
ROUNDTABLE - Third expert meeting: The role of independent national media regulatory authorities in regaining trust in the media

Dr. Levente NYAKAS, LL.D. PhD

Organizer: OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
Date: 2 November 2021, 10:00 - 12:00
Draft


II. Challenges in the new media environment from NRA perspective
I. ERGA Report (2018) - Subject

- Regulatory framework/tools for ensuring citizens access to information (political pluralism, informed citizen concept)

1. **General** = regulation of & ethical standards covering news, current affairs prog.
   - editorial independence, objectivity, impartiality, accuracy, veracity, transparency

2. **Election period** = media coverage of elections
   - the extent, scheduling and the balance of the programmes, moratorium, opinion polls, political advertising
I. ERGA Report (2018) - Perspective

Traditional media
- predominantly broadcasting
- national character (media landscape, constitutional environment)

Comparative nature
- EU Member states (28 ERGA members + 3 observers)
I. ERGA Report (2018) - Conclusions > General measures

- All NRAs have some concrete measures aimed at protecting political pluralism

- Not all categories of measures are available in all countries however, they are widespread in every category assessed

1. Almost all NRAs = editorial independence, impartiality & right to reply

2. Most NRAs = accuracy, veracity & light-touch approaches

3. Many of the measures = indirectly but effectively could cover disinformation
I. ERGA Report (2018) - Conclusions > Election Period Regulations

1. Broadcast media traditionally subject to detailed and rigorous regulation during EP (potential influence)

2. Aim = ensure the pluralism of all “political representatives” participating in the political-institutional debate (requiring access to media)

3. Almost all countries have specific regulations for the electoral campaigns

4. In some countries the NRAs have the role of drafting the rules for the electoral campaigns under their respective legal frameworks
II. Challenges

1. Responsibility

- Chal.: Intermediaries = no editorial responsibility as traditional media
- Resp.: content handling procedures, ensuring “Good Samaritan” protection
- Quest.: intermediaries = public utility (monopoly power, broad social influence > positive obligations serving diversity?)
II. Challenges

2. Information/transparency
   - Chal.: how we can access reliable information about platforms performance?
   - Resp.: multi-source information = reporting, requiring data, academic research/analysis, user complaints etc.

3. Local interest
   - Chal.: protection of national public sphere & constitutional environment > < global player with local effect
   - Resp.: extensive co-operation
Thank you for your attention!