

#SEEMC2021

JOURNALISM IN TIMES OF CRISIS

OSCE SOUTH EAST EUROPE
MEDIA CONFERENCE

11-12 OCTOBER 2021, ROGNER HOTEL, TIRANA, ALBANIA

AGENDA

Day 1: Monday, 11 October 2021

START	END	EVENT
9:00	9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration and welcome coffee for participants attending in person• Connection via ZOOM for participants attending online (access link to be distributed)
9:30	9:35	Welcome speech <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
9:35	9:55	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania• H.E. Vincenzo Del Monaco, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania
10:00	10:15	Keynote speech <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Julie Posetti, Global Director of Research, International Centre for Journalists

10:15	11:45	<p>Session I: Disinformation and Quality Investigative Journalism</p> <p>With disinformation proliferating at an ever-increasing magnitude across the South East Europe region, quality investigative journalism faces a major challenge in this region. Disinformation undermines public trust in professional, quality journalism and its role in democratic societies – which is further amplified in times of crisis such as the present COVID-19 pandemic. Public trust in news media is based on accurate, impartial and fact-checked information. A commitment to core journalistic principles of fairness and factuality is essential to build credibility in media, as much as it forms an important remedy against disinformation.</p> <p>This panel session will provide a better understanding of the issue of disinformation and its root causes, the risks associated with it, and the role journalism can play in countering it. In addition, panellists will discuss initiatives and practices in the region to address this emerging threat to a pluralistic media landscape, both offline and online, and propose solutions for its further improvement.</p> <p>Moderator: Andrey Rikhter, Senior Advisor, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milka Tadić Mijović, President, Centre for Investigative Reporting, Montenegro • Sarah Clarke, Head of Europe and Central Asia, ARTICLE 19 • Elisa Spiropali, Minister of State for Relations with Parliament, Albania • Bardhyl Jashari, Founder and Executive Director, Metamorphosis Foundation, North Macedonia • Kristina Voko, Executive Director, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Albania • Milovan Nikolić, Assistant Editor, FakeNews Tragač <p>Q & A</p>
11:45	12:15	<p>Coffee Break</p>
12:15	13:45	<p>Session II: Safety and Working Conditions of Journalists</p> <p>Safety of journalists – an essential precondition for media freedom and for the realisation of the universal right to freedom of expression – continues to be one of the most pressing concerns in the South East Europe region. Physical and verbal attacks, online threats and intimidation against journalists, especially when covering public gatherings and targeted at women journalists create a climate of fear and censorship, and have a</p>

		<p>direct chilling effect on media freedom. Financial obstacles, lack of job security and social benefits further hamper working conditions of journalists in the region. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has further deteriorated the overall working conditions, especially for freelance journalists and independent media outlets.</p> <p>This second session will offer a deeper insight into the regional trends and current challenges related to the safety and working conditions of journalists, with personal testimonials from two journalists working in the region. It will highlight best practices and efforts to address the cumbersome situation of journalists and the obstacles they face in performing their journalistic activities and their right to freedom of expression, both offline and online, within the context of the present health crisis.</p> <p>Moderator: Ricardo Gutierrez, Secretary General, European Federation of Journalists</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lejla Turčilo, Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo • Mihailo Jovović, Editor-at-Large at Vijesti newspaper and President of the Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Attacks on Journalists, Montenegro • Veran Matić, Founder and Chairperson, Association of Independent Electronic Media and Member of the Permanent Working Group for the Safety of Journalists, Serbia • Dragan Sekulovski, Executive Director, Association of Journalists of Macedonia • Blerjana Bino, Co-founder and Executive Director, Centre of Science and Innovation for Development, Albania <p>Testimonials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dragan Bursać, Independent Journalist • Jelena Zorić, Journalist, Insajder TV <p>Q & A</p>
13:45	15:00	Lunch
15:15	16:45	Side Event on Addressing Attempts to Silence Women Journalists Online (see separate invitation and agenda)
19:00	20:30	Conference Reception Dinner Venue: Rogner Hotel

Day 2: Tuesday, 12 October 2021

START	END	EVENT
8:45	9:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration and welcome coffee for participants attending in person • Connection via ZOOM for participants attending online (access link to be distributed)
9:15	10:45	<p>Session III: Women Journalists and Women Media Managers</p> <p>Women’s inclusion and equal representation within the media sector is important not only to secure women’s right to freedom of expression and their ability to provide a public service, but also to promote diversity and plurality in the media, which are essential for a thriving media environment in democratic society. As the media have a transformative role in shaping perceptions about gender in society, they can also contribute to promoting fundamental human rights in societies, including those of women.</p> <p>This panel session aims to provide a platform for discussing current professional challenges and gender specific risks that women journalists face in the South East Europe region. Panellists will exchange experiences, including personal testimonials from two journalists working in the region, and share positive practices and initiatives to promote gender equality within the media sector. In addition, panellists will deliver recommendations on how to address existing gaps, in order to ensure diverse and gender-balanced newsrooms and improve the situation of women journalists in the region.</p> <p>Moderator: Clarisse Pásztor, Deputy Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borka Rudić, Secretary General, BH Journalists Association • Rozeta Tase, Editor-in-Chief, Albanian Daily News • Kristina Ozimec, President, Platform for Investigative Journalism and Analysis, North Macedonia • Alice Taylor, Co-Editor at Exit.al and Associate at the Coalition for Women in Journalism • Snežana Milošević, Secretary General, Association of Local Independent Media “Local Press”, Serbia • Brikenda Rexhepi, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Koha Ditore/KTV/Koha.net

		<p>Testimonials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leila Bičakčić, Director, Centre for Investigative Reporting , BiH • Tinka Djuranović, Executive Director, Portal Analitika <p>Q & A</p>
10:45	12:00	<p>Session IV: SLAPPs as an increasing threat to independent media</p> <p>Journalists and news outlets in South East Europe and beyond are increasingly legally harassed with so-called Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPPs). SLAPPs aim to silence and intimidate media workers that report on issues of public interest – by drowning these media in lengthy and costly legal proceedings. This poses a serious chilling effect on the right to freedom of expression and free media, and weakens the rule of law; as such lawsuits not only stifle critical voices, but also put much financial and psychological pressure on journalists and media outlets.</p> <p>This panel will look into the growing practice of legal harassment of journalists and media outlets in the region. In this context, panellists will examine the regional legal environment and its implications for free speech and media freedom and they will exchange ideas on forward looking actions to tackle the harmful practice of SLAPP suits.</p> <p>Moderator: Paola Rosà, Coordinator of the Media Freedom Resource Centre, OBC Transeuropa</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flutura Kusari, Legal Advisor, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom ▪ Veljko Milić, Lawyer and Executive Board Member of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, Serbia ▪ Klodiana Kapo, Executive Director, Faktoje.al ▪ Dalibor Tomović, Lawyer, Montenegro <p>Q & A</p>
12:00	12:30	Coffee break

12:30	13:30	<p>Session V: The future of journalism: Young perspectives on media</p> <p>Young journalists' participation in the public sphere is not only essential for ensuring media pluralism but also for building inclusive and robust democratic societies, and including fresh insights and solutions.</p> <p>This last session will offer an opportunity for young journalists from the South East Europe region to present the outline of their 'position paper on youth and media'; a paper describing their perspectives and proposals on how to improve the situation of journalists in the region. The position paper will be developed during the 2021 Youth Camp "Youth and Media in Focus" within the framework of the "YouthTrail: Promoting OSCE Values in the Western Balkans"; a flagship youth exchange programme organized by the OSCE Presence in Albania, with an overall focus on promotion of regional peace and stability.</p> <p>Moderator: Farah Karimi, Special Representative on Youth Engagement, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iris Luarasi, Media Expert • Journalist - YouthTrail Participant • Journalist - YouthTrail Participant • Armela Krasniqi, Chairperson, Audiovisual Media Authority, Albania • Anastasia Fusco, Adviser on Youth and Security, OSCE Secretariat <p>Q & A</p>
13:30	13:45	<p>Closing remarks Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media</p>
13:45	15:00	Lunch