

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE

### Speaker List

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Ambassador Jan Braathu ..... | 4  |
| Philippe Tremblay .....      | 4  |
| Ambassador Terhi Hakala..... | 5  |
| Muzaffarbek Madrakhimov..... | 6  |
| Sergei Sizov .....           | 7  |
| Meera Selva .....            | 7  |
| Julia Haas .....             | 8  |
| Begaim Usenova.....          | 8  |
| Iva Nenadić.....             | 9  |
| Baurzhan Rakhmetov .....     | 10 |
| Lola Islamova.....           | 10 |
| Ruslan Dairbekov .....       | 11 |
| Olga Didenko .....           | 12 |
| Shahlo Akobirova .....       | 12 |

**TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN**  
**13-14 NOVEMBER 2025**

**#CAMC2025**

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Gulmira Birzhanova .....       | 13 |
| Ilkhom Khamidov .....          | 13 |
| Akmat Alagushev .....          | 14 |
| Aidar Botagarov .....          | 15 |
| Gunjidmaa Gongor .....         | 16 |
| Anora Sodikova .....           | 17 |
| Gladis Temirchieva .....       | 18 |
| Nuriddin Karshiboev .....      | 19 |
| Adil Jalilov .....             | 20 |
| Juan Carlos Lopez Calvet ..... | 20 |
| Fabian Lang .....              | 21 |
| Rustam Gulov .....             | 22 |
| Bettina Ruigies .....          | 23 |
| Tamar Kintsurashvili .....     | 24 |
| Hurinniso Alizoda .....        | 25 |
| Gulmira Sultanbayeva .....     | 26 |

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Martina Chapman .....   | 27 |
| Asel Sooronbaeva .....  | 28 |
| Barbara Trionfi .....   | 28 |
| Bakhrom Radjabov .....  | 29 |
| Semetei Amanbekov ..... | 30 |
| Timur Idrisov .....     | 31 |
| Guido Keel.....         | 32 |
| Saida Sulaymanova ..... | 33 |
| Ines Drefs .....        | 33 |
| Bahmanyor Nadirov ..... | 34 |

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Ambassador Jan Braathu

Jan Braathu (Norway) is the sixth OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, appointed in December 2024. Prior to his appointment, Braathu served as Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia from January 2021 to December 2024 and Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo from October 2016 until December 2020. Previously, he was Norway's Ambassador to Kosovo and Albania, and Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. His other assignments have included serving as Deputy Director General and Head of the Division for Western Balkan Affairs. Braathu also served in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry's OSCE Chairpersonship-in-Office Section from 1998 to 2000. He held the role of First Secretary and Acting Counsellor for Economic Affairs at the Royal Norwegian Embassy to the Court of St. James's from 1993 to 1996. He was also First Secretary at the Royal Norwegian Embassies in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from 1990 to 1993.



### Philippe Tremblay

Philippe Tremblay joined as Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media after five years as Head of External Co-operation in the Office of the OSCE Secretary General. Prior to joining the OSCE in late 2018, he was a Canadian diplomat for 20 years, working abroad as Deputy Head of Mission and Acting Ambassador at the Embassy of Canada to Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, together with prior postings to Tokyo and New York. At Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa, he was Departmental Chief of Staff to two Foreign Affairs Ministers, Director of Planning in other government departments and fulfilled additional roles in the Protocol, Arms

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE

Control/Disarmament and Policy Planning Bureaus. Earlier in his career, he contributed to the mission of other international organizations, including UNODC, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Atlantic Treaty Association and multiple G7 and G20 Summits and Ministerial meetings. Philippe was the 2015-16 Canada Fellow at Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and holds degrees from Université Paris-1 PanthéonSorbonne, the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the Université de Montréal.



### Ambassador Terhi Hakala

Ambassador Terhi Hakala is a Finnish diplomat who, prior to her current appointment, served as the EU Special Representative for Central Asia. Among her bilateral Ambassador postings to the South Caucasus, Geneva, and India, she has worked as a Director-General for Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Georgia, and Ambassador for Countering Hybrid Threats.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Muzaffarbek Madrakhimov

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Born in 1972 in Tashkent. Graduated from the Tashkent Automobile and Road Institute (1994).

Graduated from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, International Relations (1996)

1996-1998 – Referent, attaché of the Secretariat of the MFA of the Republic of Uzbekistan

1998-2000 – Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the US

2000-2003 – Third, Second Secretary of the Department for Cooperation with European Countries, MFA

2003-2004 – Assistant to the Minister - Head of the Secretariat of the MFA

2004-2007 – First Secretary for Political Affairs at the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Japan

2007-2010 – Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

2010-2014 – Deputy Head of the Diplomatic Mission - Political Advisor at the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the USA

2014-2017 – Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UN, New York

2017-2018 – Head of the Division of Japan, China and Mongolia, the Department of Cooperation with the Countries of East, Southeast Asia and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2018-2023 – Head of the Department for cooperation with the Americas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

From August 2023 to December 2023 - Director of the Department of the Americas, Europe and EU Institutions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

From December 29 2023 - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Speaks English and Russian. Married, has four children.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Sergei Sizov

Sergei Sizov is a Senior Project Officer with the Politico-Military Dimension of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator's Office in Uzbekistan. Previously, he participated in a number of UN peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and West Africa. With his hands-on experience he brings a practical perspective on ensuring human security and peace. Before joining the OSCE Project Co-ordinator's Office in Uzbekistan in June 2021, Mr. Sizov was the Police Matters Advisor with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek.



### Meera Selva

Meera Selva is Chief Executive of Internews Europe, a media development organisation operating in over 40 countries.

She is an experienced journalist who has reported from the field across Europe, Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa, including several years at the Associated Press. She is also a senior research associate of the Reuters Institute and an associate fellow of Green Templeton College at the University of Oxford, as well as a member of the Center for Economic Policy Research. Her work focuses on issues of press freedom, the changing role of technology, and media sustainability. She was previously the Deputy Director of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism and is a co-founder of the Oxford Climate Journalism Network.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Julia Haas

Julia Haas is Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, leading the Office's work on healthy online information spaces. Focusing on internet and AI governance and digital participation, she puts particular emphasis on the impact of artificial intelligence on freedom of expression, digital and legal safety of journalists, gender and online pluralism. Previously, she worked as legal officer and human rights adviser at the Austrian Foreign Ministry. Julia is a David Rockefeller Fellow at the Trilateral Commission, sits on the advisory board for the Vienna Forum for Democracy and Human Rights, and acts as judge at the Oxford University's Price Media Law Moot Court. She holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Vienna and an Information and Media Law LLM. In 2023, she received the OSCE Gender Focal Point award.



### Begaim Usenova

Begaim Usenova is the Director of Media Policy Institute in Kyrgyzstan. She is an expert in media law, media freedom, and media literacy in Central Asia. With over a decade of experience, she has conducted research, legal analysis, and provided policy recommendations on the development of independent journalism and media literacy in Kyrgyzstan. A strong advocate for public interest journalism, Begaim has focused particularly on the impact of online harassment of journalists, exploring how such threats undermine press freedom and the safety of media professionals, especially women journalists. Through collaboration with international organizations, state institutions, and civil society, she plays an active role in shaping media policy to strengthen press freedom amid growing challenges and threats to independent journalism.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Iva Nenadić

Iva Nenadić is an Assistant Professor at the European University Institute and the University of Dubrovnik, specialising in digital and media policy. She serves as Scientific Coordinator at the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (EUI) and teaches courses on Media and Digital Policy, Digital Transformation and Information Integrity at the University of Dubrovnik's Faculty of Media and Public Relations and at the College of Europe in Tirana. Her work bridges academia and policy, contributing to EU-level initiatives on platform governance, media regulation, and information integrity. Prof. Nenadić regularly collaborates with international and intergovernmental organisations on issues related to freedom of expression and the impact of AI on media and journalism. She also holds coordination roles in major EU-wide projects, including the European Digital Media Observatory and the Media Pluralism Monitor.

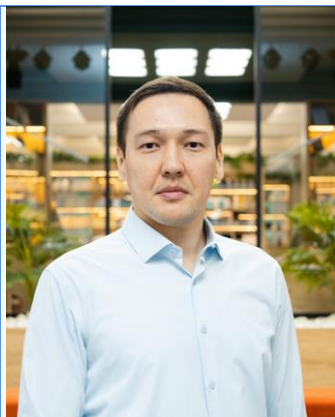
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# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Baurzhan Rakhmetov

Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov is an Assistant Professor at the International School of Economics, Maqsut Narikbayev University (Astana, Kazakhstan). He holds a PhD degree in Politics and International Relations (UK). Baurzhan is also an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK) and a contributor to Forbes Kazakhstan. Research interests include the impact of digital technologies on politics, media, and society. Baurzhan has collaborated with various organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United States Institute of Peace, the Search for Common Ground, and the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, working on issues related to cybersecurity, media freedom, and digitalization.



### Lola Islamova

Lola Islamova is a journalist, researcher, founder and editor-in-chief of the information and analytical publication Anhor.uz, Chairperson of the Board of the Centre for the Development of Modern Journalism of Uzbekistan. Since 2023, she has been leading the community of fact-checkers in Uzbekistan as part of the Mahalla project, the main goal of which is to increase the information media literacy of young people to counter disinformation. Co-author of the study “Media and information literacy in the field of freedom of speech in the countries of Central Asia: analysis and recommendations” (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan)”.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Ruslan Dairbekov

Ruslan Dairbekov is a leading legal and policy expert specializing in cyber law, data protection, and artificial intelligence regulation in Kazakhstan. He has extensive experience in drafting and providing expertise on key legislative initiatives, including laws on digital technologies, personal data protection, and artificial intelligence, as well as in legal practice related to technology regulation, digital compliance, and corporate advisory.

Ruslan is the Managing Partner at the Digital Rights Center Qazaqstan (DRCQ) and the Founder of the Eurasian Digital Foundation (EDF). Under his leadership, both organizations play a key role in advancing responsible AI governance, digital rights, and technology policy across the Central Asia region. He is also a member of the working groups of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the development of the Law on Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Code, contributing to the creation of a comprehensive national legal framework for emerging technologies.

Ruslan's professional interests include digital governance, data protection, innovation policy, and the ethical use of technology. He regularly contributes to international forums, sharing regional perspectives on digital transformation and AI governance.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Olga Didenko

Olga Didenko is Regional Media Law Adviser in Internews, Kazakhstan. Olga has a Master's degree in International Law, and many years of experience as a lawyer in international and local organizations in Kazakhstan. Areas of professional interest are media, jurisprudence and law. She is a permanent participant in different working groups to change laws and rules for journalists, media outlets and Internet regulation.



### Shahlo Akobirova

Shahlo Akobirova is Executive Director of the media NGO Khoma and former Chairperson of the Tajik Media Council (2017–2019). A journalism graduate from Tajik National University, she is a seasoned TV producer and media trainer who led Tajikistan's first national television market study in 2013. She currently hosts Tavozi, a long-running program on economic and social issues, and is a nationally awarded investigative journalist. Shahlo has contributed to the development of strategic media policy documents and co-authored university-level textbooks on television journalism. She serves on the Public Council under the President of Tajikistan and is a board member of both the Journalists' Union and the Media Council.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Gulmira Birzhanova

Gulmira Birzhanova is the Head of the legal service of the Media Qoldau, lawyer, expert in the field of national and international media law. She is the Co-founder of the Legal Media Center, and lecturer at Maqsut Narikbayev University (MNU). Member of the working groups on the draft laws "On Access to Information", "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Information and Communications", "On informatization." Member of the digital rights group. Author and co-author of guides: "Hate speech in Kazakhstan: statistics, judicial practice, recommendations", "Legal framework and practice of blocking Internet content in the Republic of Kazakhstan", "Defamation and Insult Laws in the OSCE Region: A Comparative Study" (section on Kazakhstan).



### Ilkhom Khamidov

Ilkhom Khamidov graduated from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent (2033 – bachelor's degree, 2012 – master's degree). Since 2003, he has been carrying out his professional activities in the field of intellectual property law. Participated in the development of a new version of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Copyright and Related Rights" (adopted in 2006), as well as other draft laws, including in the field of media. He started his activity in the Uzbek Republican Copyright Agency (2003-2005), then continued in a large media holding. In 2006, he initiated the creation of the first organization for the collective management of the property rights of authors, performers and other right holders (public association "The Guild of Authors and Performers of

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE

Uzbekistan"), and then managed the activities of this organization. In 2015-2017 worked as a legal manager in the UNDP project for the development of e-government in the Republic of Uzbekistan.



### Akmat Alagushev

Akmat Alagushev, Deputy Director, lawyer with 25 years of experience working at the origins of the Media Policy Institute in Kyrgyzstan, specializing in the protection of journalists, bloggers, and civil activists in criminal cases related to accusations of incitement to violent overthrow of the government and mass unrest, incitement of hostility, as well as lawsuits to protect honor, dignity, and business reputation, as well as cases involving shut-downs of media outlets and activities of their founders. In addition, one of the tasks is to analyze and develop draft laws, as well as media monitoring and legal expertise.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Aidar Botagarov

Aidar Botagarov works as an Adviser with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) and covers issues pertaining to freedom of expression, freedom of the media and safety of journalists, including in their political, legal and judicial dimensions, in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Russia.

Prior to joining RFoM, he worked as a National Political and Media Officer with the OSCE Centre in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Aidar holds a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford; and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the Kazakhstan's Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Gunjidmaa Gongor

Gunjidmaa Gongor is the first Executive Director of the Media Council of Mongolia (MCM). She has an academic background in sociology, media and journalism studies, as well as extensive experience in managing civil society organizations. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in social sciences at the Mongolian National University.

Until 2017, Ms. Gongor worked at the Mongolian Press Institute, where she successfully coordinated over 100 research and training projects aimed at supporting independent and professional journalism. She was one of the pioneers in establishing MCM, the first independent media self-regulatory body in Mongolia. In January 2018, she was appointed Executive Director of MCM.

Established in early 2015, MCM emerged from a successful collaboration among journalists, media houses, industry representatives, journalist associations, and professional media organizations. The Media Council of Mongolia serves as an independent regulator for printed press, broadcast media, and journalistic online platforms in the country. It upholds the highest standards of journalism by monitoring and enforcing the principles outlined in the Media Code of Ethics.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Anora Sodikova

Anora Sodikova is a journalist and media trainer from Tashkent, Uzbekistan. She is the founder and chief editor of Uzdiplomat.uz, an independent media outlet covering international affairs, governance, and social issues. Over the past 15 years, she has produced many investigative reports on corruption, women's rights, and vulnerable communities, earning recognition from organizations such as UNESCO, the EU, and the Anti-Corruption Agency of Uzbekistan.

Anora is a former Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, having studied disinformation and media ethics at George Washington University and Indiana University in the United States. She has also taken part in various international programs, including the OSCE regional conferences, the DW Global Media Forum in Germany, and media tours to the UK, Taiwan, and other countries. Today, she continues to train journalists on media literacy, countering disinformation, and conflict-sensitive reporting across Central Asia.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Gladis Temirchieva

Gladis Temirchieva is a journalist, editor, and media manager from Kyrgyzstan. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the analytical news platform Vesti.kg and the Chairwoman of the Media Action Platform of Kyrgyzstan, which unites leading newsrooms to promote freedom of expression and professional standards. She is the former Chairwoman and currently Member of the Supervisory Board of the Investigative Journalism Foundation of Kyrgyzstan- a member organization of the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN).

Gladis has extensive experience in independent journalism, civic initiatives, and human rights advocacy. She has participated in international professional programs with JICA (Japan), Danida (Denmark), and ITEC (India). Her contributions have been recognized with Honorary Certificates from the Parliament and the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic for her work in human rights protection, as well as a Letter of Appreciation from the President of the Kyrgyz Republic for her coverage of the Kyrgyz–Tajik border conflict.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Nuriddin Karshiboev

Nuriddin Karshiboev is the Chairman of National Association of Independent Media in Tajikistan. He is a highly respected figure in the field of media development, with over 40 years of distinguished experience in mass media. He has been recognized as an Outstanding Press Worker of the Republic of Tajikistan (2009) and was honored with the Jubilee Medal commemorating the "100th Anniversary of the Tajik Press." An active participant and organizer of numerous regional and international conferences on mass media, Mr. Karshiboev brings extensive expertise in coaching, moderating, and facilitation. He is the author of more than 650 articles, essays, and scientific reports.

Beyond his media work, Mr. Karshiboev is deeply committed to human rights advocacy and media lobbying within government institutions. In March 2009, he received the Special Prize from the Media Alliance of Tajikistan for being "The Best Defender of Journalists' Rights in Tajikistan." He played a key role in developing the Ethical Norms of Journalistic Activity in Tajikistan and was instrumental in establishing the Media Council of Tajikistan, where he served as a member of Working Group from 2008 to 2009 and later as Chairman in 2015.

In 2010, he founded the Tajikistan Freedom of Expression Network (TajFEN). His contributions to press freedom were recognized internationally when Reporters Without Borders (RSF) included him among the "100 Information Heroes" in 2014. Most recently, in 2024, he was awarded the Medal for "25 Years in Defense of Freedom of Information."

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE

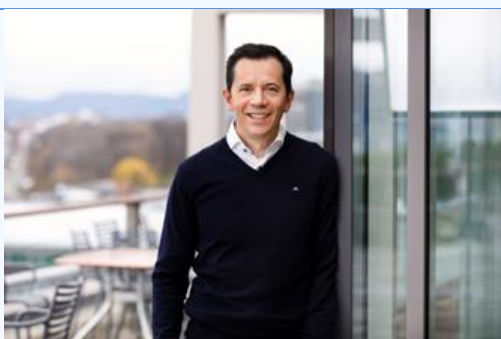


### Adil Jalilov

Kazakstani journalist, media expert, consultant, trainer. non-for-profit senior manager with 20 years of work experience in the field of media, human rights, and social justice in executive and senior manager roles.

Co-founder and director of Factcheck.kz (the first in Central Asia fact-checking resource) and MediaNet international Center for Journalism (one of the most active independent NGO in Kazakhstan and Central Asia). Co-founder of Vlast.kz. He has provided a lot of projects in media literacy and fact-checking, countering disinformation and propaganda, media education, opinion polling, gender equality and non-discrimination etc.

Adil is the initiator and co-author of the researches on hate speech in social media and of the project [Demoscope](#) Bureau of Public Opinion Express Monitoring.



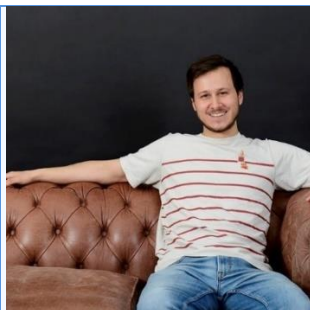
### Juan Carlos Lopez Calvet

Director of Data & AI at Schibsted Media, one of Europe's most advanced news organisations in digital transformation and responsible AI. With over two decades of experience spanning media, telecom, and energy sectors, he has led technology and innovation initiatives across companies such as Schibsted, Telstra, and RACV. Juan Carlos builds high-impact teams and platforms at the intersection of editorial, product, ad-tech, and data, helping newsrooms use AI to drive public value, trust, and commercial impact. He serves on the advisory boards of WAN-IFRA, NorwAI, and Media Futures, contributing to the global dialogue on ethical and sustainable use of AI in journalism.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Fabian Lang

Fabian Lang is an AI Engineer at Deutsche Welle, building multilingual, human-in-the-loop solutions that keep editors in control. His work centers on a key challenge: how to create AI tools that genuinely support journalists rather than replace editorial judgment.

At DW, he's helped develop AI-powered workflows that keep human decision-making at their core, including systems that require editorial review at critical stages. He bridges the gap between AI development and journalistic work, drawing on experience from both the technical side—developing and deploying systems—and the collaborative side of enabling journalists to work effectively with new technology. His work helps DW deliver on its mission: informing global audiences in 32 languages and empowering communities to make informed decisions.

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# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Rustam Gulov

Rustam Gulov is a media consultant and communications expert from Tajikistan. He is the co-founder of the fact-checking platform Factcheck.tj and the creative agency Alifbo Comms. His work focuses on media literacy and the effective use of artificial intelligence technologies in media.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Bettina Ruigies

Bettina Ruigies is Senior Advisor at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media which she joined in 2021. Prior to this, she worked as an Operations Officer at the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, where she was part of the operations team supporting daily patrols in Luhansk oblast. Before that, she served as the Regional Coordinator for Europe/Central Asia at Deutsche Welle Akademie in Germany. With nearly 30 years of experience in the media industry, Bettina has collaborated with journalists, independent and public service media in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and South Caucasus. Her professional background in TV journalism and media management began with her role as a producer for RTL German Television in Moscow in 1993, where she covered daily news topics from all over Russia and its neighboring countries. Later on, she reported TV stories from Germany. Bettina transitioned from journalism to media development during her travels in Asia and Central Asia, supporting community radio development as an international expert in Talas, Kyrgyzstan. She conducted journalism trainings on conflict-sensitive reporting for journalists from Central Asia and coordinated media projects in the Eastern Partnership countries, Western Balkans, and Central Asia for DW Akademie in Bonn.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Tamar Kintsurashvili

Tamar Kintsurashvili is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Media Development Foundation ([MDF](#)), a leading Georgian civil society organization specializing in disinformation research, fact-checking, and media literacy. She is DW FoS Award-winning [journalist](#) and MIL educator and a member of the Deutsche Welle Akademie's Media and Information Literacy Experts Network ([MILEN](#)), contributing her expertise to global discussions on media literacy and democratic participation.

Tamar is the editor-in-chief of [Myth Detector](#), a fact-checking and disinformation analysis portal, which is a verified member of the International Fact-Checking Network ([IFCN](#)) and the European Fact-Checking Standards Network ([EFCSN](#)). In academia, Tamar Kintsurashvili serves as an associate professor at [Ilia State University](#), where she teaches courses on media ethics and propaganda research methods.

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Hurinniso Alizoda

Hurinniso Alizoda is the Chairperson of the Media Council of the Republic of Tajikistan - an independent institution that promotes ethical journalism in the country. Prior to this, she held a number of leadership positions in national media, including heading editorial departments of the government newspaper *Jumhuriyat*. She also was the editor-in-chief of the state magazine *Women of Tajikistan*. A writer and publicist, Ms. Alizoda is the author of three books and thousands of articles published in print and digital media. Her work continues to contribute to the advancement of journalistic ethics in Tajikistan. Over the course of her career, she has been honored with prestigious awards in the field of journalism, as well as two state awards, including the honorary title “Distinguished Worker of Tajikistan.”

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Gulmira Sultanbayeva

Gulmira Sultanbayeva is a Doctor of Political Sciences, Full Professor of Political Science and a prominent scholar from Kazakhstan. She was born on January 1, 1972 in the Turkistan Region. She obtained her higher education from the S. M. Kirov Kazakh State University, graduating in 1994 with a specialty in Journalism and later completed her graduate studies at the Faculty of Journalism of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in 1997. She is the author of more than 200 scientific papers on political communication, electronic democracy, intellectual capital, digital media, and data journalism, including 3 independent and 9 joint scientific monographs. She has 8 articles in the Scopus database and has headed 7 scientific projects of fundamental and applied research of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Professor Sultanbayeva has extensive work experience at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), where she rose from a leading engineer in 1997 to Head of the Department of Press and electronic media. She also served as the Head of the Public Political Communications Educational Program at Narxoz University (2024–2025). Currently, Gulmira Sultanbayeva is a professor at Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University. Her international expert and scientific activities include her role as a country expert for V-Dem (Digital Society Project), National Collaborator from Kazakhstan for the "Worlds of Journalism Study - WJS".

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Martina Chapman

Martina Chapman is an independent consultant drawing on over 25 years of experience in the media sector. She provides specialist advice and support on media literacy policy and strategy development, research and project management. She has produced research, projects and policy papers for a wide range of organisations such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the European Audiovisual Observatory as well as European regulatory bodies, public service media and media institutes.

She is the National Coordinator of [Media Literacy Ireland](#) and the Be Media Smart campaign on behalf Coimisiún na Meán. She currently serves as a member of the EU Media Literacy Expert Group, the European Disinformation and Media Observatory Council on Effective Media Literacy Initiatives and is a Council of Europe expert on media literacy. Previously, she served as the Independent Chair of the Irish [National Counter Disinformation Strategy Working Group](#) and on the Council of Europe CDMSI sub-committee on Quality Journalism in the Digital Age (MSI-JOQ).

# ACTIONING MEDIA VIABILITY FOR INFORMED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES



## 25<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE



### Asel Sooronbaeva

Asel Sooronbaeva is the founder and editor of the Checkit Media platform, a media trainer, and media expert. She has conducted over 120 training sessions in media literacy, journalistic standards, and fact-checking. Asel has trained more than 3,000 people in media literacy, including journalists, schoolchildren, teachers, bloggers, students, activists, local government representatives, akyns, manaschys, and parliamentary candidates. Asel is a two-time finalist of the Media Camp Award for journalists from Central Asia and a recipient of the Ulan Egizbaev Award (Investigative Journalism Fund). She is also a participant of the SUSI for Scholars program (USA) and interned in Georgia as an active member of the Analytical School (IWPR). Additionally, Asel volunteered for four years with the Ethics Commission of Kyrgyzstan's journalists.



### Barbara Trionfi

Barbara Trionfi is the Acting Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. She previously served as Executive Director of the Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI), a global network of editors, journalists and media executives dedicated to promoting media freedom and independent journalism.

With an academic background in international relations and human rights, Barbara has taught courses at Webster University, Vienna in Media Ethics, Media Literacy and Cultural Diversity and the Media. She recently carried out research in the field of climate and environmental journalism. Barbara was awarded a Decoration of Merit in Gold by the Republic of Austria in 2022 for her efforts in support of freedom of expression and safety of journalists.

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### Bakhrom Radjabov

Bakhrom Radjabov is the Program Officer for Communications and Information at UNESCO office in Tashkent. Bakhrom holds an MA in international studies from the University of Tsukuba, Japan; an MA in global political economy from the University of Kassel in Germany; and a PhD in social sciences from the University of Tsukuba. Prior to this, Bakhrom was Head of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Uzbekistan. He also worked as a Senior Administrative Assistant at OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions to the Republic of Uzbekistan. He worked at the UNDP in Uzbekistan, where he led programmatic efforts in the areas of public outreach and promotion of social innovation within the country. Bakhrom also served as the National Project Coordinator for the German International Development Corporation (GIZ) regional project, where he worked with government partners, researchers and international consultants. He also worked as the Project Manager of the UNDP/Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations Joint Project aimed at adapting population skills to the post-pandemic economy in Fergana Valley.

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### Semetei Amanbekov

Semetei Amanbekov is the editor-in-chief of information and analytical portals Bulak.kg and Exclusive.kg, deputy chairman of the Commission on complaints against the media, deputy chairman of the Independent Union of Journalists of Kyrgyzstan. Media expert, investigative journalist, analyst, fact checker. Winner of the Ulana Egizbayeva National Award in the field of investigative journalism. Graduated from the Law School of the Kyrgyz-Russian (Slavonic) University, specializing in civil law and process. 2002 - 2005 worked as a journalist, executive secretary, editor-in-chief of the RIF newspaper. 2005 - 2008 worked as a journalist, executive secretary, deputy editor-in-chief of the Komsomolskaya Pravda Kyrgyzstan newspaper. 2018 - 2021 worked as the editor-in-chief of the information and analytical portal Elgezit.kg.

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### Timur Idrisov

Timur is a seasoned environmental professional and senior adviser at The Little Earth, with a career spanning since the end of 1990s. A Master of Journalism by education, he also works as a freelance environmental journalist, contributing articles and materials to a range of national and international media outlets. He leverages this expertise to drive the NGO's strategic programming, policy development, and resource mobilization, with a core focus on climate change, sustainable energy, and community development. Timur is a recognized figure in Central Asia's environmental sphere. His extensive experience includes developing educational materials, conducting international trainings, and managing multi-year projects like the SPARE school program, underpinned by his alumni status in international fellowships.

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### Guido Keel

Guido Keel has been working as a Senior Advisor to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media since the beginning of 2025. Before that, he had been a professor for journalism and media literacy and director of the Institute of Applied Media Studies at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences.

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### Saida Sulaymanova

Saida Sulaymanova is a journalist, media expert and media trainer. Since 2018, she is the Director of "Modern Journalism Development Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan" NGO. Prior to that she was a senior lecturer at the Department of "Print media" at the National University of Uzbekistan, and editor-in-chief of the Internet site Commercant.uz. Saida has worked as an expert for UNESCO, USAID, CAREC, UNICEF, IREX, Internews, Equality Now, ERIM, ACTED, Article-19 and other organizations.

Author of 12 training manuals, 5 online courses on journalism and mass communications. Coordinator of DW Academy Media School in Uzbekistan (MSU), trainer of "Journalism" course. Head of country and regional media projects. In 1990-1995, she studied at the Faculty of Journalism of Tashkent State University (nowadays Mirzo Ulugbek National University of Uzbekistan).



### Ines Drefs

Ines Drefs is a Senior Consultant in Policy and Learning at DW Akademie - Deutsche Welle's center for international media development, journalism training, and knowledge transfer. She coordinates the operational implementation of the Media Viability Manifesto, a joint initiative of 23 media development organizations aimed at strengthening the sustainability of independent media worldwide. Ines holds a PhD in Journalism Studies from the University of Hamburg, Germany.

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### Bahmanyor Nadirov

Bahmanyor Nadirov is the Editorial Director of Asia-Plus, Tajikistan's leading independent media group. With more than 14 years of experience in journalism, including over six years in editorial leadership, he also mentors and trains in data journalism and modern storytelling formats. His current professional focus is on integrating AI tools and automation to enhance newsroom efficiency and content quality.