

Issue No. 32

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Media Innovations

Press reports that TV BK might appear again in the Serbian media scene – Serbian journalists rarely use Internet and social networks as their sources

The media situation in Serbia

The 33rd Monitoring Report about the media scene in Serbia is available on the website of ANEM. More details here: www.anem.rs/sr/aktivnostiAnema/monitoring/story/13548/Trideset+treci+monitoring+izveštaj (MC, 02.07.2012)

The Media Association, whose membership includes 13 newspaper companies with nine daily newspapers, 130 magazines and two news agencies, expects that the new government would immediately enter into a dialog with the media industry about the advancement of business operations of all participants in the newspaper and publishing sectors. Unless appropriate measures are not immediately taken, Serbia will become one of the few countries in Europe without any print media, says the press statement issued by the Managing Board of the Association.

The Managing Board of the Media Association insists on the following:

- That the Media Strategy, whose Action Plan has been unacceptably delayed, be completely implemented;
- That the state fully withdraw from media ownership in all media outlets that are still partially or fully owned by the state, in a transparent manner and according to the procedure and deadlines defined by the Media Strategy;
- That new media laws be immediately amended, supplemented or drafted, in accordance with the Media Strategy, especially with regard to the Law on Information, the Law on Advertising, the Law on Public Service Broadcasters and the Law on Electronic Communication;
- That regional and local public service broadcasters not be established and that all budget funds intended for the media be distributed only by the way of project-based financing;
- That the VAT on print media be reduced to four percent or two percent, in accordance with the initiative of the European Newspaper Publishers Association;
- That all customs duties on import of raw materials and equipment for the print media be revoked, and that employment in the media sector be stimulated.

The Managing Board of the Association calls on all participants that the new prime minister and the ministers of culture, trade and finances meet immediately after the formation of the new Government in order to discuss measures aimed at reversal of the process of further ruination and disappearance of the print media.

(Tanjug, Beta, Blic, Dnevnik, Danas, Press, Vecernje novosti, UNS, NDNV, Politika, Pregled, NIN, NUNS, 26.06.2012.)

The Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) demands that the Law on Information be amended due to the verdict passed by the Court of Appeals. According to the verdict, TV B92 is obliged to pay damages to the individual mentioned in a police press statement that had been broadcast by the TV station.

(Blic, 23.06.2012)

The Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data Rodoljub Sabic says that it is unacceptable that journalists could be held legally accountable for damages to someone's honor or reputation because of reporting on statements issued by authorities. The Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) demands that the Law on Information be reconsidered because of the verdict according to which TV B92 is obliged to pay damages to a person mentioned in a press statement issued by the police.

(Tanjug, Kurir, Blic, NUNS, Politika, Press, 24.06.2012, Blic, UNS, 25.06.2012)

The owner of the weekly magazine *Apatinske Novine*, Jovan Banjac has decided to close down the newspaper after the formation of a new municipal government coalition in Apatin, consisting of the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), the Democratic Party (DS) and the Serbian Radical Party (SRS). In his press statement, Banjac says that voters have been betrayed by local Democrats who had decided to form a government with Socialists. No one needs independent newspapers anymore, since 26 out of 29 deputies in the local parliament are members of the ruling coalition, says Banjac.

(Vecernje novosti - Vojvodina, UNS, NUNS, 03.07.2012)

After the yesterday's statement made by the acting director of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Aleksandar Vucic, who said that the repeal of the draconian Law on Information would be one of the priorities of his party in the new government,

media associations have responded in different ways. The vice president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Jelka Jovanovic, agrees that the Law on Information should be modified, but is of the opinion that "it is not a good idea to make statements about revoking of the law, since media regulation needs to exist". "Regarding Aleksandar Vucic and our previous experience with his law on information, we are not looking forward to his announced involvement in this area. Restrictive provisions of the Law are not in effect anymore after they were all struck down by the Constitutional Court. Media regulation should be improved, and such efforts should be made on the level of experts, not on the political level", says Jovanovic. Unlike her, the vice president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Petar Jeremic, welcomed the statement made by the leader of the SNS. He expects that the National Parliament of Serbia will soon repeal the controversial law. "The UNS and the media coalition demand that the new government begin implementation of the Action Plan which is the integral part of the Media Strategy. We demand that the new government – unlike the previous government – consult journalistic and media associations during the process of preparation of the law."

(Politika, UNS, NUNS, 30.06.2012)

Opinions about the current media situation in Serbia

The legal advisor of the president of Serbia, Oliver Antic, is of the opinion that interference of the executive branch of government in the fight against crime, as well as the fact that the media were strictly controlled, were the main obstacle to establishment of the rule of law in Serbia.

(Blic, Informer, UNS, 30.06.2012)

The media in Serbia are under strong influence of politicians, while the freedom of speech has been slightly improved in comparison with the period immediately before the democratic changes – this is the main conclusion of the report issued by the American non-governmental organization "Irex Promedia". During a round table entitled "Results of the Media Sustainability Index in Serbia 2012" held in the Media Center Belgrade, Goran Cetinic from "Irex Promedia" said that the data had shown that the freedom of speech in Serbian media had "marginally increased" as compared with 2001. However, he also pointed out that the media were "too politicized". Cetinic reminds that the Media Sustainability Index has been established for 11 years in Serbia and that it takes into account indicators like the freedom of speech, transparency of sources, economic self-sufficiency and media professionalism.

(Tanjug, Beta, Fonet, NUNS, Pregled, Politika, Danas, UNS, e-novine, TeVe novine, 30.07.2012)

The state and the media

News agencies Beta and FoNet demand that the Committee for Control of State Assistance investigate the assistance given to the publicly-owned company "NA Tanjug" during the last two years, and point out that this assistance constitutes a violation of the free competition in the market and is contrary to domestic laws and international agreements.

(Beta, Danas, B92, NUNS, Dnevnik, Vecernje novosti, UNS, 30.06.2012)

Public service broadcasters

Local self-governments are not willing to cooperate with the media and usually expect them to operate as press departments of the local authorities – this is the conclusion of the project by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) entitled "Greater Transparency of Local Self-Governments – Right of Citizens, Obligation of the State", presented in Belgrade.

(Blic, 21.06.2012)

The management of Radio-Television of Serbia (RTS) has decided not to pay monthly bonuses to employees of the company who are not paying the TV fee.

(Novi Magazin, UNS, NUNS, 21.06.2012)

Around 400,000 families that have not been paying the TV fee might soon be contacted by court distrainers who would enforce payment of their debt, reports the daily newspaper *Kurir*. Lawyer Slobodan Kremenjak explains that court distrainers cannot enforce anything on citizens without appropriate court verdicts.

(<http://www.mondo.rs/>, NUNS, Kurir, 21.06.2012)

While Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) has been threatening citizens with court distrainers who would confiscate their property, at the same time the media company has violated the Law on Advertising 2,383 times during the last year and a half, reports the daily newspaper *Kurir*. Unlike the British BBC, which does not air commercials, Serbian public service broadcaster – run by Aleksandar Tijanac – has been allowed to make money on marketing as well, in accordance with the Law on Broadcasting. For this reason, it is not surprising that citizens revolt against the overabundance of advertising on the programme aired by RTS, the lack of cultural, educational and science content, as well as frequent reruns of series and films, by refusing to pay the TV fee. According to the report issued by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), covering the last three years, in 2009 and 2011 RTS did not air a single minute of cultural and educational programme, while in 2010 such programme amounted to 0.04 percent of the total programme aired by RTS. In the same period, the same type of programme consisted between 4.62 and 6.94 percent of the total programme broadcast on the second channel, RTS 2. The deputy president of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency, Goran Karadzic, says that RRA has not established precise quotas for broadcasting of specific content. "If the public service broadcaster airs even a single second of educational programme, they are in compliance with the law", says Karadzic.

(Kurir, 22.06.2012, Kurir, 24.06.2012, Kurir, 25.06.2012)

There are two significant reasons for initiation of the procedure for judgment on constitutionality of collection of the TV fee, says Zoran Ivosevic, a former judge of the Supreme Court. He is of the opinion that collection of the TV fee violates the Constitution because it is contrary to the Articles 21 and 58 of the Constitution which guarantee legal equality and free use of property.

(Kurir, UNS, NUNS, 25.06.2012)

Several hundred citizens gathered yesterday in front of the headquarters of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) to protest the refusal of its director, Aleksandar Tijanac, to broadcast the film "The Weight of Chains", authored by the Serbian-Canadian film director Boris Malagurski. During the distribution of protest leaflets in front of the RTS building, on the night between Friday and Saturday, an employee of RTS, Milovan Cvetic, attacked the director Boris Malagurski and the team of young activists who had organized the event to protest the media blackout on RTS.

(Kurir, Alo!, UNS, 24.06.2012)

The general director of Radio-Television Serbia, Aleksandar Tijanac, says that the public service broadcaster needs around 60 million euros annually from the TV fee, as well as 23 million euros from advertising, and that the company ended the previous year with a small profit, but that the current year will not end in the same way.

(Blic, 24.06.2012)

In response to demands that the TV fee be revoked, the general director of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), said that those who propose such move desire to transform the RTS into a small and non-influential radio and TV station and subsequently close it down.

(Vecernje novosti, UNS, 24.06.2012)

Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) cannot afford to produce new programmes, but somehow has enough money to pay up to 160,000 dinars a month in bonuses to its employees, reports the daily newspaper *Kurir*. Even worse, the public service broadcaster, which "serves all citizens of Serbia", pays bonuses to its employees despite the fact that the company suffered losses amounting to 40,376,000 dinars in 2011. In recent years, the losses of the company amounted to 40,376,000 dinars in 2011; 540,000,000 dinars in 2010; 1,394,766,000 dinars in 2009; and 307,080,000 dinars in 2008.

(Kurir, 23.06.2012)

Cancellation of the TV fee and transition to funding from the national budget, for example, would cause RTS to lose its character of a public service broadcaster, says Predrag Markovic, a member of the Managing Board of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS). He is of the opinion that demands for revoking of the TV fee are pure demagogy.

(Blic, NUNS, UNS, 26.06.2012)

President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic should keep his promise, made during the election campaign, and revoke the TV fee, said yesterday Jovan Jovanovic, the president of the Center for Protection of Consumers "Forum" from Nis. The organization

sent a letter to Nikolic on this subject.

(Kurir, Politika, Press, Vecernje novosti - Srbija, 26.06.2012)

In response to differing opinions about financial obligations of citizens and legal persons towards Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) pointed out yesterday that financing of the public service broadcaster was based on law, and not on anyone's arbitrary will. The Association reminds that formation of the public service broadcaster of Serbia has a basis in European values and standards guaranteed by the Constitution of Serbia. The Association says that successful solutions might involve introduction of a public service broadcaster fee like in Croatia, on which RTS would not be obliged to pay VAT, or financing via electricity bills like in Turkey.

(Beta, Politika, 28.06.2012)

The South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) is concerned because of demands by individuals and certain civil society organizations that the TV fee be revoked. The organization says that revoking of the TV fee would allow political interference with the activities and programme of the public service broadcaster and that "public service broadcaster should not serve as the government's or political mouthpiece".

(Danas, NUNS, UNS, 29.06.2012)

Medijska organizacija Jugoistocne Evrope (SEEMO) izražava zabrinutost zbog apela upucenih od strane određenih organizacija civilnog društva i pojedinaca iz Srbije, koji su zahtevali ukidanje TV pretplate za javni servis u Srbiji, Radio-Televiziju Srbije (RTS). Zastupnici ukidanja TV pretplate pozivaju se na predizborno obećanje nedavno izabranog predsednika Tomislava Nikolica. SEEMO smatra da bi ukidanje TV pretplate omogućilo političke uticaje na funkcionisanje i programski sadržaj javnog emitera: međunarodno iskustvo pokazuje da drugi izvori informisanja, kao što su, na primer, državni budžet ili parlament, ne mogu garantovati uređivačku nezavisnost. SEEMO podseca da javni servis nije vladin ili partijski servis.

(SEEMO, 28.06.2012)

The Movement of Hungarian Hope considers that Hungarians from the north of Vojvodina should not pay the TV fee since "the large majority of Vojvodina Hungarians have never watched a single programme broadcast by the public service broadcaster. They mostly watch Hungarian TV channels distributed via cable networks."

(Press, RTV B92, NUNS, UNS, 30.06.2012)

According to the statement published on the website of Radio-Television of Serbia (www.rts.rs), the Managing Board of RTS unanimously supports the opinion of the South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) that "international experience has shown that other sources of financing, for example from the national budget or the parliament, cannot guarantee editorial independence".

(RTV , NUNS, UNS, 04.07.2012)

Threats, attacks and legal proceedings against journalists; media-related trials

The leader of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) said yesterday that the media would be free, and pointed out that "the draconian Law on Information will be repealed". Aleksandar Vucic asked the "journalists who had been working for the benefit of the Democratic Party (DS) to wait until the formation of the government before they begin criticizing". Vucic announced that "the Hitlerian campaign, led by certain media outlets against Tomislav Nikolic, will be discussed in the National Parliament of Serbia, and it will be very interesting to find out who had been paid by whom".

(Informer, 30.06.2012)

The War Crimes Prosecutor's Office announced today that it was conducting pre-investigatory proceedings against unidentified individuals, journalists and editors of certain media companies in Serbia in relation to the criminal offense of inciting to criminal acts of war crimes. The Prosecutor's Office has decided to investigate specific cases of media reporting in Serbia which are reasonably suspected of constituting such criminal offense.

(The War Crimes Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Serbia, NUNS, Tanjug, NDNV, 21.06.2012, Dnevnik, Vecernje novosti, Politika, 22.06.2012, Informer, 29.06.2012)

Magazine *Pecat* reports: "The constant pressure of 'independent journalists' based in Belgrade to prosecute other journalists, mostly war reporters from various Serbian media outlets – considered by the 'independents' to be responsible for some of the

war crimes – has been ongoing for two decades. We are now witnessing the final act of this dirty and dishonorable effort."
(Pecat, UNS, 29.06.2012)

Unidentified perpetrators set a car, an Alfa Romeo, on fire at a parking lot in Polita Desancica Street in Novi Sad. The car belongs to the journalist with daily newspaper *Kurir*, Zorica Radulovic.

(Alo!, Kurir, Press, UNS, NUNS, Politika, 24.06.2012, Blic, Kurir, 25.06.2012)

The police has intensified its search for individuals who set on fire the car belonging to the a journalist with the daily newspaper *Kurir*, Zorica Radulovic. We are getting closer to the identity of the arsonists, says the police.

(Kurir, UNS, NUNS, 28.06.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) demands that the police take all necessary measures to identify the individuals who set on fire the car belonging to the journalist with the daily newspaper *Kurir*, Zorica Radulovic. NUNS also demands that Zorica Radulovic be guaranteed her safety and security so that she could continue to perform her job. The attack took place late in the very center of Novi Sad in the evening on Friday, June 22.

(NUNS, 25.06.2012)

We demand that Zorica Radulovic be guaranteed her safety and security so that she could perform her job without hindrance, says the press statement issued by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS). The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) demands that perpetrators be brought to justice in accordance with the law, which forbids threats against safety of journalists, stipulating penalties ranging from one to eight years of imprisonment. The Independent Journalist's Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) demands that the motive behind the attack be investigated. The South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) called on authorities in Serbia to identify and punish the individuals who set on fire the car belonging to the journalist of *Kurir*.

(Kurir, 26.06.2012)

SEEMO osuduje uništenje automobila Zorice Radulovic, novinara beogradskog dnevnog lista. „Pozivam policiju da istraži ovaj incident i da pocinioce privede pravdi. Pored toga, pozivam organe vlasti da zaštite novinare i da stvore okruženje u kojem medijski profesionalci mogu raditi slobodno i bezbedno“, izjavio je generalni sekretar Medijske organizacije Jugoistocne Evrope (SEEMO), Oliver Vujovic.

(SEEMO, 25.06.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina demands that the police take all necessary measures to identify the perpetrators who set on fire the car belonging to journalist Zorica Radulovic in Novi Sad Friday evening. At the same time, we demand that the motive behind this attack be established and its organizers be punished to the full extent of the law, says the Association's press statement.

(NDNV, 25.06.2012)

Albanians hackers attacked yesterday the web portal of Radio-Television Kragujevac (RTK) and placed a photograph with a the sign RBH (Red-Black Hackers) in red and black colors on its homepage. The attack occurred around noon, but the web administration of RTK managed to recover the website after twenty minutes.

(Alo!, 23.06.2012)

Premises of the local television station TV Zvzd are destroyed in a fire that started yesterday around 3.30 AM but, luckily, no one has been hurt. Studio equipment and inventory have been completely destroyed. According to first estimates, the damage amounts to more than 2.5 million dinars.

(Informer, Vecernje novosti - Srbija, Press, UNS, NUNS, 27.06.2012)

Journalistic crew from Radio-Television Vojvodina – journalist Nenad Jovicevic and cameraman Laslo Rac – were attacked, both verbally and physically, while they were recording the fire that took place in the workshop of DOO Agro-Lend from Becej, by the owner of the company, Roland Sabolcki. He cursed them and threatened to close down the TV station if a single scene of the fire is broadcast. Luckily, Sabolcki was prevented from fulfilling his illegal threats thanks to a timely intervention of a traffic policeman. In accordance with instructions from the police, the cameraman was examined in the emergency center. He suffered scratches on his right forearm.

(RTV, NUNS, 04.07.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) expects that the prosecutor's office in Becej immediately initiate criminal proceedings against the attacker on the team of journalists from Radio-Television Vojvodina. NUNS reminds that the criminal offense of threatening the safety of journalists on assignment carries a penalty of 1-8 years of imprisonment, while violent behaviour carries a penalty ranging from six months to five years of imprisonment.

(NUNS, MC, 04.07.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the attack on the journalist and cameraman of Radio-Television Vojvodina, Nenad Jovicevic and Laslo Rac, which took place in Becej today while they were recording a fire in the workshop of DOO Agro-Lend. UNS demands immediate investigation of the incident and reminds that the amended Criminal Code stipulates a prison sentence of 1-8 years for threatening of safety of journalists on assignment.

(UNS, 04.07.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) strongly condemns the attack on Radio-Television Vojvodina journalists in Becej and demands that authorities punish the attacker to the full extent of the law, as well as to establish the motive behind the attack. So far, attackers on journalists have usually remained unidentified or punished too leniently, which has only encouraged those who used to threaten, beat, and even kill journalists.

(NDNV, 04.07.2012)

Investigations of murders of journalists

The verdict against three high-ranked officials of the State Security Organizations because of organization of the attempt at life of Vuk Draskovic in Budva in 2000 is an encouraging sign which gives hope that investigation of the murder of Slavko Curuvija might yield results, since two of the three defendants are connected with this case, says lawyer Rajko Danilovic.

(Danas, UNS, NUNS, 21.06.2012)

According to media reports, if the verdict, published two days ago, sentencing Stevan Basta to seven years of imprisonment for assisting in the unsuccessful assassination of Vuk Draskovic, becomes legally enforceable, the prosecutor's office might offer him the status of a protected witness in possible legal proceedings related to the murder of journalist Slavko Curuvija, reports the daily newspaper *Danas*.

(Danas, 22.06.2012)

Investigators believe that Stevan Basta, the former head of the Belgrade Department of the State Security Agency, who was the recipient of reports about the following and monitoring of Slavko Curuvija, the owner of *Dnevni Telegraph*, knows all details about the murder of the journalist on April 11, 1999. Basta knows what happened and he could reveal this information as a protected witness, says a source of the daily newspaper *Blic* close to the investigation.

(Blic, NUNS, UNS, 23.06.2012)

The Media Strategy

The media coalition, consisting of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) and Local Press, warned today of the extremely bad position of the media in Serbia – the worst since 2000. The coalition pointed out that it was necessary to implement the Media Strategy as soon as possible.

(NDNV, 27.06.2012)

Professional standards

Activities of the civil society in Serbia are not sufficiently visible in the media, as well as in the public – this is the opinion of the advisor for the organization TACSO Serbia, Zorica Raskovic. The director of the news programme of RTV Vojvodina, Igor Bozic, said at the event that their program was open to the civil society sector, but that journalists were still prejudiced towards the goals of this sector and the donors that support it. Representatives of civil society organizations unanimously noted that the media does not sufficiently report on their activities. However, they also admitted that they were not sufficiently educated for cooperation with the media.

(Dnevnik, 22.06.2012)

Overcoming of prejudices is a long process, but education, the media and personal experience are the most efficient tools for their elimination, says Dr Bozo Skoko, a professor at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Zagreb and an expert on national image, to daily newspaper *Blic*. Skoko has authored books "Country as a Brand" and "Croatia and Her Neighbours", as well as numerous studies on stereotypes and national images of nations in the Balkans, the last of which was dedicated to prejudices in the Balkans. Skoko points out that the media, and to a certain degree the educational system as well, have been more successful in preserving, instead of eliminating the prejudices in the Balkans. At the same time, he says, it is not possible to generalize any of the nations in the Balkans. "One of the rules of branding of countries says that people worldwide perceive other places in the light of the most recent significant event that took place there. They change their opinions only after something even more significant happens. Therefore, it is time to replace the news about conflicts, crimes and hatred with a large step towards normalization", adds Skoko.

(Blic, 24.06.2012)

At the World Media Congress held recently in Thessaloniki, one of the central events was the promotion of the collection of articles entitled "Management of Media Economy, Media Content and Technologies in the Age of Digital Convergence". The book was published in English language by the Portuguese publisher "Media XXI" and it has been used as a textbook at numerous European universities. In a very short time frame, the book has seen two editions and promotions in Lisbon, Moscow and Paris. Five prominent articles have been written by Serbian authors: Milena Dragicevic Sesic and Divna Vuksanovic from the University of Art, Milivoje Pavlovic and Marija Aleksic from the Megatrend University, and Ljiljana and Goran Bulatovic from the Faculty of Management in Novi Sad.

(Politika, 24.06.2012)

The Complaints Committee of the Press Council has received 25 complaints related to articles published in the print media since September 2011. Fourteen cases have been solved, four cases are being processed, while the remaining cases did not fulfil necessary conditions. Of the solved cases, violations of the journalistic code of conduct have been established in four cases, all of which have been committed by the daily newspaper *Press*. Out of 14 solved complaints, four were initiated against daily newspapers *Vecernje Novosti* and *Press*, three were initiated against *Politika*, and one against *NIN*, *Blic* and *Vecernje Novosti* each. The four complaints that are being processed were submitted against *Blic*, *Press*, *Alo!* and *Vecernje Novosti*.

(Fonet, NUNS, *Vecernje novosti*, 28.06.2012)

Publicly-owned electronic and print media are mostly equipped on the basic or intermediate technological level and their employees' knowledge of new platforms is lacking, said yesterday Miroљub Radojkovic, a professor at the Faculty of Political Science, during a presentation second phase of the research "Journalism at the Crossroads – Journalism in the Age of Information Society".

(Danas, UNS, NUNS, 30.06.2012)

Mladjan Dinkic accused the spin doctors from the Democratic Party (DS) of organizing a dirty campaign in the media.

(Alo!, 21.06.2012)

During a public discussion "LGBT Issues in the Media", on the occasion of the International Pride Day, representatives of the media and journalistic associations discussed the changes in the reporting on LGBT population. The media professionals agreed that reporting on LGBT individuals and their rights had been improved in the last few years, but that violence, which

usually accompanies events like the Pride Parade, was still the main topic covered by journalists, instead of individual stories.

(<http://www.mondo.rs/>, NUNS, 28.06.2012)

Opinions, awards, training courses and competitions

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) organizes a school of investigative journalism in Mavrovo, Macedonia, between August 19 and August 25, 2012. Lectures at the third school of investigative journalism will be held by leading international journalists like [Sheila Coronel](#) – the head of the Investigative Journalism Center and a professor at the Columbia University; [Mark Schoofs](#) – a winner of two Pulitzer Prizes and a professor at the Yale University; Paul Lewis – the editor of research projects of the Guardian, who was awarded as The Journalist of the Year; and many others. The deadline for applications for scholarships is 25 July 2012. Information about the the application process and the school are available at the website of BIRN, balkaninsight.com.

(MC, Blic, 26.06.2012, NDNV, 03.07.2012)

Among Belgrade students, the daily newspaper *Politika* is ranked third. Around 17 percent of interviewees reads *Politika*, while a half of them reads the free newspaper *24 Sata*. Daily newspaper *Blic* is read by slightly more than 37 percent of interviewees. The fourth-ranked, daily newspaper *Press*, is read by students of the University of Belgrade in numbers greater by no less than 50 percent than in the last year.

(*Politika*, *Press*, 23.06.2012)

Media visits

For the third year in a row, students of the Faculty of Law of the Belgrade University will have a chance to acquire their first legal experiences, attend major trials and learn the secrets of the trade thanks to the traditional summer internship. This year, the Legal Office Tomanovic and the University of Law of the Belgrade University will organize a visit by ten students to UNS, OSCE and RTS, where they will have a chance to explore the limits of criticism and protection of privacy.

(Pregled, 02.07.2012)

Journalists from Belgrade media outlets were the first to travel the new bus line Belgrade-Krk, operated by "Lasta".

(Pregled, 02.07.2012)

The media audience

The RTS1 programme was watched by 47 percent of the total number of viewers who watched TV yesterday. Five top-ranked programmes yesterday were all broadcast by RTS. The live airing of the finals match of the European Football Championship between Spain and Italy on RTS was the best-rated programme with 2,167,000 viewers.

(RTS online, UNS, NUNS, 02.07.2012)

Although the city television is focused on the capital of the country, STB reaches more than three million viewers, since its audience is not limited to the city of Belgrade, says Nemanja Vranjkovic, the deputy general director. "We have increased our ratings by 2-2.5 times in comparison with the period five years ago. More than a million viewers watched us at moments. As a rule, whenever there are some extraordinary events in the city, viewers turn to STB", says Vranjkovic.

(Vecernje novosti, UNS, 28.06.2012)

Media transfers

A former programme director of Croatian station TV Nova, Sinisa Svilan, will join TV Pink. According to the daily newspaper *Press*, Svilan, who was dismissed from his previous company because of acceptance of bribes in the amount of 262,000 euros from Vladimir Selebaj, the director of the production company "Kor Medija", is supposed to become a regional coordinator of programme of TV Pink.

(*Press*, *Kurir*, UNS, NUNS, 30.06.2012)

In Memoriam

Journalist Cedo Males, a long-time member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), passed away on Saturday, 23 June after a long and serious illness, at the age of 81. He began his journalistic career in 1952 in the newspaper *Metlac*.

Between 1960 and 1966 he worked as an editor of the newspaper *Beogradska Nedelja*, while in 1966 he became the editor of the newspaper *Radnicka Stampa*. In 2005, he became a member of the Presiding Board of the Veterans' Association of UNS.

(UNS, 25.06.2012)

A long-time journalist with the weekly magazine *Nas Glas* from Smederevo and a member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Zoran Gajic, was buried today at the New Cemetery in Smederevo. He was born in Zajecar in 1955 and spent his career reporting on events in Smederevo for the local weekly magazine *Nas Glas*, as well as a journalist with *Privredni Pregled* and correspondent for daily newspaper *Politika*. He worked at all positions between the beginner journalist and the editor-in-chief and director of the weekly magazine *Nas Glas*.

(UNS, 30.06.2012)

Journalist, publicist and historian, Dusan Popov, a recipient of the February Award of the City of Novi Sad in 2012, passed away today in Novi Sad. He began working in journalism in 1945 for newspapers *Slobodna Vojvodina* (today's *Dnevnik*) and *Glas Omladine*. In the newspaper *Dnevnik* he worked at all positions between the positions of junior contributor to the deputy editor-in-chief. As a young journalist, he was appointed as the editor of the renowned cultural programme, *Tribina Mladih*. In 1972, he became the first editor-in-chief of then recently founded TV Novi Sad.

(Beta, NDNV, 03.07.2012)

Media business operations

According to reports on expenses during political campaigns leading to the parliamentary elections, the largest part of the collected funds was spent on television advertising, said yesterday Zlatko Minic, the deputy president of the Board of the Anti-Corruption Agency.

(Politika, 26.06.2012)

Employees of TV Cacak began a strike yesterday to protest against unpaid salaries. The statement issued by the Striking Board says that the programme of the station was suspended at 14.00, and that employees' salaries are four months late (covering the period between February and May this year). The statement says that the workers demanded on June 14 that the majority owner of the station pay the salaries, and decided to begin the strike with the minimally allowed job performance level.

(Fonet, Press, Vecernje novosti - Serbia, Informer, Politika, NUNS, UNS, 26.06.2012, Danas, NUNS, 27.06.2012)

Employees of TV Cacak are still striking. The strike began nine days ago because of unpaid salaries and contributions during a period of four months. The owner of the TV station, a businessman from Cacak, Zoran Bojovic, has not yet met with the employees. TV Cacak has 26 permanently employed workers and four part-time contributors. The company was founded in 1999 as a municipal publicly-owned company and was privatized in 2009. The Bojovic family also owns the weekly magazine *Cacanski Glas* and *Radio Cacak*, which are not on strike.

(Beta, Pregled UNS, NUNS, 04.07.2012)

The Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) calls on the Organization of Music Authors of Serbia (Sokoj) to immediately establish a new price list of royalties for usage of musical works. The Association's statement says that radio and TV stations in Serbia have received invoices with "astronomical" royalties for broadcasting of music, in accordance with the price list published in the Official Gazette last year, without any discounts that have been mentioned during the recent months.

(Beta, 02.07.2012, Tanjug, Blic, Politika, Vecernje novosti, UNS, Informer, 03.07.2012)

TV Avala is in huge trouble and it is possible that it might lose its national broadcasting license, reports the daily newspaper *Informer*. TV Avala would have to broadcast at least 25 percent of locally-produced programme if it wants to remain a nation-wide broadcaster. If this requirement is not fulfilled, the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) will have no other choice but to revoke its license and announce a public contest for issuance of broadcasting licenses. On the other hand, employees of TV Avala began a strike already in December 2011 because of unpaid salaries.

(Informer, NUNS, UNS, 03.07.2012)

"A sum of 8,000 dinars (around 70 euros) was paid to our bank account, as a contribution for payment of electricity bills, because the Electrical Power Company had cut off the electricity to our web portal for 24 hours, until the debt was paid. The other journalistic association, NUNS, did not support us via donations, despite the fact that it had issued a strongly-worded press statement in support of *E-Novine*. However, we have not lost all hope when it comes to NUNS."

(E-Novine, UNS, 23.06.2012)

Privatization and the state-owned media

Journalists working for the weekly magazine *Svetlost* from Kragujevac, who have been striking for a year because of unpaid salaries, suffered a loss of seven offices yesterday. The Commercial Court sold them for the price of 10.3 million dinars in order to pay back the debt owed to the printing company "Family Press". In an open letter, employees of *Svetlost* accuse the Privatization Agency of exerting no control over the privatization of the oldest Serbian weekly magazine and allowing mortgage on the property of the magazine, despite the fact that the privatization was not completed and that the buyer, Gvozden Jovanovic, was not the owner of *Svetlost* since he had not fulfilled all his obligations towards the Agency.

(Blic, Danas, 23.06.2012)

A media coalition, consisting of consisting of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), the Association of Independent Electronic Media

(ANEM) and Local Press warned today of the extremely bad position of the media in Serbia – the worst since 2000. The coalition pointed out that it was necessary to implement the Media Strategy as soon as possible. The president of ANEM, Sasa Mirkovic, said that the new government should quickly implement the Media Strategy, complete the privatization of the media, reveal the draft law on public service broadcasters and public information, eliminate piracy, and implement the digitalization project.

(Beta, Fonet, Danas, Politika, NUNS, Dnevnik, Pregled, 28.06.2012)

Results of a science research project "Journalism at the Crossroads – Journalism in the Age of Information Society" were presented at conference entitled "Who Owns Journalism in Serbia", held at the Faculty of Political Science. The research was conducted by the Center for the Media and Media-Related Research of the Faculty of Political Science. During the first panel discussion, dedicated to the publicly-owned media, Professor Dr. Miroljub Radojkovic explained that "the media owned by the state exhibit excessive employment, owners and co-owners do not suffer from any difficulties, while the number of their employees is huge. The public service broadcaster employs more than 1200 people, out of which journalists and contributors number only 450. Half of its employees perform various administrative tasks, which are not essential for media operations". In the words of Professor Dr. Snjezana Milivojevic, analysis and classification of the privately-owned media was done on the basis of five indicators: technological equipment level, professional resources, economic position, degree of networking in journalism, and relationship with the state. The research showed that the commercial media are more dynamic and better adapted to the digital age than the state-owned media.

(www.fpn.bg.ac.rs, UNS, 04.07.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) called on the media to respect ethical and professional standards defined by the Journalistic Code of Conduct while reporting on tragic events and accidents. The NUNS statement says that the Association was contacted by the mother of a person who had recently committed suicide, telling them that the deceased's family and friends were deeply hurt by the fact that the news about the suicide was published in a large number of media outlets under the title "Psychiatric Patient Commits Suicide". "Journalists and editors should especially avoid speculations and insufficiently verified opinions. Even if the authorities publish information that violates the victim's privacy, as was done in this case by a police official, the media must not report such information", says NUNS.

(Beta, NUNS, 04.07.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS)

Ljiljana Smajlovic, the president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), said: "We are trying to find a way to help E-Novine, which has been cut off from the power grid by the Electrical Power Company, despite the fact that many others, who owe much larger sums of money, have not suffered any consequences. We are not fans of Petar Lukovic, but we are concerned because of destruction of one of the rare differing media outlets in Serbia."

(Danas, 21.06.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Association (RRA)

The Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) has decided that the advertisement produced by the National Lottery of Serbia, which alludes to group sex, can be freely broadcast on television programme, despite the fact that the Agency deemed it indecent two weeks ago.

(Informer, 30.06.2012)

The Government and the National Parliament

The state secretary from the Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society, Dragana Milicevic Milutinovic, said that work groups had completed the draft laws necessary for implementation of the Media Strategy. Drafts of the Law on Public Information, the Law on Broadcasting, the Law on Accreditation, and the Law on Regional Public Service Broadcasters. Now that we have draft laws, public discussion can be initiated immediately after the formation of the new Government, said Milutinovic.

(Fonet, NUNS, 21.06.2012)

Media-related news

Daily newspaper *Press* reports that TV BK might easily appear on the media scene of Serbia in autumn. There are plans, supported by the Karic family, to launch the TV station with a 24 hour-a day programme. Reliable sources say to *Press* that several TV stations have been contacted regarding purchase of on-air time or even takeover.

(*Press*, UNS, 23.06.2012)

The news that the EU Council decided to grant the status of candidate for membership in the EU was first announced by Twitter users. The decision was first made public by Herman Van Rompuy, the president of the European Council, on the social network Twitter. The example of European officials has not been followed by Serbian journalists. Professor Mirosljub Radojkovic said at the public discussion entitled "How the Traditional Media Uses Social Networks": "Out of 260 interviewed journalists from all parts of Serbia, more than 50 percent still use individuals who are competent to speak about certain topics as a source of information, while the Internet is used as a source of information by only a fifth of the interviewees. Those who do, have most confidence in official websites and news published by global media companies. Only a quarter of the interviewees gathers information from social networks", said Professor Radojkovic.

(*Politika*, UNS, 30.06.2012)

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- Abbreviations - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations.2317.html#104230
- Sections - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations-and-sections.2317.html
- Archive - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-archive.2381.html
- Media News Bulletin home - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin.2298.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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