

**Issue No. 21**

January 6, 2012 – February 3, 2012

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**Media Innovations**

New TV station appears in Pozarevac – New web portal makes possible watching of Serbian TV channels – New web portal *Telegraf.rs* is launched – Test broadcasting of digital TV begin in a month – PUKOS announces that cable TV subscribers will not have additional expenses after transition to digital broadcasting

The European Parliament points out that "strong and independent media is a necessary condition for democracy and welcomes the adoption of the Media Strategy of the Government of Serbia and the planned withdrawal of the state from media ownership". This conclusion is a part of the draft Resolution on European Integration of Serbia which will be considered by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament. The European Parliament also expresses its "concern because of attempts to monitor and interfere with the activities of media outlets, and calls on the government (of Serbia) to guarantee their independence from political and other forms of pressure".

(Pregled, Dnevnik, 12.01.2012)

Newspaper Blic has published a list of 50 most powerful foreign citizens in Serbia, and three among them work in the media: Florian Fels, the general director of "Ringier Aksel Springer Media AG" (12th position); Minos Kyriakou, the owner of TV Prva (39th position); and Aleksandar Tojc, the general director of "Adria Media Serbia" (47th position).

(Blic – Special Supplement, 09.01.2012)

There are too many media outlets in Serbia and they are facing a considerable "decimation" because there just is not enough money for everyone – this is the conclusion of the public discussion held under the title "The Media Strategy – Future Steps" in Valjevo. The discussion was organized by media associations of Serbia and the Press Council. Vukasin Obradovic, the president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), said that "very soon we will have to face the fact that many media outlets are going to be closed down. It is our position that the market should decide who survives, instead of the government". Discussing the effects of the adopted Media Strategy, the president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Ljiljana Smajlovic, said that the situation was worsening, especially when it comes to the pressure against the freedom of the media which permanently destroys the foundation of journalism. In her opinion, the only realistic hope is that the progress in the field of European integration might bring certain improvements in the media scene.

(Politika, NUNS, 18.01.2012, NUNS Newsletter No. 29, 01. 02. 2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) warns that the decision of the Administrative Court to reject the lawsuit filed by the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM), which demanded reconsideration and annulment of new tariffs of SOKOJ, will threaten the survival of numerous electronic media outlets, especially local broadcasters "in which the remaining low-paid journalists and media professionals are going to lose their jobs".

(Dnevnik, Kurir, NUNS, 01.02.2012)

The implementation of the action plan of the Media Strategy is unfolding on schedule. The Law on Electronic Communication is being prepared, while the activities related to formation of the work group for preparation of the new Law on Public Information are being completed. An initiative has been sent to several ministries asking them to consider the possibility of amending the laws from their areas of competence in accordance with the aims of the Strategy – said Predrag Markovic, the minister of culture, media and information society, to the newspaper Danas.

(Danas, NUNS, 31.01.2012)

### Assessments of the current media situation in Serbia

According to the results of legal monitoring conducted by the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) in November 2011, the media scene in Serbia was characterized by pressures, physical attacks and threats against journalists and members of their teams, as well as by two verdicts of the Court of Appeals which indicate a possible positive change in court practice in cases of attacks on journalists – a change that has been eagerly awaited by the media sector for a long time. Additional information is available at the web site of ANEM.

(ANEM Monitoring Novosti 28, MC, 10.01.2012, Pravda, 11.01.2012)

The 29th Monitoring Report of the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) discusses the following: the Law on Cinematography and its collision with the Media Strategy and systemic media regulations which could result in serious disruption of the functioning of the media system; whether the Media Strategy is being implemented and why the implementation of some of its solutions is crucial for functioning of the media system; whether privatization of

the media is possible in accordance with the existing legal framework or whether it is necessary to wait for establishment of the legal framework as specified by the Action Plan that accompanies the Media Strategy... Additional information is available at the web site of ANEM.

(ANEM Monitoring Novosti 29, 25 January 2012)

The latest annual report of Human Rights Watch (HRW) about human rights worldwide, in its part related to Serbia, points out its concern in relation to the position of national minorities, that independent journalists are faced with threats and violence, and that the asylum system needs reforms.

(Beta, Tanjug, Politika, Pravda, 23.01.2012)

Serbia has achieved significant progress in many areas, but some of the key problems have remained unsolved – says the proposed Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Among the stated problems are the media ownership, the role of the state in the media scene, the economic sustainability of the media, transparency of ownership over the media and attacks on journalists.

(Beta, Politika, Danas, NUNS, 23.01.2012)

According to the index published each year by Reporters Without Borders, Serbia has achieved progress in relation to freedom of the media in 2011 and is now holding the 80th position worldwide, while in 2010 it was listed as 85th on the list. Montenegro holds the worst ranking among the countries striving to become members of the European Union (107th position on the list). Slovenia is the best-ranked among former Yugoslavian Republics (36), and is followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina (58), Croatia (68) and Macedonia (94).

(Alo!, 26.01.2012)

### **The state and the media**

The Court of Appeals in Belgrade has passed a verdict according to which the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) are joint owners of the building in Resavska Street in Belgrade. This verdict constitutes a legally enforceable completion of the legal proceedings related to the lawsuit filed by NUNS against UNS with regard to ownership over the building located at 28 Resavska Street in Belgrade. In accordance with the verdict, the UNS is obliged to recognize joint ownership over the building and the right of the NUNS to be officially registered as the owner.

(Revija Kolubara, NUNS, 15.01.2012)

As the elections are approaching, the government has started pulling the leash that is tied around the media's neck, says the president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia, Ljiljana Smajlovic. "Now it is UNS' turn to be strangled. The government's attack on the property of UNS – which constitutes the basis of the independence and autonomy of the oldest and most numerous journalistic association in Serbia – was performed via its reformed courts. First the Higher Court in Belgrade attacked the premises in Knez Mihajlova Street owned by UNS with the intention to make them again a property of the state. The latest attack on UNS took place last week, on the day of our 130th anniversary. Instead of sending congratulations, the government placed a new rope around our neck. On December 22, while we were celebrating, the Court of Appeals in Belgrade unexpectedly decided that the building where both associations are located is to be considered a joint property of NUNS and UNS. Judging by the statement issued by the Court of Appeals, a political verdict against UNS has just been adopted" – says Smajlovic.

(Novi Standard, UNS, 05.01.2012)

The deputy president of the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina, Bojan Kostres, expects the property of Radio-Television Vojvodina to be returned to the Province of Vojvodina in February. He announced that first regulations would be adopted by mid-February.

(Dnevnik, 20.01.2012)

Daily newspaper Danas writes: "The intellectual part of the society has no choice but to accept that in the democratic Serbia it is still possible for a reputed public servant with impeccable career to be called a promoter of terrorism, traitor and an outcast because of his signing a declaration that demanded ending of a media campaign of Serbian tabloids against the Montenegrin writer Andrej Nikolaidis."

(Danas, 23.01.2012)

Show-business manager and the informal owner of TV and Radio Timocka, Sasa Mirkovic, has announced his intention to run for mayor of the city of Zajecar.

(Blic - Srbija, 23.01.2012)

### **Public service broadcasters**

More than a half of the citizens of Nis (53%) "supports the ambition" of TV Niska (NTV), founded by the City Assembly, to "become a regional public service broadcaster, with all rights resulting from that status" – this is the result of the research conducted by the Agency for Research of Public Opinion Lubris Extra from Nis.

(Danas, UNS, 06. 01. 2012)

### **Threats, attacks and legal proceedings against journalists; media trials**

Journalistic associations demand that the Primary Public Prosecutor's Office in Nis complete as soon as possible the legal proceedings against the person suspected of sending the correspondent of Politika and Sportski Zurnal from Nis, Tomislav Todorovic, SMS messages containing insults and threats. The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) believes that "successful completion of this legal process will significantly contribute to protection of the freedom of public informing and increased safety of journalists".

(Tanjug, Pravda, Politika, 12.01.2012)

The Society of Journalists of Nis (DNN) welcomes the initiation of the legal process against Dejan Brankovic because of his threats against the correspondent of Politika and Sportski Zurnal from Nis, Tomislav Todorovic. "Since the suspected individual is an official from the Football Club Radnicki, we call on the Club to issue a public statement about this case", says the DNN.

(Blic, 13.01.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia has condemned the repeated threats against TV Apatin delivered via social network Facebook and the YouTube website by Marko Knezevic, the president of the Municipal Council of the Movement of Socialists Apatin.

(UNS, NUNS, 16. 01.2012, TV Apatin, Dnevnik, 17.01.2012)

The leader of the New Serbia political party, Velimir Ilic, claimed at the court session related to the lawsuit filed against him by journalist Vladimir Jesic because of a physical assault that took place in 2003, that the incident was organized by Beba Popovic, the then head of the Information Bureau of the Government of Serbia. During the recording of the interview, Ilic kicked Jesic.

(Alo!, Danas, Blic, Politika, Kurir, Dnevnik, NUNS, 20.01.2012)

Jovan Dulovic (76), a journalist from the magazine Vreme, was taken to the Emergency Room in a serious condition due to injuries and suffocation caused by a fire in his apartment Starine Novaka Street around 14.20. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

(Blic, 21.01.2012)

The Higher Court in Zrenjanin has rejected the private lawsuit filed by the editor-in-chief of the newspaper Zrenjanin and a member of the Managing Board of Radio-Television Vojvodina, Dalibor Bubnjevic, against the newspaper Blic

and the journalist working for the Novi Sad correspondents' office of the newspaper, Ana Lalic.

(Beta, NUNS, 28.01.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the insults against journalists spoken by Branislav Jovanovic, the director of the Construction Directorate of the City of Nis and a member of parliament from URS, Branislav Jovanovic. During his appearance in the programme "Odgovorni" aired on RTV 5 from Nis, Jovanovic said that "today it is possible to make journalists write whatever you want if you pay them a hundred euros". This is not the first time Jovanovic has publicly insulted journalists. In October 2010, Branislav Jovanovic appeared in a TV show and called journalists working for "Juzne Vesti" "sick people" and "mercenaries". The UNS calls on Jovanovic to apologize to journalists and stop disparaging those he is supposed to be accountable to – whether he like it or not – according to the Law on Public Information and the Law on Availability of Information.

(UNS, Juzne vesti, 01. 02. 2012)

The head of the President Boris Tadic's press department, Jasmina Stojanov, threw out on Monday a production team of TV Svet Plus Info from the premises of the Alliance of Independent Trade Unions of Serbia, where the representatives of the Union were meeting with President Tadic. Jasmina Stojanov threw away a microphone belonging to Svet Plus Info and told the station's journalists that he could not ask the president any questions because the station was not accredited and was not "licensed to operate". We remind that this is not the first time that the independent production team has been prevented from reporting by the Cabinet of the President of Serbia. The president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Ljiljana Smajlovic, says that "it should be examined whether this is a case of discrimination of an independent production team because of its editorial policy, which is a matter of choice of its founders and owners, and whose possible violation of professional standards and journalistic code of ethics should be sanctioned by the competent Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) in accordance with its authority and certainly not by a press department of any state institution".

(UNS, 25. 01.2012)

Famous film director, Emir Kusturica, is supposed to come to the Higher Court in Belgrade to give a verbal explanation of his lawsuit against the editor Petar Lukovic and the web portal E-Novine demanding two million dinars because of the damage to his reputation and honor.

(Tanjug, RTV, NUNS, 25.01.2012)

### **Investigation of murders of journalists**

The US Congress is preparing a question for Serbia regarding the case of murder of journalist Slavko Curuvija, reports daily Danas from Washington. The question will mostly pertain to the result of the investigation about the murder of Curuvija and its future prospects. The question could soon be delivered to ministers Ivica Dacic and Vuk Jeremic, who will visit Washington and attend the Prayer Breakfast.

(B92, NUNS 01.02.2012)

### **The media in minority languages**

Zoltan Kozma and Ildiko Oros are new acting editors-in-chief of TV Panon and Radio Panon, respectively, as decided by the Panonija Fund, it was reported on January 24. At the same time, it was decided that the position of the programme director in the media company from Subotica will be held by Diana Domanj Dudas, the current director of the Public News Company in Backa Topola and a member of the National Council of Hungarians. "We want to cooperate with domestic TV stations as well as the Hungarian Television", said Kozma to Magyar Szo.

(Magyar Szo, NDNV, NUNS, 24. 01.2012)

### Professional standards

Ivan Ivanovic, a TV host on TV Prva, described the girls who participated in the Playboy Playmate of the Year contest aired on TV Pink using bad language on his Tweeter account. (Press, Kurir, 17.01.2012)

During a seminar on media reporting about the social protection system, organized by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the vice president of NUNS, Jelka Jovanovic, said that journalists should be careful while reporting on vulnerable segments of society – like children, the elderly, disabled persons and the impoverished.

(Danas, NUNS, 26.01.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) calls on the media to adhere to professional standards when reporting on issues related to protection of human rights and abuse of victims, especially children. Daily newspaper Kurir published in today's issue an article entitled "The Ombudsman Cares About the Paedophile Murderer" which abuses the tragedy of the raped and murdered girl, calling on revenge against the convicted while at the same time denying his right to safe stay in prison, as well as the ombudsman's right and obligation to control the treatment of prisoners. The editorial staff's decision to publish a photograph of the murdered girl together with the article had an effect of inciting the readers to hatred.

(NUNS, 27.01.2012)

The Complaints Committee of the Press Council has rejected the complaints claiming that the daily newspapers Vecernje Novosti and Politika and the weekly magazine Vreme violated the Journalistic Code of Serbia. The complaints against Vecernje Novosti and Politika were submitted by the company "MFC-Mikrokomerc" and the newspaper Svedok, respectively, while the complaint against the weekly magazine Vreme was submitted by Danijela Gajic. The decisions and explanations by the Complaints Committee are available on the web site of the Press Council [www.savetzastampu.rs](http://www.savetzastampu.rs).

(Beta, NUNS Newsletter No.29 01.02.2012)

### Appraisals, awards, training courses, scholarships and competitions

The Media Center offers organization of training courses for employees in downtown Belgrade, together with affordable prices, complete service and technical support. Additional information: Snezana Petrovic 063/406931, [spetrovic@mc.rs](mailto:spetrovic@mc.rs)

(MC, 16.01.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has announced a public contest for the annual Investigative Journalism Award in three categories: 1. Electronic Media (Radio and TV); 2. Print Media; 3. Online Media. Only the works published in the Serbian media between 1 April 2011 and 1 April 2012 are eligible for the contest. All entries have to be submitted before 3 April 2012. The application form is available on the web site of NUNS.

(NUNS, 11.01.2012)

[Photography competition "My Community, My People"](#). Application deadline: 15th of the month during 2012. The theme is very wide-ranging and at the same time very specific: we expect to receive photographs that tell a story about the place where you live, work, spend time with friends and meet people...

(MC, 19.01.2012)

[Epson International Panorama Awards](#). The deadline for application is 28 April 2012. The Epson International



Panorama Award is given to photographers (both amateurs and professionals) worldwide. Photographs can be photographed individually or merged using appropriate software, whether by digital or analog cameras...  
(MC, 19.01.2012)

[Public Contest for Young People from Serbia: The Club 27](#) The deadline for application is 24 February 2012. The main idea behind the program is to award and promote young people that have achieved exceptional results in their areas of activity, and to stimulate others to join their work and develop a system of values...  
(MC, 19.01.2012)

[The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize](#). The deadline for application is 15 February 2012. Individuals, organizations or institutions that have contributed to advancement of the freedom of the media can be nominated for the prize. The prize has a value of 25,000 dollars and is traditionally given every year at a ceremony dedicated to May 3, the World Press Freedom Day. (MC, 19.01.2012)  
Annual Award "Ana Njemogova Kolarova". The deadline for application is 31 May 2012. The award is given for the best media product dealing with the life of the members of the Slovakian national minority in Vojvodina and published in any language except Slovakian in the last three years...  
(MC, 19.01.2012)

The Assembly of the City of Novi Sad decided on January 27 to give this year's highest city award – the February Award – to journalist, publicist and historian Dusan Popov. Popov is the author of the Encyclopaedia of Novi Sad in 30 volumes. Members of the city committee said that thanks to Popov, Novi Sad is one of the few cities that have their own encyclopaedia. Dusan Popov was nominated for the February Award by the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina.  
(Autonomija, NUNS Newsletter, 01.02.2012)

The Balkan Investigative Network (BIRN), in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Foundation and the ERSTE Foundation, has announced its sixth public contest that is a part of the program "The Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence". Additional information about this year's theme, the application form and guidelines is available here: [fellowship.birn.eu.com/en/fellowship-programme/topic-2012-communities](http://fellowship.birn.eu.com/en/fellowship-programme/topic-2012-communities).  
(Birn, NUNS Newsletter No.29, 01.02.2012)

The American Embassy in Belgrade and the International Training Center for the Media have announced a public contest entitled "Professional Advancement in America for Young Journalists and Media Professionals". Additional information is available at the web sites [www.nuns.rs](http://www.nuns.rs) and [belgrade.usembassy.gov](http://belgrade.usembassy.gov)  
(NUNS Newsletter No.29, 01.02.2012)

Croatian journalist Drago Hedl is the recipient of the Jug Grizelj Award 2011 that is given for highest achievements in investigative journalism, it was announced by the Media Center.  
(MC, Beta, Danas, NUNS, 26.01.2012, Politika, Blic, Alo!, 27.01.2012)

According to readers of TV Revija (published by Politika), the most popular TV personality is Jovan Memedovic, while journalists of Radio-Television Serbia were successful in other categories, with the best-rated programmes being the RTS' Morning Programme, the News and the Sports Programme. The readers' favorite documentary programme is "Kvadratura Kruga", while the best entertainment shows are "TV Personalities..." by Tanja Peternek-Aleksic. The best political programme is "The Impression of the Week" by Olja Beckovic.  
(Politika, 20.01.2012)

Daily newspaper Press and the Faculty of Culture and the Media of the Megatrend University, with support from the Ministry of Education and Science, will organize a project dedicated to St. Sava during which twenty future journalists – talented contributors to high-school newspapers from all parts of Serbia – will have a chance to spend two days in

Belgrade as guests of the newspaper and make an interview with the minister of education.

(Press, 23.01.2012, Press, NUNS, 25.01.2012, Press, 26.01.2012)

Journalist from Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), Branko Stankovic, is the recipient of the "Ivan Markovic" Award for reporting on activities of the army and the Ministry of Defence, while the most successful contributor to the magazine Odbrana is Sebastijan Balos from Novi Sad.

(Beta, Politika, NUNS, 24.01.2012)

### **Media visits**

The Media Association, which brings together major media companies in Serbia, organized a traditional annual cocktail party in its premises at Senjak. Apart from numerous guests from media and public scene, the event was attended by the prime minister of Serbia, Mirko Cvetkovic, the minister of external affairs, Vuk Jeremic, and the minister of defense, Dragan Sutanovac.

(Blic - Beograd, 24 sata, 19.01.2012, Politika, 20.01.2012, Gloria, NUNS, 24.01.201, ABC Newsletter, 25.01.2012)

### **Media audience**

According to Google Analytics, the number of visitors of the web portal Juzne Vesti has increased by almost three times since the beginning of 2011, while the number of articles per day has doubled. The number of monthly visits increased from 88,000 in January 2011 to 240,000 at the end of December. Juzne Vesti have become the media outlet with the largest audience in South Serbia among all online and print media outlets.

(Juzne vesti, 09.01.2012)

After the publication of annual averages of the number of sold copies of daily newspapers in the New Year's issue of the daily newspaper Blic, ABC Serbia has issued a statement saying that this information had not been distributed from the ABC Serbia office, in accordance with the company's rulebook and procedures, and that ABC Serbia had not participated in this campaign. However, the published results are not different from the data that is available on the web site [www.abcsrbija.com](http://www.abcsrbija.com). At the same time, the company announced that the publisher of the Ona magazine had been removed from membership of ABC Serbia because of its failure to fulfill statutory obligations.

(ABC Serbia Newsletter, 11.01.2012)

ABC Serbia says that it has terminated its contract on cooperation with Gemius, effective as of 18 January 2012, and that starting today the company does not accept any responsibility for consequences of the activities of Gemius in the Serbian market.

(ABC Newsletter, 25.01.2012)

Cable providers in Serbia are most interested in distributing the programme of TV SOS and TV B92 Info, reports daily newspaper Danas. TV SOS is currently being distributed by 30 providers in total, which means that 30 providers have a license to distribute its programme in their cable systems, while B92 Info is available to users of 28 providers. The Republic Broadcasting Agency has so far issued broadcasting licenses for 91 cable providers.

(Danas, NUNS, 23.01.2012)

"Nedeljnik", a news magazine launched by the Press Publishing Group on 28 December 2011, has been registered for auditing. First results will be available after the completion of the process of initial auditing in May and will include the period from the first issue and later.

(ABC Newsletter, 25.01.2012)

### **Anniversaries**

On the occasion of publication of its 200th issue, the editorial office of the weekly magazine "Loznicke Novosti"



presented gifts to the children's department of the General Hospital in Loznica.

(Blic - Srbija, 21.01.2012, Vecernje Novosti - Srbija, 21.01.2012)

Regional daily newspaper "Timok" celebrates 67 years of continued existence.

(Pravda, 12.01.2012)

On February 1, the newspaper "Polimlje" from Prijepolje celebrated 80 years of its existence.

(MC Newsletter, 13.01.2012, Beta, NUNS, 01.02.2012)

Daily newspaper Kurir has published 3,000 issues to this day.

(Kurir, NUNS, 01.02.2012)

### **In Memoriam**

Long-time journalist, the general director of RTV Zagreb and the advisor to the general director of RTV Beograd, Veljko Knezevic, has passed away in Belgrade from stroke.

(UNS, 11.01.2012)

Long-time journalist for News from Frankfurt, Lazar S. Topalovic, passed away suddenly on January 16 at the age of 63. During his rich journalistic career he worked in Politika Ekspres, satirical magazine Jez and the magazine Star.

(Vesti, UNS, 18.01.2012)

Long-time journalist and a member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Radomir Soskic, passed away at the age of 78. He began his journalistic career in 1966 in the magazine Mladost. Between 1988 and 1993 he was the editor-in-chief of Ilustrovana Politika.

(UNS, 18.01.2012)

Branko Kopunovic, who worked as the editor of army newspapers "Narodna Armija", "Front", "Vojska" and "Odbrana", passed away on Saturday, 21 January in Belgrade.

(UNS, 24.01.2012)

Renowned journalist Veljko Samolov passed away after a long and difficult illness in Belgrade at night January 30-31. He works as a journalist for Radio-Television Belgrade and a contributor to Radio Free Europe, weekly magazine Vreme and other media outlets. He was one of the founders and members of the Managing Board of the Solidarity Fund that was formed in the beginning of 1993 as a response to the brutality of Milosevic's regime. Between September 2006 and September 2007 he was the general director of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia.

(NUNS Newsletter, 01.02.2012)

### Media business operations

Daily newspaper Danas reports: a "heretic" open letter is circulating on the Internet calling on citizens not to accept from postal workers any envelopes sent by courts because they contain lawsuits related to unpaid TV fees. "These claims are legally expired and also illegal. Do not fall for this scam, because if you receive the envelope you will become a part of the procedure of forced collection of unpaid debt", says the letter. The same topic was discussed by the president of the Hungarian Civic Alliance, Laslo Rac Sabo, who also said that 55% of Vojvodina citizens are paying the TV fee, while in Central Serbia this percentage is much smaller and amounts to less than 20% of citizens. For this reason, the political party demands that the National Parliament of Serbia change the legal obligation to pay the TV fee. The Hungarian Civic Alliance has also asked the Constitutional Court of Serbia to examine the constitutionality of this obligation, but has received no response so far.

(Danas, 19.01.2012, Vecernje Novosti, NUNS, 20.01.2012)

In the territory of Serbia, the TV fee is being paid by 41% of households on average. It is most regularly paid in the capital city and in Vojvodina, where the payment rate in 2011 was 57-75%. On the other side, the worst results have been achieved in the region of Kraljevo, with an average payment rate of 18%, and in the South Serbia, where the rate was 15%. According to officials, the collected TV fee makes for 60% of the total income of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS).

(Politika, NUNS, 20.01.2012)

Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) has submitted to the Primary Court in Cacak proposals for enforced collection of claims against 300 individuals from the city who have not been paying the TV fee. Apart from Cacak, lawsuits against citizens have been submitted only in the areas of Valjevo and Belgrade.

(Pregled, 25.01.2012, Politika, Vecernje Novosti - Srbija, NUNS, 30.01.2012)

A legal process has been initiated before the Primary Court in Cacak with the aim to establish the veracity of documents on the basis of which Radio-Television Serbia is trying to collect the TV fee from 300 citizens of Cacak who have not regularly paid it.

(Blic - Srbija, 01.02.2012)

A part of the property of TV Valjevo Plus will again be auctioned on January 23 in accordance with legally enforceable verdicts related to unpaid salaries. Former employees of the station won the legal process already in 2010. The station had been sued by 11 employees and its bank account was blocked in the amount of 2.4 million dinars. Its total debt is at least three times this amount, the last news programme was aired by the station on January 20 of the last year, while its programme has recently disappeared from cable distribution systems due to seizure of a part of its equipment.

(Blic - Srbija, 21.01.2012, Pregled, NUNS, 23.01.2012)

During recent years, TV stations have been violating the law each time they sold up to one hour of their programme time to political parties in the run-up to elections. The Law on Advertising clearly stipulates that advertising blocks must not last more than 12 minutes on private TV stations or six minutes on Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) and Radio-Television Vojvodina (RTV). According to data from the agency AGB Nielsen, during the election campaign in 2008 the citizens of Serbia were forced to watch paid time slots lasting no less than 10 days (three days and 10 hours in total during the campaign for the last presidential election). The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) allowed 120 minutes a day of paid time slots during parliamentary elections, and 90 minutes a day during the presidential election.

(Blic, 23.01.2012, Vecernje Novosti, Dnevnik, NUNS, 27.01.2012)

The correspondent's office of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) in Pozarevac was almost cut off from the electric power

network because of unpaid bill amounting to 500,000 dinars. Journalists and cameramen were surprised to hear from technicians that they were going to be cut off from power lines. The management of RTS promised to pay the whole debt in the beginning of the following week.

(Vecernje Novosti - Srbija, NUNS, 23.01.2012)

Will the journalists from the newspaper Suboticke Novine be forced to find new premises? As of 31 October 2011, the Findomestic Bank has the right to sell the mortgaged business premises of the editorial office of the newspaper with an area of around 400 square meters. Unofficial sources claim that the bank is already looking for a buyer of this real estate. The property owned by Suboticke Novine has been mortgaged several times since 2010. At the moment, the building that has been the home of the newspaper for more than 60 years is now under mortgage involving three banks – the Findomestic Bank, the Erste Bank and the Unicredit Bank.

(Politika, NUNS, 23.01.2012)

As a part of its pre-election activities, the Municipal Board of the Democratic Party in Apatin analyzed the reporting of local media outlets – TV Apatin and Novi Glas Komune – about the party's activities. Reporting of these local media outlets – which is mostly financed from the local budget – was deemed utterly unsatisfactory and unfair. Because of this, the Democratic Party will demand the relevant municipal authorities to stop financing these media outlets.

(Blic - Vojvodina, 04.01.2012, Dnevnik, 19.01.2012)

In accordance with an order issued by the Eparchy of Zica, which established RTV Logos in Trstenik in 2004, the station's radio and TV transmitters have turned off. The transmitters will be returned to the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), while 21 former employees of TV Logos will receive compensation via the National Employment Agency. Shortly before the New Year the employees received all their late salaries and all their social security contributions for the last six years were paid.

(Blic - Srbija, 11.01.2012)

Minority stockholders of the graphic company "Jedinstvo" in Novi Pazar demand that the prosecutor's office, the police, the tax administration, relevant inspectorates, the Commercial Court in Kraljevo, the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL), relevant ministries, journalistic associations and OSCE help them to receive their unpaid and late salaries and stocks. The authors of the open letter also demand that it be investigated how the founder of TV Jedinstvo was simply deleted from the register while the station's programme is still being aired, and which bank accounts and funds are being used to pay obligations toward the RRA and RATEL.

(Danas, UNS, NUNS, 18.01.2012)

The protest in TV Avala has escalated. The production director, Mane Sijan, entered the control room of the station and tried to stop the broadcasting of the programme. Sijan called the police and demanded that the striking journalists be thrown out of the building. Two police inspectors came to the station in response to Sijan's call. They concluded that the case was not within their authority because the strike was legal, meaning that they were not allowed to end it.

(Radio B92, 06.01.2012)

Employees of TV Avala, who have been striking for three weeks because of unpaid salaries, wrote an open asking the president of Serbia, Boris Tadic, and the prime minister, Mirko Cvetkovic, to help them. The letter was signed by the president of the Trade Union of Serbian Journalists, Dragana Cabarkapa.

(Press, Politika, 24 sata, Pravda, NUNS, UNS, 09.01.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) considers that one of the basic preconditions for a solution to the strike of TV Avala employees would be to establish the true owners of the station. NUNS, supported by strikers' demands, calls on the authorities to investigate the ownership structure of TV Avala as soon as possible.

(NUNS, Pregled, 09. 01.2012, Dnevnik, 10.01.2012)

The Striking Board of TV Avala informed the members of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) and the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) about the situation in the station and the reasons behind the strike that began on 22 December. The Board called the meeting "very successful". Both agencies have announced that they intend to "take all measures within their authority".

(24 sata, 11.01.2012)

The only measure that the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) can take in relation with TV Avala, whose employees have been striking for more than 20 days, is to annul its broadcasting license. However, in the words of one of the members of the Council of RRA, Goran Pekovic, the Agency does not want that to happen and it will seek other solutions for the TV station that has a national broadcasting license and whose bank account is currently blocked.

(Politika, Danas, Dnevnik, 11.01.2012)

The owners of TV Avala made a promise at a meeting with representatives of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) to pay the remaining unpaid social security contributions for all employees of the station, as well as one and a half salaries until 1 February and another two salaries until 1 March of this year. The owners of the station pointed out that Bojana Lekic's request that her employment contract not be extended was accepted, and that Dusan Pancic was appointed as the new editor-in-chief. The president of the Council of RRA, Bishop Porfirije, said that during the last three weeks the programme of TV Avala had completely deviated from what they were licensed to broadcast, and that if the situation persists there "will be no other solution but to annul the station's license".

(Danas, 12.01.2012)

The worst possible scenario of TV Avala's broadcasting license being taken away will be avoided because the owners of the station – Johannes Werner Krauss of Greenberg Invest, Danko Djunic, Zeljko Mitrovic and Dragan Sagovnovic from the Economic Institute – gave firm guarantees during a meeting with representatives of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) that they would solve all problems in the course of the following two months, said the Bishop of Jegar Porfirije, who is the president of the Council of RRA, after a one and a half-hour meeting with all owners of TV Avala.

(Politika, Press, 12.01.2012)

Employees of TV Avala informed today the representatives of the OSCE Mission about the strike in the media company.

(24 sata, Tanjug, Pravda, Danas, 12.01.2012)

TV Avala employees have rejected the offer that they received via the media from the owners of the station and announced their intention to continue the strike.

(b92.net, UNS, 12. 01.2012, Press, 24 sata, Pravda, Politika, Dnevnik, Blic, Pregled, Danas, UNS, 13.01.2012)

Employees of TV Avala issued a public statement saying that they had not received a single penny from the station's owners, despite being owed five and a half monthly salaries and six months' worth of author fees, and that one of the station's owners had told them at the meeting held on Monday that money was not available and that it was uncertain when the situation might change.

(Press, Politika, NUNS, b92.net, UNS, Dnevnik, 18.01.2012)

The owners of TV Avala, whose employees have been striking for a month because of unpaid salaries, are negotiating with a major international company about the sale of the national broadcaster's control package. If the sale of the TV station takes place, the owners would be obliged to inform the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) beforehand and get its approval of the sale. The director of the Labor Inspectorate, Predrag Perunicic, said to daily newspaper Danas that the labor inspector had ordered the employer in TV Avala to pay the unpaid salaries for

months of July, August, September, October and November 2011 to its employees within eight days. In his words, if the employer fails to pay the salaries to employees with this deadline, the inspector will initiate a legal process against them.

(Danas, 21.01.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) has launched a campaign of solidarity with the employees and contributors of TV Avala, who have been striking for 34 days. Their employer owes them five and a half monthly salaries and six monthly author fees. The first to respond to the campaign was the Independent Professional Trade Union of RTV and Film Professionals of Serbia which gave 50,000 dinars.

(24 sata, Danas, 25.01.2012)

The Association of Broadcasters of West Serbia, whose membership includes 17 radio and TV stations, demands that the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) extend the deadline for payment of fees for usage of broadcasting frequencies until the closure of pirate stations. The Association has also announced its intention to sue the Agency. The owner of RTS AS from Sabac, Marinko Urosevic, said that the most significant unlicensed broadcasters were the following: Radio Balkan, Radio Narodni, Radio Raka Esinger, Radio Link, Radio Kosmos and Radio Zavicaaj. A former member of the RRA, Velja Milosevic, emphasized that the Agency had the equipment required to easily locate the illegal broadcasters, but that it had never used this capability. "The law clearly stipulates that the police is obliged to assist in closure of illegal radio and broadcasting stations, but there have been only a few such cases." A member of the Council of RRA, Milos Rajkovic, said that the Agency was closing down pirate broadcasters and did not want to comment on the lawsuit against the Agency to be filed by the Association of Broadcasters of West Serbia.

(Beta, Pregled, Danas, Press, Pravda - Srbija, Politika, NUNS, 25.01.2012, Vecernje Novosti - Srbija, 26.01.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency has initiated a procedure for annulment of the national broadcasting license of TV Avala because of late payment of required broadcasting fees, sources from the Agency told the daily newspaper Blic.

(Beta, Fonet, Blic, NUNS, 26.01.2012, Beta, Danas, Alo!, Press, Politika, Pravda, Pregled, 27.01.2012)

Employees of TV Avala have continued their strike caused by unpaid salaries, says the representative of the employees, Nikola Vukomanovic, adding that it is still unclear where the station's programme is being prepared and by whom. On Friday, the employees called the Labor Inspection, which was "unable to establish who is broadcasting the programme".

(24 sata, Politika, 31.01.2012)

In 2011, the Public Company Emisiona Tehnika i Veze delivered TV Avala invoices in the total amount of 68 million dinars for the performed services. TV Avala has not paid them a single penny, which is why the station has been sued.

(Politika, 31.01.2012, NUNS Newsletter, 01. 02. 2012)

Employees of TV Avala, who have received one and a half salary and one monthly author's fee, have continued their strike, while the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency expects that the station's programme will soon be harmonized with the obligations accepted by the broadcaster as a part of the licensing procedure.

(Dnevnik, NUNS, 01.02.2012)

TV Avala employees, who have been on strike for more than 40 days because of unpaid salaries, had a meeting with the TV station's director, Dusan Pancic, who asked them to give him a list of demands for normalization of operations – said Nikola Vukomanovic, the president of the striking board, to daily newspaper Danas. He added that the employees will not continue their work until they receive at least three salaries.

(Danas, NUNS, 01.02.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) warns that the management of TV Avala has violated the Law on Strike by preventing the striking employees to enter the station's building. The UNS calls on the Ministry of Labor to publicly state its position about the banning of strikers from entering the building of TV Avala.

(UNS, NUNS, 27. 01.2012)

The mayor of Nis, Milos Simonovic, denied the latest report of the National Auditing Agency claiming that the city of Nis had repeatedly violated the Law on Public Procurement and the Law on the Budget System. It was asked whether "the contract on business cooperation with Infobiro, which is often associated with the Democratic Party, has been concluded on the basis of any official or informal instruction", and the reply was that "the city has concluded the contract with Infobiro because representatives of national media outlets in Nis – i.e. their correspondent's offices – had themselves pointed out the difficulties in reporting on all events; the intention behind this was to make the events in Nis easily available to everyone".

(Danas, NUNS, 16.01.2012)

After eight months, the damages paid by daily newspaper Danas (amounting to 942,000 dinars) on the basis of solidary responsibility for articles published in three daily newspapers have not been made available because the bank accounts of these newspapers are blocked. Lawyers say that the only way to achieve this would be to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against legal persons that were the publishers of Glas Javnosti and Kurir.

(Danas, UNS, NUNS, 09.01.2012)

After the adoption of the Law on Cinematography, the minister of culture and information, Predrag Markovic, said that "after 20 years this area has now been regulated. It is good that journalistic associations reacted preventively. It is their job. It has turned out that the Law does not impose any new fees or taxes on the media or the citizens. On the contrary, we have adopted a model that would protect the electronic media".

(Vecernje Novosti, 12.01.2012)

On the basis of a municipal decision, the Assembly of the Municipality of Pirot has announced a public contest for allocation of 22.5 million dinars to local electronic and print media.

(Vecernje novosti – Srbija, NUNS, 18.01.2012, Press, 19.01.2012)

On 30 December 2011, ANEM sent a [letter calling on the Republic Broadcasting Agency \(RRA\)](#) to act within its authority and adopt regulations that would more clearly define the insufficiently precise provisions of the Law on Advertising – the ones related to advertising and sponsorship on TV and radio.

(UNS, 13. 01.2012)

During the period 10 February to 29 February 2012, the Media Center will offer a 10% discount on organization of press conferences (in all three halls).

(MC, 25.01.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) warns that the multiple increase in SOKOJ tariffs has threatened the survival of the local media. The press statement emphasizes the Association's dissatisfaction with the decision of the Administrative Court to reject the lawsuit filed by the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) against the Committee for Copyright and Related Rights.

(BETA, Alo!, Pregled, Pravda, NUNS, 31.01.2012)

Serbian companies, most of all export-oriented companies, will have at their disposal in the first quarter of the year 250 million euros of favorable loans from the Apex Loan of the European Investment Bank, said the state secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Goran Radosavljevic. These loans will be injected in the Serbian economy, mostly in export-oriented companies. They will also serve as a support to manufacturers of car parts, expected to become an export-oriented industry, and will include 30 million euros intended to support the media sector during the crisis.



(Vecernje Novosti, 26.01.2012)

During the auditing of activities of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Auditing Agency has come to a conclusion that state funds were used to pay the Ringier company for publication of articles. The company owns daily newspapers Blic and Alo!. The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning concluded a contract on research with the publishing company Ringier, despite the fact that the company had not been registered for such business activities. In the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the auditors discovered that the largest entry in the expenses, marked as "other media services", was paid to Ringier. It amounted to 590,000 dinars and was paid without any contract.

(pistaljka.rs, UNS, 17.01.2012)

### **Privatization**

The owner of "Pink Media Group", Zeljko Mitrovic, has confirmed that negotiations with several companies about the sale of TV Pink are ongoing. The company says that negotiations have been held with companies RTL, Ringier Aksel Springer, and Mid Europa Partners (which owns cable networks SBB and Total TV). Zeljko Mitrovic does not intend to sell all stocks of Pink and will retain some of them. The money from the sale of television stocks will be used by Mitrovic to pay debt, which now stands at over 100 million euros.

(Vecernje Novosti, Press, Blic, Kurir, Politika, Pravda, Dnevnik, Alo!, 21.01.2012)

### **The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)**

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has announced that Montenegro Airlines offers a 50 percent discount to members of the association to all destinations as of January 1.

(TANJUG, B92, 09.01.2012)

The Executive Board of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has decided not to change the amount of membership fees for 2012 in comparison with the previous year for all categories of members.

(NUNS, 18.01.2012)

In May of this year, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) will organize affordable vacation for journalists and their friends in Rafailovici at the Montenegrin coast. Additional information is available at the web site [www.nuns.rs](http://www.nuns.rs).

(NUNS Newsletter, 01.02.2012)

### **The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS)**

Lensoptik offers the members of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) in possession of a valid journalistic ID in 2012 a free eye examination (eye screening) and discounts for cash payment of visual aids (lenses and glasses).

(UNS, 24.01.2012)

### **The Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV)**

The Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) condemns the campaign against writers and intellectuals led by "obscure tabloids" which "reminds of the atmosphere of the nineties". The Association's press statement says that the "media hysteria exhibited by media outlets which call themselves 'daily newspapers' and seek for enemies has resulted in a conflict with 'foreign traitors', personified by actress and director Angelina Jolie and singer Shakira, who have been labeled 'enemies of Serbdom'". NDNV claims that "such obscure media outlets are obviously following instructions of their political and marketing (hidden) owners".

(NDNV, NUNS, 23.01.2012)

### **South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO)**

In 2011, SEEMO registered 684 press freedom violations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine. Press freedom violations include: imprisonment; detention; physical assaults; travel bans; political, business and religious pressure; threats made by email, letter, telephone, or in person; bomb attacks; attempted assassinations; criminal charges; and house arrests. The source of threats and pressures is diversified: politicians, business groups, often linked to mafia-style business dealings, religious organisations, actors, musicians, etc. "The fight for press freedom is a daily struggle. We still have a long way to go," declared Oliver Vujovic, SEEMO Secretary General.

(SEEMO/IPI, 05.01.2012)

In 2011, the South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) registered 684 press freedom violations in the region, including detention, physical assaults, political pressure, threats, murder attempts and bomb attacks on journalists. The organization, located in Vienna, violations of the freedom of the press occurred in Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Moldavia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine.

(Danas, UNS, 06.01.2012)

### **The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)**

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) will reconsider the fate of the regional frequency for broadcasting of the programme of TV Jedinstvo from Novi Pazar, because the founder of the media company and the holder of the broadcasting licens, AD "Jedinstvo", is now bankrupted. The manager of the TV station, Serif Marukic, says that TV Jedinstvo has been operating since 1 April 2009 as a separate legal entity, and that contracts and the founding statute define the obligations toward the founder.

Marukic is of the opinion that a political and media campaign is being conducted against this TV station in Novi Pazar, despite the fact that the Council has not made any decision.

(Blic - Srbija, 26.01.2012)

### Media-related news

In 2012, the city of Pozarevac gained another TV station, TV 0:12, which is based on the foundation of now non-existent TV Club INN. The station's programme will be broadcast by cable provider SBB. However, at the moment the programme of this station will be available to citizens of Pozarevac and Kostolac and will be based on news programme and local news.

(Danas - Branicevo, 06.01.2012, Vecernje novosti, NUNS Newsletter, 16.01.2012)

"Launch of the diaspora-oriented web portal "Sve na klik" is a great step forward for us, because this is the first time that everyone, anywhere in the world, who wants to watch Serbian channels, will have a chance to pay subscription on the Internet, download the player and watch any channel at any time", says Vladimir Lucic, the director of the Commerce Directorate of Telecom Serbia. (Blic, 26.01.2012)

Telegraf.rs is a new news portal in Serbia and will be fully adapted to the needs of users of social networks. The project involves 20 people and around 200,000 euros has been invested in its development so far, while this year's budget will amount to around 500,000 euros. ComTrade company is the investor behind this project.

(ABC Newsletter, 25.01.2012)

### Digitalization

Test broadcasting of digital television will begin in less than a month. Almost half of households in Serbia will be able to receive the digital signal. Complete digitalization was first announced for April of this year, but the deadline will probably be extended – perhaps to 2015. Digitalization will mean new expenses for around 1.5 million households that have only aerial antennas, because they will have to purchase additional equipment or new TV sets. Shutting down of the analog signal and introduction of the digital signal will take place in phases during a period of around a year. Fully digital signal will be aired by the next year at the earliest, while the deadline for completion of the transition is June 2015.

(Vecernje Novosti, NUNS, 20.01.2012)

The Cable Operators' Association of Serbia (PUKOS) brings together 46 small and medium cable providers from all parts of Serbia. Apart from redistributing or rebroadcasting TV programme, they usually also operate as internet service providers i.e. transmit data. Regarding the transition from the analog to digital terrestrial broadcasting of radio and television programme, it is important to note that users of cable television will not notice any change because cable providers will receive, process and adapt the signal to conditions under which users were already receiving their programmes – says a statement issued by the Association.

(PUKOS, MC, 30.01.2012)

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- Abbreviations - [www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations.2317.html#104230](http://www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations.2317.html#104230)
- Sections - [www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations-and-sections.2317.html](http://www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations-and-sections.2317.html)
- Archive - [www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-archive.2381.html](http://www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-archive.2381.html)
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Media News Bulletin is a short account of media reports on the situation in the media. It has been created with the aim to register the information about the media published in the previous 14 days in Serbia, shortened to reflect the basic message of media reports and grouped in thematic subsections. The editors convey the news without changing the essential meaning of media reports on the media. For the readers interested in the complete published article, its source and date of publishing are given.

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