

second OSCE South **media Conference** East Europe

Belgrade, 2012
HOTEL MOSKVA, Terazije 20, Belgrade

Main challenges to media freedom in South East Europe **Shaping Policy for the Future**

Thursday – 20 September 2012

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration of Participants**

09.00 – 09.30 **Opening Session**

Welcoming Remarks:

Paula S. Thiede, Acting Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia

Minister Bratislav Petković, Minister of Culture and Information

Ambassador Vincent Degert, Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia

Susan K. Fritz, Director of USAID/Serbia and Montenegro

Keynote Speech:

Dunja Mijatović, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

09.30 – 10.45 **Session One** **STATE POLICIES & LAW: Restrictive Laws & Practices**

This session will look into how restrictive media legislation or lack of implementation of advanced media laws lead to silencing media in South East Europe. It will focus on restrictive criminal and civil defamation provisions, the adequate implementation of legislation on public service broadcasting and broadcast regulation, as well as on the ability of media to access government-held information and protect their confidential sources. The speakers include journalists and experts who have experienced legal restrictions of speech and/or work to promote legal reform and proper implementation of the OSCE media freedom commitments in South East Europe.

Topics to be raised:

Defamation, Public Service Broadcasting & Pluralism of the Broadcasting Sector, Access to Information & Confidential Information, and Protection of Journalists Confidential Sources

Moderation **Tim Judah**, Correspondent, The Economist

Panellists **Sandra Bašić Hrvatin**, Media Expert, Slovenia
Lindita Çela, Journalist, Shekulli newspaper, Tirana
Helena Mandić, Director, Broadcasting, CRA, Sarajevo
Sanja Mikleušević-Pavić, Acting Head, Informative Programme, HTV, Zagreb
Ardian Arifaj, Senior Researcher, KIPRED, Pristina

10.45 – 11.15 **Coffee Break**

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11.15 – 12.45 Session Two STATE POLICIES & LAW: State Ownership & State Aid

Even the most democratic and liberal governments respecting freedom of expression by law and in practice tend to exert influence on media content in their favour. In South East Europe nowadays state-owned media still exist, despite the long-standing commitment to privatize or liquidate state media. This allows direct state interference with their editorial policies. Other ways of state influence on media include direct state aid and government advertising allocated to certain media, bringing high revenues and serving as a leverage of governmental control. Journalists and media favoured by the state often have better conditions for accessing official information, while critical journalists are ostracised and discriminated against. The discussion will focus on all the above challenges to media independence and on possible solutions.

Topics to be discussed:

Privatisation, Direct and Indirect State Aid (State Advertising and Subsidies to Media), Preferential Treatment of Media and Journalists

Moderator Saša Mirković, Association of Independent Electronic Media, Serbia

**Panellists Aleksandar Trifunović, Editor-In-Chief, Byka on-line magazine, Banja Luka
Biljana Petkovska, Executive Director, Macedonian Institute for Media
Ljiljana Smajlović, UNS, Belgrade
Davor Glavaš, Faculty of Political Science / Study of Journalism, Zagreb**

12:45 – 13:15 Press Moment – Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

12.45 – 13.30 IREX Side Event

Presentation of the 2012 Media Sustainability Index by **Leon Morse**, Managing editor of MSI and IREX Deputy Director for the Media Development Division

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.00 Session Three BUSINESS & CORPORATE INTERESTS

Transparency of Media Ownership & Media Pluralism

Transparency of media ownership and anti-trust laws are of vital importance for a truly pluralistic media scene. Audiences need to know who owns the media to be able to unveil their political affiliation and thus make informed interpretation of media discourses. Large corporations have their business and political interest and often resort to media to pursue their agendas and lobbying. Digital switchover in broadcasting set to be completed in the next few years also presents challenges to media pluralism. Rules of licensing need to be adapted carefully to the changing infrastructure to expand plurality and avoid monopolization of broadcasting channels. Some states' experience shows that such risks are obvious. Media owners often offer "grey" or "black" employment schemes to their staff, which makes journalists vulnerable to publisher's pressure and leaves them outside of the protections offered by editorial contracts and professional associations. This is detrimental to the development of professional and ethical journalism. Bias, sensationalism and partisanship are some of the results.

Topics to be discussed:

Who owns Media in the Balkans; Ownership Issues and their Impact on Pluralism and Diversity? The Big Digitalization-Pie, Who Wins How? Journalists as Collateral Damage: Business Interest vs. Public Interest; Ethical vs. Sensational Journalism

Moderator Oliver Vujović, Secretary General, SEEMO, Vienna

Panellists Remzi Lani, Director, Albanian Media Institute, Tirana
Rade Veljanovski, Professor of Journalism, University of Belgrade
Sašo Ordanoski, Media and Public Affaris, VeVe Group, Director, Skopje
Ranko Vujović, President of the Council of the Broadcasting Agency, Podgorica
Borka Rudić, General Secretary, BH Novinare, Sarajevo

16.00 – 17.00 Side Event on Investigative Journalism – in co-operation with the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN), Sarajevo

Moderator Miranda Patručić, Center for Investigative Reporting, Sarajevo

Panellists Olivera Lakić, Journalist, Vijesti, Podgorica
Nidžara Ahmetašević, Slobodna Bosna & Center for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz, Austria
Ana Petruševa, BIRN, Skopje
Drago Hedl, Investigative Journalist, Croatia
Stevan Dojčinović, Serbian Center for Investigative Reporting

20.00 Reception at Kalemegdanska Terasa

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Friday – 21 September 2012

09.00 – 10.30 **Session Four** **FEAR OF VIOLENCE & SELF-CENSORSHIP**

Safety of Journalists & State response to threats and violence

Violence and threats against journalists and their families, attacks on media property, raids on editorial offices and brutal assaults of journalists covering public events are the most common and direct ways of “chilling” media freedom. Resulting from a range of reasons – from authorities’ ignorance to such attacks to personal animosity and revenge for criticism – any manifestation of violence or threat against journalists should be fully and transparently investigated and prosecuted. States in South East Europe have intensified efforts to combat violence against media. However, attacks and threats continue. What are effective ways of preventing crimes against media staff? Former victims of censoring violence and experts provide their insight.

Topics to be discussed:

Aggression against Journalists, Threats to Media Workers, State Responses & Impunity, Ways Out?

Moderator **Renate Schroeder**, Director, European Federation of Journalists (EFJ/IFJ)

Panellists **Dinko Gruhonjić**, President, Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina
Milka Tadić Mijović, Director, Monitor, Podgorica
Brikenda Rexhepi, Editor, Koha Ditore, Pristina
Borjan Jovanovski, Evrosum TV Magazine, Skopje

10:30 -11:00 **Veran Matić, B92, Serbia** – Presentation of the Balkan Media Freedom Network

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee Break**

11.30 – 13.00 **Closing Session** **WHAT IS NEXT FOR THE BALKANS?**

Moderator **Dunja Mijatović**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Panellists **Vukašin Obradović**, President, Independent Association of Journalists, Serbia
Boro Kontić, Media Centar, Sarajevo
Brankica Petković, Head of the Center for Media Policy, Peace Institute Ljubljana

13.00-13.15 **Closing Remarks**
Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

13.15 – 14.30 **Lunch**
End of Conference
