

Regional conference : « Investigative journalism in the Balkans : experiences and new challenges »

Pristina, Kosovo, November 2, 2017
Faculty of Architecture Modelarium UP

Simultaneous translation provided in Albanian, English, French and Serbian

Briefing note :

Since the beginning of the 2000's and the fall of authoritarian regimes of Franjo Tudjman in Croatia and Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia, it has been taken for granted that freedom of the press would be the cornerstone of the newly established parliamentary democracies in South-Eastern Europe. However, even if official censorship no longer exists, medias in the Balkans are daily confronted to difficulties which put their very existence in jeopardy. Due to a serious economical failure, most of the main media groups are now under the control of oligarchs and businessmen very close to the political power. It is therefore getting more and more difficult to have a genuine investigative journalism.

Whereas the perspective to join the EU is drifting away a bit more every day, the politicians are lured by authoritarians ways of governing and more and more young people are leaving the country, the right to free information is at stake. Because of the lack of quality media, genuine investigations and reports, the whole civil society is in danger. Journalists are confronted to various pressures, blackmailing, libel actions, threats, violence, incarceration as Reporters Sans Frontières reminds us.

The seminar organised by le Courrier des Balkans will have for main objective to strengthen exchanges with investigative journalists of South-East Europe at a crucial time when freedom of speech is under threat. The organisers want to point at some experiences of groups of journalists and some medias in the region by letting a wide public know about them.

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experiences and new challenges »**

10:00 Welcome speech

Jean-Hubert Lebet, Ambassador of Switzerland to Kosovo
Laurent Geslin, Editor in Chief of Le Courier des Balkans

10:30 – 12:00

Political pressure – financial pressure : the hurdles for investigative journalism

Moderator : **Jean-Arnault Dérens**

- **Jeta Xharra**, BIRN Kosovo (Pristina)
- **Artan Rama** (Tirana)
- **Jelena Radivojević**, KRIK (Belgrade)
- **Corentin Léotard**, Hu-lala, le média de l'Europe excentrée (Budapest)
- **Milka Tadić**, Centar za istraživačko novinarstvo Crne Gore (Podgorica)

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Investigation : what sort of media? Which public audience?

Moderator : **Laurent Geslin**

- **François Bonnet**, Médiapart (Paris)
- **Borjan Jovanovski**, Nova TV (Skopje)
- **Luiza Vasiliu**, Casa Jurnalistului (Bucarest)
- **Faik Ispahiu**, Kallxo.com (Pristina)

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

Tabloidization and alternative medias

Moderator : **Simon Rico**

- **Saska Cvetkovska**, Nova TV (Skopje)
- **Tatiana Vaksberg**, Deutsche Welle (Sofia)
- **Nedim Sejdinović**, Nezavisno društvo novinara Vojvodine (Novi Sad)
- **Serbeze Haxhijaj**, Radio Televizioni i Kosovës (Pristina)
- **Jovo Martinovic** (Podgorica)

Conclusion - panels' reports