

Issue No. 39

September 29 - October 12, 2012

Content

Media Environment

DS to form a legal team for protection from media persecution – European Commission makes negative assessment of the media sector in EU candidate countries – 36th ANEM Monitoring Report is published – Cvejic: Serbian journalists need courage – NUNS creates new database of consequences of attacks on journalists – The Government does not have a page on social networks – Nikolic's advisor, Jasmina Mitrovic, to represent the state in the Assembly of Shareholders of *Politika a.d.* – UNS proposes new legal framework for financing of RTS – EU is opposed to financing of public service broadcasters from the national budget – Croatia has a good model of payment of TV fee – Sports programme on RTS is unsatisfactory – Nikolic would remove Tijanac from position if he was the prime minister – Tijanac: President Nikolic's words prove that he is a true statesman – Salaries of RTS employees are late for months – RTV needs a new building – *Kurir*: RTS spends too much money on hairdressers – TV B92 journalist and her family are brutally beaten – Jankovic says that the police report is falsified to protect the attackers, one of whom is a police inspector – Journalist demands state protection – Internal control of the police investigates the case but the inspector is not suspended – Director and editor-in-chief of *Nas Glas* is arrested for bribery – SNS warns the media – DS warns the media – Expert changes his testimony in the lawsuit initiated by journalist – TV Pink journalist finds all four tires on his car slashed – "Journalists are an endangered species in Serbia" – Serbia has the largest number of protected individuals, including 4 media professionals – TV Kanal 9 from Novi Sad submits a complaint to the Court because of violation of rights and the freedom of the media in Serbia – Dulic sues *Informer* – The police punish inspectors who beat the editor of NIN – Dacic says that he has no influence on any media outlet – Acting editors of *Magyar Szó* are appointed as regular editors despite criticism from some journalists

Professionalism in the Media

Commissioner Sabic praises journalists – Tweets gain importance as a source of information in sensitive situations – "The Insider" exposes smuggling channels in Kosovo – Zoran Radoman receives Award for Advancement of Transparency – UNICEF announces a public contest – Goranka Matic organizes art exhibition – Training for journalists on implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Serbia – Autumn Radio Days on Palic – Journalists from Serbia and Kosovo meet in Pristina – ABC: *Vecernje Novosti* still has the largest number of readers – Radio B92 is the second most-listened station – Misa Brkic is the new editor-in-chief of *Press* – Misa Stojanovic is the new editor-in-chief of *Sport* – *Sandzak Danas* publishes 300th issue – Weekly magazine *Nas Glas* publishes 3000th issue – Srdjan Radulovic passes away

Media Economy

Weekly magazine *Nova Slobodna Rec* from Vranje ceases publication – BIRN: Only 2 municipalities finance solely state-owned media – Tadic prompted "our nationals" to buy *Politika* – *Informer* and *Press* ask Tadic questions – Business premises of the newspaper *Suboticke Novine* gets sold – Small shareholders of *Politika* write a letter to the Government – The concept of regional public service broadcasters is discussed in Nis – The president of the National Parliament wants to know who is the owner of *Press* – New minister has no objections to foreign ownership over the media

Media Institutions & Activities

NUNS again calls on journalists to adhere to professional standards – UNS demands urgent investigation of attacks on journalists – Strike on TV Mozaik is still ongoing – RRA organizes a meeting with regulatory agencies from the region – RRA invites nominations for members of the programme board of the Republic Broadcasting Agency – SEEMO demands investigation of latest attacks on journalists

Media Innovations

NUNS organizes the project "The Elderly in the Media" – NIN publishes a new special supplement on culture – Science TV is launched in Serbia – Editorial team of Index 202 is formed again – TV Fox to be launched in Serbia on 15 October – Martinoli on visualization of radio

The media situation in Serbia

The Democratic Party (DS) announced today that it would form a legal and media team which would respond to "the persecution of the members of DS". Members of the team will talk to the media tomorrow and announce their future activities, says the press statement.

(Fonet, NUNS, 11.10.2012)

Opinions about the current media situation in Serbia

The European Commission says that the countries that have begun the process of joining EU are characterized by political interference, economic pressure and insufficient protection of journalist. For this reason, the Commission intends to organize another Speak Up conference in the first half of 2013. The first conference was held in May of 2011.

(B92, Beta, NUNS, NDNV, 05.10.2012)

The 36th ANEM Monitoring Report, prepared in cooperation with the expert team of the legal office Zivkovic & Samardzic, is now available at the ANEM website on the web page dedicated to [Monitoring of the Media Scene](#).

(MC, 08.10.2012)

Serbian journalists are threatened by various powerful groups, says the editor-in-chief of the News Agency Beta, Ivan Cvejic. He is of the opinion that journalists should exhibit courage.

(RTV, UNS, NUNS, 28.09.2012)

Democracy and independent judiciary are not possible without courageous, responsible and active journalism, says the European Parliament Rapporteur for Serbia Jelko Kacin. "This is a longstanding problem in Serbia. I have been following this issue mostly in the media, and I know which eight media outlets I express the opinions and priorities of which political parties", says Kacin.

(Tanjug, B92, UNS, NUNS, 28.09.2012)

Journalists Vladimir Mitric has suffered serious physical injuries due to his professional work. However, despite the 24-hour protection, he is still receiving threats from criminals, even from those that are imprisoned. "The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has begun working on an integrated database that would contain information about attacks on journalists, including about events that followed such attacks. Preliminary information shows that legal proceedings and verdicts in such cases are very problematic", says Vukasin Obradovic, the president of NUNS.

(Deutsche Welle, NDNV, 01.10.2012)

The state and the media

The Government of Serbia has not yet established official presence on social networks. The head of the Government's Office for Cooperation with the Media, Milivoje Mihajlovic, said to the daily newspaper *Danas* that this form of communication is not planned. Only the sectors of defense, finance, economy and justice have their official Facebook and Twitter pages.

(B92, Danas, NUNS, 04.10.2012)

Jasmina Mitrovic-Maric, an advisor to the President of the Republic Tomislav Nikolic, was appointed yesterday as the representative of the state in the Assembly of Stockholders of "Politika a.d."

(Politika, UNS, NUNS, 05.10.2012)

Public service broadcasters

The TV fee paid by citizens and used for financing of the public service broadcaster has been stipulated by the Law on Broadcasting since 2002, but many people still perceive this obligation as optional. This kind of attitude towards the law and the increasingly difficult financial position of citizens have resulted in the rate of payment of the TV fee by citizens of only 30 percent, which means that only 50 million euros is paid to the public service broadcaster in this way. Nino Brajovic, the general secretary of the Journalists' Association of Serbia, says that it is necessary to modify the law in order to improve the

inefficient financing of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS).

(Politika, UNS, 28.09.2012)

Lawyer Slobodan Kremenjak explains that each of the deputies in the parliament, the Government, as well as voters under certain conditions, have the right to propose a law that would change the system of payment of TV fee.

(Politika, UNS, 28.09.2012)

In order to ensure the right to objective information and independence of public service broadcasters, the European Union is opposed to their financing by the government and recommends the TV fee system to be used. However, the Parliament of Finland decided in June of this year to change the financing system used in the country. As of 1 January 2013, the public service broadcaster of Finland should be financed by the national budget. In fact, instead of the TV fee, charges will be collected by the Tax Administration and transferred to the national broadcaster. The general director of the public service broadcaster of Belgium in French language, Jean Paul Phillipe, recently said that the TV fee system has a huge advantage in comparison with the financing from the national budget since the Government cannot withhold the money "because it does not like the reporting of the public service broadcaster". In February of this year, the Council of Ministers of the EU adopted a declaration calling on the EU member countries to improve the legislation pertaining to the functioning of public service broadcasters, taking into account the new technological environment and the current financial situation.

(Danas – Weekend Edition, UNS, 29.09.2012)

The system of payment of TV fee together with electricity bills has failed and the government will have to intervene, said the minister of culture and the media, Bratislav Petkovic. The primary goal is to ensure the independence of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) and it has to be financed via TV fee, Petkovic pointed out and added that Croatian model, which had achieved the payment rate of 98 percent, was a good example that should be followed.

(RTS, UNS, NUNS, 05.10.2012)

Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), which is a public service broadcaster, is not offering a rich sports programme in this season. Most of the attractive content has been taken by commercial stations. Serbian sports fans are forced to conclude multi-year contracts with cable providers in order to watch the best content.

(Danas, UNS, 02.10.2012)

The president of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolic, while appearing in the programme "The Impression of the Week" broadcast on TV B92, said that Aleksandar Tijanac should not be the director of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) and that he would remove him from his position if he were the prime minister. "Everyone whom Tijanac had helped to remain in power is now gone, but he is still here", said the president of Serbia.

(B92, NUNS, UNS, 08.10.2012)

I do not dare to comment on the statement made by the president of the country, said the director of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) to the daily newspaper *Blic*, which asked him to comment on Nikolic's words. The president of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolic, previously said that he would remove Tijanac from the position of the director of the public service broadcaster if he was the prime minister.

(Blic, Press, UNS, 09.10.2012)

Aleksandar Tijanac, the director of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), believes that Tomislav Nikolic did not have bad intentions when he said he would dismiss that Tijanac from his job if he were the prime minister. Tijanac is of the opinion that the question asked by the author of the programme, Olivera Beckovic, was not appropriately formulated. "The words of President Nikolic prove that he is a true statesman", said Tijanac.

(Alo, NUNS, 09.10.2012)

The public service broadcaster of Serbia, which is the largest media company in the region, has not paid salaries to its contributors for months, reports the web portal *Telegraf*. The contributors have received salaries up to and including the month of April. Each of them is owed around 300,000 dinars on average. (www.telegraf.rs , UNS, NUNS, 09.10.2012)

Radio-Television Vojvodina (RTV) does not have its own building since 1999, when the station's old building was destroyed in NATO bombardment. The government should find a solution to this problem as soon as possible, said in Novi Sad the secretary for information of the Province of Vojvodina, Slavisa Grujic, and the general director of RTV, Sinisa Isakov. Grujic

and Isakov pointed out that the system of payment of TV fee for RTV was inadequate, and that the obsolete technical equipment constituted another problem. Sinisa Isakov said that the average age of employees in the station was above 46, that its more young people should be employed, and that those who are eligible for retirement should be allowed to retire while receiving legally mandated financial aid. Slavisa Grujic noted that it was especially important to digitalize and adequately preserve the RTV archive because it constituted a cultural heritage that must not be neglected or forgotten. He was of the opinion that it was evident that the news and other programmes of RTV had significantly improved.
(Danas, UNS, NUNS, 11.10.2012)

Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) intended to spend three million dinars for hairdressing services, which means that RTS employees would be able to afford around 6,000 hairdos at the price of 500 dinars each, reports the daily newspaper *Kurir*. At the same time, salaries of RTS programme contributors are five months late. *Kurir* asked RTS whether the acquired goods and services could have been purchased cheaper, allowing the payment of late salaries to its employees. RTS said that they would respond, but *Kurir* has not received any response until the publication of today's issue of the newspaper.
(Kurir, UNS, NUNS, 11.10.2012)

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

The family of B92 journalist Tanja Jankovic was brutally beaten last Saturday at the wedding of their cousin by members of the police of the city of Vranje, reports the daily newspaper *Alo!*. Using her sources, Tanja Jankovic managed to acquire the police report, which is full of illogical claims. She filed a complaint, claiming that the report was forged, while the minister of police requested internal investigation. "I demand that the government support me and my family because we are feeling threatened", said Tanja Jankovic.
(Alo!, 27.09.2012)

TV B92 journalist Tanja Jankovic says that she and members of her family were attacked by a group of people with a criminal background under orders given by the inspector of the Vranje police, Nenad Jovanovic, reports the daily newspaper *Informer*. Their obvious intention to lynch the family was thwarted by the minister of police himself, Ivica Dacic, who had received a call for help over the phone from the journalist around midnight. The special police unit arrived after 10 minutes, asked to see the journalist's ID, and prevented her from calling the ambulance. Since the appointment of Sladjan Velinovic as the head of the Vranje police department, the city has been in a state of anarchy and ruled by criminal groups under his control. Since 2011, 10 cars, three restaurants, one building under construction, a discotheque and the Theatre of Vranje have been set on fire. TV B92 was the first to report on responsibility of the head of the police. However, Velinovic and inspector Jovanovic have not even been questioned, much less suspended from work.
(Informer, 27.09.2012)

The spokesman of the Vranje police department, Dragan Stosic, said that several individuals had taken part in the fighting, among them the inspector Nenad J. He confirmed that misdemeanor charges had been filed against Nenad J. and three other individuals. "Nenad J. is an employee of the Belgrade police department. I don't know whether he has been suspended or what his current employment status is. Regarding the police report, I have no information about that and I cannot offer any comment".
(Press, 27.09.2012, Vecernje novosti, 28.09.2012)

Sources from the police department praise the inspector accused by the journalist of brutally beating her sister and father. There are rumors that the head of the city police department has a grudge against Jankovic, which is the cause of the whole affair.
(Vecernje novosti – Serbia, 29.09.2012)

TV B92 Tanja Jankovic said to the daily newspaper *Kurir* that she was fearing for her and her family members' lives and that she demanded protection from the government. The internal control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia is investigating the case because of the false police report about the incident. Protector of Citizens Sasa Jankovic has been informed about the case at the request of Tanja Jankovic.
(Kurir, 30.09.2012)

"Despite the report by the internal control which confirms that the police report filed by the Vranje police department is incomplete and illogical, the inspector who beat us and the head of the department who signed the report are still holding their positions. We are going to meet with OSCE representatives and demand their help and protection", said Jankovic. (Kurir, 03.10.2012)

Goro Redzic, the director and editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine *Nas Glas* and a former president of the Assembly of the City of Smederevo, was arrested under suspicion of demanding bribe in the amount of 50,000 dinars with regard to renting of business premises in the center of the city. Apart from auditing the business operations in the last five years, the police is also investigating the process of privatization of the company *NIDOO Nas Glas*. (Blic, 27.09.2012, Press, 28.09.2012)

Sources from the magazine *Nas Glas*, whose employees yesterday celebrated the publication of the 3000th issue of the magazine, claim that no crime had been committed and that their director was supposed to collect two monthly rents owed to the company by the former tenants. (Press, 27.09.2012)

The director and editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine *Nas Glas*, Gora Redzic, who was arrested under suspicion of receiving bribe for illegal renting of business premises owned by the company, has been held in custody. (Vecernje novosti – Serbia, 29.09.2012)

The Serbian Progressive Party has issued a press statement calling on the media to "stop making up news and speculating about the personnel policy" of the party. (Danas, 27.09.2012)

The Democratic Party (DS) demanded yesterday an immediate response from independent bodies in accordance with demands of deputies from the European Parliament. DS said that the EP had requested that the media not be abused to announce arrests, make verdicts and destroy the public reputation of people who had not been charged with or convicted of any crime. (Vecernje novosti, 29.09.2012)

I have submitted a complaint to the Constitutional Court of Serbia because the interest group of the former president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) has prevented me from exercising my right to the freedom of expression, freedom of speech, freedom of criticism, as well as the freedom of opinion, conscience and beliefs, both in the pages of *Politika* and court sessions, says an open letter written by Petar Stojanovic, a former journalist with *Politika* and NIN. (Politika, 29.09.2012)

A scandal occurred in the Primary Court of Loznica during the court session in the lawsuit initiated by journalist Vladimir Mitric against former police officer L. T., reports the daily newspaper *Novosti*. L. T. had previously been sentenced to one year of prison for his attack on the journalist. On 12 September 2005, one of the two court experts tried to withdraw a part of his written testimony without consulting his colleague. The part in question is related precisely to the increase in damages demanded by lawyer Dusan Vlastic, the legal representative of the journalist. (Vecernje novosti – Serbia, 29.09.2012)

During the night between Friday and Saturday, unidentified perpetrators cut all the tires on the car owned by the longtime TV Pink journalist, Mladen Mijatovic. Mijatovic has been reporting on crime for the last 13 years. He has been physically attacked several times, but the police has been able to quickly find and arrest the attackers. He has also often received anonymous threats. (Alo!, Kurir, UNS, 30.09.2012, Tanjug, Dnevnik, Informer, Kurir, Press, 01.10.2012, Informer, 02.10.2012)

An editorial published by the daily newspaper *Kurir* says: "Journalists are an endangered species in Serbia and may soon become extinct. Especially the good ones. Some of them have already abandoned the rest of us, like the colleague Srdjan Radulovic, while others have targets on their backs. Journalist Tanja Jankovic and her family were beaten recently in Vranje. All tires were cut on a car of our colleague from TV Pink, Mladen Mijatovic. In the not-so-distant past, many journalists were killed or attacked with bombs... Many journalists do not live until retirement – some of them because of bullets, some of them because of stress. Of course, reduced service years for retirement are out of the question. However, it goes without

saying that the government should protect journalists from criminals, including those from political circles or the police... that it should protect journalists from being killed with impunity, and that it should finally arrest and punish someone for attacking media employees. This is why we pay them. They even enjoy the reduced service years for retirement."

(Kurir, NUNS, 01.10.2012)

Serbia is the regional leader with regard to the number of protected individuals, the number of members of the police and the army protecting threatened individuals and objects, and the expenses incurred by the protection provided by the state. Two female journalists are under protection because they are being threatened by mobsters. State protection has also been provided to the director of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), Aleksandar Tijanac, and the director of TV B92, Veran Matic.

(Press, 01.10.2012)

TV Kanal 9 from Novi Sad has filed a complaint to the Court in Strasbourg because of violation of rights and freedom of the media in Serbia due to contradictory laws and the lack of the political will to withdraw the state from media ownership. The station filed the complaint because the authorities of the Republic of Serbia had decided that this issue was not within their area of competence, while the Constitutional Court had rejected to review the case. TV Kanal 9 believes that fundamental human rights and freedoms will continue to be threatened unless the Republic of Serbia harmonizes its broadcasting laws in a manner which would ensure equal legal and economic position of all media outlets. The station's press statement also describes several reasons against state ownership over the media, among them the closure of 35 regional electronic media outlets because of their inability to regularly pay broadcasting fees – which the media of local and regional communities are not required to pay. TV Kanal 9 warns that if this trend continues, most of the private regional electronic media outlets will close down, which will result in direct control of the state over information.

(NDNV, UNS, 01.10.2012, NUNS, 02.10.2012)

The former minister of ecology, Oliver Dulic, sued the daily newspaper *Informer*, its editor-in-chief, Dragan J. Vucicevic, and the publisher, the company *Insajder Tim*, because of the articles about the misappropriation of money from the Environmental Protection Fund. "As I promised, I will do the same with regard to each media outlet whose reporting is based on untruths and so-called unnamed sources that threaten my security and dignity", said Dulic.

(Informer, NUNS, UNS, 02.10.2012)

The director of the police, Milorad Veljovic, has informed the editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine NIN, Nebojsa Spaic, that the case of arrest of the editor of NIN, Vladimir Piacun, in front of the headquarters of the magazine on 24 August of this year "has been investigated" and that it has been established that there the police officers committed "mistakes".

"Appropriate measures have been taken against the two police officers in accordance with the law", says Veljovic's notice to Spaic.

(Alo!, Blic, NUNS, UNS, 09.10.2012)

The prime minister of Serbia, Ivica Dacic, said yesterday that the Government of Serbia was not conducting any persecution of political opponents, that he has no influence in any media outlet in Serbia, and that he was not leading any kind of media campaign against anyone.

(Tanjug, Pregled, 09.10.2012)

The minority media

The National Council of Hungarians appointed yesterday Marta Varja as the editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *Magyar Szo*. For the last 15 months, she has been the acting editor-in-chief of the newspaper. At the same time, economist Rozalija Ekres was appointed as the director of the newspaper. Viktor Tomek and Edit Laslo were appointed as the editor-in-chief and the director, respectively, of the weekly magazine *Het Nap*. They had previously worked as the acting editor-in-chief and the acting director of the magazine. Representatives of the opposition political parties in the National Council of Hungarians criticized the reporting of *Magyar Szo* and the Hungarian press in Vojvodina in the previous period, pointing out that "today, the Hungarian press has been transformed into the mouthpiece of political parties" and that "*Magyar Szo* does not present any opposing viewpoints from the political scene", in the words of Laslo Rac Sabo.

(Magyar Szo, NDNV, 28.09.2012)

Professional standards

The commissioner for information of public importance, Rodoljub Sabic, said that journalists were increasingly using their right to access information of public importance in a more successful manner, but that discrimination was obviously evident because certain media outlets were enjoying special treatment by certain political structures and publishing exclusive information that was unavailable to other media outlets.

(Beta, Politika, 27.09.2012)

Numerous journalists waiting for the outcome of the meeting of the Democratic Party leadership behind closed doors, meanwhile relying on tweets of the politicians participating in the meeting – this is an example of the increasing popularity of the Twitter social network. "The advantage of Twitter in comparison with Facebook lies in its short form and the limited number of characters – it is the fastest news channel today and it should be used for precisely such a purpose. Politicians have realized that 140-character tweets can replace press statements and questioning by journalists, especially when it comes to sensitive issues. For this reason, Twitter has become a serious competition to agency journalism", says culturologist Maja Vukadinovic.

(Politika, 30.09.2012)

Journalists with "The Insider" have discovered during several months of research that alternative roads leading from Serbia to Kosovo were transformed into smuggling channels that are still active.

(Blic, 02.10.2012)

Awards, training courses and competitions

The UNICEF Office in Serbia has announced a public contest for the annual award for ethical and professional media reporting on violence against and among children, with a special emphasis on the school violence. The deadline for submission of applications is 5 November 2012. Awards will be presented on 20 November 2012.

(MC, 28.09.2012)

The secretary of finance of the Province of Vojvodina, Zoran Radoman, is the recipient of the Award for Advancement of the Right to Free Access to Information of Public Importance and Transparency in Work.

(Dnevnik, 29.09.2012)

The exhibition of photographs "Time Travelers Obsessed With Pictures" by Goranka Matic begins today in the Gallery Artget. The artist has published its photographs in Liberation and leading magazines and newspapers in the territory of former Yugoslavia: *Dzuboks*, *Start*, *Svijet*, *Polet*, *Omladinske Novine*, *Duga*, *Politika*, *Delo*. She has worked as the editor of photography in the weekly magazine *Vreme* and the daily newspaper *Politika*, while today she is the editor of photography with Radio-Television Serbia (RTS). The exhibition will be open until 24 October.

(Tanjug, Pregled, UNS, 05.10.2012)

"Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Serbia – Training for Journalists" will take place between 16 October and 18 October, 2012 in the Center for Business and Technology Development of Vojvodina (CePTOR) located in the municipality of Beocin. The seminar is intended for journalists who wish to participate in the process of implementation of environmental regulations in Serbia and to contribute to investigative journalism in the field of environmental protection.

(NDNV, 04.10.2012)

Autumn Radio Days will take place on 10-12 November in the Elite Palic Hotel located in Palic. The event is organized by RAB Serbia (founders: Radio 021, Radio Tri, Radio NAXI and Radio S).

(RAB Newsletter, 08.10.2012)

Media visits

Reporting of the media in Serbia and in Kosovo about the "technical negotiations" between Belgrade and Pristina is mostly protocolary. For this reason, citizens are not well informed about the dialog and implementation of its results – this is one of the conclusions of the discussion between more than 20 journalists from Serbia and Kosovo organized on 28-29 September

in Pristina as a part of the project "Journalists Can Do It" of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights. Journalists from Serbia visited the BIRN editorial team in Pristina on 28 September and talked to its executive director, Jeta Xharra, and the director of news of TV Kohavision, Adriatik Kelmendi. They also met with the editor of the programme for minorities of Radio-Television Kosovo, Rabisha Muhaxhiri, as well as with the editor-in-chief of the magazine and portal Kosovo 2.0, Besa Luci. Journalists from Kosovo will visit Belgrad in October as guests of the Youth Initiative.

(Youth Initiative, NUNS, 02.10.2012)

The media audience

The independent daily newspaper *Informer* has achieved the fastest growth of sales in Serbia, shows the latest data from ABC Audit, the authorized agency for auditing of the print media. The number of sold copies of *Informer* jumped from 26,530 in May to 63,934 in August of this year. According to the report, the daily newspaper with the largest circulation in Serbia is *Vecernje Novosti* with 119,225 sold copies in August. When it comes to magazines, the first two positions are still held by culinary magazines *Posalji Recept* ("Send a Recipe") with 233,991 sold copies and *Torte i Kolaci* ("Cakes and Cookies") with 166,845 sold copies per issue. The largest increase of sales among magazines was achieved by *Skandal*, which sold 112,161 copies in August – three times more than in February.

(Informer, UNS, 05.10.2012)

Radio B92 holds the second position among radio stations with the largest number of listeners in Serbia and the third position in the city of Belgrade, shows the latest research of ratings of radio stations in the country. Radio B92 launched its new autumn programme schedule on 3 September and only four weeks later the results are already visible. The station has achieved the best position in two years and for the first time since 2010 has more listeners than Radio Belgrade 1. The station expects further growth in the following months.

(RTV B92, NUNS, 11.10.2012)

Media transfers

Misa Brkic is the new editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *Press*. The new editor has 36 years of professional experience in journalism, especially in reporting on economic processes and the transition in former Yugoslavia, Serbia and the South East Europe region. He has worked as an editor or journalist for daily newspapers and magazines *Vecernje Novosti*, *Borba*, *Glas Javnosti*, *Vreme*, *Ekonomist*, *Politika* and *Novi Magazin*; as the editor-in-chief of *Nasa Borba*; and as the correspondent of the Voice of America from Belgrade.

(Beta, NDNV, Press, E-kapija, UNS, 09.10.2012)

As of today, Miodrag Misa Stojanovic, a longtime journalist and editor in the company *Novosti*, is the new editor-in-chief of the magazine *Sport*. He has received the "Zlatno Pero" ("Golden Quill") Award and the Award for Exclusive News given by the Association of Sport Journalists of Belgrade, as well as the annual award of *Novosti* for his journalistic and editorial work.

(Vecernje Novosti, UNS, 10.10.2012)

Anniversaries

The 300th issue of the special supplement *Sandzak Danas*, which is published each Friday in the daily newspaper *Danas*, appeared today. For more than six years, correspondents from seven cities – Novi Pazar, Sjenica, Nova Varos, Prijepolje, Priboja, Pljevlje and Bijelo Polje – and numerous contributors have authored numerous articles and color photographs dedicated to the most topical issues in their local communities. (Danas, 28.09.2012)

The weekly magazine *Nas Glas* celebrated its 3000th issue on Wednesday. The newspaper from Smederevo has been appearing on newsstands without interruption since 12 March 1953, continuing a tradition that began in 1875, when the first issue of the magazine *Narodna Volja* was published.

(Blic – Serbia, 27.09.2012)

In Memoriam

Srdjan Radulovic passed away yesterday at the age of 55 after a long and difficult illness. He was born in 1957 and graduated in journalism from the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade. He worked as a journalist and editor in several daily and weekly newspapers –*Slobodna Dalmacija*, *Borba*, *NIN*, *Demokratija*, *Evropa*, *Blic*... After working as the deputy editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *Blic*, he became the editor-in-chief of NIN.

(Blic, E-novine, UNS, NUNS, 29.09.2012, Alo!, Kurir, Politika, 30.09.2012, Alo!, 24 sata, Danas, Blic, Informer, Politika, 01.10.2012, Blic, Alo!, Danas, 02.10.2012, Danas, 03.10.2012)

Media business operations

A local weekly magazine in the city of Vranje, *Nova Slobodna Rec*, will cease publication due to the lack of money for printing. The last, 91th, issue appeared on newsstands on 13 July, while the first issue of the magazine was published on 24 September 2010.

(Blic – Serbia, NUNS, 02.10.2012)

Privatization and the state-owned media

The report on financing of the media from budgets of local self-governments, issued by the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), shows that the city of Novi Pazar and the municipality of Raska are the only local self-governments in Serbia that are financing from their budgets only the media outlets that they founded. All other self-governments financially also support private media outlets which are not under their direct control: Uzice finances eight local and regional media outlets, while Valjevo, Krusevac and Prijepolje finance seven, four and four media outlets, respectively.

(Blic – Serbia, Vecernje Novosti, UNS, NUNS, 28.09.2012)

The president of the Democratic Party, Boris Tadic, told Radio Fokus that he had prompted "some of our nationals" to buy *Politika* and *Novosti*, believing that it would be better if those media outlets remained domestically owned.

(Dnevnik, Politika, NUNS, Novosti, E-kapija, UNS, 01.10.2012)

"The former president now flatly admits that he had "prompted some of our nationals" to buy *Politika* and *Novosti*, now that we already know that! Why has he kept quiet until now?", says the daily newspaper *Press*.

(Press, 02.10.2012)

Boris Tadic has not explained why the overtake of the newspapers was attempted in a covert and utterly suspicious manner, via fictitious companies and anonymous owners, says the daily newspaper *Informer*. At the same time, Tadic has failed to explain how and under whose orders loans amounting to millions were been provided by state-owned banks for the purchase of *Politika* and *Novosti*. Nemanja Nenadic from Transparency Serbia says that the state and government officials are in no way allowed to interfere with ownership over media outlets. "Politicians must not become involved in such issues. On the other side, if something should be domestically-owned, in that case it should be nationalized, be it a media outlet, a company or a piece of land".

(Informer, UNS, NUNS, 01.10.2012)

A local newspaper, *Suboticke Novine*, has lost its business premises that were bought at the yesterday's auction held in the Primary Court of Subotica by the company "Pedja Komerc".

(Politika, 27.09. 2012, Danas, e-novine, NDNV, 28.09.2012)

Representatives of small shareholders of *Politika* published yesterday an open letter to the Government of Serbia and the new co-owner of the company *Politika Novine i Magazini*, in which they expressed their expectation that the change in ownership would create conditions for more successful business operations.

(Politika, Blic, NUNS, UNS, 05.10.2012)

The public discussion about the new set of media laws continued at the conference organized at the initiative of TV Niska (NTV), among them the laws on public information, broadcasting, the news agency Tanjug and public service broadcasters. Several journalistic associations, especially the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) are opposed to formation of regional public service broadcasters. The concept of regional public service broadcasters is supported by the ruling political parties United Regions of Serbia (URS) and the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) and some of the representatives of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), one of which is the minister of culture, Mr. Petkovic. The editor-in-chief of the web portal *Juzne Vesti*, Predrag Blagojevic, denied the claims that expenditure of money in the media founded by local self-governments was more transparent than in private media outlets and that such media is less exposed to political pressure.

(Danas, UNS, NUNS, 08.10.2012)

The president of the National Parliament of Serbia and a member of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), Nebojsa Stefanovic, said yesterday, during the parliamentary debate about the revoking of the immunity of deputy Oliver Dulic, that he was not interested who the owner of the newspaper *Press* was and that the newspaper had been frequently and blatantly interfering with judicial proceedings. *Press* is making arbitrary statements about someone's guilt or innocence and is trying to influence the public opinion, prosecutors and courts, said Stefanovic.

(Kurir, NUNS, UNS, 09.10.2012)

The minister of the media said that "if foreign ownership of the media was transparent and if it would improve the position of journalists and the freedom of the press, there is no reason why a foreign company should not buy a media outlet. The state should withdraw from ownership of the news agency Tanjug, Radio Yugoslavia, *Jugoslovenski Pregled* and *Panorama*.

(RTS, UNS, NUNS, 05.10.2012)

Other news

The Media Center Nis has invited all companies and employers from the region of Nis to participate in a mentoring program that would ensure easier employment of youth without parents. The project is financially supported by the European Commission and is implemented in Serbia by the Media Center Nis in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the organization "1000 Young Leaders", the Metropolitan University, Media Center Belgrade and the National Employment Agency.

(Pregled, 01.10.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)

In its response to the protest of journalists from the county of Toplice, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) called on all journalists to adhere to professional standards and ethical norms in their work and interpersonal communication. Six journalists that work in the municipalities of Prokuplje, Kursumlija and Blace sent to journalistic associations a complaint against the news agency Tanjug because of "frequent incorrect and unverified news published by the news agency Tanjug" which are "half-truths" or "completely false news". The editorial team of Tanjug rejected the criticism, describing the complaint as a "campaign against the correspondent of Tanjug from Kursumlija". NUNS reminds that journalists and the media are not allowed to disregard the fundamental professional rules – the full, timely and truthful information – to speed and exclusivity. Before the publication of new information, journalists are required to consult at least two independent sources."

(NUNS 09.10.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) demands immediate investigation of anonymous threats against and the damaging of the car of the renowned journalist of TV Pink, Mladen Mijatovic. UNS also demands investigation of the last week's serious incident in Vranje which has resulted in serious injuries of members of the family of RTV B92 journalist Tanja Jankovic, and which involved a member of the Vranje police department, N. J.

(UNS, 01.10.2012, Beta, Danas, 02.10.2012)

Journalistic trade unions

The Trade Union "Independence" ("*Nezavisnost*") has informed the public that the strike that began on 3 September is still ongoing. Namely, the Managing Board of TV Mozaik still refuses to sign any agreement that would end the strike. The Striking Board has initiated communication with the management, but it has not reached the level of negotiations. Employees of TV Mozaik have not received their late salaries yet.

(Trade Union "*Nezavisnost*" – Mozaik TV, UNS, 08.10.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)

The second meeting of regulatory agencies from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia was held at the initiative of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA). The meeting took place under the title "Regulation of Cable Broadcasting: Experience and Prospects". Participants of the meeting agreed that protection of copyright and related rights is a joint obligation of all regulatory agencies in the region and that such a form of cooperation should become a regular practice.

(RRA, 28.09.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) has published an invitation for nomination of candidates for members of the Programme Board of the Republic Broadcasting Agency.

(RRA, 03.10.2012)

The South East European Media Organization (SEEMO)

SEEMO urges Serbian police to investigate the latest attacks against journalists, find the perpetrators and bring them to justice. On 29 September 2012, Mladen Mijatovic, a reporter specialised in covering crime for the Belgrade-based TV broadcaster TV Pink found all four of his car tires slashed. Mijatovic had previously received verbal threats and had been physically assaulted. On 22 September 2012, a wedding in Vranje, Tanja Jankovic, a journalist with the Belgrade-based broadcaster TV B92, and her family family suffered concussions and other injuries.

(SEEMO, 03.10.2012)

Media-related news

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) calls all journalists, both veterans and inexperienced alike, to actively participate in the project "The Elderly in the Media". The project is a part of the European Year of Active Aging and Solidarity Between Generations and is aimed at increasing the public awareness of the position of the elderly and their contribution to the society.

(NUNS, 09.10.2012)

A new special supplement of the NIN magazine, NIN Culture, was presented yesterday in the hall of the company Ringier Axel Springer. The Supplement will be published monthly as of 11 October. The editor of the cultural section of NIN, Dragan Jovicevic, said that the magazine had always offered a different approach to culture and that it would continue to do so.

(Blic, UNS, NUNS, 10. 10. 2012)

The Knowledge Committee of Serbia, which brings together young Serbian experts, scientists and artists, has founded the Serbian Science Television (SNT) which will broadcast, apart from its own programmes, the content received as donation from foreign and domestic prestigious universities, institutes and research centers. The station currently broadcasts an experimental programme within the IPTV cable system of Telecom Serbia and the web package "Sve na klik".

(Danas, NUNS, 24 sata, UNS, Politika, Press, 28.09.2012)

After more than a decade-long hiatus, the editorial team of Index 202 has been formed again. Index 202 was a student programme within Radio Belgrade 202 and it will be aired again each workday between 16.15 and 17.00.

(Danas, UNS, NUNS, 01.10.2012)

TV Fox will begin broadcasting programme in Serbia on 15 October. It will primarily broadcast the latest Hollywood series. Fox International Channels has announced that the channel will be available to viewers in Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro and Albania.

(Blic, 02.10.2012)

Ana Martinoli says to the RAB Newsletter: "Converging of the traditional radio and the new media channels and platforms has brought to the forefront the issue of visualization of radio with regard to sales strategy and radio content production. Not every visualization of radio is desirable or leading to a positive result. Visualization of radio entails all forms, from the simplest conveying of images via web cams to radio features, documentary audio films illustrated by pictures or videos. Visualization of radio should fulfill the expectation of the public to see some of the things made for the radio programme and which should enrich the audio experience and slightly demystify and improve the sound picture."

(RAB Newsletter, 08.10.2012)

Issue No. 39

September 29 - October 12, 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.

