19TH CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE
Open Journalism in Central Asia

18-19 October 2017, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Venue: Wyndham Tashkent hotel, Silk Road A Hall (Amir Timur Street C4, 7/8)

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Day 1:Wednesday, 18 October

09.00 – 09.30	**REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**
09.30 – 10.00	**OPENING SESSION** Introduction: Matthijs Berman, Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) **Welcoming remarks** • Sarvar Otamuradov, Deputy Speaker, Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan • Ambassador John MacGregor, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan • Harlem Désir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
10.00 – 11.30	**SESSION I: Current tendencies in news media distribution: the state of affairs in Central Asia and other OSCE participating States** *The global trend of mobile devices being users' primary access point to news and entertainment makes mainstream media adjust their formats and means distribution to mobile environment. According to Cisco Visual Networking Index 74% of all Internet traffic in 2018 will become video. The media in Central Asia are taking steps in harnessing new distribution platforms and delivering news to wider audiences.* *The subregion as a whole has done comparatively well in mobile telecommunications, due to improved coverage and affordable devices. Mobile Internet penetration rates in the countries of Central Asia exceed 100%, mostly above the global average of 96%[1]. As telcos upgrade their networks to 3G and 4G, existing users find themselves with the means for faster Internet access, and the capacity to pursue multiple activities.* *The questions remain however whether: a) the necessary infrastructure is in place to support media in their reach out to via mobile platforms; b) the shift in consumption will benefit media in the region, in particular, their plurality, and c) it will have a bearing on the digital switchover.* Moderator: Andrey Rikhter, Senior Adviser to the RFoM • Ilkhom Abdullaev, Head of the Committee on Information and Communication Technologies, Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan • Government/State institution representative from Turkmenistan - TBA • Mikhail Komissarov, Deputy Chairman, Public Control in the field of Communication, Informatization and Mass Media Committee, Ministry of Information and Communication of the Republic of Kazakhstan • Muhabbatsho Ruzador, Member of Parliament, Committee on international affairs, public organizations and information, Tajikistan • Baktygul Noruzbaeva, Director, Department of Information and Mass Communication, Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic • Questions & Answers

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[1] https://www.budde.com.au/Research/Uzbekistan-Telecoms-Mobile-Broadband-Statistics-and-Analyses

11.30 – 12.00	COFFEE BREAK
12.00 – 13.30	**SESSION II: Gatekeepers in the new media environment: new professional challenges and opportunities for journalists and media outlets in the OSCE area** *Increasingly, mobile gadgets become the users' gateway to the outside world, including TV, radio and news media. Media content is increasingly distributed via mobile applications and messenger services. The very same users however often rely on social media as a source of news and a platform for discussion. For years academics have written about the so-called 'echo chambers' of the likeminded in social media groups, while user-generated content has often led to an instant global distribution of false information. Yet this year Facebook has announced it would start distributing newsfeeds of established media organisations, including premium content. Is this an opportunity for the mainstream media to redefine themselves?* *The speakers are invited to touch upon the following issues:* *- What are the ways of reaching out to young users?* *- Is there technical capability in place to develop media apps for mobile users?* *- How do media counter disinformation and fake news?* Moderator: Matthijs Berman, Principal Adviser to the RFoM Keynote speaker: Nicolas Becquet, Digital Media Manager, L'Echo newspaper, Belgium • Lola Islamova, Chief Editor, Anhor.uz • Asomiddin Atoev, Regional Co-ordinator, SecDev Foundation • Discussion
13.30 – 14.30	LUNCH

| 14.30 – 16.00 | **WORKSHOP I: Mainstream media and new formats: social networks or mobile platforms in Central Asia and Mongolia?**

Moderator/Rapporteur: Elena Cherniavska, Senior Adviser to the RFoM

Panel:
• Blundstone Osterberger, C3 Creative Code & Content marketing agency
• Erzhan Suleimenov, Director, Internews in Kazakhstan
• Rustam Gulov, blogger, Tajikistan
• Diliya Yusupova, Kaktus, Kyrgyzstan
• Narantuya Dangaasuren, Head, News.NM, Mongolia

News consumption globally has been distributed increasingly through social networks, but also through dedicated apps and news aggregators. Among these, the Russian platforms VKontakte and Odnoklassniki as well as the video-hosting platform rutube.ru maintain the dominant position. Computer algorithms increasingly decide which piece of news users are going to see. Alerts and notifications are becoming a key tools for publishers in the competition to attract attention and to bring audiences back more regularly to a particular brand.

The speakers are invited to touch upon the following issues:
- What are the trends and challenges facing media outlets in Central Asia in the digital and increasingly mobile environment?
- What are potential regulatory approaches to social networks, which would help avoid complete algorithmization?
- What challenges do computer algorithms bring about? | **SIDE EVENT: Presentation on drafting new HCNM Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age**

Room: Samarkhand Hall

Organizer: Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

Presenter: Dr. Dmitry Nurumov, HCNM Expert on Media and National Minorities

Language: Russian only
Duration: 1 hour

The side-event will introduce key elements of a new draft set of HCNM recommendations on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age. The new recommendations, which build upon the previous HCNM Guidelines on the use of Minority Languages in the Broadcast Media (issued in 2003), will focus on freedom of expression in the digital age. Dr. Dmitry Nurumov, HCNM Expert on Media and National Minorities, will engage in a discussion with the audience on the relevance of this document to the Central Asian context, exploring good practices and challenges related to the role of media for national minorities and integration of multi-ethnic societies in the region. |
| 16.00 – 16.30 | COFFEE BREAK | |

16.30 – 18.00	**WORKSHOP II: Legal framework and the role of self-regulatory institutions in countering violent extremism (CVE) and hate speech: best practices exchange in the OSCE area**	**SIDE EVENT: Presentation of the project "#Living Asia: Media & Environment in Central Asia"**
	The discussion will highlight the role of media organisations and professional associations in reporting on terrorism and extremism issues. The participants will be invited to discuss the role of legal provisions and that of the counter-narrative in containing the threat of the extremist discourse in the (social) media. The discussion on open journalism will also aim to emphasise the changing role of journalists in the online environment and the participation of audience in gathering and disseminating information, which add new challenges for ethical journalism.	Room: Samarkhand Hall Organizer: Internews Presenter: Farhod Rahmatov Language: Russian only Duration: 30 min.
	The participants will examine potential common standards and a common approach for dealing with instances of offensive speech, such as hate speech, particularly moderation and management of user-generated content and comments.	*The side-event will present the regional environmental journalism project "Media for Improved Reporting on Environment and Natural Resources in Central Asia" and its results and lessons learned. The project was funded by the European Union through the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace, and implemented by Internews.*
	The speakers are invited to touch upon the following issues: *- Is regulation of hate speech online compatible with principles of free speech?* *- What is the role of self-regulation in addressing hate speech online?* *- Which mechanisms are available to media working online to contain the spread of bullying, hate speech, discrimination, polarization, and extremism?* *- What mechanisms are available to regulate social networks to contain incitement to hatred, discrimination, polarization and extremism?* *- What are the ethical norms of journalism in social media?*	*http://liventraining.tilda.ws/livingasia_en*
	Facilitators: • Elizabeth Abela-Hampel, Deputy Head, Anti-Terrorism Issues, Transnational Threats Department, Action Against Terrorism Unit, OSCE • Andrey Rikhter, Senior Adviser to the RFoM Panel: • Galia Azhenova, Head of the Public Center for Independent Expertises on Information Disputes, International Foundation For Protection of Freedom of Speech Adil Soz, Kazakhstan • Rajabali Maraimov, member, Tajik Media Council • Shamaral Maychiev, Chairman, Commission on consideration of complaints against media, Kyrgyzstan • Mikhail Komissarov, Deputy Chairman, Public Control in the field of Communication, Informatization and Mass Media Committee, Ministry of Information and Communication of the Republic of Kazakhstan	
18.00	**RECEPTION (*Wyndham Tashkent hotel*)** **Hosted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**	

Day 2: Thursday, 19 October	
09.30 – 11.00	**SESSION III: Latest media freedom developments in Central Asia and Mongolia** *Reports and discussion on media freedom developments since the 18th Central Asian Media Conference, including the safety of journalists, current case law, legislative initiatives and framework, media transparency, professional standards, and other pertinent issues and challenges to media freedom.* Moderator: Elena Cherniavska, Senior Adviser to the RFoM • Nuriddin Karshiboev, Chair, National Association of Independent Media, Tajikistan • Ruslan Myatiev, Editor, Alternative Turkmenistan News • Gulnara Babadjanova, Director, In-service Training Centre for Journalists, Uzbekistan • Discussion
11.00 – 11.30	**COFFEE BREAK (Distribution of the draft declaration from the conference)**
11.30 – 13.00	**SESSION III (cont'd): Latest media freedom developments in Central Asia and Mongolia** Moderator: Elena Cherniavska, Senior Adviser to the RFoM • Tamara Kaleyeva, President, International Foundation For Protection of Freedom of Speech Adil Soz, Kazakhstan • Begaim Usenova, Director, Media Policy Institute, Kyrgyzstan • Ayushjav Tumurbaatar, Media Program Coordinator, Globe International Centre, Mongolia • Discussion
13.00 – 14.00	**LUNCH**
14.00 – 15.30	**CLOSING SESSION** Moderator: Andrey Rikhter, Senior Adviser to the RFoM - Discussion on the draft declaration from the conference - Evaluation of the conference **Closing remarks** • Harlem Désir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media