

Content

Media Environment

ANEM publishes a new Monitoring Report – Jelka Jovanovic warns that the Media Strategy is not being implemented – Kolarevic is a new assistant minister for culture and information – Kolarevic announces fight for "more freedom and better financial standing of journalists – Editor-in-chief of RTV Alt is involved with several conflicts of interest – RTS TV fee to be revoked – NUNS warns that the public service broadcaster must not depend on governmental decisions – Announced dismissal of Tijanac has never happened – Tijanac writes an open letter to the president of Serbia – *Kurir* says Tijanac's letter is only a maneuver – Tijanac increases number of security personnel – Minister of Education criticizes RTS – RTS rejects minister's accusations – There were 242 media-related litigations in Serbia in 2011 – A journalist from Paracin is convicted – NUNS protests against lenient sentencing of the driver who seriously injured a journalist – The police beats the technical editor of NIN – The editor is released from custody – UNS says that the police used excessive force – Security cameras reveal what happened – President of the Progressive Farmers' Party insults journalists – Journalists with TV Sabac are attacked - NUNS condemns the attack – Charges are filed against the attacker

Professionalism in the Media

NUNS is shocked by utterly unprofessional reporting of *Kurir* – "The Insider" by TV B92 is the best TV show – Magi and fortune-tellers appear on TV programme – Confusion with identity on certain television stations – Young journalists from EU travel around Serbia – "Send a Recipe" ("*Posalji Recept*") is the most-read magazine in Serbia – Scandal! sells more than 100,000 copies – The editor-in-chief of *Press* resigns – Kasanski is the new editor – Journalists Miodrag Ristic, Sime Kronja and Nikola Radas pass away

Media Economy

Advertisements on television are too loud – Trade union of TV Mozaik announces a general strike – Competition between TV Pink and TV Prva intensifies – TV Pink is not in financial trouble anymore – Vucic announces "full investigation about the sale of *Politika*" by the end of August

Media Institutions & Activities

NUNS condemns attack on TV journalists – NUNS demands protection of the legal order with regard to the verdict against journalist Laslo Sas – UNS condemns Homen's statement – Homen clarifies his statement – Several trade unions demand that the Government publish the names of the owners of *Politika* and *Novosti* – The Joint Trade Union of *Novosti* rejects the claims of the trade unions – Newspaper *Novosti* publishes advantages of the new collective contract – Trade Union of *Novosti* points out financial problems from the report by the Monitoring Board of *Novosti* – RRA organizes another public contest for issuance of licenses for broadcasting of TV and radio programmes – Initiative "The Law Belongs to Us!" demands that the Government allow introduction of electronic public discussions about draft laws

Media Innovations

NinaMedia launches a new service for monitoring of public communication on the Internet – IREX and USAID support the project by the portal *Juzne Vesti* for anonymous reporting of corruption – New Yugoslavian Radio-Television launches experimental 24-hour programme – TV Timocka changes its name to TV Best

The media situation in Serbia

The 35th Media Monitoring Report about the Serbian media scene in July 2012 has been published on the ANEM website. Among other things, the Report offers additional information about legal proceedings and the judicial practice in Serbia; the implementation of the current regulations; the area of competence of the previous Ministry that is now split between the Ministry of Culture and Information, on the one hand, and the Ministry of Internal and External Trade and Telecommunication, on the other hand; etc.

(ANEM, MC, 29.08.2012)

Opinions about the current media situation in Serbia

Novi Magazin has published an article by Jelka Jovanovic: "The previous Government created the Media Strategy to define the steps towards the reform of the media scene. The new Government has announced liberation of the media and journalists from self-censorship and transparency of ownership. By the end of the September, it will be a year since the Government's adoption at a telephone session of the framework document intended to achieve a far-reaching reform of the media scene – the Media Strategy – in an attempt to win the EU candidacy. However, this move has not had any effect on the situation in the media. At least, not for the better. It seems that the recently formed new Government has more important things to do than to examine this area and all the accepted obligations, apart from announcing the revoking of the Law on Information and investigation of the cases of the sale of ownership share of VAC in the newspapers *Politika* and *Novosti*. However, the financing of state-owned media should already have been changed. The previous Government has not done that, but the new one has a chance to rectify the situation during the announced revision of the national budget. The Action Plan, which is an integral part of the Strategy, stipulates that the provisions of the Stability and Association Agreement related to the control of the state assistance and protection of competition should come into force on January 1, 2012. It is a fact that all four state-owned media outlets (*Tanjug*, *Radio Jugoslavija*, *Jugoslavenski Pregled* and *Panorama*) are still being financed from the national budget with the almost same amounts as in the previous year. This means that the state is still a participant in the media scene and the media market via *Tanjug*, which perpetuates the unsustainable and unfair competition with regard to private news agencies.

(Novi Magazin, 23.08.2012)

The state and the media

The Government of Serbia appointed the writer and journalist Dragan Kolarevic as the assistant minister of culture and information in the field of information and the media.

(Fonet, NUNS, UNS, 17.08.2012, Alo!, 18.08.2012, ASMEDI Newsletter, August 2012)

Assistant Minister of Culture Dragan Kolarevic said that he would fight to improve the situation in the media. "I will strive to achieve more freedom and a better financial standing of journalists", he said to the daily newspaper *Press*. "Right now I am reviewing draft laws on public service broadcasters that would ensure financial and editorial independence. This will be our starting point", said Kolarevic, adding that it was too early to discuss the possibility of revoking of the controversial Law on Information.

(Press, Tanjug, NUNS, 21.08.2012)

The editor-in-chief of RTV Alt, Aleksandra Simic, is also the vice president of the District Branch of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) and a member of the Municipal Assembly of Aleksinac from SNS. This is an obvious conflict of interest.

According to the officials from the Anti-Corruption Agency, being a member of the Assembly, a vice president of a political party, and an editor-in-chief of a state-owned media outlet, all at the same time, is not only illegal but is contrary to the principle of division of power and basis of democracy.

(MediaS portlissimo, 23.08.2012, Aleksinac net, 27.08.2012)

It is most likely that the Government of Serbia will revoke the TV fee for Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) in the next few months, reports the daily newspaper *Blic*.

(Blic, E-kapija, UNS, RTV, B92, 29.08.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) is concerned because of unofficial announcements that the TV fee might be revoked soon. NUNS is of the opinion that it would be unacceptable for the public service broadcaster to be financed directly from the national budget instead of via the TV fee, and to depend on decisions of the Government of Serbia. The new system of financing of the public service broadcaster should ensure its editorial independence and prevent influence of the political structures on its editorial policy.

(NUNS, Danas, UNS, 29.08.2012)

Public service broadcasters

Dismissals in publicly-owned companies that were expected to happen after the elections, some of which were even announced, for example, regarding the general director of the public service broadcaster, Aleksandar Tijanic, have failed to materialize. It is obvious that someone has reached a conclusion that dismissal of the director of the RTS would cause undesirable reaction from the public and that it was decided that Aleksandar Tijanic should continue running the public service broadcaster until the end of his mandate in 2014.

(Kurir, 18.08.2012, Blic, NUNS, 20.08.2012)

Director of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), Aleksandar Tijanic, wrote an open letter to President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic in response to his conflict with Radoslav Pavlovic, who is Nikolic's advisor in the field of culture. Pavlovic, who is the screenwriter for the series "My Cousin from the Countryside", accused Tijanic of banning the broadcasting of the series about the Karadjordjevic dynasty which he had authored.

(Beta, Politika, 24 sata, Alo!, Blic, Kurir, Danas, Informer, Pregled, Press, 17.08.2012)

The response of Aleksandar Tijanic to the interview given by Radoslav Pavlovic, the advisor on culture of the president of Serbia, is not surprising. Those who are informed about the media scene in Serbia realized that this is Tijanic's time-tested maneuver intended to keep him at the helm of the RTS. Miljenko Dereta, a deputy in the National Parliament and a member of the coalition "The Turnaround" ("*Preokret*"), who is also the executive director of the non-governmental organization Civic Initiatives. "I have read his letter to the president of the country and it is my opinion that Aleksandar Tijanic is striving to be equally loyal to this regime as to each of the previous ones".

(Kurir, 18.08.2012)

The director of the RTS has doubled his security personnel – instead of being protected by two policemen, he is now being accompanied by five body guards.

(Kurir, 24.08.2012, Kurir, 25.08.2012)

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development will demand that the public service broadcaster place more emphasis on education in its television programme, said the minister, Zarko Obradovic. "We cannot make such demand on others, but we can demand that from the public service broadcaster. This is not required by the Ministry, but by Serbia itself".

(Beta, Danas, 24 sata, Kurir, Press, UNS, NUNS, 28.08.2012)

Radio-Television Serbia has rejected the claims made by the minister of education, Zarko Obradovic, about the lack of educational and science programme on-air. RTS says that it is the only domestic TV station that is systematically fulfilling its educational and cultural mission. The editor-in-chief of the cultural and education programme of RTS, Miodrag Zupanc, points out that the First and Second Channel of the RTS have broadcast 4,039 cultural and educational programmes i.e. 98,629 minutes.

(B92, Beta, Danas, UNS, NUNS, 28. 08. 2012, Press, Dnevnik, 29.08.2012)

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

According to information from the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), 242 litigation proceedings were initiated before the Higher Court in Belgrade, mostly related to damage of reputation and honor, while some criminal proceedings are also being held. In Serbia, regulations about libel and damage to reputation and honor allow a lot of possibility for legal charges against the media. Legal proceedings are financially exhausting to journalists and the media and result in self-censorship. Because of this, slightly more than a year ago, NUNS launched a free legal representation service.

(EuroActiv.rs, Beta, NDNV, NUNS, 17.08.2012, Danas, 18.08.2012)

Journalist Milijana Stojanovic from Paracin, who reported on possible abuse of Andjela Buncic from Svilajnac, has received a verdict according to which she is obliged to pay 30,000 dinars in damages to the then municipal prosecutor because she wrote about his responsibility for the lack of investigation on the case. The controversy about the death of six-year old Andjela Buncic, who was found dead in her family's house in Svilajnac, was solved a month and a half ago and the child's mother was pronounced guilty for child neglect. Andjela is gone, her mother is in prison, and the municipal prosecutor has been promoted to the Higher Prosecutor's Office. The journalist is preparing a new appeal to the verdict of the Court of Appeals in Kragujevac. The president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Ljiljana Smajlovic, says that more effort has been spent to protect the reputation of the prosecutor than to protect the child, Andjela Buncic.

(RTS, UNS, 20.08.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) condemns the verdict of the Criminal Council of the Primary Court in Vranje, which has pronounced Bora Milenkovic from Vranje guilty of crime against traffic safety and failure to help the victim of a car accident, and sentenced him to 11 months of prison or 3 years of suspended sentence. NUNS demands that the Primary Prosecutor's Office appeal this incomprehensible verdict. Bora Milenkovic hit a pedestrian, a journalist with the daily newspaper *Blic*, Veselin Pesic. The journalist was seriously injured and left to lie on the ground unconscious. The negligent driver ran away from the scene. After three days and after being pressured by journalistic associations, the police found the driver, who admitted to consuming alcohol before the accident. The journalist, Veselin Pesic, is now permanently disabled due to the accident, says the press statement by NUNS.

(NUNS, 24.08.2012)

After a brawl caused by a car accident, two non-uniformed police inspectors brutally beat Vladimir Piacun, the technical director of the magazine NIN, in front of the headquarters of the company Ringier Axel Springer located at Dunavska Street in Dorcol. To the astonishment of the employees, one of the two policemen – who did not identify themselves – took out a gun. Then they beat Piacun, who was not even aware that they were policemen, put him in the car and took him to an unknown location. After the incident, employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs visited NIN, performed an investigation and kindly apologized to the company's management after viewing the recordings made by security cameras.

(Blic, Alo!, Press, 25.08.2012)

The technical director of NIN, Vladimir Piacun, has been released after being placed in custody the day before by non-uniformed policemen Radovan Bojovic and Miroslav Stevanovic. Piacun's release was ordered by the director of the police, Milorad Veljovic, after a press conference. Veljovic said that the police "will not protect anyone in this case" and that the truth would be known not later than eight days after the completion of the internal investigation that is being conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs ordered by the minister of internal affairs, Ivica Dacic.

(Alo!, 26.08.2012)

During a questioning by the police, the editor of NIN said that he had not caused the incident. He explained in detail what happened and emphasized that he was twice in fear for his life and safety, and that the policemen did not show their IDs at any moment nor turned on the rotary light. The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the conduct of the non-uniformed policemen who brutalized the technical director of NIN. The Association's press statement says that the policemen used excessive force. UNS is convinced that the serious incident was not related to Piacun's job or the editorial policy of NIN, but considers that it is a duty of journalists to report on and demand accountability of the police because of use of excessive force against and beating of any citizen.

(Beta, Politika, Blic, UNS, Kurir, 26.08.2012, Press, 27.08.2012)

The recording from the security camera shows Piacun waiting in the middle of the street for the Toyota to arrive for some twenty seconds, then jumping on the vehicle, beginning to kick the passenger-side door and putting his head inside the open window. After that, he turns his back to the car and moves away. Police inspectors get out of the car and begin beating him. The recording has shed some light on the incident, but it still does not explain why Piacun attacked the police vehicle and whether the policemen could arrest the editor of NIN without beating him and using excessive force.

(Kurir, UNS, NUNS, 27.08.2012)

Marijan Risticovic insulted a *Kurir* journalists because of an article claiming that the director of the company, owned by his wife, was suspected of tax evasion. Risticovic, who is the president of the Progressive Farmers' Party, made a call to the

editorial office of the daily *Kurir* and insulted the journalists because of the article published the day before.

(Kurir, UNS, 26.08.2012, Kurir, 27.08.2012)

Journalists from the regional TV Sabac was physically attacked while they were reporting from the Countryside Olympics held in Prnjavor near Sabac. Journalist Marija Damjanovic got a facial injury. The journalist and the cameraman were attacked by R. K., who was arrested immediately after that. No one of the security personnel or policemen present at the event helped the journalist.

(B92, Beta, Tanjug, Kurir, NUNS, UNS, 27.08.2012, Danas, Alo!, Blic, Informer, Kurir, NUNS, 28.08.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) strongly condemns the hooligan attack on the journalists with TV Sabac and expects that the Primary Prosecutor's Office in Sabac will immediately launch criminal proceedings against the attacker, who has been identified by the police.

(NUNS, 27.08.2012)

The Sabac police issued a press statement saying that it had filed charges for violation of public order and disorderly conduct against R. K., a 35-year old individual from Prnjavor, for attacking a journalist and cameraman with the regional TV Sabac.

(Fonet, Politika, NUNS, 28.08.2012)

Professional standards

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) is shocked by the utterly unprofessional articles about a suicide of a minor in Zemun published by the daily newspaper *Kurir*. NUNS points out that by publishing the identity and photographs of the 15 year-old boy, *Kurir* violated ethical and legal norms protecting the rights of minors, especially the victims. The Law on Public Information clearly stipulates that "underage persons must not be made recognizable in publication of information that can hurt their rights or interests", says the press statement issued by NUNS.

(NUNS, 20.08.2012)

According to the readers of the daily newspaper *Press*, the cult documentary series by TV B92, "The Insider", is the best TV show aired by domestic television stations. The series, authored by journalist Brankica Stankovic, has investigated numerous sensitive social and political issues, among them the "football mafia" and the operations of the mining complex "Kolubara". Criminal investigations were launched after the airing of these programmes. The second-best television programme is the award-winning "Squaring the Circle" ("*Kvadratura Kruga*") that is broadcast on RTS.

(Press, UNS, NUNS, 20.08.2012)

Regarding the electronic media, most of all the television, appearances of various magi and fortune-tellers are increasingly less frequent. Still, "experts with supernatural powers and close to higher forces" appear almost every day on the programme of the satellite station TV Duga. Goran Karadzic, the vice president of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), said that the case of TV Duga would be considered at the next session of the Council.

(Politika, 19.08.2012)

The daily newspaper *Blic* has published an article by Milan Vlajcic: "A guest in the studio asked the journalist: 'Do you know whom you invited to your programme?'" (Radio Belgrade 1, Friday, 17 August, 11.00-12.00). The journalist, however, managed to say the correct name: Milivoje Markovic, the winner of the lifetime achievement award at the 29th Nisvil Jazz Festival. Why the strange question? A day earlier, it was reported twice on TV B92 News (at 18.30 and 23.00) that the award had been given to Mica Tomic. The same happened on the first and second channel of the radio programme of the public service broadcaster between 5.00 and 7.00 the next morning. According to this, the late actor Mica Tomic managed to win the award for playing sax. Such is the situation in our media today."

(Blic, 21.08.2012)

The editorial team of the daily newspaper *Kurir* has received a press statement from TV Pink saying that the station's exclusive TV personalities are not allowed to appear on other TV stations.

(Kurir, Press, 24.08.2012)

Visits to the media

During a travel through the countries that have become candidates for membership in the European Union, a team from the production company "HansaMedia" visited Serbia. After going through Belgrade and Arilje, the team arrived in Kusic near Javor. Young journalists from Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Bulgaria, Lithuania and England were brought together by the project that is intended to offer them insight into the life of the local population, their knowledge about the situation in the EU and the expectations from their future EU membership.

(Vecernje novosti, 29.08.2012)

The media audience

According to the recently published results of the auditing of newspapers and magazines in June 2012, Color Press Group is publishing 15 out of 20 most-read magazines. The best-ranked of the CPG magazines is Send the Recipe ("*Posalji Recept*") with the average of 235,783 sold copies. This magazine is followed by Cakes and Biscuits ("*Torte i Kolaci*") with 173,692 copies, Scandal! with 87,456 copies, Good Food ("*Dobra Hrana*") with 59,812 copies and Star with 50,605 copies. The following magazines are also on the list: *Svet, Lepota i Zdravlje, Bravo, TV Novele, Hallo!, Top Zdravlje, Zene i Zdravlje, JOY, Cvece u Domu* and *Bravo Girl*.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, Avgust 2012)

Apart from the information about their successful sales in July, Color Press Group announced the breakthrough success of their celebrity magazine *Scandal!*, which sold more than 100,000 copies in July. For almost two years, none of the Serbian celebrity magazines had managed to sell more than this number. The total number of sold copies of the 427th issue of *Scandal!* is 106,942: 88,305 in Serbia, 12,085 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 6,522 in Montenegro (ASMEDI Newsletter, Avgust 2012)

Media transfers

The editor-in-chief of the daily magazine *Press*, Veljko Lalic, has resigned from his position and his deputy and the chief of the desk, Borislav Kasanski, was appointed as the acting editor-in-chief. The press statement says that Lalic resigned because of his desire to "become active in weekly journalism" and that he suggested his successor. (Beta, NDNV, 28.08.2012, ,Večernje novosti, UNS, 29.08.2012)

In Memoriam

Miodrag Ristic, a longtime editor of the newspaper *Takovske Novine* and a member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), was buried today at the city cemetery in Gornji Milanovac. Ristic passed away at the age of 87. He began his journalistic career in 1970 and spent the largest part of it at the position of the editor-in-chief of *Takovske Novine*. He also cooperated with *Decje Novine*. (UNS, 16.08.2012)

Sime Kronja, a journalist and a longtime member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), passed away on 22 August at the age of 88. He participated in the Second World War and worked as a correspondent for *Oslobodjenje* at the time. After the war, he worked for the newspaper of the Sarajevo Army District, *Narodni Borac*. Later he became the editor-in-chief of the newspapers *Front* and *Narodna Armija*. He was a member of the Managing Board and the president of the Court of Honor of the UNS. He also worked as the executive secretary for the press and information of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia. (UNS, 28.08.2012)

Journalist Nikola Radas has passed away in Belgrade. He graduated from the Faculty of Law and began working in the field of journalism in 1976. Radas was a contributor to Radio Belgrade, *Privredni Pregled*, TV Belgrade, *Beogradski Radnik* and the weekly magazine *Epoha*. (UNS, 29.08.2012)

Media business operations

Apart from being frequently exposed to excessively long advertisement blocks on television channels, viewers are also disturbed by loud commercials. Although the maximum allowed sound volume is 50 kHz, some of the commercials are no less than three times louder than that, according to research. Regardless of the fact that the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) warned some of the broadcasters last year that they would be subject to "certain measures", many citizens have complained again to the RRA.

(Blic, NUNS, UNS, e-kapija, 20.08.2012)

The trade union of TV Mozaik announced today that their members' general strike would begin on September 3 at 12.00. The union decided to take this step because it has not yet received any response from the management to its demands

(Danas, 25.08.2012)

Immediately after TV Prva announced that it had canceled the appearance of the British band "The Prodigy", TV Pink said that it would broadcast an interview with the band. The war between two most powerful media companies is continuing!

(Informer, 25.08.2012)

The company Pink has been completely recovered and we don't have any problems with liquidity. We have paid all five remaining salaries to workers and completely closed the hole worth 40 million euros in our capital that appeared a year and a half ago during my absence. We have achieved this thanks to my personal funds – amounting to several million – and the sale of the water company, said Zeljko Mitrovic, the president of Pink Media Group, during a press conference. After 15 years, I am back at the position of the general director of Pink, he added, presenting the new senior management of the company.

(Blic, Kurir, Politika, E kapija, NUNS, 28.08.2012)

Privatization and the state-owned media

During his interview to Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), Aleksandar Vucic said that "the media has to be free, while everything else is not a media issue, but is related to anti-corruption laws". Complete truth about the sale of *Politika* will be known by the end of August, he pointed out.

(Politika, Blic, NUNS, UNS, Vecernje novosti, 19.08.2012)

The first deputy prime minister, Aleksandar Vucic, said that the general picture about the changes in the ownership structure of the newspapers *Politika*, *Novosti* and *Dnevnik* from Novi Sad is now known. Talking to journalists in the Embassy of Serbia in Moscow, he added that all the details would be known by the end of August. He pointed out that a "political party leviathan" was behind the affair, and that even diplomatic and consular representative offices were used in the interest of a political party.

(Blic, Informer, Kurir, Politika, 24.08.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) strongly condemns the hooligan attack on TV Sabac journalists and expects that the Primary Prosecutor's Office in Sabac to immediately launch criminal proceedings against the attacker, whose identity is known to the police. According to the report aired by TV Sabac, journalist Marija Damnjanovic and cameraman Zoran Milutinovic were attacked in Prnjavor yesterday afternoon by a local citizen, Rade K., while they were reporting from the Countryside Olympics.

(NUNS, 27.08.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) submitted to the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office a request for protection of legal order with regard to the verdict against journalist from Subotica, Laslo Sas. The legal representative of NUNS, the legal office Zivkovic-Samardzic, which is representing Laslo Sas, points out that the verdict of the Court of Appeals in Novi Sad, confirming the verdict made by the Primary Court in Subotica, violated the law in a way that is damaging to the interest of Laslo Sas. The motion was initiated as a part of the NUNS program of free legal assistance journalists and the media with support from organizations Civil Rights Defenders and the Media Legal Defence Initiative.

(NUNS, 27.08.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the statement made by the former secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Slobodan Homen. He called the journalists with the website *Pistaljka* "dogs". Responding to an article published on the website about a low-interest loan given by the Development Fund of the Republic of Serbia given to his sister's company, Homen told the daily newspaper *Informer* that he intended to sue the journalists. Insults and threats with lawsuits because of published information constitutes an attempt to ban the freedom of speech and investigative journalism, says UNS.

(UNS, 28.08.2012)

Slobodan Homen says: "During my longtime cooperation with journalists I have never had any problems nor used any bad words. The word 'dogs' was not meant for journalists, but the mean-intentioned sources", reports Smedia.

(Smedia, UNS, 29.08.2012)

Journalistic trade unions

Several trade unions of employees in the newspapers *Politika* and *Novosti* demand that the Government immediately reveal who the real owners of these newspaper companies are. "The employees have the right to complete information about the legal, financial and social consequences to their position. The trade unions demand that the responsibility of the senior management of *Politika* and *Novosti*, who have received astronomical salaries, be investigated", says the joint announcement of the unions.

(Beta, NUNS, 21.08.2012)

The Joint Trade Union of the company *Novosti* rejected yesterday the claims made by four trade unions of *Politika* the Trade Union of Journalists of *Novosti*

(Vecernje novosti, 23.08.2012)

A new collective contract was signed yesterday in the company *Novosti*. The contract is more advantageous than the previous one, which had already been on of the most advantageous in the media industry. According to the new collective contract, the price of work is increased by 11 percent, while the annual leave can last for up to 30 days. The new contract comes into force on September 1.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, August 2012)

Dragana Cabarkapa, the president of the trade union of the journalists working at *Novosti*, says: "In their response to the statements made by highest officials in Serbia, four trade unions of *Politika* and the Trade Union of *Novosti* journalists demand that the Government of Serbia immediately reveal the identity of real owners of the newspaper companies *Politika* and *Novosti* as well as what measures the Government intends to take in order to prevent these

companies' further ruination and financial disaster. The trade unions demand that accountability of the management of *Politika* and *Novosti* be investigated. The joint statement of the five presidents of trade unions was reported by most of the media, including *Politika*. Expectedly, *Novosti* did not. According to the report by the Monitoring Committee dated April 23, 2012, the accumulated losses exceed one billion dinars, which is 76 percent of the total value of assets.

(B92, Beta, UNS 27.08.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)

The public contest for issuance of broadcasting licenses for regional and local areas was published on 20 August 2012 in daily newspapers *Politika* and *Dnevnik*.

(RRA, 20.08.2012)

The Government and the Parliament

Civil society organizations that are partners with the initiative "The Law Belongs to Us!" demand that the Government of the Republic of Serbia allow introduction of electronic public discussions about draft laws and general legal documents. The use of the Internet in public discussions would allow significantly larger participation of citizens in creation of laws and legal documents, leading to their higher quality, functionality and fairness. At the same time, the civil society organizations warn that adequate mechanisms of participation of the public in the process of adoption legal regulations have not been used in our country so far. The initiative "The Law Belongs to Us!" was launched in the last year and it is supported by state institutions and civil society organizations: The Educational Center, The Center for Advancement of Legal Studies (CUPS), the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV), The Bureau for Social Research (BIRODI) and Sretenje.

Additional information is available at the website www.zakonjenas.rs.

(NUNS, 28.08.2012)

Media-related news

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of its existence, the company Ninamedia has launched a new intelligent service, BuzzMonitor. The software monitors all public communication channels on the Internet. BuzzMonitor allows access to opinions of the users of the online media and social networks like Facebook and Twitter about brands, companies, certain subjects, political parties, individuals, campaigns etc. In addition to this, it offers automated feedback about the public response.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, August 2012)

USAID program of support to the Serbian media implemented by IREX has given its support to the web portal *Juzne Vesti* in its effort to introduce Perun, a software for anonymous reporting of corruption. The software allows citizens to report classified information related to corruption or abuses in the public sector with maximum protection of information. It offers a new source of information for journalists. The websites of *Juzne Vesti* (www.juznevesti.com) and *Perun* (www.perun.rs) offer a link for downloading of the software for anonymous reporting of corruption. The identity of users who use the software and the web portal www.perun.rs is fully protected. Several of the journalists working for *Juzne Vesti* will regularly verify and investigate all citizens' reports. During the first month of the portal's activity, three cases of corruption have been reported, together with numerous other examples of unsatisfactory performance of state authorities. In the following period, *Juzne vesti* will further promote the web portal in public.

(ASMEDI Newsletter, August 2012)

Today's Yugoslavian Radio-Television will operate as a web portal and a radio, whose launch of a TV programme is planned for the end of November. A group of young and ambitious people from six former Yugoslavian republics have decided to resurrect the Yugoslavian Radio-Television. The idea came from Benjamin Hasanic from Maglaj via Facebook. So far, the project has brought together around 50 volunteers from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Slovenia, Kosovo and Croatia. Experimental TV programme has already begun and it is being broadcast 24 hours a day. It is available to everyone at the address: livestream.com/jugoslovenskatelevizija.

(Akter, 27.08.2012)

TV Timocka from Zajecar has changed its name to TV Best. Aiming to expand its regional reach, TV Best will extend its coverage via KDS operational network and the APTV system to Belgrade, Novi Sad and 20 other cities, it has been announced by the media company.

(Kurir, 28.08.2012)

Issue No. 34

July 20 - August 3, 2012

- 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

The Media News Bulletin is edited by Marin and Goran Cetinic who can be contacted at goran.cetinic@gmail.com

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.

This news bulletin is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and IREX. The contents of this bulletin are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, IREX or the United States Government.

