

12TH SOUTH CAUCASUS MEDIA CONFERENCE

Digitalisation for Freedom of the Media

29-30 September 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia

BIOGRAPHIES OF INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS



Helena Mandić is the Vice-Chair of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) and Director of Broadcasting at the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). She has worked in the Agency since its inception in 1998, where she has performed various duties, including that of Head of Legal Department and Head of Division of Programme Standards, Complaints and Broadcasting Regulation.

Ms. Mandić participated in the work of expert groups drafting BiH Press Code, as well as laws on defamation, freedom of information and communications. She has also been a member of the team representing BiH in cases before the Human Rights Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

She represented BiH in the work of the Standing Committee for Transfrontier Television and chaired the meetings of the Executive Council of the European Audiovisual Observatory, during the BiH Presidency. Currently, Ms. Mandić represents the Agency at the meetings of European and Mediterranean networks of regulatory authorities, as well as on various other international fora. She has been active in the EPRA Board since May 2013.

Ms. Mandić is a co-author of the Media Law in BiH, a comprehensive overview of the media law framework. She graduated from the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law.



Tanja Kerševan Smokvina is a media regulation expert and Principal Advisor to the Director General at the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia, where she is responsible for strategic projects and international cooperation. Until 2013, she coordinated the SEE Digi.TV initiative, a transnational project co-funded by the European Union within the South East Europe Programme, bringing together 15 mainly institutional partners from 10 countries in a joint effort to harmonize the digital switchover in the Adriatic region. As an international expert she participated in a number of other projects dealing with capacity building of national regulatory authorities, and is currently involved in the external audit of the Ukrainian regulator.

Initially trained and working as a press and radio journalist, Ms. Kerševan Smokvina currently focuses on media policy in addition to multiple areas of public policy and governance.

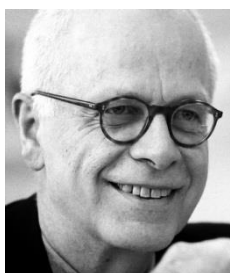
Ms. Kerševan Smokvina holds a PhD from the University of Ljubljana where she wrote a thesis on EU media policies in 2014. She has also authored a number of articles for various publications.



Bettina Ruigies is Regional Coordinator for Europe & Central Asia and Deputy Team Leader Asia & Europe at the Deutsche Welle Akademie in Bonn. She has more than 20 years of experience as a journalist, producer and manager for media outlets with a focus on the former Soviet countries. She is currently implementing DW Akademie's programs in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. The objectives include media and information literacy, media law, media management and transformation of the public service broadcaster in Ukraine.

As Project Director for Internews Kyrgyzstan in 2012-2013, Ms. Ruigies launched the reform of the national broadcaster OTRK into a public service broadcaster. The reform included preparing the broadcaster for the digital switchover. For Deutsche Welle Akademie, she also conducted in-house trainings for national broadcasters in Moldova, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan between 2010 and 2013. As Integrated Expert with the Center for International Migration from 2006-2012, she introduced the concept of sustainable community media development into the Kyrgyz media landscape, combining analogue and digital tools and eventually building a network of community media in the country.

Ms. Ruigies began her career as producer for Germany's most popular broadcaster RTL in Moscow in the early '90's. After receiving her MBA from Bradford/NIMBAS Graduate School of Management, she moved to the field of media development assistance.



Christian Nissen is an Adjunct Professor in Management at the Copenhagen Business School. He served as Director General of the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR) from 1994 until 2004; a time when DR and other public broadcasters in Europe were confronted with fierce competition from fast growing private media corporations. From 1997 to 2001 he was a member of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU)'s Administrative Council and in the period from 1999 until 2003 he chaired the EBU "Digital Strategy Group", where he analysed broadcast perspectives ahead of the process of digitization and laid out strategic goals and paths for the European public

service broadcasters.

Since leaving DR in 2004, Mr. Nissen is doing advisory work and is member of a number of boards. He writes for and participates in numerous international conferences and seminars on broadcasting all over the world. His publications include articles on how governments interfere with public service media and the impact of the digital switchover on media.

Mr. Nissen earned a Master of Arts in Social Sciences in 1972 from the University of Copenhagen, along with a degree in political science from Aarhus University. He began his career as an Associate Professor in International Politics at the University of Copenhagen and has worked in various management positions for the Danish public administration.