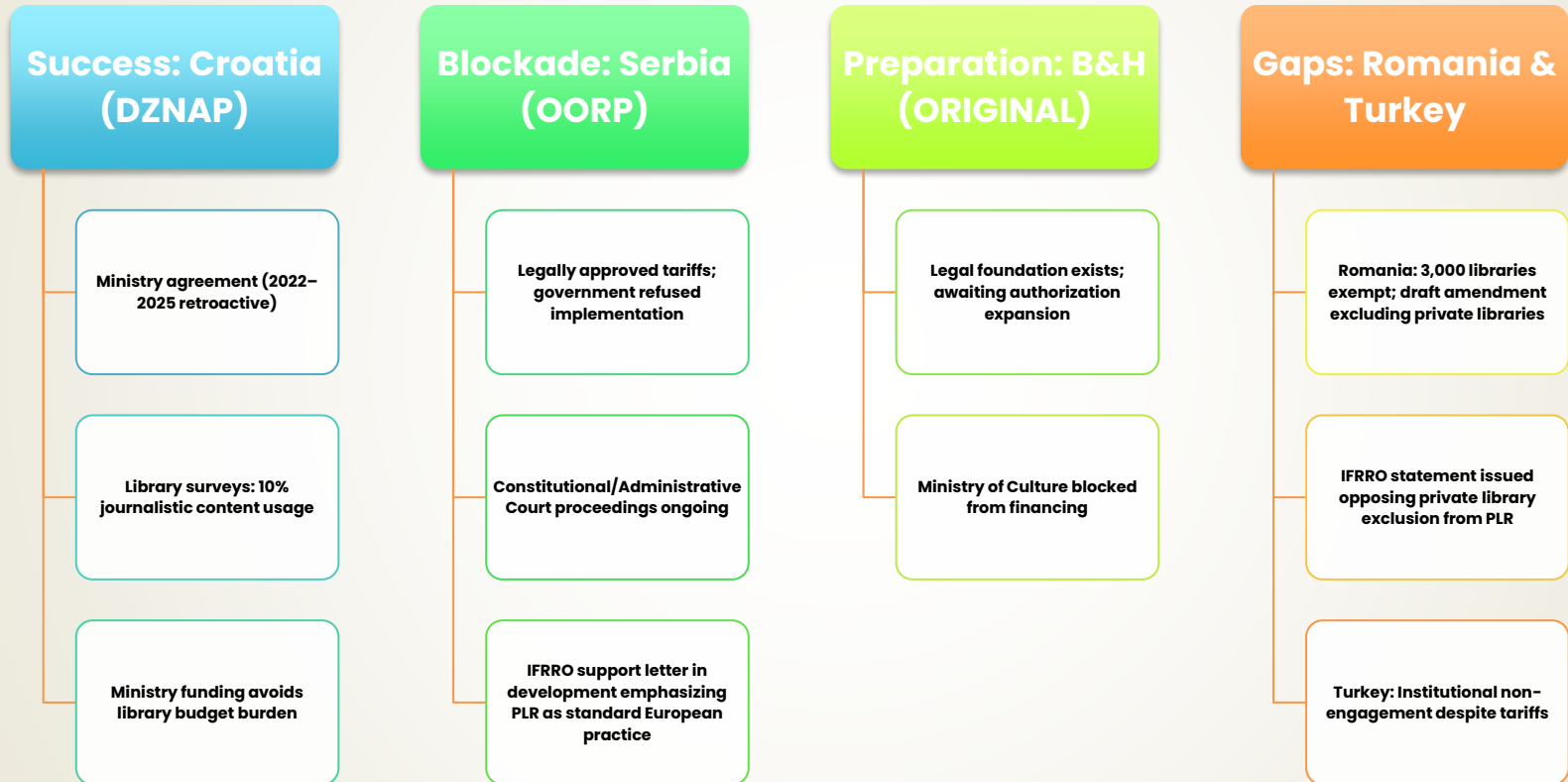
Montenegro

- Literary RRO (ORPCG) ceased operations
- Governance issues (OFA)
- Lobbying (cable operators)
- Customs cite data confidentiality
- Political pressures (cable tariff revocation)

Private Copy Levies — Systemic Failures

- Revenue Collection Issues:
 - Outdated tariffs: Croatia pre-€ tariff, planning 3x increases after regional comparison; B&H operator levies exceed market prices
 - Governmental retention: Turkey, 75% in cultural funds
 - Collection gaps: Slovakia, new market surveys, reprographic capacity of smartphones (not included in tariffs)
 - Data access: customs/tax authorities refuse cooperation (Montenegro, Bosnia)

PLR Implementation - Divergent Outcomes



DSM Directive Transposition Issues

Romania – Court Case

- Press publishers wrongly allocated 1/3 of private copy levies (instead of neighbouring right acc. to Art. 15)
- Court confirmed improper transposition of Article 15
- Foundation for legislative reform

Slovakia – Overly Broad Exceptions

- Spa/health services exception
- Redefinition of the employer as rightsholder
- Legal research launch to identify licensing opportunities

Educational Licensing — Emerging Opportunity

Slovenian Model Reference:

- Ministry-funded (€2/student), 95% coverage
- Surveys, per capita, and repertoire-based distribution

Implementation Pathways:

- Romania — advance: Ministry conference with stakeholders (September)
- Turkey — gap: Reproduction falls outside face-to-face (communication to the public) exceptions
- Serbia — fwd. move: Professional licensing in authorization request
- B&H — legal basis: Awaiting legislative adoption
- Slovakia — evidence gathering: Market surveys for EDU/business sectors

Key Lessons & Forward Strategy

- **Core Takeaways:**
 - Political will determines outcomes—legal frameworks are insufficient without enforcement
 - Ministry-level engagement essential—state funding is a viable pathway (EDU, PLR)
 - Evidence-based advocacy is critical—usage surveys provide objective justification
 - Educational licensing offers an entry point—ministry funding avoids institutional burden
 - Regional coordination multiplies impact—RROs are stronger based on regional best practices
 - International support is essential — IFRRO support letters (B&H enforcement, Serbia PLR, Romania PLR exclusion), EU complaints (Romania Bookster)
- **Fwd Strategy:**
- Bilateral formalisation | Educational licensing advancement | Advocacy coordination | Regional strategy | IFRRO Development Support