



INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
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*Talking points on freedom of expression, free media and information*  
*The OSCE 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*  
*Working session I: Fundamental freedoms I*  
*Warsaw, 24 September 2012*

*Background information*

- Freedom of expression and free media is not an abstract subject, but a living and crucial question for Ukraine, where almost 28,000 publications are being issued as well as around 524 radio and 647 television stations are carrying national broadcasts.
- Protection and advanced respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be exercised not only off line but also online across the whole OSCE region. In Ukraine current number of Internet users accounts for 15.3 million. More than half of them are 15-to-29-year-olds. The number of Ukrainians currently using social networks increased by 70 percent, including older ones.
- Ukraine is at the crossroads of Central and Eastern Europe, and its political, economic and social well-being has tremendous importance for the stability of the OSCE region.
- Hence, Ukraine has come under close international scrutiny with the aim to further highlight the Ukrainian government responsibilities in relation to freedom of expression and free media. Series of important and well-presented international events were recently organized in Kyiv, a few of them to be mentioned: the Global Investigative Journalism Conference, the 64th World Newspaper Congress, the 19th World Editor's Forum, and Info Services Expo 2012.
- Numerous research analyses and assessments on this issue have been conducted by various famous institutions, including the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, International Research and Exchanges Board, WAN-IFRA, etc. In view of upcoming Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in 2013, all available recommendations should be thoroughly considered and implemented in order to support irreversible changes securing Ukrainian transition to the sustainable country status, meeting all objectives on free media developments.

*General recommendations*

1. *Governmental structures* should strengthen their responsibilities in timely highlighting all necessary efforts on investigation of reported cases of corruption, crimes against journalists and other problems. In doing so, they should refrain from providing purely statistical and formal update.
2. The exercise of many fundamental rights may be enhanced by *the Governmental structures* through the use of social networks and other new technologies, altering the landscape in which human dimension commitments are implemented.
3. The particular attention of the *OSCE Chairmanship* should be focused on the media freedom in the context of developing necessary legal framework with direct involvement of all actors, including national journalists, editors, publishers and broadcasters.
4. *NGOs and other international institutions* could improve existing media freedom assessment mechanisms by using a kind of prevailing targeted customer evaluation approach.
5. In order to support new cross-dimensional cyberspace initiatives the *NGOs and other international institutions* should supplement the existing Internet usage rate by additional qualitative data and potential estimates, including those related to economic and social activities of the prospective audiences.