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Associate partner

**Alternatives – Media reforms for media integrity and future of independent journalism**

**Search for alternatives to corrupt media systems in the countries of South East Europe**

**Final regional conference**

**Novi Sad (Hotel Park), 13 June 2016**

**Aim:**

The final regional conference of the SEE Media Observatory will serve as a forum for discussing alternatives to current media systems, relations and practices which obstruct media integrity in the countries of South East Europe. In the fourth year of research, advocacy, investigative journalism and debates revealing problems and obstacles for independent journalism and highlighting some good practices of media integrity protection, the final regional event of the SEE Media Observatory will gather pro-integrity actors from ten project countries, and also several other European countries, to deliver idea what to do to save journalism and media integrity in the region – which models of funding are available for such journalism and media, who can take a lead in the journalistic community and the media to systematically defend the profession, which role should the state play in providing conditions for independent and efficient work of media regulators?

At the final conference the latest research of the Observatory on editors and their role in protection or obstruction of media integrity in the countries of the region will be presented.

The final conference will also serve as a sum-up of key messages and recommendations our researchers and debates generated during more than three years of the project in order to inform, provoke and promote media reforms. We will also deliver some final comprehensive recommendations how to build alternatives to the media systems which do not support democracy.

**Program:**

**9.00 – 10.00 Opening session: Future of independent journalism and media in SEE – Importance of emancipatory media policy and citizens perspective**

Welcome address

**Dubravka Valić Nedeljković**, Novi Sad School of Journalism

**Brankica Petković,** Peace Institute, Ljubljana, SEE Media Observatory project coordinator

Opening speeches:

**Dunja Mijatović,** OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media(video message)

**Prof. Miroslav Milićević,** Vice President, Anti-corruption Council of the Republic of Serbia

**Milorad Pupovac,** Member of the Parliament in Croatia, President of the Serb National Council, apublisher of weekly Novosti

**Chair: Remzi Lani,** Director of the Albanian Media Institute, Albania

**10.00 – 11.30** **Searching for leaders in media and journalistic community to protect and save integrity and future of journalism and media**

**Role of the editors – are they still the leaders?**

Keynote speaker: **Geraldine Kennedy,** former editor in chief, The Irish Times, Ireland

**Examining role of editors in the media in the SEE region**

Key findings of SEE Media Observatory research:

**Ilda Londo,** Albanian Media Institute, member of the SEE Media Observatory research team

Discussants:

**Borjan Jovanovski**, Editor, novatv.mk, Macedonia

**Sanja Mikleušević Pavić**, Former news program editor, HTV, Croatia

**Agron Bajrami,** Editor,Koha Ditore, Kosovo

**Balazs Weyer**, President, Editors Forum Hungary

**Chair: Boro Kontić,** Media Center Sarajevo, BiH

**11.30 – 11.45** Break

**11.45 – 13.00 The journalism/journalists then, now and in future** : Exchanging views of journalists of different generations on situation of journalists and journalism then and now, and in future – Where are the alternatives and leadership in saving journalism with integrity?

**Nehat Islami**, former Middle East correspondent (1974-1979) and foreign affairs editor at Rilindja, Kosovo

**Lenart J. Kučić,** journalist, Delo, Slovenia

**Caelainn Barr, journalist, the Guardian, UK**

**Nikola Maticki**, student of journalism, editor of monthly “Žurnalist”, Novi Sad, Serbia

Chair: **Janos Horvath**, Center for Independent Journalism, Budapest

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch**

**14.00 – 14.45 Role of the regulators in protecting integrity of the media system:** Within media reforms for media integrity – what kind of status, composition, powers and capacities the regulators need to independently and efficiently regulate the media?

Programmatic contribution by:

**Mirjana Rakić,** Resigning Chairwoman of Council for Electronic Media and Director of Agency for Electronic Media, Croatia

**Jadranka Vojvodić,** Deputy Director, Agency for Electronic media, Montenegro, and

**Helena Mandić,** Director of Broadcasting, Communication Regulatory Agency, BiH

Chair: **Slobodan Kremenjak,** media law expert, lawyer, Law Firm Živković Samardžić, Serbia

**14.45 – 16.15 Alternative models of media funding –**

**How to finance independent journalism and media which serve public interest?**

Presentation of policy research for SEE Media Observatory:

**Milan F. Živković**, former media policy advisor, Ministry of Culture, Croatia

Experience from the Netherlands – How to fund independent journalism?

**Rene van Zanten,** Director of the Dutch Journalism Fund, The Netherlands

Supporting independent journalism production around the world: donor’s view:

**Algirdas Lipstas**, Deputy Director, Open Society Foundations, Program for Independent Journalism, London

Chair: **Sašo Ordanoski,** Program Director, Forum-Center for Strategic Research and Documentation, Macedonia

**16.15 – 16.30 Break**

**16.30-17.30 A manifesto for media integrity in SEE – ideas for alternative media systems and actions to be taken to protect media integrity and future of independent journalism**

**–** Recapitulation of media integrity research and debates conducted by SEE Media Observatory 2013-2016 and open discussion on ideas for alternatives

Presentation of manifesto for alternatives:

**Sandra B. Hrvatin,** Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Koper, Slovenia, SEE Media Observatory Advisory Board Member

Discussions on ideas for alternatives:

**Eldin Karić,** Editor, Žurnal.ba, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Gordana Igrić,** Regional director, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)

**Andrew Finkel,** Platform for Independent Journalism – P24, Istanbul, Turkey

**Chair: Brankica Petković,** Peace Institute, Ljubljana, SEE Media Observatory project coordinator

Rapporteur of the conference: **Tihomir Loza,** Director of the South East European Network for Professionalisation of Media.

**20.00 Concert and dinner**