



**JOURNALISTS'
SAFETY,
MEDIA FREEDOM
AND PLURALISM
IN TIMES OF CONFLICT**

**15-16 JUNE
HOFBURG
CONFERENCE CENTRE
VIENNA
#journosafeOSCE**

Monday, 15th June

Side Event 1

Time: 12:45 – 14:00

Venue: Hofburg, 2nd floor,
Neuer Saal

Title: *History as Propaganda:
Challenges to Media Freedom*

Convenor: OSCE Delegations of
members of the group of
Nordic-Baltic States,
(Denmark, Lithuania, Latvia,
Estonia, Norway and
Sweden), Ukraine, Canada,
the United Kingdom, Poland,
the Czech Republic and
Romania, and Freedom
House

Working languages: English and Russian

Summary:

The meeting will provide an opportunity to engage in detailed discussions with media experts and historians on how history, or interpretations of history, is sometimes misused for propaganda purposes. The discussion will also explore the ramifications of such propaganda. These ramifications are particularly serious when propaganda dominates the public sphere and prevents individuals from freely forming their own opinions, thus distorting genuine debate and the open exchange of ideas. The speakers will offer their assessment on how history is used in government sponsored propaganda and on the impact this has on international relations and social and political processes. Russia's current use of state fuelled propaganda related to Ukraine and the rest of Europe, including our common history, will be the focus of the event.

Speakers will include Prof. Timothy Snyder, an American historian, author, and academic; Mr. Yevhen Fedchenko, co-founder of the fact-checking website StopFake.org; and Mr. Steffen Gram, Senior Foreign Correspondent at Danish Broadcasting Corporation.





Side Event 2

Time: 12:45 – 14:00

Venue: Hofburg, 2nd floor,
Room 201

Title: *Promoting Safety of Media Professionals and Conflict-Sensitive Journalism in Ukraine*

Convenor: OSCE Project Coordinator to Ukraine.

Working languages: English and Russian

Summary:

During the event OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine will present its project activities planned to help to improve safety of media professionals, to ensure constructive and professional relations between military officers and journalists working in the area of conflict, as well as to promote responsible and conflict-sensitive reporting.

Prominent media NGOs and journalists working on the national level and in the regions will be invited to speak in more detail about their experiences in covering conflict situations and safety challenges for media professionals and needs of the media community.

Side Event 3

Time: 12:45 – 14:00

Venue: Hofburg, 2nd floor,
Room 210

Title: *Digital Journalism Revolution on the Eastern European Frontline*

Convenor: Hromadske International

Working language: English

Summary:

When it comes to the Eastern European geopolitical drama, words, not guns have become the top-arsenal. Amid rising power of the state-funded propaganda and news-manipulation from both sides of the conflict, there is growing pressure on independent newsrooms all around the region.

Hromadske TV is a publicly funded digital news start-up that produces viral news content, investigative and war reporting in three languages: English, Russian and Ukrainian. Having established itself as a regional success story, now Hromadske is reaching out to other independent newsrooms all around Central and Eastern Europe to share its own experience in building up a multinational operations based on independent journalism. In a quest for establishing a strong network of crowdsourced fact-checking, sharing of content and production experience, Hromadske believes that independent newsrooms all around the region can survive these challenging times only by supporting each other.





Tuesday, 16th June

Side Event 4

Time: 13:15 – 14:30

Venue: Hofburg, 2nd floor,
Neuer Saal

Title: *2 countries - 1 Profession:
Dialogue Between
Professional Journalist
Organizations of Ukraine and
Russia*

Convenor: National Union of Journalists
of Ukraine, Independent
Media Trade Union of Ukraine
and Russian Union of
Journalists

Working languages: English and Russian

Summary:

The dialogue between the unions today is the only sustainable one between professional organizations of the two countries with a focus on safety of journalists and overcoming the consequences of the current conflict. It is also viewed by its participants as a platform to strengthen professional solidarity. Meetings between representatives of the unions are taking place at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. A total of six meetings were held in 2014 – 2015, during which the participants adopted an action plan and a number of statements reflecting existing problems and concerns.

During the side event leaders of the organizations which initiated the dialogue – Nadezhda Azhgikhina from the Russian Union of Journalists and Sergiy Tomilenko from the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine – will talk about their cooperation, efforts to support journalists in Crimea and secure the release of captured journalists, and demands that those guilty of crimes against journalists be punished. Other participants in the dialogue will also share their experience of solidarity, solving ethical dilemmas, and monitoring violations of journalists' rights. A joint Russian-Ukrainian report on violations of the rights of journalists from both countries in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine will be presented during the event. The report drew upon the monitoring experience of the International Federation of Journalists, whose director of programmes, Oliver Money-Kyrle, will present the findings.

Side Event 5

Time: 13:15 – 14:30

Venue: Hofburg, 2nd floor,
Room 201

Title: *Free Access to Sources of
Information: Pluralism in Mass
Media and Professional
Journalist Activity in Armed
Conflict Conditions*

Convenor: Civic Chamber of the Russian
Federation

Working languages: English and Russian

Summary:

The event is supposed to deal with issues of ensuring mass media pluralism, free access to unbiased information and professional journalism in the context of armed confrontation in a broad sense, including visas, security, etc.





Side Event 6

Time: 13:15 – 14:30

Venue: Hofburg, 2nd floor,
Room 210

Title: *Human Rights Abusing and
Hate Speech in Media During
the Conflict in Ukraine*

Convenor: Information Group on Crimes
Against the Person

Working languages: English and Russian

Summary:

One of the reasons of protests on Euromaidan was the persecutions of journalists and abuse of freedom of the press. However, the Euromaidan leaders came to the power did not turn the situation for the better. The pressure on Ukrainian and Russian journalists and independent mass media for the “incorrect” information still exist in Ukraine. Thus, Ukrainian authorities seem not to fulfil their obligations to guarantee the safety of journalists working on dangerous assignments. It contradicts to the Convention of human rights and fundamental freedoms protection signed on 1950. From one hand aggression against journalists is became a part of the daily life in Ukraine. Sometimes they are committed by the pro government organizations. From the other hand official power approves media using dehumanizing vocabulary. The cases of journalist’s abused from the part of official Kiev power and paramilitary formations or favoured by them will be analysed within the framework of the event.

Side Event 7

Time: 14:30 – 17:00

Venue: Hofburg, 2nd floor,
Neuer Saal

Title: *Reporting from Crimea and
Donbass: Challenges, Best
Practices, Recommendations*

Convenor: Freedom House, Institute of
Mass Information and Donetsk
Institute of Information

Working languages: English and Russian

Summary:

Reporting on the unfolding conflict, revolution, and annexation in Ukraine presents new challenges to Ukrainian and foreign journalists, as well as international press freedom and human rights advocates such as the OSCE. Join Freedom House and the Institute of Mass Information (IMI) for a discussion with journalism and press freedom experts from Crimea, Donbass, and Poland who will share their insights and testimony on reporting from Ukraine’s combat zones and annexed territories. Panellists will also share best practices on how to support journalists and facilitate objective and comprehensive media coverage of one of Europe’s most fraught humanitarian and political issues.





Side event 8

Time: 14:30 – 17:00

Venue: Hofburg, 2nd floor, Room 201

Title: *Aid Effectiveness for Eurasian Media in Times of Crisis: Reflecting on Lessons Learnt, Progress and Increased Coordination*

Convenor: Global Forum for Media Development, with Independent Association of Broadcasters (Ukraine), Free Press Unlimited, International Media Support and BBC Media Action

Working languages: English and Russian

Summary:

The event will be organized around 2 axes:

1 Media Development in conflict areas – the long term perspective. Informing thoughtful engagement in today's crisis' based on lessons learnt by the media development community

In times of crisis, the attention of interventions on media often focuses on immediate needs for reliable and independent information, or safety. But what kind of vision on the media environment lies behind the engagement, and is there enough prospective thinking about the long term perspective, impact of the engagement and institution building ? How will the emergency actions taken look in retrospect, in a few years from now? Can we do better in times of crisis – especially the ones which several years – in strategizing ahead and preparing the ground for post crisis and (re-building) and a balanced, pluralistic media environment ?

We aim to have a cross-cutting and critical view at media development in times of conflict, and to capitalize knowledge for action. Media assistance implementers, journalists and academics will share their views on past experiences of media assistance engagement in times of conflict like Bosnia, Afghanistan, Columbia or Sudan. Based on these cases, can we identify patterns ? Can we draw lessons learnt that can inform engagement in current crisis, such as Ukraine or Syria?

2 Increasing aid effectiveness and coordination for media assistance in Eurasia in a time of crisis
In September 2014, Agenda for change - Developing Independent Media in the Digital Era in Eurasia meeting, a conference organized by the GFMD, Independent Association of Broadcasters and Free Press Unlimited in Kyiv analysed key media issues in the countries which once made up the Soviet Union and came up with recommendations for the way forward for the independent media, with specific focuses on digitization challenges, internet freedoms and regional trends.

9 months later, while the information war has deepened in the region, which progress can be claimed on media assistance for the points that were raised in Kyiv and what are the remaining challenges? Progress assessment will be presented and solutions to overcome these gaps will be discussed with participants.

In echo to the recommendations presented by the European Endowment for democracy in Riga on 20 May regarding the need to increase coordination, the session will also discuss which improvements can be brought to the coordination mechanism(s) among implementers and donors on Eurasia media assistance.

Speakers will include Mr Shirazuddin Siddiqi, Country Director for Afghanistan at BBC Media Action; Ms Magda Walter, Media Advisor at the European Endowment for Democracy; Ms Katya Myasnikova, Director of the Independent Association of Broadcasters of Ukraine; and Ms Manana Aslamazyan, independent media expert.

