



## **BIOGRAPHIES OF EXPERTS**



**Marek Bekerman** is Programme Leader in MA International Journalism and teaches a range of modules in journalism, specialising in general and international news, broadcast (radio) and online. He has worked for 25 years in public service broadcasting and international media development. Between 1990 and 2011, he worked as a journalist, producer and editor for BBC News in London, and since 2004 has travelled extensively in a number of the former Soviet Union countries and the Middle East on media development and journalism training

assignments.

In 2012, Mr. Bekerman designed a comprehensive reform programme of the Georgian Public Broadcaster for the European Commission, and between 2010 and 2012, he coordinated international efforts to reform and modernise Turkmenistan's media legislation and regulation. He was Project Director for the EC-funded media development project in Central Asia between 2007 and 2009, and journalism education expert for a BBC-led project to modernise media education in Ukraine in 2005-2007.



**Pierre François Docquir** is a researcher and expert in the fields of Human Rights Law, Internet and Media Law and Regulation. He is the Head of Media Freedom Programme at ARTICLE 19 after joining the organization in 2015 as Senior Legal Officer. He previously served as vice-president of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel in French-speaking Belgium and was a researcher at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, where he obtained his PhD in Law in 2009.

Mr. Docquir was a lawyer ('avocat') at the Brussel's Bar. His publications include a volume on the evolution of media regulation in the age of convergence, a book on comparative free speech law (US-ECHR), and numerous articles on the protection of Human Rights in the digital context, the evolution of media landscapes and media policy. He prepared and delivered various expertise missions and trainings for the Council of Europe, the European Union and the OSCE, as well as various regulatory and self-regulatory institutions. His experience also includes the development and delivery of strategy and activity recommendations for local media actors and regulators, and advocacy with members of parliament, ministers and high-level civil servants.



**Tore Bergsaker** is an investigative journalist and fact checker. He participated in the establishment of the new fact-checking initiative, Faktisk in 2017, a cooperation project between four leading Norwegian digital media outlets (VG, Dagbladet, NRK and TV2) and the two largest local media owners (Amedia and Polaris) intended to counteract misinformation. Faktisk is member of International Fact-Checking Network, a unit of the Poynter Institute dedicated to bringing together fact-checkers worldwide. Faktisk is also a partner with Facebook to counter disinformation in its newsfeed.

Mr. Bergsaker has worked for over 11 years for Dagbladet (The Daily Paper), Norway's third largest news outlet, where he was mainly doing investigative projects, as well as covering national and international news, wars and conflicts.

He is a member of the board of the newspaper Dagbladet AS and media company Aller Media AS. In his work, he mainly focuses on politics, economics and foreign affairs.



**Daniil Kislov** is Chief Editor of Ferghana news agency. He was born in 1965 in the city of Ferghana, Uzbekistan, but could not visit Uzbekistan from 2005 to 2018. The Ferghana News agency is based in Moscow, Russia, where it was established in the fall of 1998 when the Ferghana Community website was set up. It is one of the most popular web resources dealing with post-Soviet Central Asian countries. With correspondents in every major city of the region, the agency provides information about politics, the economy, and social life in Central Asia,

as well as the history and culture of Uzbekistan and the greater region. It remains blocked in Uzbekistan.



**Gulmira Birzhanova** is a lawyer and co-founder of “Legal Media Center” independent non-governmental organization keen to promote international standards for the protection of freedom of speech, legal training and advising journalists, conducting media research, and studying public media funding. Legal Media Center provides consultations and offers comprehensive training courses for journalists, students and lawyers in Kazakhstan.

As an expert in national and international media law, Mrs. Birzhanova participated in parliamentary working group of the development of laws “On access to information”, “On Amendments and Addenda to Some Legal Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Issues of Information and Communications”, and “On informatization”.



**Begaim Usenova** has been the Director of Kyrgyzstan’s Media Policy Institute (MPI) since 2009. MPI is engaged in monitoring media freedom and providing legal counseling to local journalists throughout Kyrgyzstan. Begaim and her team have engaged in cases of strategic legislation, bringing complaints to the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

Mrs. Usenova has contributed to a number of publications on media legislation in Kyrgyzstan: Study on media literacy in Kyrgyzstan (2017); Defamation case-law review; The Handbook of Election Coverage; Recommendations for government to optimize counter violent extremism legislation (2016); and Research on «Media law development in Kyrgyzstan» for the period from 2010 to 2015.