



EU – WESTERN BALKANS MEDIA DAYS

TIRANA, 9 -10 NOVEMBER 2017

 **#EUWBmedia**

CONFERENCE BROCHURE



Neighbourhood
and
Enlargement
Negotiations



FOREWORD



Johannes HAHN

EU Commissioner for
European Neighbourhood Policy
and Enlargement Negotiations

Freedom of expression is one of the very foundations on which the European Union is built and strong, independent press is fundamental to successful societies everywhere. In today's world, media are playing a key role in creating and shaping public opinion and strengthening societal resilience. Independent media and professional journalism are crucial for retaining and enhancing the critical thinking of citizens.

This is why ensuring freedom of expression and media is one of the political criteria for EU accession - a must for countries willing to join the EU. The endeavours of EU candidate countries and potential candidates towards this goal take place against the backdrop of a rapid and far-reaching transformation of the media landscape and significant shifts in media consumption patterns. While opening up new opportunities for sharing information, this changing media environment brings in also certain risks: from a decline in professional standards and a loss of trust in authenticity of sources and news reports, to ever increasing economic pressures undermining the business viability of traditional media.

EU – Western Balkans Media Days will address these challenges. While building on previous Speak Up! Conferences, the Media Days will broaden the spectrum of reflection to cover also the economic sustainability of the media sector, in particular new business models, distortion of competition, advertising markets and transparent financing. This holistic approach aims to create better conditions to guarantee the freedom of expression and a more vibrant and viable media landscape in the region.

I look forward to good discussions with media professionals and stakeholders both from the region and the international community. I am confident the Media Days will result in concrete, innovative ideas to strengthen independent, sustainable and professional journalism in the Western Balkans.

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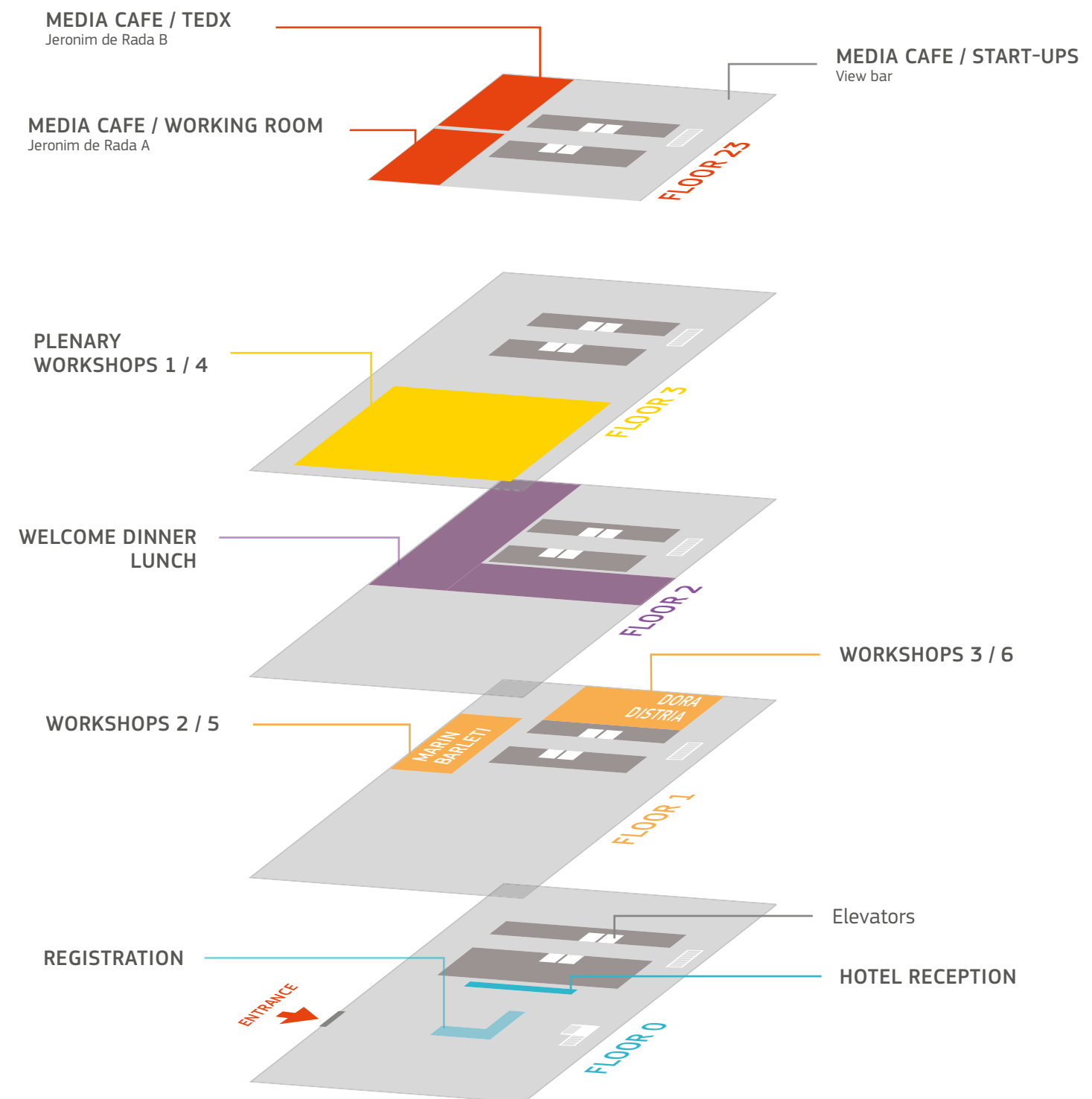
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List of participants

PLAN



PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2017

19:00 - 22:00 Welcome dinner

THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2017

08:30 - 09:30 Registration and coffee

09:30 - 09:45 **Kick off and outline of the day**
Overall moderator: Karen COLEMAN

09:45 - 10:30 **Welcome and opening speeches**
Welcome remarks by **Edi RAMA**, Prime Minister of Albania
Opening speech by **Johannes HAHN**, Commissioner for the European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
Visual opening – *Media landscape in the Western Balkans: challenges and opportunities*

10:30 - 12:30 **Grand Panel 1: Media as a transformative power in the EU accession process**
Moderator: **Tim JUDAH**, Balkans Correspondent, The Economist
Nigel BAKER, Chief Executive, Thomson Foundation
Zvezdana KOVAČ, Executive Director, Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe
Klaus SCHWEIGHOFER, Member of the Board, Styria Media Group
Ilva TARE, Media Director, Ora News TV
Romana VLAHUTIN, EU Ambassador to Albania
Questions and answers

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch and coffee

14:00 - 15:45 **Parallel workshops – part 1** **MEDIA CAFE**
• *Media & market: new business models*
• *Media in the digital age: professionals mastering the change*
• *Quality standards in journalism: new media training needs*

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee

16:15 - 18:00 **Parallel workshops – part 2** **MEDIA CAFE**

- *Media freedom in societies in transition*
- *Words that hurt: media and their contribution to reconciliation*
- *Media policy: implementation of reforms*

20:00 - 22:00 Cultural evening hosted by the Albanian Government

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2017

08:45 - 09:00 **Kick off and outline of the day**

09:00 - 10:30 **Presentation of conclusions from workshops**
Questions and answers

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee

11:00 - 12:30 **Grand Panel 2: Next steps to move forward**
Moderator: **Tim JUDAH**, Balkans Correspondent, The Economist
Jonathan CHARLES, Managing Director for Communication, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development
Silvio GONZATO, Director, European External Action Service
Nenad PEJIĆ, Vice President and Editor in Chief, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty
Jerzy POMIANOWSKI, Executive Director, European Endowment for Democracy
Genoveva RUIZ CALAVERA, Director, European Commission
Tamara SKROZZA, Journalist, Vreme weekly and Member of Press Complaints Commission, Press Council
Questions and answers

12:30 - 13:00 **Closing session**
Concluding remarks by Commissioner **Johannes HAHN**

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch and coffee

WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1: MEDIA & MARKET: NEW BUSINESS MODELS

Today's media sector is very dynamic and innovative, coming up with new products and services, developing new business models and adapting to new media consumption patterns in order to remain competitive. Audience engagement, content monetisation, sustainable economic models and diversification of funding, including decreased dependency on distorted advertisement markets or state funding, are some of the main challenges that have to be faced. The discussion will explore ways to tackle these challenges and share examples of best practices.

Topics for discussion:

- How to be competitive in the tectonically changed media landscape?
- How to tap into new revenue-generating opportunities?
- New business models to lend sustainability to professional journalism and editorial independence

Moderator: **David QUIN**, *Director of Development, Thomson Foundation*

Rapporteur: **Leila BIČAKČIĆ**, *Executive Director, Center for Investigative Journalism*

Saska CVETKOVSKA, *Investigative Editor, Nova TV*

Dalila LJUBIČIĆ, *Executive Director, Serbia Media Association*

Dejan NIKOLIĆ, *Founder, Content Insights*

Grzegorz PIECHOTA, *Senior Research Fellow, University of Oxford, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism*

WORKSHOP 2: MEDIA IN THE DIGITAL AGE: PROFESSIONALS MASTERING THE CHANGE

The digital age brought major market disruptions but also new opportunities for the media professionals. Traditional and new media are quickly converging into a larger, predominantly-digital media environment. As technology tools continue to develop, professionals need to adapt business models and respond to users' behaviour change while maintaining qualitative and trustworthy content. That implies equipping journalists with new skills and new knowledge allowing them to get closer to audiences and offer them a product they are ready to pay for. The workshop will explore these challenges and put forward innovative ideas to address them.

Topics for discussion:

- How to combine traditional and new media?
- How to develop "digital competence", both among media professionals and media consumers?
- Opportunities to get closer and interact with audiences, and monetise these assets.

WORKSHOPS

Moderator: **Michelle FOSTER**, *Partner, Media Development, Newsgain*

Rapporteur: **Besa LUCI**, *Editor in Chief, Kosovo 2.0*

Slobodan GEORGIEV, *Editor, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network*

Borjan JOVANOVSKE, *Editor in Chief, Nova TV*

Agon MALIQI, *Creator and Co-founding Editor, Sbunker*

Ardian VEHBUI, *Founder and Editor, Peizazhe të fjalës*

WORKSHOP 3: PROFESSIONAL QUALITY: NEW MEDIA TRAINING NEEDS

The media landscape is changing rapidly and brings significant shifts in media consumption patterns towards digital and social media. This opens new opportunities, but also poses challenges such as the decline of professional standards in traditional mainstream media and their subsequent tabloidisation. As a result, audiences lose interest and trust in the traditional media and tend to migrate to new media channels, notably to social media, where norms of professional reporting are often a foreign concept. Such developments put in jeopardy the entirety of media output – the organisational structures, workflows and working conditions of contemporary journalists. Consequently, the journalist education and continuing training come to the fore as an instrument to cope with change. The workshop will provide a forum to exchange innovative ideas on how to enhance critical thinking in the media environment and develop professional skills necessary for quality news and story production in the modern times.

Topics for discussion:

- Quality is never black & white: quality standards, training of journalists;
- Reflecting or creating reality: media in the age of fake news and post truth;
- Quality and responsibility and free expression: what does "quality" mean and how can polarisation be overcome?
- The role of journalist self-regulation in protecting the profession in the new media environment.

Moderator: **Adelheid WÖLFL**, *Correspondent, Standard*

Rapporteur: **Gordana IGRIĆ**, *Regional Network Director, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network*

Vukosava CRNJANSKI ŠABOVIĆ, *Director, CRTA – Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability*

Biljana PETKOVSKA, *Director, Media Institute, SEE Network for Media Professionalisation*

Paula PETRIČEVIĆ, *Ombudswoman, Vijesti, Monitor*

Blendi SALAJ, *Vice Chairman, Media Council*

Erisa ZYKAJ, *Member of the Council, International Press Association / Vice-President, Brussels Press Club*

WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 4: MEDIA FREEDOM IN SOCIETIES IN TRANSITION

Media freedom is an essential pillar of a functioning democratic society and belongs to the political criteria for the EU accession. Media both in the EU and in the enlargement region face major challenges influencing their ability to operate professionally. In the Western Balkans these hardships are often amplified by political pressure, misuse of economic and financial leverage to influence media reporting, attacks against journalists, restrictive legislation and courts ruling not in full compliant with the European Human Rights Convention. Obscure media ownership often undermines the credibility of information necessary for a vibrant democracy – limiting the space for independent journalism and fostering self-censorship. The workshop will explore these challenges and share best practices and ideas on how to address the issues at stake.

Topics for discussion:

- Leverage used to curb freedom of expression in the Western Balkans and possible remedies;
- Current court practices in cases involving journalists and media outlets – the issue of “selective justice”;
- Factors leading to self-censorship;
- Strong journalist professional organisations – an actor for expected change.

Moderator: **Mogens BJERREGÅRD**, *President, European Federation of Journalism*

Rapporteur: **Mihailo JOVOVIĆ**, *Editor-in-Chief, Vijesti*

Flutura KUSARI, *Media Lawyer*

Borka RUDIĆ, *Secretary General, Journalist Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Tamara SKROZZA, *Journalist, Member of Press Complaints Commission, Vreme weekly and Press Council*

Christian SPAHR, *Director of Media Program South East Europe, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung*

WORKSHOP 5: WORDS THAT HURT: MEDIA AND RECONCILIATION

The Western Balkans is the region where many journalists tend to adopt partisan positions. The contradictions and polarisation within and among the countries in the region are exacerbated by low quality journalism using cheap but striking sensationalism and ethnic nationalism to attract the attention of the audience. Quality reporting and storytelling are instrumental in dismissing grounds for animosity, which often exist only in newswires. Media professionals have a key role to play in the process of reconciliation within the region and their respective countries and can significantly contribute to shaping a non-polarised society by promoting objective reporting and opposing inflammatory rhetoric and sensationalism, which perpetuate stereotypes and old sentiments.

Topics for discussion:

- Ways to promote ethical journalism in the region;
- Is professional solidarity an answer to the polarisation in the region and within the countries?;

WORKSHOPS

- Measures to commit media outlets to quality reporting;
- Public demand for quality media production: how to encourage it?

Moderator: **Aidan WHITE**, *Director, Ethical Journalism Network*

Rapporteur: **Isak VORGUČIĆ**, *Director, RTV KiM*

Agron BAJRAMI, *Editor in Chief, KOHA Ditore Newspaper*

Fatjona MEJDINI, *Journalist, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network*

Vasil POPETRESKI, *Editor, Alsat M TV*

Nedim SEJDINOVIĆ, *President, Independent Association of Vojvodina Journalists*

WORKSHOP 6: MEDIA POLICY: IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORMS

Media legislation in the Western Balkans is fairly up-to-date and aligned with the European standards. Yet, poor implementation of existing rules leads to a media environment which is not conducive to the full exercise of media freedom. In this context, the actions and the independence of the regulatory bodies deserve close attention. More effort is still needed to accelerate the stagnating reforms of public broadcasters and to ensure their independence and efficiency in news and story production. At the same time, a proactive role of professional organisations is critical for a continued and productive media policy dialogue with public authorities. Both elements are vital to the improvement of the media climate in the long term. The workshop will provide a forum to discuss the issues at stake and propose ideas how to best tackle them.

Topics for discussion:

- The stumbling blocks in the public broadcasters’ reform: how to make public media content available and attractive?;
- Transparency of the media sector as a precondition for formulating effective policy and regulation;
- Is the implementation of the existing laws and rules sufficient to improve media freedom or is additional regulation necessary?
- Conditions for an effective policy dialogue between media professionals’ organisations and the authorities.

Moderator: **Golli MARBOE**, *Chairman, Association for a Self-determined Use of Media*

Rapporteur: **Žaneta TRAJKOSKA**, *Director, School of Journalism and Public Relations*

Mirko BOŠKOVIĆ, *Editor, RTCG (PSB)*

Thoma GËLLÇI, *General Director, RTSH*

Remzi LANI, *Executive Director, Albanian Media Institute*

Zoran SEKULIĆ, *Director, FoNet*

Jadranka VOJVODIĆ, *Deputy Director, Agency for Electronic Media*

MEDIA CAFÉ

INTRODUCTION

The Media Café is an open space lounge where conference participants can freely interact, network and brainstorm in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. In order to inspire stimulating exchanges and creative ideas, the Media Café will be showcasing a number of innovative and successful media start-ups from the region and beyond – with their elevator pitches and interactive stands.

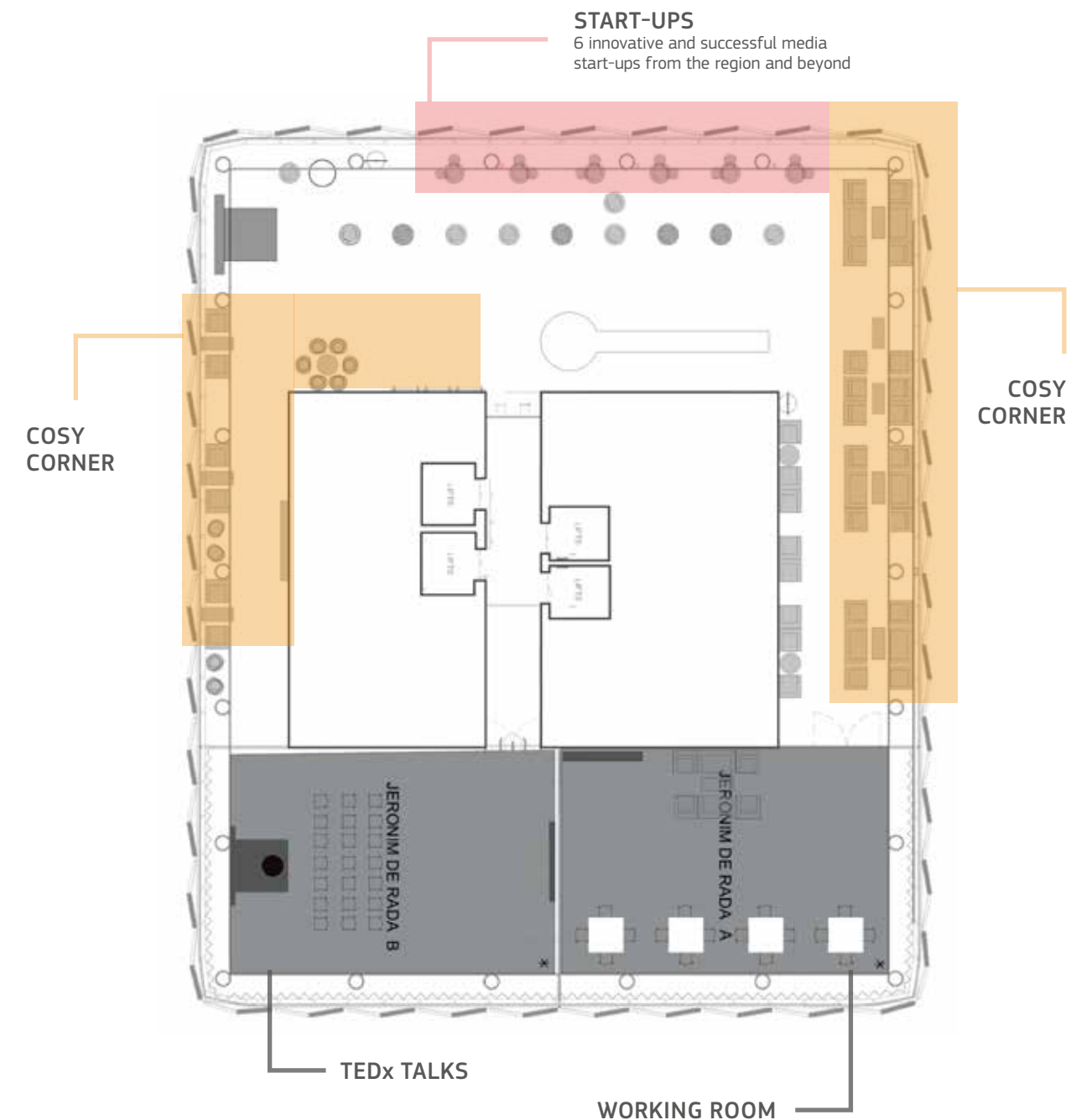
In parallel, a series of TEDx-style talks and presentations will be given by some of our conference guests.

Finally, a dedicated quiet working area will be available with all the necessary equipment for holding interviews and putting pen to paper.

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

14:00 – 14:15	Remzi LANI	Balkan Media: questioning the usual assumptions
14:15 – 14:30	Mirko BOŠKOVIĆ	Freedom of investigation in PSB – (im)possible?
14:30 – 14:45	Agron BAJRAMI	Personal drive behind my career: Why I do what I do
14:45 – 15:00	Mogens BJERREGÅRD	We need to talk: withholding social basics means withholding quality journalism
15:00 – 15:15	Fatjona MEJDINI	Investigative Journalism Lab
15:15 – 15:30	Christian SPAHR	Trust in the media and trends of alternative media
15:30 – 15:45	Aidan WHITE	Ethics are the key to media future
16:15 – 16:30	Grzegorz PIECHOTA	Ingredients of Facebook: how home cooking lessons led to a reveal of secret algorithms - selecting what you learn about the world from the biggest social network.
16:30 – 16:45	Vukosava CRNJANSKI ŠABOVIĆ	Accountability in action
16:45 – 17:00	Dejan NIKOLIĆ	How an imaginary shark ate journalism (How fake news spread without social media)
17:00 – 17:15	Erisa ZYKAJ	To survive in the digital age as a journalist: be multimedia and polyvalent
17:15 – 17:30	Saska CVETKOVSKA	You need a network to take down a network - How can the EU help investigative reporting to fight misinformation and propaganda as a real danger to the core values of the Union?
17:30 – 17:45	Agon MALIQI	Too much information, too little sense
17:45 – 18:00	Besa LUCI	Serving the public interest: journalism that times time

MEDIA CAFÉ



MEDIA CAFÉ

START-UPS

BIRN



BIRN, the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, is a network of local non-governmental organisations promoting freedom of speech, human rights and democratic values. BIRN has a presence across the Balkan region, with country-based organisations in Tirana, Sarajevo, Pristina, Skopje, Bucharest and Belgrade. The network's vision is a Balkans that upholds democratic values, giving citizens equal opportunities to make informed choices and hold governments accountable. BIRN strives to empower people to access their rights by providing accurate and relevant information and creating opportunities for them to participate in democratic processes. Through high-quality reporting and by creating a pool of skilled journalists, BIRN examines and scrutinises key processes, steers debates and provides the public with impartial and reliable information. The network also monitors and advocates for the transparency and accountability of public institutions and enables CSOs and citizens to influence decision-makers.

Site : www.birn.eu.com



Birn Balkans



@birnbalkans

EZYINSIGHTS



EzyInsights is the fastest tool for newsrooms to boost engagement and drive more traffic from social media. Whether you are looking for top sports headlines, political commentary, local news or the most engaging lifestyle and celebrity stories, you'll find them easily in EzyInsights. Publishers use EzyInsights for smart social media analysis to discover content, drive traffic and benchmark their performance against competitors. Powerful and easy to use, EzyInsights is the essential newsroom tool used daily by thousands of journalists all over the world.

Site : www.ezyinsights.com



EzyInsights



@EzyInsights

ISNOTTV



IsnotTV is a mix between a social network and an algorithm-based recommender. It brings together everything users need to discover, find, rate and share video content. Its mission is to save the world from watching low-quality movies.

Site : www.isnottv.com



@isnotTV

MEDIA CAFÉ

KOSOVO 2.0



Kosovo 2.0 is a pioneering independent media organisation that engages society in insightful discussion. Through its print and online magazines, debates and advocacy initiatives, K2.0 is dedicated to deepening the understanding of current affairs in Kosovo, the region and beyond. Working in three languages and with cutting-edge design and presentation, it takes part in global discussions, providing new perspectives on contemporary, international narratives regarding culture, arts, politics, people and society. With a growing core staff and working with dozens of freelance writers, photographers, journalists, videographers, thinkers, activists and creative people, K2.0 is reshaping Kosovo's media landscape, while enabling its audiences to think beyond the news and search outside the box.

Site : www.kosovotwopointzero.com



KOSOVO 2.0



@kosovo2point0

MATCHHAMSTER



Matchhamster provides business intelligence for content companies. It brings online news publishers and news agencies valuable insights into the online distribution of their content. This helps them maximise profit by learning where to find new and lost revenue and by protecting their online paywalls. Matchhamster's scalable products gather data by comparing the publishers' content with the Internet. Its customers include Agence France-Presse, African News Agency, FD Media Groep and Nederlands Dagblad.

Site : www.matchhamster.com



@Matchhamster

OKRUŽENJE/VICINITIES



'Okruženje/Vicinity' is the first and only regional TV current affairs talk show to bring together influential guests from all walks of life and from all the Western Balkans countries. Over the years, Okruženje has consistently been a pioneer in proving that the people of the region can – and do – discuss issues peacefully and democratically and can – and do – work together. The show is broadcast simultaneously in all the countries of the Western Balkans. Its guests talk in either a mutually understood language – B/C/M/S – or Albanian. The live audience includes young people who are alumni of programmes organised by one of the show's partners, the European Fund for the Balkans. The host is Zvezdana Kovač, Executive Director of the CDRSEE. Okruženje is financially supported by Germany's Federal Foreign Office. In September 2016 Okruženje received the 'Media Initiative of the Year' jury award in recognition of its relentless efforts and determination.

Site : www.okruzenje.net



OKRUZENJE



@OkruzenjeCdrsee

CULTURAL EVENING



A cultural evening inside the atomic bunker of Albania's communist regime, with the performance of Albanian pianist and composer Robert Bisha

The performance will take place in BUNK'ART 1, a museum opened in 2014 and situated inside the atomic bunker of the ex-dictator Enver Hoxha, on the outskirts of Tirana. The museum tells the history of the Albanian communist regime and of the hardship of daily life during that period. BUNK'ART 1 is not merely the conversion of a massive bunker meant for Albania's communist elite into a history and contemporary art museum, it also contributes to Albania's dealing with its painful past.

Robert Bisha is an Albanian pianist, improviser and contemporary composer. Born in Shkodra, where he received his initial musical education, he was already playing his own compositions in the Albanian classical scene by the age of 12. Bisha later moved to Italy where he studied at the Girolamo Frescobaldi conservatory in Ferrara and developed a special interest in folkloristic musical studies. Robert Bisha also composes music for documentaries and movies, employing the language of folk, jazz, and contemporary European music.

When?

9 November 2017, 20:00-22:00

Where?

BUNK'ART 1, Fadil Deliu Street, Tirana

Transfer from the conference venue provided

BIOGRAPHIES



Agron BAJRAMI

Editor in Chief
KOHA Ditore Newspaper

Agron Bajrami has been an editor with Koha Ditore since its establishment in 1997. In 2003, he became editor in chief of the newspaper, which is the largest and most influential newspaper in Kosovo. He is considered to be one of the most credible and respected editors with no affiliation with political parties or business groups. He has his weekly column published in Koha Ditore, while he also writes commentaries for American, German and French media, as well as regional media. He is also a regular columnist for Montenegrin daily newspaper Vijesti and Finance published in Ljubljana. Agron is a member of the board of South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), the head of the Kosovo Media Institute and a member of Steering Committee of Kosovo's Press Council.



Nigel BAKER

Chief Executive
Thomson Foundation

Nigel Baker is Thomson Foundation's Chief Executive. He has overall responsibility for the delivery of the foundation's programmes and budgets, as well as advising its board of trustees on strategy. Nigel joined the foundation in 2012 from the world's largest news agency, The Associated Press (AP), where he was vice president of business operations for Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. During 17 years with AP, he led negotiations with the North Korean government to open the first bureau of a western news organisation in Pyongyang in 2006. He also served as executive director of its international video wing, APTN. Earlier, he held senior editorial roles with Reuters and British TV news providers, ITN and Sky News, running major field assignments in Iraq, Jordan, Moscow and the former Yugoslavia. He is a long-standing judge of the UK's Royal Television Society's Journalism Awards and has also served as a judge for the BAFTAs and International Emmys.

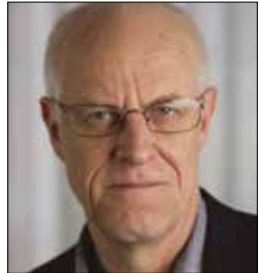


Leila BIČAKČIĆ

Executive Director
Centre for Investigative Journalism (CIN)

Leila Bičakčić is director and founder of Centre for Investigative Reporting (CIN), a media agency dedicated to investigating corruption, organised crime and nexus between political elite and organised criminal groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Balkan region. Her main responsibilities include donor relations, programme planning and business management, including financial management and sustainability models. Prior to CIN, she worked as financial manager and regional trainer with the American Bar Association (ABA/CEELI). A Sarajevo native, she holds a degree in economics from the University of Sarajevo.

BIOGRAPHIES



Mogens BJERREGÅRD

President
European Federation of Journalists

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård is the president of the European Federation of Journalists. Educated as journalist, he has experience in print media, radio and TV and has dedicated his work for the last three decades to press freedom and trade unionism. As president of the Danish Union of Journalists from 1999 to 2005, he changed it into a modern organisation and worked on authors' rights, the revision of ethical standards and new media support mechanisms. Being in

the founding process of the International Media Support, Mogens co-signed the Memorandum of Understanding of the Council of Europe Safety Platform and is a board member of the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom. He is also in charge of projects on press freedom issues for the Nordic Council of Ministers.



Mirko BOŠKOVIĆ

Editor
RTCG (PSB)

Mirko Bošković (born 6 November 1986, Podgorica, Montenegro) is an editor of the investigative department in the public broadcasting service Radio Television Montenegro. His journalist career is more than 10 years long, mainly on TV. He won several domestic and international awards for investigative journalism. Currently, he is leading a team of journalists and producers in charge of establishing the first investigative department in the public services

in the Western Balkans with EU funding. He is the author of the TV show Mechanism, known for investigative stories which reveal corruptive schemes of high-ranking officials and organised crime.



Jonathan CHARLES

Managing Director, Communication
European Bank of Reconstruction and Development

Jonathan Charles is the Managing Director of the Communications department at the EBRD and is a member of the Bank's Executive Committee. He came to the Bank in 2011 after a long and distinguished career at the BBC, winning several awards for his journalism. As a BBC presenter and foreign correspondent, he has appeared on BBC1 and BBC World News television, as well as the BBC's main radio channels. His specialist areas include economics,

Russia, the EU and international diplomacy; he has a keen interest in issues surrounding the single currency. He established television operations for the BBC in Brussels and Frankfurt, and operated in many conflict zones throughout the world. He holds an MA (Oxon) and BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oriel College, Oxford University.

BIOGRAPHIES



Karen COLEMAN

Founder
Planet Podium

Karen Coleman is an Irish journalist and broadcaster, as well as an accomplished moderator. She specialises in European stories and her current journalistic work includes reporting on the European Parliament's plenary sessions in Strasbourg and Brussels for all of the independent radio stations in Ireland. She is a former BBC foreign correspondent who has worked with the BBC in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, London and Scotland in radio and television. She

regularly moderates international conferences. Recent clients have included the EU Committee of the Regions, European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Parliament, European Journalism Centre, and the State of North Rhine Westphalia, Germany. The topics she covers can range from business, finance and politics to environmental, security and health issues. In 2013, Karen founded Planet Podium which is a conference content production business that provides a range of conference production services to clients.



Vukosava CRNJANSKI ŠABOVIĆ

Director
CRTA - Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability

Vukosava Crnjanski is a founder and director of the NGO CRTA, whose work focuses on innovative and practical mechanisms and tools for citizen engagement in advocacy for an open, accountable and democratic government in Serbia. In 2009, Vukosava established CRTA's most prominent project Istinomer (Eng. Truth-o-Meter), a fact-checking platform that enables citizens to assess performance and raise demand for accountability in the work of

politicians and public institutions. Within CRTA, Vukosava's work includes media monitoring and disclosure of fake news and misinformation in media and digital sphere, election observation efforts (Citizens on Watch), oversight and advocacy for institutional accountability and openness (Open Parliament, Open Government Partnership in Serbia), disclosure of information on political structures and political party fly-overs in Serbia (Who is in My Government), open data work (Data Center, Public Budgets). Vukosava received international recognition for innovation, commitment and contribution to democracy through the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award. She holds an EMBA degree from the Cotrugli Business School and a Bachelor of Science in Management from the Faculty of Organisational Sciences, University of Belgrade.

BIOGRAPHIES



Saska CVETKOVSKA

Investigative Editor
Nova TV

Saska Cvetkovska is an investigative reporter and media transparency activist. She works for NOVA TV and is a member of the cross border platform for investigative reporters network of the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. She has been awarded more than ten national and regional awards for her work as investigative reporter. She follows corruption and organised crime on national and international level. She is one of the founders

of Mediapedia, which maps internet media ownership, as well as of Spooks and Spins. She currently works on finding solutions that help addressing the impact of propaganda and strengthen real journalism as an essential tool to fight misinformation. In the past years, Saska worked on a series of national and cross-border investigations that exposed corruption, espionage and trade of influence in the global information wars. Her work appeared in many global media leading outlets.



Michelle FOSTER

Partner, Media Development
Newsgain, UK

Michelle Foster helps organisations become stronger through improved management, marketing, and strategic initiatives. She has actively engaged with projects in Belarus, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Georgia, Kenya, Lao, Myanmar, Serbia, Somalia, Vietnam and the United States. She conducts M&E analyses and assesses conditions in emerging markets and is a frequent author for CIMA, a board member for the Independent Journalism Foundation,

and a former Knight International Journalism Fellow. As senior market development executive for US-based Gannett Co., Inc.'s multi-billion-dollar newspaper division from 1991-2003, her responsibilities included 97 daily newspapers, 100+ news websites, national brands and niche product lines. She is a founding member of International Media Development Advisers (IMDA), holds a Master's degree in business, speaks Chinese, and has lived in Taiwan, China, and Cambodia, now residing in greater Washington D.C.



Thoma GËLLÇI

General Director
RTSH

Thoma Gëllçi is an Albanian journalist and the General Director of Albanian Radio Television. During the '80s and '90s he wrote for several media outlets. He also held several high-level positions in the national administration, such as the Director of the Information Department at the Prime Minister's Office.

BIOGRAPHIES



Slobodan GEORGIEV

Editor
Balkan Investigative Reporting Network

Slobodan Georgiev is a Belgrade based journalist and programme coordinator in BIRN Serbia. Since 2001 he has worked as a journalist in Vreme weekly covering organised crime and sports. He participated in the UNDP's programmes on transitional justice and the justice sector reform in Serbia. Slobodan is a contributor to balkaninsight.com and Belgrade insight. He is also editor at Javno.rs. He lives and works in Belgrade.



Silvio GONZATO

Director for Strategic Communications and General Affairs
European External Actions Service

Silvio Gonzato is Director for Strategic Communications, Parliamentary and Legal Affairs at the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU's diplomatic service. He is responsible for the design and implementation of the EU's strategic communications and public outreach policies. He also oversees and promotes ever closer working relations with the European Parliament and the Member States' parliaments. He was previously Director for Human Rights

and Democracy Support. A European Parliament official since 1988, Silvio served as Head of the Secretariat of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs. He has spent most of his 13 years career working in different Committee Secretariats, covering both EU's internal and external policies.



Johannes HAHN

EU Commissioner for the European Neighbourhood Policy
and Enlargement Negotiations

Johannes Hahn has held various management functions in the different sectors of the Austrian economy and industry, including as CEO of Novomatic AG for 5 years. Between 1992 and 1997 he was Executive Director of the Austrian People's Party Vienna. In 2002, he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Party and Chairman in 2005. Member of the Regional Parliament of Vienna from 1996 to 2003, he became Federal Minister for Science and Research in

2007. He was the Member of the European Commission in charge of Regional Policy from 2010 to 2014. Since November 2014 he is a Member of the European Commission in charge of Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.

BIOGRAPHIES



Gordana IGRIĆ

Regional Network Director
Balkan Investigative Reporting Network

Gordana Igrić has been an active defender of human rights and media freedom for 34 years. She began her career as a journalist in Belgrade, covering stories across former Yugoslavia. During the Balkan wars, she reported on war crimes in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo. Her work was rewarded with an American Overseas Press Club award and with the Human Rights Watch Hellman Hammet award. She left Serbia in 1999 and relocated to London where she

worked until 2007 as an editor for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and as the manager of its Balkans projects. In 2005, she found a unique cross-Balkans network of media development organisations, the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, BIRN. She has been its Regional Network Director and Editor-in-Chief ever since. Through BIRN, she has succeeded in establishing multi-ethnic teams across the Balkans, which collaborate across borders against a backdrop of often still hostile neighbourhood relations. In 2016, she was shortlisted for the Vaclav Havel Human Rights prize.



Borjan JOVANSKI

Editor in Chief
Nova TV

Borjan Jovanovski is editor in chief of the News and Investigative Platform NOVA TV and the founder and director of EuVision Production. He has a 25 year experience in media and journalism and has received several awards for his investigative reporting. His work focuses on judiciary, workers right and domestic and EU affairs. In 1998, he founded Eurozoom, a TV show devoted to the European integration process of the country and of the region. It also

discussed hot topics from the EU and its Member States. The TV show was on air until 2011. Borjan is a fervent advocate of freedom of media and human rights. In 2011, together with four other journalists, he founded The Reporters, the first journalist rock band whose main goal is to produce music dedicated to freedom of expression. He is also an executive board member of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of his country. He holds a degree in comparative literature from the St. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje.



Mihailo JOVOVIĆ

Editor in Chief
Vijesti

Mihailo Jovic has been editor-in-chief of the Montenegrin daily Vijesti since 2011. During the last 20 years, he was Vijesti's deputy editor-in-chief, political editor, international news editor and journalist. Apart from leading an independent, liberal, influential and trusted media in Montenegro - known for its award winning investigative journalism - he writes mainly on politics, intelligence, criminal justice and corruption issues. He is a lawyer by education,

and before journalism, had a professional career as a musician. He lived and worked in the United Kingdom in the nineties. He is married and has two children.

BIOGRAPHIES



Tim JUDAH

Balkans Correspondent
The Economist

Tim Judah is a journalist for The Economist, covering the Balkans and many other regions. He is the author of several books on the Balkans including The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia, Kosovo: War & Revenge and Kosovo: What Everyone Needs to Know. From 1990 to 1991 he lived in Bucharest, reporting on the aftermath of communism in Romania and Bulgaria for The Times and The Economist, later moving to Belgrade to cover the war

in Yugoslavia. In 2009 he was a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the South-East European Research Unit of the European Institute at the LSE, where he developed the concept of the "Yugosphere". He is the president of the Board of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network and a member of the board of the Kosovar Stability Initiative. For the past few years he has corresponded on the conflict in Ukraine for the New York Review of Books and published a book on the topic, In Wartime: Stories from Ukraine (Penguin, 2016).



Zvezdana KOVAČ

Executive Director
Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe

Zvezdana Kovač has been executive director of the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) since September 2014. Before joining the CDRSEE, she worked as a journalist and an editor for more than 20 years and served in leadership roles in various TV stations across the region. After moving to Greece, she worked as project manager for several NGOs.

She joined the CDRSEE in 2011, first working as the project manager for the JHP's Montenegrin edition and then as editor in chief and co-host of the current affairs TV talk show Vicinities. Zvezdana graduated from the faculty for Serbo-Croatian language and Yugoslav literature at the University of Montenegro. Her mother tongue is Montenegrin, which allows her to understand the languages in the region. In addition, she is fluent in English and Greek.



Flutura KUSARI

Media Lawyer

Flutura Kusari is a media lawyer. She is currently working as a legal advisor for the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) in Germany. Previously, she worked in different civil society organisations in Kosovo, including the Balkan Investigative Reporting network (BIRN). For several years she edited from the legal point of view complex investigative articles and TV programmes and worked closely with Kosovar journalists on fact checking, protection of sources, whistleblowing and access to public documents. She

writes on the latest legal developments regarding the right to freedom of expression and the freedom of the media at Sbunker.net. She holds a LLB and LLM degree in law and is currently pursuing her PhD studies in media law at the Ghent University.

BIOGRAPHIES



Remzi LANI

Executive Director
Albanian Media Institute

Remzi Lani is the executive director of the Albanian Media Institute. He has a long career in journalism, notably in "Zeri i Rinise" (Tirana), "El Mundo" (Madrid) and "Zeri" (Pristina). He is the author of articles on Balkan affairs for different local and foreign papers and magazines such as "El Mundo", "The Guardian", «Quimera» and «The International Spectator». He collaborated on Balkan issues in various projects with Aspen Institute in Berlin, Istituto Affari Internazionali in

Rome, CESPI in Rome, the Centre for International and Strategic Studies in Washington, the Carter Center in Atlanta, the Hellenic Foundation in Athens, CIDOB in Barcelona and the Bertelsmann Foundation. He has been also an expert for the International Commission on the Balkans (Amato Commission). He was also a founding member of the first Human Rights Group in Albania (The Forum for Human Rights) in 1990.



Dalila LJUBIČIĆ

Executive Director
Serbia Media Association

Dalila Ljubičić has been the executive director of the Association of Media, a business association of print and online media in Serbia since 2013. Prior to that, she worked for seven years as the CEO for marketing and advertising at the Novosti Company (the biggest publisher in Yugoslavia) and for seven years as the media director in Direct Media (the largest regional media agency).

She graduated as Mechanical Engineer (1995) and Master of the Faculty of

Economics, Media and Marketing Group (2002). She actively participates in working groups to adopt laws relevant to the media industry and is engaged in lobbying to improve existing regulations. She strongly supports and works on the development of self-regulation in the media sphere. Dalila is representative of the Association of Media in the European Association of Newspaper Publishers (ENPA), a partner and coordinator of DW Academy projects in Serbia, a member of the IAA Serbian Branch, a member of the INMA and WAN- IFRA and a lecturer and trainer at media seminars. Her recent projects include: "Professional and ethical standards of multi-platform journalism" (education for students of journalism); "Do you understand media?" (media literacy for primary schools); "Real measure of media" (importance of media measurements); "Young Media" (how to make media content for, with and about young population). Married, the mother of two children.

BIOGRAPHIES



Besa LUCI

Editor in Chief and Founder
Kosovo 2.0 web portal

Besa Luci is the founder and chief editor of Kosovo 2.0 (www.kosovotwopointzero.com), an online platform and biannual print magazine, which combines traditional and new media to create a self-sustaining platform for Kosovo's youth to become informed and active participants of their communities and society. In the past few years, Besa also worked as senior researcher with the Foreign Policy Club think tank, based in Pristina, Kosovo and as a freelance

researcher for Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Pristina office. Besa worked as a reporter for a few online and print media in the USA, such as the Columbia Missourian, Gotham Gazette, NYC, women's enews and NYC. Besa holds a BA in political science/international relations and journalism/mass communications from the American University in Bulgaria, and an MA in journalism/magazine writing from the Graduate School of Journalism, University of Missouri, Columbia. Via Kosovo 2.0, Besa has produced several short documentaries and videos, such as a contribution to 2010 "One Day on Earth" documentary (<http://www.onedayonearth.org>).



Agon MALIQI

Creator and co-founding editor
Sbunker

Agon Maliqi is a policy analyst, activist and media writer from Pristina, Kosovo. Almost three years ago he created and became the co-founding editor of sbunker.net, an opinions and analysis blog which gathers tens of young academics, writers and activists from Kosovo. He is a regular contributor in Kosovo's written press, having published more than 100 op-eds and essays during the last decade. Professionally, Agon works as a development policy

consultant in the areas of good governance, human development and competitiveness, for clients such as the World Bank, the European Commission, the UNDP, the OECD, UNICEF and Transparency International. He graduated in political science and European studies from the American University in Bulgaria in 2006, and obtained a Master's Degree in International Development Policy from Duke University in 2012.



Golli MARBOE

Chairman
Association for a Self-determined Use of Media

Golli Marboe is a former TV producer. He developed hundreds of documentaries and feature films in cooperation with main European public TV distributors, including ARD, Arte, ZDF, RAI and ORF. Currently, he teaches media affairs and journalism in several universities in Austria and is a regular speaker at conferences and panels. From time to time, he also works as a consultant to film production companies or TV stations. Since 2016, he is the founder

and chairman of the "Association for a self-determined use of media" (vsum.tv). He is also a member of the German Academy of Television (DAFF) and the Academy of Austrian Film (Akademie des Österreichischen Films). He was born in Vienna, where he still lives today. He is the father of four children.

BIOGRAPHIES



Fatjona MEJDINI

Journalist
Balkan Investigative Reporting Network

Fatjona Mejdini is an Albanian journalist having 12 years of experience in covering the major event in the country. Since 2015 she has been the Albanian correspondent for Balkan Insight, the English news website of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Networking (BIRN), where she also reports about issues concerning Albanians minorities in the region. Besides her work at BIRN, she is a trainer and editor in Investigative Journalism Lab, a program started in 2016 by the US embassy in Tirana aimed at teaching journalism students all over the country how to report and write investigative stories. Since June, she has also been the Albanian correspondent for Mapping Media Freedom, a platform identifying threats and violations of journalists in Europe. As part of this engagement, she writes pieces concerning media freedom on the website Index on Censorship. Fatjona has a BA in journalism and a master degree in public administration from the Tirana University. In 2014 she was selected to be a Hubert H. Humphrey fellow, a program for mid-career professionals funded by the US Department of State. She spent one year in Washington D.C. taking journalism classes at the University of Maryland and interning in Politico Media Company.



Dejan NIKOLIĆ

Founder
Content Insights

Dejan Nikolić has been an editor and publisher in print and digital for 20 years. A web analytics geek and a serial Internet entrepreneur, he started Njuz.net as a Facebook group while on sick leave. Four years later it grew into the most popular entertainment website in the region, with three books published (Laguna bestseller list), a prime time satirical TV show "24 minuta sa Zoranom Kesicem" and a weekly print edition. Content Insights is a product that pursues

Dejan's life mission to help prevent "Idiocracy» from becoming our reality. It offers a paradigm shift that allows for old-school ethics and dignity of journalistic profession to thrive in a digital environment where everything is measurable and comparable.

BIOGRAPHIES



Nenad PEJIĆ

Vice President, Editor in Chief
Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty

Nenad Pejić is the current vice president and editor in chief of Radio Free Europe (RFE)/ Radio Liberty (RL). He joined RFE/RL in 1993 as the first Director of RFE/RL's Balkan Service. Prior to that, he held various positions in Sarajevo Television, including the head of the News Department, a Belgrade correspondent, and a Programme Director. He also served briefly as the Head of Publications and Public Relations at the European Institute for the Media. He lectured at universities in Ukraine, Georgia, Prague and Montenegro and in international events such as NATO summits and the Salzburg Seminar; and in events organised by a number of non-governmental organisations around Europe.



Biljana PETKOVSKA

Director
Media Institute, South East European Network for Media Professionalisation

Biljana Petkovska is the director of the Institute for the Media (MIM) in Skopje. She has 20 years of extensive experience in professional communication, media development and not-for-profit management, and a track record of cooperation and partnership building with the most prominent American and European CSO's and governmental institutions supporting media development in the Balkans. Currently, she serves as President of the South East European Network for Media Professionalisation (SEENPM), which groups 19 media centres from 12 Central and South East European countries.



Paula PETRIČEVIĆ

Ombudswoman
Vijesti, Monitor

Paula Petričević is a philosopher, feminist and peace activist. She graduated philosophy at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy in 2005. Paula worked as programme director in the Centre for Civic Education in Podgorica, as a lecturer at Alternative Women Studies Programme organised by Anima – Centre for Women and Peace Education in Kotor and as a philosophy professor in the Gimnasium of Kotor. Currently works as a philosophy professor in Music High School "Vida Matjan," Kotor and as an ombudsman at daily newspaper "Vijesti" and at independent weekly magazine "Monitor".

BIOGRAPHIES



Grzegorz PIECHOTA

Senior Research Fellow
University of Oxford, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

As a researcher at University of Oxford (UK) and Harvard Business School (USA), Grzegorz Piechota studies technology-enabled disruption patterns across industries, including news media. His research work at the HBS focuses on digital business model innovations. His project at Oxford's Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism examines the impact of digital platforms on paid content models of news organisations. In addition, Piechota serves as a digital strategy adviser for Poland's Gazeta Wyborcza (Agora) and consults with media companies worldwide. He is a member of the INMA Board of Directors and is a past president of INMA's Europe Division. He is an active member of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers, the Online News Association, the Global Editors Network. Piechota is a news editor and a media executive with 20 years of industry experience. He began his career at Gazeta Wyborcza in 1996 as a reporter rising to a news editor and a vice-president of Agora Foundation. A 2016 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, Piechota explored the transformation of the media business and the future of work in creative industries. His recently published research reports include «Evaluating Distributed Content in the News Media Ecosystem» (INMA, April 2016), «The Facebook-Media Relationship Status: It's Complicated» (INMA, October 2016), and "Reality check: making money with Facebook. The digital business strategy of news publishers" (WAN-IFRA, September 2017). Piechota graduated in law. He lives in Oxford in the United Kingdom with his wife and two children. He speaks fluent English, Russian, and Polish.



Jerzy POMIANOWSKI

Executive Director
European Endowment for Democracy

Jerzy Pomianowski took the leadership of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) after two years as Deputy Foreign Minister of Poland. In this previous position, he coordinated among others the Polish Foreign Policy democratisation agenda, which included the establishment of the EED, a flagship initiative of the Polish EU Presidency in 2011. As the director of OECD-UNDP's Partnership for Democratic Governance (2008-2011), Jerzy supported countries destabilised by armed conflict or natural disasters. Prior to that, he launched Poland Aid (2006-2008) and worked as Director General of the Polish Foreign Service (2005-2006). He began his career as a civil servant in 1990 and is a former Ambassador to Japan (1997-2002). Between 1980 and 1989 he was an active member of the democratic opposition in Poland.

BIOGRAPHIES



Vasil POPETRESKI

Editor
Alsat-M TV

Vasko Popetrevski is an editor and host of the popular news show "360 Degrees", which is aired on TV Alsat-M, a national bilingual commercial broadcaster. The show has its investigative and field based version every Monday and a debate/interview style version every Friday. He has also worked as editor and news anchor at the A1, Kanal 5 and Alsat-M TV channels and at the Dnevnik daily and Gragjanski weekly newspapers. He graduated from the School of J at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje.



David QUIN

Director of Development
Thomson Foundation

David Quin is a global media development leader and Director of Development at the Thomson Foundation and is in charge of sourcing and managing all donor -funded projects. He has over 14 years experience in creating and managing large scale media development projects worldwide. He manages teams of consultants and regional staff and has trained hundreds of reporters in over 40 countries for a range of donors, including the the UNDP, UNESCO, the OSCE, the EU, the FCO and SIDA. As a reporter, David lived Buenos Aires, Baku, Skopje and Beirut. He covered issues ranging from the Argentine IMF default in 2001 and Caspian oil geopolitics to Balkan trans-national crime and the 2006 Israeli-Lebanese war for international print and broadcast media including the IWPR, CBC, RTE and the BBC. In 2007 he co-authored the Thomson Foundation / EJC guide to Covering EU for Mediterranean Journalists. He holds an undergraduate degree in history from Sussex University UK and Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism from the London College of Communications.



Edi RAMA

Prime Minister
Government of Albania

Edi Rama (born 4 July 1964) is an Albanian politician, diplomat, artist, writer and former basketball player, who has been the Prime Minister of Albania since 2013. He is also the first serving mayor to become Prime Minister. Rama is a member and leader of the Socialist Party since 2005. Before his election as Prime Minister, Rama held a number of governmental and diplomatic positions. He served as the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports from 1998 to 2000. Afterwards he became the Mayor of Tirana for three consecutive terms from 2000 to 2011. He was a well-known artist before he ventured into politics. During his early years, he studied fine arts before becoming a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts. Later on he established a successful art career in France, before going back to his native Albania as the Minister of Culture.

BIOGRAPHIES



Borka RUDIĆ

Secretary General
Journalist Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Borka Rudić is a journalist and professor of philosophy and sociology from Bosnia and Herzegovina. She was born on August 25, 1959 in Mrkonjić Grad. She graduated in 1983 at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo at the Department of Philosophy and Sociology, where she also obtained the title of professor. She began working in journalism in 1984, as a volunteer for Radio Sarajevo. She spent most of her career in radio journalism. She was a reporter for Radio BiH until 1994. She then worked for Oslobođenje, Tjednik, Beta agency and Dane. She also serves as the Secretary General of the Independent Union of Professional Journalists of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Genoveva RUIZ CALAVERA

Director for Western Balkans
European Commission, Directorate-General for
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Genoveva Ruiz Calavera is the Director in charge of the Western Balkans at the European Commission. She started her EU career in 1992 with assisting in the negotiations for accession of Sweden, Finland and Austria in 1996 and later on of the Baltic and Eastern European countries, Malta and Cyprus. She served in the European Commission Taskforce for the Reconstruction of Kosovo during 1999-2000 in Pristina. She was appointed Deputy Head of Unit for Serbia and Montenegro in 2002 and Head of the Kosovo issues unit in 2006. In January 2009, she became the Head of Unit for "Crisis Response and Peace Building" in the Directorate-General for External Relations. Following the creation of the European External Action Service in 2011, she joined the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) assisting the High Representative Federica Mogherini in her capacity as Vice-President of the European Commission. She was born in Madrid in 1962, where she grew up and obtained her university degree in Philology. She studied her senior year at Marlborough School in LA (USA) and has a masters' degree in Public Management by the "Ecole de Commerce Solvay" in Brussels. She held different management positions in the private sector before joining the EU.

BIOGRAPHIES



Blendi SALAJ

Vice Chairman
Media Council

Blendi Salaj is an Albanian journalist, lecturer and social activist who has been on the forefront of online Media since the late 90's when he was a student in the United States. In 1998 he was one of the founders of the Albanian Web Ring and Albforumi.com. His work took a new dimension when he and his two friends created Peshkupauje.com, (Fish Out of Water), one of the leading and most prominent Albanian language blogs on the Internet. Today, Peshkupauje serves as a platform for citizen driven media and as a censorship free zone. After 12 years in the USA, Blendi returned to Tirana in 2008 with a degree in Communication Sciences and New Media from Worcester State University in Massachusetts. For the past eight years, he has been hosting one of the most popular radio morning shows in Albania on Radio Club FM. With hundreds of TV appearances, articles in the press and a strong presence in the social media, he represents one of the modern day influencers in Albania.



Klaus SCHWEIGHOFER

Member of the Board
Styria Media Group

Klaus Schweighofer is the member of the Board of the Styria Media Group. Born in Graz in 1966, he studied jurisprudence (his dissertation was on Media Law) at the Karl-Franzens University of Graz. During his time studying he was able to gather experiences as a journalist at various daily and weekly newspapers and became Chief Editor of the weekly newspaper «der neue Grazer/der neue Steirer» in 1991. Simultaneously, he was involved in the establishment of the first Grazer Stadtradio (town radio) 107,5 (1997/98). In 2002 Klaus moved to Equity and Finance Management at «Styria Medien AG» and since then, has been responsible, besides radio and television in the country, for the expansion of «Styria» in Slovenia and Croatia. Amongst other things, the newly founded daily newspapers «24sata» (Croatia) and «zumal24» (Slovenia) came under his area of responsibility. With the foundation of «Styria Media International AG» in 2005 he was appointed to the board and additionally held a number of Executive and Board of Directors' seats. He is married and father of two children.



Nedim SEJDINOVIĆ

President
Independent Association of Vojvodina Journalists

Nedim Sejdinović is the president of Independent Journalist Association of Vojvodina, a member of Executive Board of Association of Online Media, as well as editor in chief of the web portal Autonomija. He is also a member of the Coalition of Journalists and Media Organisations, which monitors implementation of media reforms in Serbia, participates in the drafting of the state bills and in public hearings regarding media laws. Nedim has been a journalist since 1992, writing for FHM, «Monitor», «Reporter», «Vreme», «Pobjeda», «Vijesti», «Helsinkiška povelja», «Građanski list», «Dnevnik» and «Danas. He worked also editor in chief and journalist in weekly newspapers "Nezavisni" and "Bulevar".

BIOGRAPHIES



Zoran SEKULIĆ

Director
FoNet

Zoran Sekulić is the owner and CEO of FoNet News and Publishing company and Editor in Chief of independent FoNet News Agency, established 24 year ago. He is President of the Association of Media, a major business association of newspaper publishers, news agencies and portals in Serbia. He is also a member of the International Federation of Journalists and Independent Journalists Association of Serbia (IJAS). In 2012 Zoran received the OSCE Person of the Year award for contributions to media reforms and freedom of expression in Serbia and in 2016 he was presented with the Chevalier de la Legion d' Honneur medal, by the decree of the President of the Republic of France. He graduated from Belgrade University School of Law (international affairs). He started a professional journalism career in 1982.



Tamara SKROZZA

Journalist, Member of Press Complaints Commission
Vreme weekly and Press Council

Tamara Skrozza is a journalist for Vreme news magazine, Cenzolovka online portal and mojizbor.info platform. She is also a member of Press Council, as well as a media trainer engaged with a number of international and Serbian organisations and institutions. She is a member of the executive boards of the Open Society Foundation in Serbia and of CRTA (Centre for research, transparency and accountability). During her 20 years long career in journalism, she primarily focused on domestic politics, media ethics, gender issues, as well as vulnerable social groups. She received a number of awards: «Jug Grizelj» for investigative journalism and journalism excellence, OSCE Person of the year 2016, for advocacy and promotion of OSCE values in the field of media, and of tolerance in the media.



Christian SPAHR

Director of Media Program South East Europe
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Since 2012, Christian Spahr is the Director of the Media Program South East Europe of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). His work focuses on support of quality journalism, media diversity and modern political communication. He is also one of the hosts of the South East Europe Media Forum (SEEMF) as well as co-founder and board member of the South East Europe Public Sector Communication Association (SEECOM), Europe's first professional organisation of government communicators. He is a regular speaker at media and communication conferences in Germany, Austria, France, Italy, the Benelux states, South East Europe and Ukraine. Christian is also a former business editor of one of Germany's top five regional dailies and was Spokesperson of BITKOM, the business association of the German digital economy. He holds a degree in linguistics and corporate communications.

BIOGRAPHIES



Ilva TARE

Media Director
Ora News TV

Ilva Tare is the Director and Presenter of the "Tonight Ilva Tare" show and the News Director of Ora News. "Tonight Ilva Tare" focuses on citizens' concerns by providing an interactive platform for the wider population to ask and demand answers from the policy makers. Ilva, who has more than 20 years of experience in the Albanian broadcasting industry, is one of the most prominent TV journalists in the country, having interviewed all Albanian politicians and organised heated debates on political and current affairs, as well as collaborated with international news outlets like Al Jazeera London. Moreover, she has produced in the United States a one-hour documentary addressing the issues of media freedom in the country. Over 30 interviews were conducted with journalists and media experts within a span of two weeks, with footage filmed in Washington, DC and New York City. Ilva is a graduate in Journalism from the History and Philology University of Tirana, also holds a MSc in Media and Communication from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Žaneta TRAJKOSKA

Director
Institute of Communication Studies, School of Journalism
and Public Relations

Žaneta Trajkoska studied Journalism before completing her Master Degree in "Communication and Management for Cultural Policies" at LUMSA, Rome, in 2004. She holds a PhD in political science at the Faculty of Law of the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje. She is the Director of the Institute of Communication Studies and Senior Lecturer at this scientific and research institution. Previously, she was director of the School of Journalism and Public Relations since its establishment in 2008, and the managing director of the Institute for Media for seven years. Between 1993 and 2001 she was working as a journalist in different national media outlets. Her research fields are Media and Journalism Studies, Mass Communication and Media Policy, Political communication, Strategic communication.



Ardian VEHBUI

Founder and Editor
Peizazhe të fjalës

Born in Tirana, Ardian Vehbiu is a writer, researcher and translator based in New York. He is the author of 13 non-fiction and fiction books in Albanian and in Italian and the winner of two national book prizes in Albania. His writing has been featured regularly in the Albanian press and the digital media. Since 2007, he manages and contributes to "Peizazhe të fjalës", an online magazine which has become, over the years, a strong point of reference for cultural, social and linguistic debates in the Albanian-speaking world.

BIOGRAPHIES



Romana VLAHUTIN

EU Ambassador
EU Delegation in Albania

Romana Vlahutin is the EU Ambassador to Albania since October 2014. Before that, she served as Foreign Affairs Adviser of the Croatian President, Political Director of the OSCE Mission to Kosovo, diplomat in the Political Department of the Croatian Embassy to Washington, Head of Analytics and Political Planning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Croatia, and Head of the Political Department and Deputy Ambassador in the Croatian Embassy to Belgrade.

She participated in the work of the UN Bassiouni Commission and was an analyst in the Strategy Team of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and a researcher in the Council on Foreign Relations, Washington DC. A graduate of the Universities of Zagreb and Harvard, she has written a number of essays and papers on international relations, culture and art.



Jadranka VOJVODIĆ

Deputy Director
Agency for Electronic Media, Montenegro

Jadranka Vojvodić is the Deputy Director and the Head of the Legal and Finance Department at the Agency for Electronic Media of Montenegro (www.ardcg.org). She has extensive experience in the development and implementation of the media legal framework. She has been a member of the Standing Committee on Transfrontier Television and a member of the Executive Council of the European Audiovisual Observatory. She is also a sub-coordinator for the

audiovisual policy within the Working Group for Chapter 10 – Information Society and Media responsible for the preparation of Montenegro for the EU accession negotiations in this field.



Isak VORGUČIĆ

Director
RTV KiM

Isak Vorgučić is the director and editor in chief of radio and television station KIM (Kosovo Information Network), an influential media for Serb community. He is an MA graduate from Kosovo Institute for Journalism and Communication. He has military, engineering and theology background. He spent more than a decade as a monk. and is co-owner and brew-master at Pivdzan-Beer Craft Brewery in Gracanica, Kosovo.

BIOGRAPHIES



Aidan WHITE

Director
Ethical Journalism Network

Aidan White is the Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Ethical Journalism Network. He worked as a journalist with newspapers in the United Kingdom, including the Birmingham Evening Mail, the Financial Times and The Guardian, before taking up his post as General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists between 1987 and 2011. He founded the EJNI in 2012. He has written extensively on human rights, ethics and journalism issues and played

a leading role in establishing the International News Safety Institute, the global campaign for news safety, as well as the creation of IFEX, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange, a global network of free expression campaigners. In 2014 Aidan served on the appointments panel of IMPRESS, the Leveson-compliant alternative press regulator in the UK.



Adelheid WÖFL

Correspondent
Standard, Austria

Adelheid Wölfl studied journalism in Vienna in cooperation with the Austrian weekly Profil and the University of Vienna. She then participated in a master programme for the European Social Studies in Maastricht in 2003. Since 2004 she has worked in the department for foreign affairs at the Austrian weekly Der Standard. As of 2012 she is a correspondent for South Eastern Europe.



Erisa ZYKAJ

Member of the Council / Vice-President
International Press Association / Brussels Press Club

Erisa Zykaj has been a Brussels-based correspondent on EU affairs working for ABC news TV and KLAN TV since 2010. She is also the Vice-president of Press Club Brussels Europe and a member of the International Press Association Council API/IPA. Currently, she is also a PhD candidate on EU communication in VUB/SMIT. She worked for EURONEWS's weekly magazine «Parlamento» from 2008 to 2010 and for Radio France International (Albanian section) from

2002 to 2008. She holds a master degree in European Journalism from CUEJ Strasbourg and another one in European studies from IEE (ULB) Brussels. She was also the scriptwriter and director of several documentaries such as «Canon or the men who defy the law» (2008), «Albania's road to EU» (2012) and «The Albanian dissidence» (2014).

