

# JOURNALISM IN TIMES OF CRISIS

OSCE SOUTH EAST EUROPE  
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**osce** Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Presence in Albania

**osce**  
The Representative on  
Freedom of the Media

**SPEAKER**

**BIOGRAPHIES**



Teresa Ribeiro  
OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Teresa Ribeiro, of Portugal, is the fifth Representative on Freedom of the Media. She has vast political, diplomatic, human rights and media experience.

Prior to this position, she was Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, while serving as President of the National Commission for Human Rights.

She was also Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Deputy Secretary General at the Union for the Mediterranean, positions that gave her extensive experience in dealing with the EU institutions and Member States, as well as with its close neighbourhood.

Throughout her career, Teresa Ribeiro has held different positions in media, both in Portugal and in multilateral organizations, such as President of the Institute of the Media of Portugal, President of the Steering Committee on Mass Media of the Council of Europe, and also Co-founder and first elected President of the Executive Board of Obercom – Media Observatory.

She holds a degree in Philosophy from the University of Lisbon.



Edi Rama  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania

Edi Rama is a politician, artist, writer, and the current Prime Minister of Albania. He is also the leader of the Socialist Party of Albania since 2005. He gained power in 2013, leading a coalition of left-wing parties to a landslide victory, on a platform named “Renaissance for Albania”. It was based on four pillars, European integration, economic revitalization, restoration of the public order and democratization of state institutions. In 2017, Rama won a second term, with the Socialists becoming the first party in 25 years to achieve a single party majority in parliament.

Rama served as Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports from 1998 to 2000, and was Mayor of Tirana for three consecutive terms from 2000 to 2011. Under his watch, Tirana experienced a total transformation, opening to colorful facades and daring architectural structures, which led Rama to win the prize of “World Best Mayor” in 2004 and European Hero Award by

	<p>Time Magazine.</p> <p>In addition to politics, Rama is known for his passion for arts and sports. Rama is a professional painter, renowned for his unique colorful style. As a painter, Rama has held several exhibitions in New York, London, Berlin, Venice, and Paris, among others.</p>
 <p>Vincenzo Del Monaco Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania</p>	<p>Ambassador Vincenzo Del Monaco, from Italy, took office as the Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania on 16 November 2020.</p> <p>He has served for 23 years in Italy’s diplomatic service. Before joining the Presence in Albania, Ambassador Del Monaco was Ambassador of Italy to Armenia, and prior to that Ambassador of Italy to Montenegro. He has also served in Beijing; Brussels, at the Italian Permanent Representation to the EU; and the cabinet of the diplomatic advisor to Italy’s former President, Giorgio Napolitano.</p> <p>He graduated in Law with honours from La Sapienza University of Rome, holds a Master of Law degree in High European Legal Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, and a diploma from the École Nationale d'Administration.</p> <p>Ambassador Del Monaco is awarded with the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (Commendatore), the French Légion d’Honneur (Chévalier), and the Order of the Montenegrin Flag (second rank).</p> <p>He speaks Italian, English and French. He is married and has three children.</p>
	<p>Dr. Julie Posetti is Global Director of Research at the International Center For Journalists (ICFJ). She holds a PhD in Journalism Studies. She currently leads the UNESCO-ICFJ Online Violence Project, examining the global impacts of gender-based online violence against journalists. She is also co-lead researcher of the Journalism and the Pandemic Project, a global collaborative study on the impacts of COVID-19 on journalists and journalism worldwide in partnership with Columbia University’s Tow Center for Digital Journalism. Dr. Posetti previously led the Journalism Innovation Project at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford, which studied innovation indicators and sustainable</p>



Julie Posetti  
Global Director of Research, Int. Center for Journalists

models of innovation within news organizations, with an emphasis on developing countries. In 2019-2020 she was also co-lead of a research project commissioned by the UN Broadband-Commission, which produced a study on international disinformation responses and freedom of expression challenges. In 2017, UNESCO published her book *Protecting Journalism Sources in the Digital Age*. A journalist with three decades of experience, Dr. Posetti is also co-editor of the groundbreaking UNESCO handbook for journalism education and training *Journalism, 'Fake News' and Disinformation* (2018), and *Balancing Act: Countering Digital Disinformation While Respecting Freedom of Expression* (UNESCO 2020). She is academically affiliated with the University of Sheffield's Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM) and the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford. She also served on the Infodemics Working Group of the Information and Democracy Forum, and she is on the Advisory Board of Indiana University's Observatory on Social Media (OSOME), and the International Women's Media Foundation's (IWMF) Online Harassment Advisory Board.



Andrey Rikhter  
Senior Advisor, OSCE RFoM Office

Andrey Rikhter is Senior Adviser at the OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. Rikhter sits on the editorial boards of a number of international journals on communications and the media. He has authored more than 200 publications on media law in Russian, English, Armenian, Azeri, Bosnian, Croat, German, French, Serbian, Slovak, Tajik and Ukrainian, including the only standard media law textbook for journalism students in the Russian Federation (2002, 2009), a textbook on international standards of media regulation (2011), a textbook on online media law (2014), and a book on censorship and freedom of the media in post-Soviet countries, published by UNESCO (2007). Rikhter holds university degrees in law and foreign languages, and a doctorate and professorship in journalism studies. He was a commissioner at the International Commission of Jurists and the Chair of the Law Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research.



Milka Tadić-Mijović  
President, Centre for Investigative  
Reporting, Montenegro

Milka Tadić Mijović is a journalist and media executive, and was an international civic activist during the turbulent transition era in Southeast Europe. She is one of the co-founders of the weekly Monitor, the first Montenegrin private and independent weekly magazine (1990). During the 1990s, she was actively engaged in the antiwar movement.

Tadić-Mijović was the first journalist dismissed from a job in Montenegro for articles critical of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević's nationalistic policies. Her articles defending peace and ethnic minorities and combating corruption have received awards and have been translated and quoted by the New York Times, the Economist, and other publications.

She was threatened in her country for speaking out against corruption and other government wrongdoings. For this, Tadic Mijovic has been identified in the first ever list of "100 Information Heroes" by Reporters without Borders (<https://rsf.org/en/hero/milka-tadic-mijovic>).

Tadić-Mijović served on the Open Society Foundations board in Montenegro, on the Council of Europe Steering Committee on the Mass Media, and as a member of the Joint Commission on Media Policy of the Duke University & City of Vienna. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science and Journalism from University of Montenegro, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Belgrade.

Tadić-Mijović is president of the Centre for Investigative Journalism of Montenegro. She is now focused on topics related to high-level corruption, rule of law, freedom of media and environmental destruction in her native Montenegro and the Western Balkans.



Sarah Clarke  
Head of Europe & Central Asia, Article 19

Sarah Clarke joined ARTICLE 19 in January 2019 as Head of the Europe and Central Asia team, defending the human rights to freedom of expression and information in the region. Between 2012 and 2018, she led PEN International's policy and advocacy work, overseeing its engagement with the UN and regional human rights mechanisms and governments. She has a particular interest in freedom of expression in Turkey, where she has led numerous advocacy missions, trial observations and the amicus interventions on the priority cases of journalists before the European Court of Human Rights. Sarah has consulted for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, OSCE and Oxford and Harvard universities on issues relating to freedom of expression, asylum and forced migration. She speaks Spanish and is graduate of Oxford University, Trinity College Dublin and BPP Law School.

Twitter: @sarah\_m\_clark



Elisa Spiropali  
Minister of State for Relations with  
Parliament, Albania

Elisa Spiropali was elected member of the Albanian Parliament following the general elections of 2017 and 2021. On 17 January 2019, she resumed the post of Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament and Spokesperson of the Government. She became a member of the Socialist Party and, after being chosen as Head of the Forum of Young Albanian Socialist Party in June 2012, she was appointed as Director General of Customs and later as spokesperson for the Party Presidency. Spiropali earned a Master's Degree in European Political Economics in the UK, and graduated in 2005 with an honorary degree in Politics and Economics from the Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, USA. She is married and has two children.



Bardhyl Jashari  
Founder and Executive Director,  
Metamorphosis Foundation,  
North Macedonia

Bardhyl Jashari is the founder and executive director of Metamorphosis Foundation (North Macedonia). His professional interests are mainly in the sphere of new technologies, media, education and open government. He has run national and international-scope projects, involving tight co-operation with other international organizations, governmental bodies, as well as the business and civic sectors. Jashari is a strong advocate for open government, open education, digital rights and media freedoms. For more than 20 years, he managed a large number of e-government, educational and media projects, creating co-funding partnerships and investing in open government, social innovation and media development. Jashari holds a Master's Degree from Paris 12 University-Faculty of Public Administration (France) and an Information System Designer Degree from the University of Zagreb (Croatia).



Kristina Voko

Kristina Voko is the executive director of BIRN Albania since 2014 and co-ordinates the network's activities, fundraising and projects in their office in Tirana. During her professional experience with BIRN, she has been involved in designing and implementing projects and research studies related to journalism, freedom of information, media freedom, anti-corruption, open data and transparency initiatives. Before joining BIRN, she has been engaged in co-ordinating and managing different projects for national and international organizations. With a background in Psychology, Voko has extensive experience in quantitative and qualitative research methods, by leading many research projects in the human rights and media sectors, as well as other fields.

<p>Executive Director, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Albania</p>	
 <p>Milovan Nikolić Assistant Editor, FakeNews Tragač</p>	<p>Milovan Nikolić is Assistant Editor of the Serbian fact-checking portal FakeNews Tracker (fakenews.rs). He specializes in particular in photo and video forensics, as well as geolocating using different OSINT techniques. He also works as a Media Producer at the Novi Sad School of Journalism. He has worked as a freelance journalist for several Serbian outlets.</p>
 <p>Ricardo Gutiérrez Secretary General, European Federation of Journalists</p>	<p>Ricardo Gutiérrez is General Secretary of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), the largest journalists' organization in Europe, representing over 320,000 journalists in 45 countries. Former journalist for the Belgian daily newspaper "Le Soir", he is a senior lecturer at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). He is also a member of the Belgian Press Council (CDJ) and a member of the Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). He has conducted training for journalists on hate speech, ethical journalism and reporting on ethnicity and religion.</p> <p>Twitter: @Molenews1</p>



Lejla Turčilo  
Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences,  
University of Sarajevo

Dr. sci. Lejla Turčilo is a full time professor at the Department of Communication Science/Journalism at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where she teaches courses on Media Theory, TV Journalism, Online Journalism, and Media and Politics at the undergraduate and master's degree level and Creation of New Public by PR and Online Media at the Doctoral Study. She has published four authored books, six co-authored books, as well as one manual and five research publications. She has published more than 40 scientific and professional papers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad. She is the head of the Center for Lifelong Learning at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Sarajevo and the head of the Department of Communication Science/ Journalism. Her field of interest is online communication, intercultural communication, media literacy and media freedom.



Mihailo Jovović  
Editor-at-Large at Vijesti newspaper and  
President of the  
Commission for Monitoring Investigations

Mihailo Jovović is an experienced journalist and editor, currently Editor at Large with the newspaper Vijesti, the most influential media outlet in Montenegro on all its platforms. He was the daily's Editor in Chief from 2011–2018, and before that was deputy Editor-in-Chief, Political Editor, and an International News Editor, with knowledge and experience in all aspects of the media industry. He writes about politics, crime, intelligence and judicial affairs. He is the president of the Montenegrin Government Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Attacks on Journalist. He is/was a member of several OSCE and/or Council of Europe task groups for creating and amending the Code of Ethics of Montenegrin Journalists, Guidelines for Online Comments, and Election Reporting Guidelines. He has lead or participated in numerous projects in the field of investigative journalism and other media issues. He is a lawyer by education. He is married and has two children.

<p>of Attacks on Journalists, Montenegro</p>	
<div data-bbox="190 272 651 580" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="190 619 750 799" data-label="Caption"> <p>Veran Matić          Founder and Chairperson, Association of Independent Electronic Media and Member of the Permanent Working Group for the Safety of Journalists, Serbia</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="786 272 1984 453" data-label="Text"> <p>Veran Matić has been engaged in journalism since 1984 with alternative and youth media in Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana. He began his career with NTV Studio B, and in May 1989 founded Radio B92, the first independent radio station in Serbia. Under his guidance, in the course of the next 30 years, Radio B92 set up and developed its numerous sectors, most important being radio, TV and web platform.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="786 496 1966 639" data-label="Text"> <p>Matić is founder and chairperson of ANEM (Association of Independent Electronic Media), being one of the most uncompromising fighters for media freedom and freedom of expression, which resulted in his receiving numerous prestigious international and local awards for his work over the last 30 years.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="786 683 1957 1043" data-label="Text"> <p>Among his numerous activities are the following: President of the Association of Independent Electronic Media ANEM, Member of the Permanent Working Group for the Safety of Journalists, Member of the Working Group for the Protection and Safety of Journalists, Chairman of the Commission for investigating the killings of journalists, Executive Director of the Serbian Philanthropic Forum, Editor of the Javniservis.net portal, Manages the project Safe Line, SOS hotline for reporting threats and violence against journalists and the website bezbedninovinari.rs, Special envoy of the President of the Republic of Serbia for resolving the issue of missing persons with the Republic of Croatia, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Fund for the Medical Treatment of Children Abroad</p> </div> <div data-bbox="786 1086 1816 1118" data-label="Text"> <p>He studied World Literature at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade.</p> </div>



Dragan Sekulovski  
Executive Director, Association of  
Journalists of Macedonia

Sekulovski Dragan is a dynamic and experienced professional, with a considerable track record and hands-on experience in Project Management, gained through working for and with a variety of non governmental, governmental, and private actors, and international donors' communities in North Macedonia, most of whom are involved in the process of development. Lately, he has been involved in managing projects of the Association of Journalists of Macedonia, funded by different international donors supporting freedom of media and democratization processes in the country. Dragan is a member of a variety of working groups within public institutions for amending national laws in the area of elections, media broadcasting, defamation and slander, as well as Criminal Law. Dragan has also been an Editor for more than ten publications and manuals on media-related topics in the past several years. Dragan holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in law at the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, and is currently enrolled in PhD studies in the area of security within the Faculty of Security-Skopje, St. Kliment Ohridski University.



Blerjana Bino  
Co-founder and Executive Director, Centre  
of Science and Innovation for Development,  
Albania

Dr. Blerjana Bino is a researcher in social sciences with a particular focus on media, democracy, and participation. She is a research member of the Safe Journalists Network in the Western Balkans, with extensive experience in assessing media landscapes in the region with specific focus on Albania. She has a PhD in Communication Sciences and a Master of Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science – LSE. She is a former Swedish Institute Fellow at the Department of Media and Informatics, Uppsala University. She is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Centre Science and Innovation for Development (SCiDEV), working closely with academia, civil society, policy, and media, and leading a network of outstanding scholars and policy researchers working on democratic development, good governance, media and communication, research to society collaborations and digital transformation.



Dragan Bursać  
Independent Journalist

Dragan Bursać is a Bosnian journalist and columnist, as well as a professor of Philosophy. He has been professionally engaged in journalism since 1999. He started his career as a journalist at Radio Banja Luka. From 2010 to the end of 2016 he worked at the BUKA portal, one of the most prominent independent media portals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a journalist / columnist.

In 2014, he worked as a columnist for Al Jazeera Balkans. He is currently a permanent columnist for Al Jazeera Balkans, Radio Sarajevo and several other independent media outlets in the region. His work and opus is focused on the topics of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, confrontation with the past, and humanity in the wars of the region.

He was awarded the European Press Prize in 2018 in the Opinion category, as well as the Südosteuropa Solidarity Award 2020/2021 for Journalists from Southeast Europe, awarded to brave journalists from Southeast Europe for their outstanding work and contribution to democracy, the rule of law and media freedom in the region.

Twitter: @dijalekticar



Jelena Zorić works as a journalist for Insajder TV. She is engaged in investigative work in the field of organized crime. Until May 2021, she worked for N1 TV, to which she transferred from Studio B in 2014. Since 2008, Zorić has been reporting in the field of crime, organized crime, and security. She is the author of several shows about coronavirus hospitals in Belgrade, as well as about the “Helikopter“, “Krušik“, “Jovanjica” scandals. Her work was especially noticed by the public during her reporting of anti-government protests in July 2020, as well as for her reporting on the topic of organized crime about the case of “Jovanjica”. Due to that case, she was threatened on several occasions. Zorić is the winner of several journalistic awards and state recognitions, and was declared the most awarded journalist in the region in 2020-2021.

Jelena Zorić  
Journalist, Insajder TV



Julia Haas  
Assistant Project Officer, OSCE RFoM  
Office

Julia Haas is an international law and human rights expert. In her work, she has focused on international relations, the intersection of technology and human rights, and the prevention of marginalization. Haas particularly focuses on policy research and development in the field of internet governance and digital participation, implementing the RFoM's project on the impact of artificial intelligence on freedom of expression, and working on the digital safety of women journalists. Previously, she worked as legal officer and human rights adviser at the Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. Haas is counselor at the Vienna Forum for Democracy and Human Rights. She holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Vienna (summa cum laude), a scholarship for its LLM program on Information and Media Law, and is a PhD candidate on the impact of digital innovations on media freedom.

Twitter: [@TheJuliaHaas](https://twitter.com/TheJuliaHaas)



Clarisse Pásztor  
Deputy Head of the OSCE Presence in  
Albania

Clarisse Pásztor is the Deputy Head of Mission of the OSCE Presence in Tirana. She brings 20 years of diplomatic crisis management experience in the Balkans (2001-2007) and the Middle East (2007-19). From 2016-2019, she headed the EU Office in Erbil, the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Previous MENA postings include Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Before moving to the Middle East, Clarisse specialized on the Western Balkans and was part of successive crisis management missions in North Macedonia, Kosovo and BiH. She holds degrees in International Studies/Economics (BA) and International Relations (MA) from the US and an MPhil in Political Sciences from Austria, with postgraduate studies in non-profit management and strategic planning in Switzerland and Arabic and Islamic Studies in Syria. She speaks German, English, Albanian, French, Italian, and basic Arabic.



Borka Rudić  
Secretary General of the Association of  
Journalists of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Borka Rudić, a professor of philosophy, started working as a journalist in 1985, as a correspondent for Radio Sarajevo in BiH and the daily newspaper Večernji list from Zagreb (Croatia).

From 1992-95, she worked as a war reporter for RTV Bosnia and Herzegovina and the daily newspaper Oslobodjenje. She was the first Editor-in-Chief of Radio FERN, formed by the OSCE Mission to BiH, providing coverage of the first post-war elections in BiH. From December 1997 to June 2005, she established and operated the Together Radio Network. In the field of radio journalism, she was the Director of the Regional Radio Network (RRN), and has served as a long-term associate – correspondent for Radio Free Europe, Beta News Agency, Danish Radio, political magazine Dani from Sarajevo, and Tjednik magazine from Zagreb.

As the Secretary General of the BH Association of Journalists, she is committed to protecting freedom of expression and media freedom, as well as advocating for better protection and safety of journalists (especially female journalists) through the legal and institutional framework in BiH and the Western Balkans. She also works as a certified lecturer on journalistic ethics, radio journalism and editing of news programs, as well as the application of conflict resolution methods in radio journalism.



Rozeta Tase  
Editor-in-Chief, Albanian Daily News

Rozeta Tase is Editor-in-chief of [albaniadailynews.com](http://albaniadailynews.com) since January 2015. Tase is an experienced journalist in Albania with over 15 years of experience as a journalist and editor-in-chief of the most prominent printed and online media in the country.

In charge of management of [Albaniadailynews.com](http://Albaniadailynews.com), as the online version of the first and most prominent English language daily newspaper published in Albania, she has further improved her knowledge and experience on foreign relations, diplomacy and European integration.

She graduated with degrees in Journalism and Public Relations at the University of Tirana.



Kristina Ozimec  
President, Platform for Investigative  
Journalism and Analysis, North Macedonia

Kristina Ozimec is an investigative journalist from Skopje and president of the Platform for Investigative Journalism and Analyses – PINA. She is also head organizer of the Investigative Film Festival Skopje.

She is specialized in covering different areas such as politics, corruption, rule of law, human rights, civil society and education. Ozimec has won multiple awards for her investigative stories, and has been commended for her professional coverage of issues concerning marginalized communities and human rights.

She has conducted training sessions and lectures about investigative journalism and media. She is a co-ordinator of two programs in PINA – Program for women journalists and Program for mobile journalism, and a co-ordinator of the program – Young Journalists Network. Kristina is a journalism graduate of Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law in Skopje.



Alice Taylor  
Co-Editor at Exit.al and Associate at the  
Coalition Of Women In Journalism

Alice Taylor is a British-born journalist living and working in Albania. She is the Co-Editor for the English edition of Exit.al, an independent and non-profit Albanian media portal. She is a founding member of the Ethical Media Alliance, Albania’s first self-regulatory platform. In 2020, she was also elected to the board. Additionally, she works for Malta-based, Reporters Without Borders award-winning portal The Shift News. The platform was set up in 2017 following the assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia with a view to carry on her investigations posthumously. Recently, she has started working with the Coalition for Women in Journalism and is involved in lobbying, communications, and raising awareness of their global advocacy. She is also a member of the IFJ and IPI, and regularly reports on media freedom violations, with a special interest in issues that impact women.

Twitter: @The\_Balkanista

Snežana Milošević is Secretary General of “Local Press“ since March 2002. From 1988 to



Snežana Milošević  
Secretary General, Association of Local Independent Media “Local Press”, Serbia

1993, worked as a journalist for the local paper “Nezavisna Svetlost“ from Kragujevac, writing comments on the economy. She returned to the media sector in 1994 as a marketing manager for the paper “Nezavisna Svetlost“. From 1998, she started working for the Association “Local Press”. From 2000, she worked on projects run by the Association of the local independent media “Local Press” and “Svetlost” from Kragujevac. She has designed and implemented over 150 projects for “Local Press. She is also engaged as an instructor for the financial project reporting for the needs of the European Agency for Reconstruction, as a consultant for training and the establishment of marketing services in the media by IREX.

She graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Kragujevac in 1987 with a degree in International Economic Relations and Marketing.



Brikenda Rexhepi  
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Koha Ditore/KTV/Koha.net

Brikenda Rexhepi is Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the newsroom of Koha Ditore, Kohavision and Koha.net.

Rexhepi started her career in journalism in June 1998. She worked during the war as a reporter for the newspaper KOHA Ditore, until March 1999, when the premises of the media were looted and the printing house burned. She joined the OSCE in Skopje in May and continued with its mission in Kosovo, in the Media Affairs Department. Less than two years later, she returned to active journalism covering mainly political issues. In 2007, she became part of the editorial board of KOHA Ditore and since 2020 is Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the joint newsroom of KOHA’s media – Koha Ditore, Kohavision and Koha.net. During these years, she was also engaged in numerous projects related to media and civil society, and was an author of editorials, documentaries and primetime television interviews. She holds a Master of Science degree in Linguistics.



Leila Bičakčić  
Director, Centre for Investigative Reporting,  
BiH

Leila Bičakčić is one of the founding members of the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN), which is modelled on US non-profit media agencies. Her remit includes financial and administrative management, donor collaboration, planning, designing and co-ordinating CIN-implemented projects, and reporting. A special focus of Leila's work is on finding models of sustainable organization and new business models in the Bosnia and Herzegovina context, the transition from traditional media to new digital models, and the convergence of media content. A Sarajevo native, she studied basic physics and economics at Sarajevo University.



Tinka Đuranović  
Executive Director, Portal Analitika

Tinka Đuranović is the Executive Director of Portal Press Ltd since December 2014 and has extensive media experience in Montenegro. From December 2014 to November 2015, she served as Program Manager at Media Biro. Prior to that, she was a Consultant for projects and marketing for Pobjeda AD from July 2010 to September 2012, as well as Executive Director for Bega Press from 1998 to 2014. Đuranović also has experience working on gender projects, including one on political representation of women in Montenegro, and has spoken on several panels addressing the topic of women and gender roles in the media, as well as online gender violence. Đuranović graduated from the University for Applied Arts of Belgrade in 1985. She speaks fluent English, Italian and Montenegrin.

Coordinator of the Media Freedom Resource Centre managed by OBC Transeuropa/CCI, Paola Rosà has been working for OBCT since 2019, when she co-curated a special dossier about SLAPPs in Europe. She is the advocacy officer for media freedom and SLAPPs, taking



Paola Rosà  
Coordinator of the Media Freedom  
Resource Centre, OBC Transeuropa

care of the relationships with international and national stakeholders. She co-ordinates OBCT activities within the EU-funded project Media Freedom Rapid Response, (MFRR) lead by the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF). Previously, she has worked as a professional journalist for a newspaper, and for radio and television. For the public broadcaster RAI, she created a dozen radio series about stories of change and environmental challenges, and produced TV reports about Palestinian olive-pickers, Canadian gas pipelines and dams, and at-risk salmon in the Pacific Ocean. As a freelancer, she directed documentary films in Israel, Oregon and Canada, specializing in stories of First Nation (native people), violations of human rights, and environmental resistance to industrial developments. She is also the author of two books about German history.



Flutura Kusari  
Legal Advisor, European Centre for Press  
and Media Freedom

Flutura Kusari works as legal advisor at the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) in Leipzig, Germany. She leads the legal support programme of ECPMF, which enables journalists facing legal actions to cover lawyer's fees. Kusari represents ECPMF at the CASE platform, an international coalition working on fighting SLAPPs in Europe. She is also a member of the Anti-SLAPP Expert Group established by the European Commission. Kusari holds a PhD in Media Law from Ghent University, Belgium.

Twitter: @fluturakusari



Veljko Milić  
Lawyer and Executive Board Member of the  
Independent Journalists' Association of  
Vojvodina, Serbia

Veljko Milić obtained an LL.M degree in 2013 with his thesis “The margin of appreciation and necessary in democratic society concepts in European Court of Human Rights case law”. He is a member of the Bar Association of Vojvodina, as well as a member of the executive board of IJAV. He was part of the OSCE’s team of experts which assisted the working group that prepared The Strategy for the Development of Public Information System in the Republic of Serbia 2020-2025. He is also a representative of IJAV in the permanent working group for safety of journalists, and a Working Group that is preparing an action plan for The Strategy for the Development of Public Information System in the Republic of Serbia 2020-2025. He is a teaching assistant of the Faculty for legal and business studies dr Lazar Vrkatić Novi Sad. He is an author and a co-author of a number of publications such as: “Guide for the Court Appointed Defense Counsel” and “Guide to the Defendant through the Criminal Proceedings and his Relationship with Court Appointed Defense Counsel”, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska (2016), “The Collective Rights of National Communities in the Autonomus Province of Vojvodina – Requirements for a Definition”, Journal: National Councils of National Minorities and Cultures, Office for Culture of Vojvodina and Provincial Ombudsman of the Autonomus Province of Vojvodina (2013). In his professional engagement to date, he has worked in the field of media law, criminal proceedings, damages proceedings, especially damages for offended reputation and honour, disputes arising from the Law on Public Information and Media, and in proceedings for the protection of human rights before the Constitutional Court of Serbia and the European Court of Human Rights.

Klodiana Kapo leads the organization “Faktoje”, which provides fact-finding services since 2019. She assumed this position after three years of experience as Public Relations and Communication Manager at the international children’s organization World Vision, where she was recently awarded the “Global Brand Award” by the global office. Kapo started at “Faktoje” after a 16-year career in the most popular media outlets in the country, where she has reported mainly on social issues and more specifically on the education system, health, and youth development, among others.

During her career, Kapo has worked as a journalist at Top Channel (where she counts dozens of documentaries and personal stories), has had her weekly column in the newspaper



Klodiana Kapo  
Executive Director, Faktoje.al

“Shqip”, and has worked as Editor-in-Chief at the Albanian Public Television.

Klodiana also counts a series of successful awareness campaigns for local and international non-governmental organizations and is a co-author of two books.

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Dalibor Tomović is a lawyer at the “Prelević” AOD Law Office since 2010 and has vast legal experience in Montenegro. From 2008 to 2009, Mr. Tomović worked at the “Ana Lolarevic” Law Office, prior to which he was at the Basic Court in Podgorica from 2006 to 2008. From 2005 to 2006 he served in the Tax Administration of Montenegro office of the Department for Control and Collection of Taxes, and from 2004 to 2005 was a volunteer in the Basic Court of Danilovgrad. He acquired his Master’s degree in Economics at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, and has conducted research on several legal and human rights publications, including “Human Rights in Montenegro 2010-2011”, and was a legal representative of Tufik Softić, a journalist from Radio Berane who survived an assassination attempt in 2017. Dalibor Tomović speaks fluent English and Serbian.

Dalibor Tomović  
Lawyer, Montenegro



Farah Karimi  
Special Representative on Youth  
Engagement, OSCE Parliamentary  
Assembly

Farah Karimi is the Special Representative on Youth Engagement at the OSCE, and a member of the Dutch Senate for Green Left. She is the head of the Dutch parliamentary delegation to the OSCE PA. She works as an independent professional in the field of leadership and ethics, and she is a non-executive director at the NHL Stenden University for Applied Sciences. Farah Karimi is also the chair of Writers Unlimited, an international literary festival in The Hague.

Farah Karimi was born in Iran. In 1983, she came as a refugee from Iran to Germany, where she got political asylum. In 1989, Farah Karimi moved to the Netherlands where she studied Policy and Governance of International Organizations at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG). Farah Karimi has ample experience in the field of international co-operation and human rights. She has been a member for the Green Left of the Lower House of Parliament for more than eight years (1998-2006), where she focused on development co-operation, foreign affairs, defense and European affairs. In 2007 Farah Karimi was involved in the capacity building of the Afghan parliament, as a consultant for the UN organization UNDP. From 2008 to 2018, Farah Karimi was the Executive Director of Oxfam Novib, a Dutch development and humanitarian organization, and a member of the Executive Board of Oxfam International. Farah Karimi published three books, *The Secret of Fire* (2005), *Battlefield Afghanistan* (2006), and *In the Name of Freedom* (2021).



Iris Luarasi  
Media Expert

Iris Luarasi PhD. is a professor at the Department of Journalism and Communication at Tirana University, where she is lecturing for more than 25 years. Luarasi has been Media Team Leader of the EWMI project “Justice for all”-USAID funded program from 2015-2017 and after that senior media adviser and consultant of the project. She is an opinion-maker in many TV panels where issues of human rights and current affairs are discussed.

During these years, Luarasi has been a trainer for Albanian journalists on “fake news”, human rights, ethics on journalism, investigative journalism, and fact checking, among others. From 2003-2004, she was the Director of the Press Office and PR for the Albanian Council of Ministers. From 2004 till 2006, she was the President of SEENAPB (South East Europe Network of Associations of Private Broadcasters), which was comprised of more than 400 radios and television in the Western Balkan.

From 1999 till 2001, she was leading the biggest radio program for Kosovo refugees that was broadcasted from public radio (Radio Tirana). She has published the books “Radio Journalism – Writing and Reporting” and “Rewriting history through media – the case of Albanian press from 1921 till 1924”, and has lead a study on victimisation of domestic violence and sexual crimes in Albania. She has also produced a guide for reporters on covering domestic violence and sexual assaults. Luarasi has two awards in investigative media and got her PhD in Albanian Press History 1921-1924. She is a docent since 2010, received a Master’s degree in European Studies and was Golden Medal student during her bachelor studies.

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Armela Krasniqi is the Chairperson of the Audiovisual Media Authority and has a long career in media and communication, holding positions in both the private and public sectors. She previously served as General Director of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency. During this period, she was elected by 32 European news agencies as a member of the board of the European News Agencies. Krasniqi has also been President of ABNA - SEE (Association of the Balkan News Agencies Southeast Europe). Earlier, she has contributed to some of the most important audio and audiovisual media as news director, author and moderator of different Radio and TV shows. Krasniqi’s main priorities are child protection in



Armela Krasniqi  
Chairperson, Audiovisual Media Authority,  
Albania

audio/audiovisual broadcasting, media literacy, hate speech, journalists and media employees' rights.



Anastasia Fusco  
Adviser on Youth and Security, OSCE  
Secretariat

Anastasia Fusco works as Adviser on Youth and Security at the Office of the OSCE Secretary General, where she promotes inclusion and participation of youth in OSCE activities and projects; advocates and supports youth perspectives in the OSCE agenda; and promotes the implementation by OSCE participating States of youth-related OSCE commitments and UN Security Council Resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security. Fusco previously served as adviser to the 2018 OSCE Italian Chairmanship on the human dimension, and she negotiated the Ministerial Council Decision on the Safety of Journalists that was successfully adopted in Milan. In 2019, she served as adviser at the Italian Delegation to the OSCE and provided support to the Troika, including by dealing with the Informal Working Group on Civil Society Participation in OSCE events. Previously she worked for OSCE/ODIHR on the protection of human rights defenders and in NGOs, where she developed projects on youth social inclusion, prevention of torture in places of deprivation of liberty, and non-discrimination of people living with HIV.