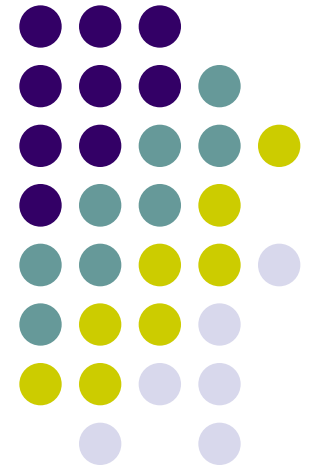


THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF MEDIA

13TH SOUTH CAUCASUS MEDIA
CONFERENCE

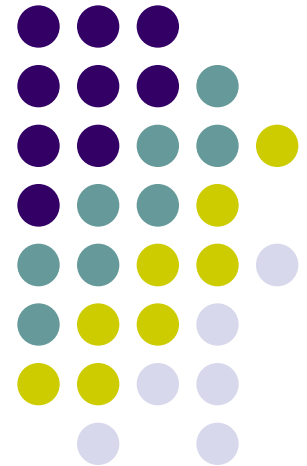
**Multi-Faceted Challenges to Free
Media and Freedom of Expression**

6-7 July 2016,
Tbilisi, Georgia



Content Regulation in Conflict Affected Regions: Legal Implications and Professional Standards

Presentation:
Boris Navasardian
Tbilisi, July 6, 2016



RELEVANT RESEARCHES:



1. Glossary of Hate Speech in the Media of Armenia and Azerbaijan, 2010

http://ypc.am/upload/GLOSSARY_eng.pdf

2. Hate Speech in the Media of South Caucasus, 2014

http://ypc.am/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Hate_Speech_October_2014_rus.pdf

**THE ISSUE HAS BEEN ACTUALIZED AS GLOBAL ONE SINCE THE
END OF 2013 (UKRAINIAN CRISIS)**

3. Monitoring of Russian TV Channels, 2015

http://ypc.am/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Monitoring-of-Russian-TV-Channels_2015_eng.pdf

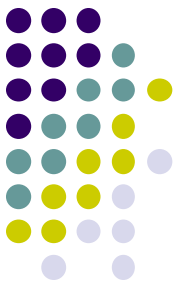


4. Monitoring of “Traveling” Propaganda Messages: Russia, EaP Countries (ongoing)

- *Modern Western values are decadent and only Russia preserved healthy civilizational orientations. Современные западные ценности упадочнические и только Россия сохранила здоровые цивилизационные ориентиры.*
- *Ukraine - a failed state. It is an artificial entity created on the territories of Russia, Poland, Hungary (and so forth.). Sooner or later it will collapse as a single independent state.
Украина – несостоявшееся государство. Это искусственное образование, созданное на территориях России, Польши, Венгрии (и пр.). Рано или поздно она развалится как единое независимое государство.*
- *Civil society (NGOs) in Ukraine (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova) is a "fifth column" of the West.
Гражданское общество Украины (Азербайджана, Армении, Беларуси, Грузии, Молдовы) является «пятой колонной» Запада.*



- *Belarusians (Ukrainians) - are the same Russians, it is impossible to divide these nations. Highlighting their self-identity is only anti-Russian intrigues of the West.*
Беларусы (украинцы) - те же русские, разделить эти народы невозможно. Подчеркивание их самостоятельной идентичности - антироссийские происки Запада.
- *The delivery of the weaponry to the participants of Karabakh conflict by Russia is a measure to maintain a balance of forces. If Russia did not supply it, someone else would do it with worse consequences for safety.*
Поставки Россией вооружений сторонам Карабахского конфликта является средством сдерживания, сохранения баланса сил. Не поставляла бы она, поставляли бы другие с худшими последствиями для безопасности.
- *On the eve of parliamentary elections in Georgia, the West carries out subversive activities against the authorities who are in favor of cooperation with Russia.*
В преддверии парламентских выборов в Грузии Запад осуществляет подрывную деятельность в отношении властей страны, склонных к развитию сотрудничества с Россией.



- *There is pressure (repressions) in Georgia on genuinely patriotic circles, which eager to protect national identity and resist infusion of alien (Western) values.*

В Грузии оказывают давление (осуществляют репрессии) в отношении истинно патриотических сил, стремящихся сохранить национальную идентичность и противодействующих внедрению чуждых (западных) ценностей.

- *Moldova has no chance to survive economically without Russian market, as nobody else needs its products.*

Молдова не сможет выжить экономически без российского рынка, поскольку ее продукты больше никому не нужны.

STATEMENT OF THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Regarding the Broadcasting of Russian TV Channels Russia 1 and the First Channel in Armenia



“... EaP CSF Armenian National Platform finds dissemination of Russian propaganda of this kind in the territory of Republic of Armenia to be illegal as it contradicts the RA Constitution (Article 14.1), the national legislation (particularly the RA Law “On Television and Radio”, Article 24, Points *b, d, e, g*), as well as a number of international conventions that Armenia has joined, requiring prohibition of dissemination of xenophobia and hatred between nations. Such content is detrimental to information security of our country and its relations with other nations, as well as destabilizes the public life. As a matter of fact, Russia 1 and the First Channel, occupying radio frequencies which constitute a limited public resource, act against the national interests of Armenia...”

Challenges for the media:



- Distortion of the reality to influence public opinion
- Legislative/regulatory restrictions of the freedom of expression (closing down media, prohibiting rebroadcasting, rejecting accreditation, “sanction lists” of journalists (persona non grata) - not always based on international standards
- Prosecuting journalists for “extremism”

Legitimate protection of national information space/airways



- existence of national mass media that enjoy the highest level of trust, popularity and have their own position when covering political problems;
- the ability of local mass media to resist the influence of external propaganda;
- priorities given by audiences to the programmes broadcast in national languages;
- equal access to foreign mass media that represent different positions;
- establishment of comprehensive and independent fact-checking agencies;
- efficient measures by the national regulatory bodies against the propaganda that contains the breaches of law.

Besides Improvement of the content - clarification of legal principles vis-à-vis propaganda, research, media literacy, self-regulation (national bodies and international cooperation/networking).

NETWORK OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION ORGANIZATION

Covering Post-Soviet Countries. Affiliated to the Alliance of
Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPCE)



Since 2011 (May)

Armenia - Media Ethics Observatory

Azerbaijan - Press Council

Georgia - Charter of Journalistic Ethics

Moldova - Press Council

Russia - Public Collegium for Press Complaints

Ukraine - Commission on Journalism Ethics

Since 2011 (November)

Tajikistan - Media Council (*membership temporarily suspended*)

Since 2015

Belarus - BAJ Commission on Ethics

THE FIRST STAGE: “CROSS-COUNTRY” COMPLAINTS



(All satisfied by the respective SR bodies)

MOLDOVA vs. RUSSIA (“First Channel”, Andrey Malakhov -
“Let them speak”, 2013)

UKRAINE vs. RUSSIA (“Russia 1”, Dmitri Kisilyov - *“Vesti of the week”, 2013*)

ARMENIA vs. UKRAINE (“Ukraine “ TV, Oleksiy Sukhanov -
“Ukraine speaks”, 2014)

THE SECOND STAGE: CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION TO COMBAT PROPAGANDA (Formation process finalized in June, 2016)



Propaganda definition for the purpose of the initiative:

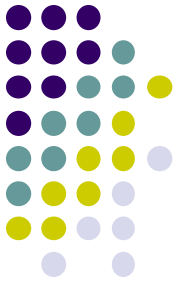
Journalistic materials of all genres

- *Containing animosity language, hate speech, discrimination, racism, chauvinism, glorification of war and terrorism, spreading xenophobia*
- *Exploiting topics of high public interest and abusing trust of the audience towards media in general and journalism/journalists in particular.*

Founding documents:

- Regulations of the commission
- Recommendations

Composition of the Commission: 7 members, representing Armenian, Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Georgian, Moldovan, Russian, Ukrainian SR bodies and delegated by the latter.



THANK YOU!