



OSCE SOUTH EAST EUROPE MEDIA CONFERENCE

18-19 June 2019 – Dom mladih, Sarajevo

Session 1
Media freedom developments and sustainability in the region

Session 2
Safety of Journalists

Session 3
Role of the Public Service Media in the 21st century – The regional reality and the road ahead

Session 4
Legal framework and challenges – How to implement international standards?

This year's event, organized together with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, is focused on media development and sustainability, safety of journalists, the legal environment for media freedom and sustainable solutions for public service broadcasters. The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media has previously organized South East Europe Media Conferences in Sarajevo, Belgrade, Tirana, Budapest and Struga, in order to further promote freedom of the media and its development in the region.

The event will provide a platform to discuss relevant media freedom issues, and present good initiatives and best practices with local and international experts, civil society organizations, members of the international community, and government authorities. It will aid in the creation of better synergies and contribute to the spirit of co-operation, a crucial component for improving the quality of, and conditions for, free media in South East Europe. The event will also feature a number of side events.

Following from the adoption of the Ministerial Decision No. 3/18 on Safety of Journalists in Milan last December, the conference will examine ways in which OSCE participating States can ensure that journalists work in a safe and enabling environment. The Decision, calling on OSCE participating States to "take effective measures to end impunity for crimes against journalists", is a strong political signal that must be reflected in practice.

Freedom of the media is not only a matter of media workers being able to carry out their work without fear or pressure. There is a clear need for a better understanding of the role of the media in a democratic society, to ensure its economic sustainability and respect for its independence in the face of economic and political pressure. In South East Europe, a lack of mutual trust between the media community and local authorities has resulted in a climate where violations against the independent press can proliferate.

Women journalists are also at particular risk and face a variety of misogynistic and gender-based violence, including online threats, harassment and physical violence. These attacks pose a significant challenge, not only to societies' right to access a variety of opinions, voices and stories, but also represent a stain on our basic democratic values and human rights.

Media freedom is a cornerstone of democracy, reflecting our own degree of freedom and willingness to protect our shared human rights, including the right to seek, receive and impart information. It contributes, among other things, to holding governments to account, fighting against corruption and improving the quality of our individual lives.

This South East Europe Media Conference will explore new ways of engaging all stakeholders to improve the situation of media freedom in the region through practical steps, and constructive and open dialogue.



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18 - 19 June 2019 - Dom mladih, Sarajevo

Day 1: Tuesday, 18 June

08:45 - 9:30 Registration

Conference Moderator:
Amela Odobašić, Head of Public Affairs,
Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

09:30 - 10:30 High-Level opening panel

Harlem Désir,
OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
Ambassador Bruce G. Berton,
Head of Mission, OSCE Mission to BiH

10:30 - 11:45 **Session 1**
Media freedom developments and sustainability in the region

Panelists will identify the main economic obstacles to media freedom and discuss ways to improve the situation, including a presentation of successful and sustainable economic models in Europe, current market conditions and regulation of advertisement shares. Furthermore, panelists will elaborate on the issue of state subsidies, existing practices in the region and how they should be organized so that they adequately support independent and quality media.

Moderator: Mira Milošević, Executive Director,
Global Forum for Media Development

Panelists:
Vildana Selimbegović, Director and Editor-in-Chief, Oslobođenje
Igor Božić, Executive Producer, TV NI
Sanja Bracanović, Head of Marketing and Sales of Vijesti
Tatjana Lazarević, Chief Editor, Kossev
Goran Mihajlovski, Editor and owner of SDK.mk
Mark Marku, Head of Journalism and
Communication Department, University of Tirana

Rapporteur: Daniel Blank, Programme Manager,
OSCE Mission to Montenegro

11:45 - 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 - 13:00 **Session 1 continues**

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch

Side event: Media and Information Literacy Education in the Digital Age -
Organized by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo

15:00 - 16:30 **Session 2**
Safety of Journalists

Journalists and media professionals face a variety of threats and safety issues on a regular basis in the region. In addition to physical and online safety, panelists will examine the legal environment and its implications for security, including a discussion on the establishment of national databases and permanent working groups to assist authorities in cases related to safety. In addition, panelists will exchange information on the state of investigative journalism in the region - challenges, financial obstacles and threats facing journalists reporting on sensitive issues.

Moderator: Borka Rudić, Secretary General,
BH Journalists Association

Panelists:
Ingvil Conradi Andersen, District court judge, Norway
Ricardo Gutierrez, General Secretary,
European Federation of Journalists
Sarah Clarke, Head of Europe and Central Asia, ARTICLE 19
Aleksandra Bogdani, journalist,
Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
Erol Önderoglu, Turkey Representative,
Reporters Without Borders

With the participation and testimony of several journalists from the region, in particular:

- Nedim Sejdinović,
- Tufik Softić,
- Jovo Martinović
- Tatjana Lazarević
- Sashka Cvetkovska
- Slobodan Vasković
- Štefica Galić
- Fedžad Forto
- Milan Jovanović (video message)

Rapporteur: Gordana Janković, Head of Media Department,
OSCE Mission to Serbia

16:30 - 16:45 Coffee break

16:45 - 17:30 **Session 2 continues**

17:45 - 18:45 "A Dark Place", A Safety of Female Journalists Online (SOFJO)
Documentary - Organized by the Office of the Representative
on Freedom of the Media

19:00 Reception
Dom mladih rooftop



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Day 2: Wednesday, 19 June

PARALLEL SESSIONS

09:00 - 11:00 **Session 3**
**Role of the Public Service Media in the 21st century –
The regional reality and the road ahead**

Public service media (PSM), though grounded in a solid legal framework, is still vulnerable to various external pressures. A lack of independent and sustainable financial resources remains a major obstacle that must be addressed to ensure that public service broadcasters fulfil their role effectively in the media landscape. Participants from the region, as well as international experts, will discuss how to make the PSM fit for the 21st century digital media landscape, the general situation focusing on good practices, the role of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the responsibility of PSM to serve the public interest, and digitalization.

Moderator: Frane Maroević, Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)

Panelists:

Alain Gerlache, Senior journalist,
Radio Télévision Belge Francophone
Aiga Grišāne, Head, Media Policy Division at Ministry of Culture,
Latvia
Attila Márton, Acting Editor-in-Chief,
Second Program of TV Vojvodina
David Davin-Power, Journalist, The Times, Ireland edition

Rapporteur: Irina Radu, Senior Media Development Officer,
OSCE Presence in Albania

09:00 - 11:00 **Session 4**
**Legal framework and challenges –
How to implement international standards?**

The session will provide a platform to debate how media in South East Europe are regulated by law. It will review the legal conditions for a free press particularly regarding the development of mechanisms ensuring journalists' access to information, creation of sustainable public media, reform of defamation law, access of political opposition to the media, and denationalization of mass media outlets. Restricting media using the pretext of fighting against terrorism and political extremism should not undermine ideological and political plurality in the media and society.

Moderator: Andrey Rikhter, Senior Adviser, OSCE RFoM Office

Panelists:

Sandra Bašić Hrvatin, Professor, Media Studies Department,
University of Primorska
Joan Barata Mir, Intermediary Liability Fellow,
Center for Internet and Society, Stanford Law School
Jelena Surčulija Milojević, Assistant Professor, Faculty of
Political Sciences, University of Belgrade
Elira Kokona, Secretary General, Director Regulatory and
Compliance Department, Prime Minister's Office, Albania
Zrinjka Peruško, Professor, Chair, Centre for Media and
Communication Research, Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb
Željko Rutović, General Director,
Directorate of Media, Ministry of Culture, Montenegro

Rapporteur: Stephan Nunner, Political Adviser,
OSCE Mission to Skopje

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 - 12:15 **Concluding panel**

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Prime Minister's Special
Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict,
Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United
Nations, and Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of
Religion or Belief

Rapporteurs

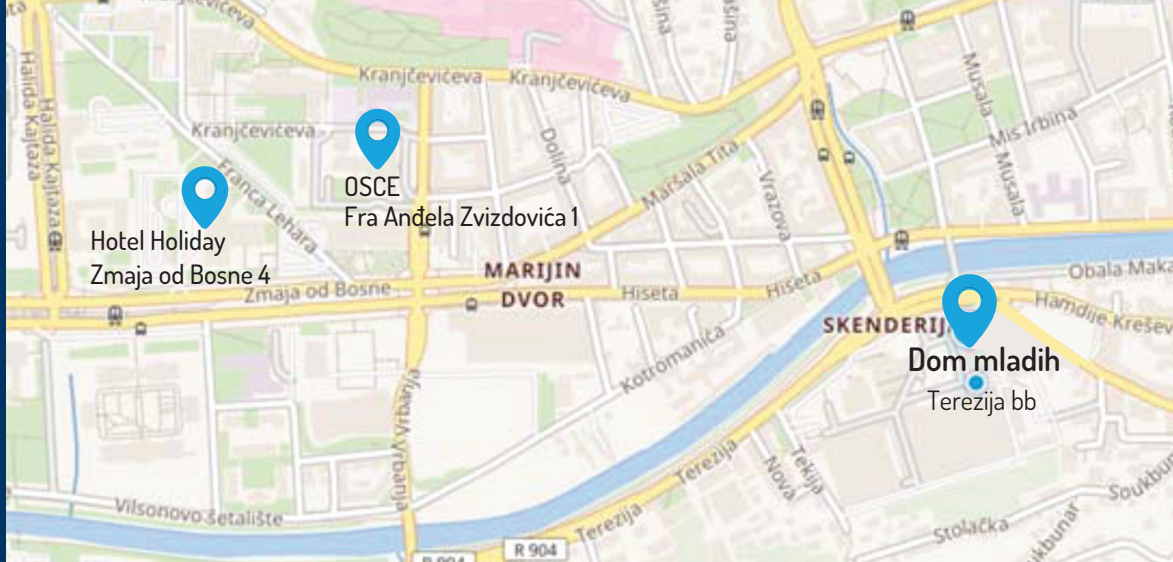
Harlem Désir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

12:15 - 13:30 Lunch

Side event: Human Rights Journalism: Representation of Discriminated
Groups in Media - Organized by Civil Rights Defenders



Logistical Details



VENUE

VENUE & REGISTRATION

The conference will be held in Dom mladih Sarajevo, located approximately 10 kilometers from the Sarajevo International Airport.

REGISTRATION

Each participant will receive a name tag and conference materials at the venue upon arrival.

INTERPRETATION

The working language of the conference is English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided into Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian as well as Macedonian and Albanian.

CATERING

The participants will be accommodated on a half board basis, starting with dinner on June 17. An official conference reception will be held on the evening of 18 June 2019 at 19:00 on the rooftop of Dom mladih Sarajevo.



TRANSFER

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

For guests travelling by plane, please keep a copy of your boarding pass, to be handed to Sebastian Denton or to a member of OSCE RFOM staff. You can reach the hotel via taxi located next to Terminal B of Sarajevo Airport or via shuttle bus. For more information please consult the sarajevo-airport.ba webpage or airport information desk. For guests arriving to Sarajevo by a private vehicle, bus or train, please keep a copy of a gas receipt or your ticket to receive a refund, to be handed to Dragana Butigan-Berberović or an OSCE Mission member.

ACCOMMODATION

The organizers will make all the necessary accommodation arrangements for the conference participants at Hotel Holiday in Sarajevo.

EXPENSES

Travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the OSCE.



EVENT COORDINATION

CONTACTS

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Sarajevo Bus Station	+387 (0) 33 213 100,
Sarajevo Train Station	+387 (0) 33/655-330
Taxi Sarajevo	+387 (0) 33 660 666
University of Sarajevo Clinical Center	+387 (0) 33 297 000, +387 (0) 33 666 620
Roadside assistance	+387 1285 (Federation of BiH)
Police	122
Fire Department	123

General Information

Currency:
The local currency is the Bosnian Mark (BAM). Exchange rate between BAM and EUR is fixed at BAM 1 = EUR 0,511291. ATMs and exchange offices are available at the airport, hotel reception, and throughout Sarajevo.

Electric current: Standard voltage 220V.

Climate: Average June temperatures in Sarajevo are expected to be between 11- 24 C.

Time: GMT +1.

Tourist web sites:
<http://sarajevo.travel/>
<http://www.sarajevo-tourism.com/>