



# MEDIA NEWS BULLETIN

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## Media Innovations

Online magazine *Juzne Vesti* launches a portal that guarantees anonymity to corruption whistleblowers – New radio station: Klik FM – BBC offers personalized media content – Al Jazeera Balkans begins airing programme on 11 November 2011

### Assessments of the current media situation in Serbia

Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, Miroljub Radojkovic, expects the Press Council to achieve results in regulation of the media scene in Serbia since its members are highly competent. The Press Council will improve the media scene in Serbia, but it will have difficulties eliminating the political scandals in the press, says Radojkovic. A professor from the Institute of Social Science, Jovanka Matic, is of the opinion that the Press Council is currently the only effective, quick and efficient means of regulating the content in the print media in the country.

(Danas, 31.10.2011)

Serbia had never had such a high level of freedom and democracy, said the Prime Minister of Serbia, Mirko Cvetkovic, at the opening of the South Eastern European Mediation Forum (SEEMF) in Belgrade. He said that censorship and pressure on the media were not being tolerated anymore, and emphasized that greater openness of the media proved that Serbia was advancing. In this sense, the Government adopted the Strategy of Development of the Public Information System Until 2016 based on standards and regulations accepted by democratic countries, said Cvetkovic.

(RTS, NUNS, 03.11.2011)

Participants of the Fifth Media Forum "Media Pluralism and Media Business in South, East and Central Europe" exchanged their opinions and shared their experiences related to survival of the media and advancement of the media scene in the digital age and amid challenges posed by the Internet. The discussion also centered around the relationship between private media outlets and public service broadcasters financed from the state budget. At the same time, most of the participants were of the opinion that journalism was dominated by tabloids.

(Pravda, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

The state is the only monopoly in the media scene in Serbia since it has sole ownership in around 100 media outlets and a share in certain number of other influential media outlets, said Goran Cetinic, an independent media consultant, at the South East Europe Media Forum. Out of 1052 officially registered media outlets, 862 are privately-owned, 90 are owned by the state, while non-governmental organizations own 50 media outlets. At the same time, national minorities, institutions and political parties own 38, nine and two media outlets, respectively. "What is characteristic for Serbia is a resistance against the foreign capital in the media", said Cetinic. Arne König, the president of the European Federation of Journalists, pointed out that today's media companies were mostly owned by large conglomerates that value profit above everything else, and that "many journalists suffer because of media owners' decisions".

(Danas, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

"I am highly skeptical about the possibility of survival of the Public Service Broadcaster in the following 10 years", warned the general director of Radio-Television Serbia, Aleksandar Tijanac. In his opinion, measured on the basis of available intelligence, knowledge and money, Serbia only has enough journalists to support one public service broadcaster, a weekly magazine, two daily newspapers and several radio stations. He said that nobody should expect the Public Service Broadcaster to operate successfully in a country without functional economy, health care or education system, and that "complaints voiced by public service broadcasters in Central and South Europe have become overwhelming".

(Kurir, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

Economy is a limiting factor for the media and it is most directly reflected in its poor content which affects the very essence of journalism – this is the conclusion reached by the participants of the panel entitled "The Media Struggle Against the Economic Crisis". "What is needed is significant investment aimed at achieving higher professionalism. The state should issue licenses only in accordance with clear criteria, since the media have a very significant role in the economic development of the country", said Petar Pucev, a media expert from Sofia. A representative of TV B92, Veran Matic, reminded that the struggle to attract advertisers and penetrate the market was a part of everyday

life for the new media, which are often in a disadvantageous position. The advertising market was still very limited, said Matic.

(Dnevnik, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

Participants of the South Eastern European Mediation Forum (SEEMF), held in Belgrade, concluded that the media was facing the financial crisis, political pressure and technological challenges and that their success was dependent on their ability to adapt to these challenges.

(RTV, NUNS, 03.11.2011)

The war crimes prosecutor, Vladimir Vukcevic, announced that a research on the responsibility of the media for war crimes would soon be presented to the public. Youth was also engaged in the project entitled "Justice and War Crimes". "The project on responsibility of the media for war crimes will be presented in the following month", said Vukcevic.

(NUNS, 31.10.2011, Pravda, Alo!, 01.11.2011)

"We are concerned about the media situation in Serbia, especially in a pre-election year, with the political pressure on the media becoming stronger and more prominent," said the president of the European Journalists Association, Paolo Magagnotti. He added that Serbia was in a situation that was more or less similar to all other countries in the Balkans.

(Danas, 05.11.2011)

According to unofficial media reports, a renowned journalists, editor and news host, Branka Nevistic, has left TV Prva because she was "prevented from reporting on current events in a professional manner". "This is what happens when you don't want to become a tool of political parties. Journalism in our country is a serious crisis and the dignity of journalists is facing increasing challenges. We journalists have a responsibility to resist pressure and work in the interest of the public and the truth", she said.

(www.pulsonline.rs, UNS, 09.11.2011)

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

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) announced their intention to carefully monitor the local media scene on the eve of the election campaign because of clear indications that certain political parties were exerting additional pressure on the media and their editorial policy. They demand that in all media outlets that are directly or indirectly managed by the state all the executives in senior positions be appointed only after consultations with members of media outlets' editorial offices, and that the state immediately begin withdrawing from the media scene in accordance with the Media Strategy.

(Fonet, 31.10.2011, Pravda, NUNS, 01.11.2011)

The state should not continue financing media companies; instead, it should finance the public interest, which is that citizens receive information in a timely and professional manner – this is the conclusion reached by the participants of the round table "The Media Strategy – Future Steps".

(Politika, Danas, UNS, 07.11.2011)

### **Public Service Broadcasters**

The general director of Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), Aleksandar Tijanic, said that the public service broadcaster needed around 100 million euros annually for everyday operations, while the currently available sum amounted to 75 million. He pointed out that the state collected 23-25 million euros in the form of fees, VAT and numerous taxes each year. Tijanic said that it was difficult to expect that the collection of the TV fee could exceed the current year's 37% in a country whose population faced poverty.

(Blic, 04.11.2011. Dnevnik, Alo, Pravda, 05.11.2011)

Radio-Television Serbia says that it has received around 17,000 applications in response to its public announcement

of a contest for one hundred professional positions aimed at young professionals. More than 9,000 candidates will take the test of general culture.

(Fonet, 07.11.2011)

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

The Section of Sport Journalists of the City of Nis publicly protested the fact that none of the media companies from Nis were informed about the visit of the representatives of the Football Association of Serbia.

(Juzne vesti 28.10.2011)

Serbian police arrested three senior executives of TV Raj from Pozarevac. They are suspected of attempting to defraud the insurance company "Delta Generali" of three million euros for allegedly stolen equipment. The investigation established that the equipment had never been acquired nor installed in the station.

(Blic, NUNS, 27.10.2011)

General Vlado Trifunovic will receive damages in the amount of 500,000 dinars from Politika daily newspaper instead of the previously ordered two million, decided the Court of Appeals. The newspaper will pay for damaging the honor and reputation of the general of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) during the nineties. "While deciding on the amount of damages, the Court of Appeals took into account the principle that the sum to be paid should not constitute an impermissible limitation of the freedom of the mass media. A larger amount would have constituted a limitation of the freedom of the press", says the Court's explanation.

(RTS, NUNS, 27.10.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) demands that the police immediately identify the individuals who set on fire the car of the director and editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine Akter, Tihomir Trisic. UNS also demands that the police take all necessary measures to ensure Trisic's safety.

(UNS, 27.10.2011)

Press statement issued by the magazine Akter points out that the investigative team of the police in Novi Sad and the city public prosecutor refused to immediately visit the scene of the crime. Trisic is of the opinion that this "attack on the Akter magazine and himself proves that journalists in today's Serbia have become clay pigeons". The Head of the Office for Special Assignments, Bosko Pilipovic, denied the accusations and said that the investigators had immediately arrived to the scene of the crime.

(Dnevnik, Pravda, NUNS, Vecernje Novosti, 28.10.2011)

Rightist organization NSP "Nasi" demanded that Radio Free Europe (RFE) remove from its web page the "incorrect map of Serbia shown without Kosovo and Metohija" and called on its supporters and citizens to ask the radio station to remove the map, although the map in fact denotes the area of coverage of RFE. Responding to the organization's statement, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia said that "its public move was not aimed only against RFE, but against the freedom of the media as well".

(Blic, NUNS, NDNV, 28.10.2011, Beta, Pravda, Danas, Dnevnik, 29.10.2011)

Correspondent of the daily newspaper Danas, Aleksandar Ivanisevic, is the latest example of Serbian journalists being sentenced for libel. He was sentenced by the First Primary Court in Belgrade to pay 60,000 dinars or to spend two months in prison for publishing a news about wounding of a citizen of Novi Sad in a shootout between drug dealers.

(Danas, NUNS, 02.11.2011)

The Court of Appeals in Belgrade increased by seven months the prison sentences of Milos Mladenovic and Danilo Zusa. The Court passed a sentence of one year of imprisonment for each of the attackers on the journalist of Vreme magazine, Teofil Pancic, which took place on 24 July 2010 in Belgrade. The Court of Appeals decided to accept the

public prosecutor's complaint against the first-instance sentences which were below the legal minimum.  
(Tanjug, Dnevnik, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

"This is an important and major step forward, not because I am interested in personal satisfaction, but because it leads towards basic establishment of social justice", said Pancic in response to the decision by Court of Appeals. He emphasized that the message sent by the Court was of crucial importance, and added that the previous first-instance sentences had sent "an extremely negative message that every bully was free to do anything they wanted with impunity".  
(BETA, Blic, Dnevnik, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) demanded that the police immediately identify those who threatened the journalists of the Alo! magazine while they photographed the car belonging to mufti Muamer Zukorlic. The magazine's journalists said that Zukorlic's security had tried to push their car off the road and that one of members of the security team had threatened to shoot if they continue taking photographs. The threats issued by the mufti Zukorlic's security team were reported to the police and the investigative prosecutor, who immediately ordered that the person who made threats be found and investigated for possession of weapons.  
(UNS, 30.11.2011, Pravda, Alo!, Dnevnik, Politika, Blic, 31.10.2011)

The representative of the state capital in the News Center "Kula", Djordjo Bojanic, has been removed from his position. Employees in "Kula", which owns Radio Kula and the local newspaper Kulska Komuna, are surprised by the Privatization Agency's decision and consider it to have a political background. They have contacted the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), the Journalists Association of Serbia (UNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) with the aim to protect journalists from political pressure.  
(Fonet, 31.10.2011, Dnevnik, NUNS, 01.11.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) supports the employees of the News Center "Kula" and demands that the Privatization Agency annul the decision to appoint a third person as a temporary representative of the capital instead of a journalist employed in the company, contrary to the wishes of the editorial office. The decision will additionally burden the limited budget of the media outlet whose privatization had already been annulled. UNS demands that the director of the Privatization Agency, Vladislav Cvetkovic, meet with the journalists from "Kula" and representatives of the UNS and change the decision as soon as possible.  
(UNS, NUNS, 05.11.2011)

Photographer from the Vojvodina section of the Press newspaper, Branko Stojanovic, was attacked while attempting to photograph the funeral of Jovo Martic in Stari Ledinci. Martic was killed by a hand grenade thrown at him and policeman, Sinisa Hrnjez, by his son Srecko. The photographer was prevented from taking a picture of the funeral by a man who identified himself as a cousin of the Martic family, demanding him to delete all photographs.  
(Press, NUNS, 03.11.2011)

Private security team hired by the management of the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade to prevent the blockade of students' activities insulted and threatened the journalist from Pravda daily newspaper.  
(UNS, 03.11.2011, Pravda, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the physical attack on the correspondent for Radio-Television Vojvodina from Subotica, Rada Stajic, and cameraman Slobodan Gabric. They were physically attacked in Bajmok by Nikola Uzelac, whom they had tried to interview. The RTV team was making a report on unsolved murders in Bajmok and the disappearance of Uzelac's daughter and her boyfriend. The UNS demands that the police investigate the incident and that the perpetrator be prosecuted.  
(UNS, Dnevnik, 05.11.2011, Vecernje novosti, Press, Kurir, 06.11.2011)

Press statement issued by the editorial office of online magazine e-Novine: "The editor-in-chief of e-Novine was informed that he was being sued by Jelenko Micovic Filaret. Later in the day, the director of the magazine was summoned by the First Primary Court in Belgrade and is required to show up in the Court on 6 December. No

explanation as to why! Who has filed charges against us? We don't know! What does the document say? It doesn't explain anything except that we must come to court on 6 December. The show must go on!  
(e-Novine, 07.11.2011)

The Deputy Mayor of the city of Cacak, Sasa Obradovic, from the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS), said at a press conference held last week that the ruling coalition in city had decided to sue journalists from Blic, Press and B92 because of their reports on the reduction of city population by 12,000 inhabitants. However, the newspaper Cacanske learned that the first (incorrect) estimation of the number of inhabitants had been published by the Census Committee of the City of Cacak on the basis of 80 percent of data.  
(Cacanske novine, UNS, 07.11.2011)

Recording of the programme "Magazine IN" on TV Pink was marred by verbal conflict between the leader of the political party United Serbia, Dragan Markovic Palma, and a gay activist, Predrag Azdejkovic. According to Azdejkovic, Markovic began insulting him before the show, after which Azdejkovic left the TV Pink building. Dragan Markovic said that he was the victim.  
(Pravda, 08.11.2011)

The editor-in-chief of the gay magazine Optimist, Predrag Azdejkovic, is preparing a lawsuit against TV Pink for libel and deception of the public because it had not reported about the physical assault against him by Dragan Markovic Palma during the recording of the TV show "Magazine IN".  
(Pravda, NUNS, UNS, 09.11.2011)

After the decision by the cable provider SBB to stop broadcasting the programme of TV Kanal 9 on 5 July 2011, the Commercial Court in Novi Sad adopted the Decision on Temporary Measure obliging SBB to continue the distribution of Kanal 9 programme within the package received by all registered users. SBB has continued distributing it, but on the channel S1 which is not being received by all users. The Commercial Court in Novi Sad tried to enforce the temporary measure, but the attempt was unsuccessful.  
(www.kanal9ns.com, UNS, 09.11.2011)

### **The Media Strategy**

The political will to achieve changes in the media sector in Serbia was limited to adoption of the Media Strategy – if not in the last two years during which the Strategy was being adopted, then certainly in the last few months during which the document was treated as a necessary condition for Serbia to acquire the status of candidate for membership in the EU, says ANEM's September media monitoring report. The report also says that this has led to neglecting of regulations that are already in force.  
(Danas, NUNS, 28.10.2011)

### Professional standards

The Complaints Committee of the Press Council, which began working a month ago, has adopted its first decisions about complaints against articles published in the daily newspaper *Press* and weekly magazine NIN. The Committee decided that the article entitled "Doctor Tortures Wife and Her Lover", which was published on 9 September 2011, had violated the provisions of the Journalistic Code of Conduct of Serbia related to protection of privacy of citizens. The Committee has ordered the newspaper to publish the decision. The Committee rejected the complaint submitted by the former Minister of Health, Tomica Milosavljevic, in relation to the article "Government Protects Former Minister" published by NIN magazine. The Committee was of the opinion that NIN had not violated the provisions of the Code. The decisions and their explanations are available on the web site [www.savetzastampu.rs](http://www.savetzastampu.rs) (UNS, 28. 10. 2011, Danas, 29.10.2011)

A new issue of the magazine *Kultura*, dedicated to trends, dilemmas and challenges of contemporary journalism, was presented in the Institute for Research of Cultural Development. A professor at the Faculty of Political Science, Neda Todorovic, said that the editors of the magazine had managed to investigate some of the most important problems of contemporary journalism, "faced with today's challenges". (Danas, NUNS, 01.11.2011)

A book entitled "In Front of the Camera" is a result of the work of a group of most experienced journalists from BBC and CBS. The does not exist as such in English language, but consists of specially commissioned individual reports. The Serbian-language editor of the book is Olivera Jovicevic, who is an editor at Radio-Television Serbia (RTS), while the book was translated into Serbian by a director working for RTS, Mina Stanojevic. The book was published by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. (Politika, NUNS, UNS, 08.11.2011)

### The Sabic case

The Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations for Freedom of Access to Information has called on the Committee for Culture and Information of the National Parliament of Serbia to immediately deliver its proposal for appointment of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data. The first seven-year term in office of the current Commissioner ends on 22 December 2011 and the law allows the Commissioner, Rodoljub Sabic, to serve another seven years in office. (Danas, NUNS, 27.10.2011)

The Journalists Association of Serbia (UNS) calls on the committee for Culture and Information of the National Parliament of Serbia to again nominate Rodoljub Sabic as the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance. The UNS highly values the support of Rodoljub Sabic to the freedom of expression in Serbia and his assistance to journalists in their professional activities which are in public interest. (UNS, 27.10.2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) have called on the Committee for Culture and Information of the National Parliament of Serbia to initiate the procedure for election of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance as soon as possible. At the same time, NUNS and NDNV support the proposal of the Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations for Freedom of Access to Information that the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance, Rodoljub Sabic, be re-elected to the same position because of his excellent performance. In the fragile democratic practice of the post-5 October Serbia, the Commissioner Rodoljub Sabic has achieved enormous and pioneering work aimed at opening various governmental "treasure troves" of information. He has offered invaluable assistance to professional



journalists and the media, says the joint statement.

(NUNS, NDNV, B92, Blic, 28.10.2011)

ANEM calls on the Committee for Culture and Information of the National Parliament of the Republic of Serbia to initiate the procedure for election of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance. ANEM considers that Rodoljub Sabic deserves a new term in office due to his exceptional professional qualities and work results.

(ANEM Press Statement, NUNS, 01.11.2011)

The Judges' Association of Serbia and the Association of Public Prosecutors and Deputy Public Prosecutors of Serbia have asked the parliamentary Committee for Culture and Information to re-elect Rodoljub Sabic to the position of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data.

(Tanjug, Pravda, NUNS, 03.11.2011)

A coalition of eight non-governmental organizations "Civic Vojvodina" is concerned about the fact that the Committee on Culture and Information of the National Parliament of Serbia has so far avoided to nominate the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and to deliver its proposal to the National Parliament. "We consider that the current Commissioner, Rodoljub Sabic, is most responsible for the successful work of this institution and that there exists not a single reason that he should not be re-elected to this position", says their announcement.

(Danas, NUNS, 29.10.2011, 31.10.2011, Dnevnik, 31.10.2011, NDNV, 03.11.2011)

Even before the beginning of the electoral procedure for appointment of the new Commissioner for Information of Public Importance, Rodoljub Sabic has already won support of the largest political party in the parliament. The vice president of the Democratic Party (DS), Jelena Trivan, said that it was up to political parties to nominate candidates for the position of Commissioner, and announced that the Democratic Party would attempt to provide necessary votes for re-election of Sabic.

(Kurir, 02.11.2011, Danas, NUNS, 03.11.2011, Vecernje Novosti, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

### **Awards, assessments, training courses, conferences, contests**

CEI and the SEEMO are pleased to announce the winner of the CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism 2011, Mr. Kalicki Włodzmiarz. *Special Investigative Journalism Diploma were awarded to Artan Hoxha (Albania), Dijana Subotički (Serbia), Matej Šurc and Blaž Zgaga (Slovenia.)* Dijana Subotički (Serbia) got diploma for her work on investigative stories along the news and reports, covering failures, misuse of power and corruption at local and regional level, but also as a message to journalists working on investigative stories at local level

(SEEMO, 20.10.2011)

A journalist from the newspaper *Nezavisne Novine Palanacke* is the first winner of the award for journalistic humanitarianism "Djoko Vjestica" which is presented by the Journalistic Association of Serbia (UNS).

(UNS, 26.10.2011, Politika, Press, 27.10.2011)

A columnist for the weekly magazine *Vreme*, Ljubomir Zivkov, and a journalist working for the Beta news agency, Dinko Gruhonjic, have received the "Dusan Bogavac" award for journalistic courage and ethics from the Independent Journalistic Association of Serbia (NUNS).

(Beta, NUNS, 27.10.2011)

In cooperation with the Danish LEDIB (Local Economic Development in the Balkans) program, the Association of Journalists from Nis organized a counseling event for the colleagues from the region. The event was dedicated to reporting on economy, judiciary and crime.

(Vecernje Novosti - Srbija, 31.10.2011, Juzne vesti, 03.11.2011)



Journalists from *Dnevnik* daily newspaper, Sladjana Gluscevic and Branka Dragovic Savic, are the winners of the award for best reporting in the field of local self-government. The award was presented by the representatives of the European Union in Serbia, the Council of Europe and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.  
(Dnevnik, NUNS, 31.10.2011)

On 16 November 2011, the second regional Press Media Summit will be held in Belgrade. The event will bring together more than 200 regional leaders of most prestigious newspaper publishing companies. This year, they will be joined by leaders of marketing, media and PR agencies and highest officials of European associations. Additional information and registration form are available here: [abcsrbija.com/dogadjaji/najave-dogadjaja.html](http://abcsrbija.com/dogadjaji/najave-dogadjaja.html).  
(Danas, 28.10.2011, ABC, 31.10.2011, Pravda, NUNS, 02.11.2011, Dnevnik, 03.11.2011(ASMEDI, November 2011)

So far, more than 120 guests from all parts of the region have been registered for the Second Press Media Summit.  
(Blic, NUNS, 08.11.2011)

The contest for the best media report about the process of European integration in Serbia in 2011 ends on 1 December. The media reports must be published/broadcast by any of the media outlets in the Republic of Serbia in the period 1 January – 1 December 2011 and should be sent to the address: Republika Srbija, Vlada, Kancelarija za evropske integracije, ZA NOVINARSKU NAGRADU, Nemanjina 34/1, 11000 Beograd.  
(NUNS 07.11.2011)

The editor of RTV VK, Dijana Suboticki, has received a special diploma for investigative journalism from the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO). She has been awarded for their investigative work in the local community. This is her second international award that Dijana Suboticki has won this autumn – in October she received an award for investigative journalism from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).  
(NUNS, 07.11.2011)

The International Day for Tolerance will be marked in Backa Topola on November 16, said the president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV), Dinko Gruhonjic. An award for tolerance will be presented by the Danube Bureau Foundation Novi Sad/VOjvodina under the auspices of the President of the Parliament and the Government of Vojvodina. NDNV has joined the project and as of this year journalists will receive annual tolerance awards which will be transformed into NDNV's award for promotion of tolerance.  
(Danas, 05.11.2011)

The editorial office of Belgrade Insight ([www.belgradeinsight.com](http://www.belgradeinsight.com)), the only newspaper in English language in Belgrade, celebrated on Tuesday the publication of its 100th issue. The event was attended by representatives of diplomatic corps, non-governmental organizations, local media and numerous companies. Belgrade Insight is issued two times a month and distributed at more than 350 locations. According to research conducted in July this year by the *Intelligence* agency, the newspaper has around 15,000 readers.  
(BIRN, 09.11.2011)

The Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School awards scholarships for research projects focusing on the Internet and its role in the society. Recipients of scholarships have been invited to create research projects themselves or to participate in projects that are already being implemented by the Center. The program will last for a year (academic year 2012/2013) and will be held on the Harvard University. The deadline for application is 18 December 2011. [Detailed information on conditions, application and the program is available here.](#)  
(MC, 09.11.2011)

The Information Department of the Ministry of Culture of Serbia has organized a contest for co-financing of production and/or distribution of media content in media outlets in the Republic of Serbia that is significant from the aspect of public interest. The deadline for application is 1 December 2011. Additional information (criteria, forms, contact details) is available [at the website of the Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society](#).  
(MC, 11.11.2011)

The Central European Development Forum (CEDEF), in cooperation with the Agency for Energy Efficiency of the Republic of Serbia and under auspices of the Henkel company, has organized another journalistic competition for the best media report on "Insulation in Buildings and Energy Efficiency". The competition will be open until 30 December 2011. Media contact person: Lea Grubić, 011/30 36 134, [office@cedeforum.org](mailto:office@cedeforum.org)  
(MC, 11.11.2011)

### **Anniversaries**

On the occasion of 73th anniversary of birth of Milovan Illic Minimaks, the Association of Kragujevac and Friends of Kragujevac organized a memorial evening in honor of the famous radio and TV journalist under the title "Minimaks Forever".  
(Vecernje Novosti, 04.11.2011)

The national news agency, Tanjug, celebrated the 68 anniversary of its inception by awarding journalists whose reporting on the crisis in the north of Kosovo has served as a confirmation of best standards of Serbian journalism. The awards were received by journalists Zoran Mirkovic and Zeljko Tvrdisic, photographer Milos Jelesijevic and cameramen Marko Trosic and Edib Tahirovic.  
(Pravda, NUNS, UNS, 08.11.2011)

### **Media visits**

The President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Mirko Cvetkovic, and his associates visited the headquarters of the Media Association and met with editors-in-chief of media companies which are members of the Association. The discussion about the current political and economic situation and the problems facing the media industry lasted for much longer than the time assigned by the protocol of the visit.  
(ASMEDI, November 2011)

### **In Memoriam**

Two cameramen were killed in the city of Subotica when a truck hit them while they were making a commercial. Both of them used to work for local TV stations.  
(Blic, B92, NUNS, 04.11.2011)

### The case of *Dnevnik*

The Managing Board of the company "Dnevnik Holding" has recommended to the management of the company to reach an agreement with trade unions before the end of the week on the introduction of minimum salary for all employees, or to agree on some other way of leveling the salaries in the company. The session of the Managing Board of "Dnevnik Holding" visibly demonstrated the chaos in the company business operations. At the proposal of the trade union, the Board has decided to hire an independent auditor to examine the financial situation in the company and the expenditure of money.

(Dnevnik, 27.10.2011, Pravda, NUNS, 28.10.2011)

### Privatization and the state-owned media

Privatization of the reputable weekly magazine from Kragujevac, *Svetlost*, has been annulled, said the officials from the Privatization Agency, because the three-member consortium of owners of the company had failed to pay the fifth installment of the sales price. The bank account of the company has been blocked for 355 days, while the true amount of the losses and debt of the company towards the state, its creditors and employees, will have to be established by the temporary administrator of the state capital in the company.

(Radio Kragujevac, Pravda, NUNS, 29.10.2011, Danas, NUNS, 02.11.2011)

### Journalistic trade unions

Journalists' Union of Serbia welcomes the decision of the Privatization Agency to terminate the contract on sale of the newspaper *Svetlost* from Kragujevac. All members of the newspaper's editorial office have left the company because of unpaid salaries; in the meantime, they have started a new newspaper, *Kragujevacke Novine*.

(Beta, Pravda, 29.10.2011, Pravda, NUNS, 02.11.2011)

"Serbia needs a much better organization of journalists so that they can be an equal partner to the government in the process of creation of the media policy. This also applies to privatization of the media, where it is necessary to have improved guarantees for journalists' employment and work conditions", said Arne König, the president of the European Federation of Journalists, during his visit to the editorial office of the weekly magazine *Svetlost* in Kragujevac, whose privatization had recently been annulled. He said that 95 percent of Swedish journalists are members of trade unions, which is why their opinion is always taken into account, while they are equal partners in creation of media policy.

(Vecernje Novosti, 05.11.2011)

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

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) welcomes the decision of the Court of Appeals in Belgrade to increase the sentences for attackers on journalist employed by the weekly magazine *Vreme*, Teofil Pancic, from five months to a year of imprisonment. "Efficient trials and adequate sentences are the only way to prevent hooliganism", says the Association's statement. At the same time, NUNS has expressed its hope that the unsolved murders of Dada Vujasinovic, Slavko Curuvija and Milan Pantic, as well as threats against other journalists, will be solved in courts.

(NUNS, 04.11.2011Beta, Pravda, 05.11.2011)

### The Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL)

Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) and the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) have proposed to the Government of Serbia to cancel the debt incurred due to the usage of radio frequencies. The public company Broadcasting Equipment and Communication has been formed in accordance with a decision made by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The company has become the owner of RTS' broadcasting equipment. Taking into account the financial position of RTS and years-long investment in development and maintenance of the broadcasting equipment, RTS and RATEL agree that the Government should make the RTS free from obligation to pay the fees.

(RTS, NUNS, 09.11.2011)

Online newspaper *Juzne Vesti* have become the first Serbian media outlet with a software that guarantees anonymous delivery of information about corruption. The software has recently been installed by Arturo Filastò, a Globalix programmer. Anonymous delivery of information and protection of identity of senders of messages is guaranteed by the TOR software, which is used by what could be the most popular website in the world, WikiLeaks. The application is free and is most often used by websites intended to serve as whistleblowers. The founder and the editor-in-chief of *Juzne Vesti*, Predrag Blagojevic, says that the web portal is "the first media outlet in the world that uses this software" and that the installed application completely hides not only the IP address, but also the name of the server from which information was sent. "We hope that the usage of this software by *Juzne Vesti* will contribute to greater transparency and openness of Serbian society", says the editorial office. *Juzne Vesti* will begin using TOR in the following month, after the completion of all necessary technical preparations and a campaign aimed at the public. The editorial office is also working on the introduction of a similar software for mobile phones which would allow whistleblowers to send information in this way and remain anonymous.

(Danas, NUNS, 27.10.2011)

After tuning in at the frequency of 105.0 MHz, listeners will have a chance to listen to the first radio station in this region that is completely formatted in accordance with highest international standards, says the company. "Our station's target group are listeners aged 25-40. Priority is given to information and content that is important for the population of the city of Zrenjanin", emphasized the editorial office of the radio station *Klik FM*.

(Dnevnik, NUNS, 27.10.2011)

The Executive Group has offered useful advice on personalization of online news. For example, BBC.co.uk allows detailed customization of the content in accordance with sections and most popular topics. Netvibes is a service that offers a possibility to integrate my.Yahoo/iGoogle.com and MyBBC News and create a customized and edited web page with online news sources selected by users and updated in real-time. Content sections can be placed and designed in accordance with individual users' desire and affinities.

(Danas, NUNS, 01.11.2011)

Regional TV station Al-Jazeera Balkans will begin airing its programme on Friday, 11 November 2011. The programme will be broadcast from the central studio in Sarajevo and centers in Belgrade, Zagreb and Skoplje. Viewers in the region will be able to watch the programme via cable and IPTV providers, the EutelSat satellite, and the terrestrial TV signal in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the beginning of its operations, the station will offer six hours of locally-produced news, interviews, comments, analyses and documentaries.

(BizLife, NUNS, 08.11.2011, Tanjug, Pregled, Pravda, UNS, 09.11.2011)

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