



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Representative on Freedom of the Media
Dunja Mijatović**

OPEN JOURNALISM
The Second Expert Meeting
19 SEPTEMBER 2014
Bibliotheksaal
Hofburg

Annotated Agenda

Online media covers a wide range of formats and languages. Today the Internet provides easy access to electronic or online-only versions of traditional print and broadcast media, as well as emerging New Media based on different and more participative forms of expression. Even in the case of traditional media, the Internet offers a method of distribution which enables complementary and more interactive platforms to facilitate access to information and resources as well as an easily accessible framework for dialogue between media outlets and consumers.

This new framework, or Open Journalism, has to be considered, of course, in light of already existing rights and other legal provisions in the field of free expression and media freedom. Freedom of expression and information are undergoing a constant process of adaptation given the vast technological advances since their realization in the late 18th century.

The Internet, the most recent and widely-used of these new platforms, must be viewed in the same context as pre-existing means of dissemination of information and opinion. In other words, all forms of expression and dissemination of information, no matter how they are technically transmitted and distributed, must be protected as a means of exercising the freedom of expression and freedom to receive and communicate information. Although technological innovation constantly changes journalism and media, our basic human rights remain the same.

It is also true that the new technological landscape has increased the number of voices and participants within the media landscape including individual contributors, web portals, electronic media outlets, search engines and social media platforms. In this context, it is interesting to analyze how far freedom of expression and freedom of information extend to cover the rights of those involved in journalistic activities the go beyond the traditional scope. Current debates on the right to be forgotten, net neutrality rules, legal liability for comments posted by third parties or the legitimacy of the establishment of licensing and registration requirements in the digital world show the relevance of these issues within the general context of freedom of the media.

A thorough discussion is needed in order to assess how traditional and well-established media legal statutes should be applied or re-interpreted to protect innovative contributions and media plurality.

The first meeting of the project on Open Journalism on 5 May 2014 brought together a group of experts with diverse backgrounds, both geographically and professionally, to discuss the effect of non-traditional and user-generated materials on traditional media, as well as the challenges it poses for traditional print and broadcast journalists.

The second meeting will focus on the human rights and legal implications of Open Journalism. Presentations and discussions will focus on new ways to protect media plurality and the rights of non-traditional voices online.

OSCE delegations are kindly invited to attend the meeting and raise questions of their concern and interest. This expert meeting does not envisage statements from OSCE delegations.

In the run up to the event, a Tweetchat will be held on 18 September from 4 – 5 pm. The Tweetchat will provide an online forum for members of the international media development community to come together and pose questions to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media about Open Journalism. To ask a question, simply log on to Twitter and tweet your question using the hashtag #askRFoM.

The meeting will be webcast live on www.osce.org and all information related to the event, including documents and information about the speakers is available at www.osce.org/event/open-journalism. The expert meeting can also be followed via Twitter at #openjournalism.

9:30 – 10:00 Registration with Coffee

10:00 – 10:15 Opening Remarks
Dunja Mijatović
OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

10:15 Session 1 – New Voices of Open Journalism

- **Who are the new “voices” of Open Journalism? Are they properly recognized and safeguarded?**
- **How can the idea of editorial responsibility be reshaped in this new landscape?**
- **What are the roles, limitations and legal status of new intermediaries (search engines, web portals, social media platforms, etc.)?**
- **What is the influence of current debates on issues like net neutrality and the right to be forgotten on the future development of Open Journalism?**

Moderator: Geneva Overholser, Professor, School of Journalism, USC Annenberg

Speakers:

- **Wolfgang Kleinwächter**, Professor, Aarhus University
- **Yaman Akdeniz**, Professor, Bigli University, Istanbul
- **Begaim Usenova**, Director, Media Policy Institute, Kyrgyz Republic

- **Gill Phillips**, Director of Editorial Legal Services, The Guardian (pre-recorded video statement)

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:45 Session 1 - Discussion

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:15 Session 2 – Protection of online media freedom

- **Should online dissemination of information on matters of public interest be protected under the same legal statutes as traditional media and journalism?**
- **Can protections and privileges of professional journalists be extended or re-interpreted with regards to Open Journalism activities?**
- **How to apply ethical and professional standards to Open Journalistic activities? Is self-regulation an answer?**

Moderator: Geneva Overholser, Professor, School of Journalism, USC Annenberg

Speakers:

- **Jose Alberto Azeredo Lopes**, Professor, Catholic University of Porto
- **Tarlach McGonagle**, Senior researcher, Institute for Information Law (IViR)
- **Irina Levova**, Russian Association of Electronic Communications
- **David Goldberg**, information rights academic and activist

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 Session 2 - Discussion

17:00 – 17:15 Closing Remarks

Dunja Mijatović

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

17:15 – 18:00 Closing reception