



Co-organized by: RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Croatian Radiotelevision and European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe

Conference on Investigative Journalism and Data Protection

Date 29 - 31 May 2012

Venue Pula, Croatia

Background

The conference is a follow-up activity to the Conference on Public Media and Security in SEE, held at RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation in November 2011. This event is aimed at promoting and increasing cooperation by using dialogue and exchanges of information, transfer of knowledge, views and ideas, as well as disseminating international standards related to investigative journalism and data protection and building a more open, transparent and stable environment in the SEE region.

The EU's commitment to the enlargement process reflects the Member States' conviction that enlargement is in the mutual interest of the European Union and the aspirant countries. In this regard, RACVIAC and its partners - Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT) are trying to continuously contribute to the EU enlargement process, which fosters the stability and security in Europe. It also provides a unique incentive for political and economic reforms and harmonization of standards across Europe.

As public service media (PSM) themselves are one of the most important pillars of democratic societies, their role is of utmost importance in the South East European (SEE) countries as well. The SEE is part of European landscape and its PSM should be advocates and promoters of positive changes - this has been strengthened by the establishment of the European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe, the activities of which are strongly supported by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and RCC.

The RACVIAC and RCC work to promote mutual cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe in order to stimulate development in the region to the benefit of its people. The strategic goal of their media development activities is to bring about change, which would foster development of the media sector in SEE towards free, professional and responsible media in the region. Investigative journalism is an important tool through which journalists and the media as such foster public interest and contribute to an overall development and democratization of a society, the field of security included. This Conference, co-organized by RACVIAC, RCC, HRT and the European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe is aimed at promoting investigative journalism, fostering journalist independence, while upholding and observing data protection principles.

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose to organize this Conference arose out of a need to promote the European media and security related standards and to draw attention to the importance of the interconnection between public media services and security issues.

The objectives are:

- To analyze the transparency of the relationship between the media and security;
- To explore the role of the public media in crisis management operations, in the context of various specific topics;
- To promote observance of data protection principles;
- To promote freedom of expression standards and capacity building in the field of the media;
- To foster media pluralism and to support cooperation between regional public media services and state institutions;
- To share information, views, and experiences from the past, as well as the latest information concerning security issues;
- To enhance regional cooperation on the path towards European integration of all South East European countries.

Participants

Approximately 45 participants from the signatory countries of the new RACVIAC Agreement. The target participants should be public relations representatives from the SEE countries' Ministries of Defence and representatives of the SEE public media services, regional and international organizations dealing with the subject matter. Representatives of MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media are also to be invited.

Methodology

The event will last for three working days and the official working language will be English. The conference will be conducted as a combination of presentations, internal workshop, speeches and open discussions.

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