



European  
Commission

# Freedom of Expression and Media in the Western Balkans and Turkey



# SPEAK UP!

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Neighbourhood and  
Enlargement  
Negotiations



### **Yaman Akdeniz**

Yaman Akdeniz is Professor of Law at the Human Rights Law Research Center, Faculty of Law, and Pro Rector at Istanbul Bilgi University. Akdeniz has acted as expert to international organisations including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) Office and the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.. He was appointed to the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Rights of Internet (July 2012 - December 2013) and to the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on cross-border flow of Internet traffic and Internet freedom (January 2014 - December 2015). Akdeniz authored the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Office (UNHCHR) *Stocktaking on efforts to combat Racism on the Internet* (2006), the Reports of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media *Turkey and Internet Censorship* (2010) and *Freedom of Expression on the Internet:* (2011). In 2014, Akdeniz, together with Kerem Altiparmak submitted a joint individual application to the Constitutional Court in Turkey to overturn the Government's blocking of access to the Twitter platform from Turkey. The Constitutional Cour's landmark unanimous decision was that the applicants' rights had been violated and lifted the ban on Twitter.



### **Yavuz Baydar**

Yavuz Baydar is a Turkish journalist, who has been active in journalism for 35 years. His analysis and views on Turkish politics, the Middle East, Balkans, Europe, U.S-Turkey relations, human rights, free speech, press freedom, have appeared in the New York Times, the Guardian, Süddeutsche Zeitung, El Pais as well as Al Jazeera's English website. In December 2013, Baydar co-founded the independent media platform, Punto24 (P24) to monitor the media sector in Turkey. Currently, he writes opinion columns in English for the daily *Today's Zaman* and in Turkish for the daily *Bugün*. In 1999, he became Turkey's first news ombudsman. He was twice forced to leave his job, after his critical columns on journalistic flaws and fabricated news stories.

Baydar was given the Special Award of the European Press Prize (EPP), for 'excellence in journalism', which he shared with the Guardian and Der Spiegel in 2014. He recently completed an extensive research paper as a Shorenstein Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School on self-censorship and corruption in Turkish media and growing threats over journalism in Turkey. He studied informatics, cybernetics and, later, journalism in the University of Stockholm.



### **Siniša Bjeković**

Siniša Bjeković is Deputy Ombudsman of Montenegro from January 2015. From 2004 to 2014 he served as Head of the Human Rights Centre of the Law School of University of Montenegro, Executive Director of University of Montenegro Human Rights Centre from 2001 to 2004 and General Secretary of Institute for Safety at Work and Development Researches from 1991to 2001. He is also engaged in academia: teaching European integration at the Police Academy of Montenegro, lecturer and trainer on ECHR law and practice at the Judicial Training Centre of Montenegro and at the Human Resources Agency of the Government of Montenegro. Bjeković has authored a number of international and national studies, analysis, books and articles in the field of human rights law and practice. He is member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance at the Council of Europes since 2008. Also, he was Member and Vice-president of the Steering Committee of Balkan Human Rights Network BHRN. He has a Master degree in legal sciences and in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe.



## Mogens Blicher Bjerregård

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård has been President of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) since May 2013. In November 2014 he became a member of the Council and Bureau of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), UNESCO. He is Vice president of the International Media Support (IMS), and a board member since April 2001. He has worked as an independent international consultant since 2015. He has previously been President of the Danish Union of Journalists from 1999-2015. A journalism student he worked in various media, newspaper, radio and tv from 1984-1999. As president of the EFJ he oversaw the development of the organization on behalf of 61 affiliates representing 300.000 journalists in 40 European countries. This includes both trade union and authors' rights topics and media freedom related issues such as ensuring pluralism, ethical standards, access to information, protecting of sources, self-regulation of media and safety for journalists. From 2014 he has represented Denmark in the council of IPDC. Under the framework of UNESCO, the IPDC combines the normative set up of standards with concrete programs to contribute and strengthen pluralistic and free media, safety of journalists and capacity building.

## Divina Frau-Meigs



Divina Frau-Meigs is professor of media sociology at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France. She is a specialist in media and information literacy as well as a researcher in media usage and practices of young people. She heads several projects notably ANR TRANSLIT ([www.translit.fr](http://www.translit.fr)) and ECO for MOOCs ([www.ecolearning.eu](http://www.ecolearning.eu)). She holds the UNESCO chair for "savoir-devenir / forwardance in sustainable digital development". She is also the director of CLEMI (Centre de Liaison de l'Enseignement et des Médias d'Information), the operator of Media and Information Literacy for the French ministry of education and research.

## Tea Gorjanc-Prelević



Tea is a lawyer, LL.M. in international law (1999 American University Washington College of Law), and executive director of CSO Human Rights Action (HRA) in Montenegro since 2010. HRA focuses on freedom of expression, fights impunity for attacks on journalists, torture and war crimes and supports independence of judiciary. HRA has been advocating for decriminalisation of defamation and insult, which was adopted by Parliament in 2011 and other legal reform to enable supporting environment for journalists. HRA published special reports on investigation of attacks on journalists and media self-regulation, and publishes bulletins on development of the ECtHR practice related to freedom of expression. Tea was earlier the first director of the Judicial Training Centre of the Republic of Montenegro (2000-2004), HRA program director and associate with the Prelevic Law Firm (2004-2010), law officer with the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights and coordinator of postgraduate studies in European Law with the University in Belgrade Faculty of Law (1998-1999).



### **Jasmin Hadžiahmetović**

Jasmin Hadžiahmetović was born in city of Gornji Vakuf, about 120 kilometres from Sarajevo. After he finished high school, he studied, from 2003, journalism in Sarajevo at the Faculty of Political Sciences. During his student years, he started working for Radio 202. He then worked at the News of the Federal Television and a number of magazines. In November 2011, he joined the team of the portal Klix.ba where he worked as a journalist, executive editor and an editor in chief. Since 1 October 2015, he has worked as web editor for N1 News Channel.



### **Johannes Hahn**

Johannes Hahn is Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission. Johannes Hahn has held various management functions in the different sectors of the Austrian economy and industry, including as CEO of Novomatic AG for 5 years. Between 1992 and 1997 Hahn was Executive Director of the Austrian People's Party Vienna. In 2002, he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Party and Chairman in 2005. Member of the Regional Parliament of Vienna from 1996 to 2003, he became Federal Minister for Science and Research in 2007. He was the Member of the European Commission in charge of Regional Policy from 2010 to 2014. Since November 2014 he is a Member of the European Commission in charge of Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations



### **William Horsley**

William Horsley is International Director of *Centre for Freedom of the Media (CFOM)*, University of Sheffield. The centre is a partner of UNESCO in supporting the implementation of the UN Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity Horsley is former BBC journalist and foreign correspondent (1983-2007) He is the Media Freedom Representative (since 2007) of the Association of European Journalists and also AEJ Vice-President. He has written a series of reports on *The State of Media Freedom in Europe* for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and is the author of the *Safety of Journalists Guidebook* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2014) published by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). . In November 2014 he collaborated with UNESCO and the Council of Europe to organise the first Inter-Regional Dialogue and Seminar at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg aimed at strengthening the worldwide legal and political framework of protections for journalists. He is an independent member of the Council of Europe's expert advisory committee on the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists (2014-2015); and the AEJ is a partner in the Council of Europe's Safety of Journalists Platform..



## **Bobi Hristov**

Bobi Hristov has 19 years of experience as a journalist in numerous media outlets in Macedonia covering print, radio and TV media. Currently he works for TV Telma, one of five private television stations that broadcast nationwide, as a host of prime time debate and panel **discussion show**. His professional career started in the first private daily in Macedonia, Dnevnik, established in 1996. During his career as a journalist he has also worked as a correspondent for the BBC World Service in Macedonian and Croatian; reporter, editor and host of the debates show Alsat-M TV first bilingual national TV in Macedonia; and was editor in chief for TV 24 News. He studied journalism and he is the winner of the Jean Monnet Award, awarded by the EU Delegation in Macedonia for the reports related with the process of European integration issues.



## **Adeline Hulin**

Adeline Hulin is a Consultant for UNESCO's Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development, where she has been coordinating the EU-funded Project "Media Accountability in South East Europe and Turkey" since 2013. Prior to that, she worked as a Project Coordinator for the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in Vienna. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University Paris II Panthéon Assas, a Master Degree in Journalism from the University Paris Dauphine and a BA in Political Science from the Bordeaux Institut d'Etudes Politiques. She recently authored a RSC Working Paper for the European University Institute, *Statutory media self-regulation: beneficial or detrimental for media freedom* and wrote the monograph *Autorégulation des médias en Europe: impact, perspectives et limites*.



## **Boro Kontić**

Boro Kontić is the Director of *Mediacentar* (Sarajevo). Mr Kontić has worked at Mediacentar since it was founded in April 1995, and with over 30 years of experience he is a veteran in the journalism field. In addition to his current work with Mediacentar, he is a lecturer on training programs for journalists and acts as a consultant on all production projects. He is also the author and producer of such documentaries "Carnival", "Esma", "Believers" screened at Documentary festivals (Sarajevo, IDFA – Amsterdam, Goetheberg, New York, Prague, Trieste, Zagreb, Input etc) as well as "Years eaten by lions" (2010), "Untitled" (2011), and "Exhibition" (2012). Kontić's previous experience includes working as: the author of the radio programme "Primus" (1979-1985), Editor-in-Chief of Radio Sarajevo Youth Program (1987) and Sarajevo Second Program (1990-1992), a member of the RTV BH Supervisory Board (May-December 1992), and as a war correspondent at Voice of America for the duration of the BiH war. From 1994 to 2003, Kontić acted as President to the Independent Union of BiH Professional Journalists. In addition, Kontić is the recipient of several international awards for his radio and television documentaries.

## Remzi Lani



Remzi Lani is the Executive Director of the Albanian Media Institute. He has a long career in journalism including: "Zeri i Rinise" (Tirana), "El Mundo" (Madrid), "Zeri" (Pristina). He is the author of articles on Balkan affairs for different local and foreign papers and magazines. Mr Lani was the first President of the South East Network of Media Centers and Media Institutes, which brings together 17 Media Institutes/ Media Centers from SEE. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Balkan Trust or Democracy, a member of the Board of WAN-IFRA, a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Forum for Media Development. He has also worked as media consultant in numerous countries including Yemen, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana, Armenia, BiH. He was also a founding member of the first Human Rights Group in Albania (The Forum for Human Rights), 1990.

## Besar Likmeta



Besar Likmeta is the Albania Country Editor for BIRN and a journalism Trainer. Besar has extensive experience in journalism, having worked in print, television and electronic media in both the US and Albania since 2003. He has been the editor for BIRN Albania since 2007, and serves as the country correspondent for Balkan Insight. Besar started his career reporting for the Florida Times Union in Jacksonville, Florida. He moved to Albania in 2005 where he worked as a features editor for the Tirana Times, and a world news editor for the 24 hour news channel

TV Ora News. He has also contributed stories to various publications including, Foreign Policy, The Christian Science Monitor, Global Post, Transitions Online, The Diplomatic Courier and World Politics Review. In 2009 Besar received the CEI/SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism and in 2010 he was runner up to the Global Shining Light Award, presented at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Geneva. He studied philosophy at the University of North Florida.

## Ulrike Lunacek



Ulrike Lunacek is Vice President of the European Parliament, MEP (Greens/EFA) since 2009, EP-Rapporteur for Kosovo; Co-President of the LGBT Intergroup of the EP and Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Substitute in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

She was born in 1957 in Krems, Austria. After finishing High School in Vienna, Ulrike Lunacek studied for becoming an interpreter (English-Spanish-German) at the University of Innsbruck. From 1983 to 1995 she worked as journalist, editor, interpreter and teacher in development education, feminist and LGBT NGOs. From 1996 to 1998 she was Secretary General of the Austrian Green Party, then from 1999 to 2009 Member of the Austrian Parliament, being the Austrian Greens' Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Development Issues as well as on Equal Rights for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and Transgender. In 1995/1996 she was the first Austrian politician to be open about her (lesbian) sexual orientation. From 2006 to 2009 she was Co-Spokesperson of the European Green Party (EGP).



## Miroslav Milićević

Professor Miroslav Milićević, MD, Ph.D., FACS, is a doctor by profession. Prof. Milićević has always fought for human rights and democracy. He founded and was a member of several bodies of the Ethics Committee of the Clinical Centre of Serbia. During the nineties he was a member of the administrative Council for Democratic Changes in Serbia and participated in writing the programme of reforming Serbia. He participated in the first meeting of the Democratic Opposition of Serbia and the Serbian Diaspora in Budapest in order to establish democracy in Serbia and a signatory of Sent Andrei Declaration to topple the regime of Slobodan Milosevic. During the bombing of Serbia in 1999 he made interviews with CNN and other international TV stations; he has written several articles in leading international newspapers. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, he was injured in the demonstrations. In 2001, he was elected to the first assembly of the Anti-Corruption Council of Serbia. Since 2006 he has been Vice President of the Council, and after the death of the Council's President he has taken the lead of the Council. He was President of the Board of the Atlantic Council of Serbia for ten years and worked on Euro-Atlantic integration. Mr Milićević is also a Member of the Coordination Body for Combating Corruption of the Republic of Serbia.



## Nils Muižnieks

Human Rights Commissioner Mr Nils Muižnieks was elected Commissioner for Human Rights on 24 January 2012. He took up his non-renewable term of office of six years on 1 April 2012. The Commissioner's Office is a non-judicial institution, and the Commissioner work focuses on three major areas: country visits and dialogue with national authorities and civil society; thematic reporting and advising on human rights systematic implementation as well as awareness-raising activities. Prior to his appointment as Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Muižnieks, was Latvian Minister responsible for social integration, anti-discrimination, minority rights, and civil society development (2002-2004) before becoming a member (2005-2010) and the Chairman (2010-2012) of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). Apart from that, Mr Muižnieks has held the post of Director of the Advanced Social and Political Research Institute at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Latvia (2005-2012) and Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies - now Latvian Centre for Human Rights (1994-2002). Mr Muižnieks has published extensively on human rights issues, in particular on racism, discrimination and minority rights.



## Vukašin Obradović

Vukašin Obradović is President of the *Independent Journalist Association of Serbia*. He is director and editor-in-chief of "Vranjske", a local weekly that covers the territory of Southern Serbia. Obradović also holds the position of "Hapi-Korak" ("Step") magazine editor-in-chief, a monthly magazine that is being printed in Serbian and Albanian and deals with Serbo-Albanian relations in the region. In addition, he has published several articles on Serbian-Albanian relations in almost all relevant media in Serbia, AIM (Alternative Informational Network). He has also been reporter for Radio Free Europe as well as president of Managerial Board of Association of Local Independent Media, "Local Press", which gathers 28 local newspapers from Serbia and Montenegro. Obradović had received numerous awards for his work – an Award for Bravery and Ethics in Journalism, *Dusan Bogavac*, *Stanislav Stasa Marinkovic* award given by *Danas* daily and *Jug Grizelj*. In 2009 Obradović was announced OSCE Media Personality of the year. The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (IJAS) is a membership based NGO that gathers more than 3500 freely associated professional journalists.



## **Andrew Puddephatt**

Andrew Puddephatt is an internationally recognised expert in the field of freedom of expression and a human rights expert who has worked in consultant and managerial roles in local, national and international organisations. He has worked in the field of internet policy and freedom of expression for nine years Global Partners Digital and more generally as Director of Article 19, the pioneering organisation working on freedom of expression between 1999 to 2004. As Executive Director of Article 19, he led the organisation and was responsible for the strategy, management and policy direction. At Global Partners he has led a major project with the Ford Foundation looking at the impact of the internet on democracy and human rights and acts as an advisor to the Foundation on internet policy. He has helped build networks of organisations internationally – most recently the global civil society network Best Bits <http://bestbits.net/>. His work across the globe includes developing a set of indicators for UNESCO that assess the impact of media upon development and democracy and has assisted in the roll out of these indicators in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He advised Swedish SIDA on the implementation of its free expression and media programmes and produced guidance notes for programme staff.



## **Florian Raunig**

Florian Raunig is an Austrian career diplomat heading the OSCE Presence in Albania since October 2013. Having served for many years in various functions in the region, Florian Raunig has gained extensive experience in South East European affairs. He is well versed in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, inner state relations and development co-operation. He served as Austrian Ambassador to Montenegro (2007-2009) and to Albania (2009-2013).

Having started his career in 1996 in Elbasan, Albania as a University lecturer, he joined the OSCE Presence in Albania for the first time in 1997 soon after its establishment. In 1998 he reopened and headed the Austrian Development Co-operation Office in Tirana and established in parallel the Austrian Co-operation Office in Skopje. From 2000-2002 he was programme manager for local development at the Delegation of the European Commission in Tirana. In 2002 he entered the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serving in Vienna and Ljubljana. At the beginning of 2004 he joined the newly-founded Austrian Development Agency in Vienna before opening in late 2005 the branch office of the Austrian Embassy Belgrade in Podgorica that became the Austrian Embassy in Montenegro after the independence of the country.



## **Nikola Ristić**

Nikola Ristić is the Co-Founder, Executive Editor and Chief of Secretariat of European Western Balkans internet portal and the Executive Director of Centre for Contemporary Politics, a Belgrade based civil society organization. As a project of Centre for Contemporary Politics, European Western Balkans was launched in May 2014 with the aim to monitor and report on European integration process of Western Balkans countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, by publishing daily news, as well as interviews and op-eds written by numerous stakeholders and experts. Nikola is an undergraduate student of both International Relations/European Integration at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences and of Law at Union University, Faculty of Law. He has done internships at the International Republican Institute Belgrade Office and at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, European Integration Department. Before the launching of the project he was working for different European and Serbian youth organizations.





## **Aidan White**

Aidan White is the Director of the Ethical Journalism Network, the international campaign facilitated by the Global Editors Network. He is former General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) the world's largest organisation of journalists. Since 2011 he has been involved in work related to the future of media and ethical journalism. Before he joined the IFJ he worked for 19 years as a journalist. He was with *The Guardian* from 1980 to 1987. Mr White has worked with governments and state institutions at a senior level He is the author of reports on the economic, legal and professional conditions related to press freedom and democracy at national, regional and international level. He is also a former leader of the global labour movement. His advocacy and project management experience has included working at European level with European Union, Council of Europe and the OSCE in a number of media related fields. He has written extensively on the social and professional conditions of journalists. It was as a result of his initiative and advocacy that in 2006 the UN Security Council for the first time adopted a resolution (1738) on the rights of journalists in conflict zones.



## **Jeta Xharra**

Jeta Xharra is Director of Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) in Kosovo, as well as a leading anchor and editor of "Life in Kosovo", broadcasted in prime-time in Kosovar public TV, and the profiled in New York Times. She got into journalism working as a fixer/local producer for BBC News and Channel 4 in 1998 and later became the manager of the BBC Kosovo Bureau. In 1999, she worked for BBC News in Albania and Macedonia and in 2003 she opened the office for Institute for War and Peace Reporting in Kosovo. She completed an MA in War Studies at King's College London (2000), and gained a distinction for an MA in Screenwriting from the London College of Printing (2002). Xharra has published a front-page article in the Independent and written for the Economist, Sunday Telegraph and Jane's Intelligence Review. While in the UK, Xharra worked for the Foreign News Planning Desk at the BBC World Service, Institute for War and Peace Reporting and in 2005 she became one of the founders of Balkan Investigative Reporting Network. In 2012 the South East Europe Media Organisation, SEEMO, named Jeta Xharra as winner of the 2012 Dr Erhard Busek - SEEMO Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe.