



Agencija za elektroničke medije
Agency for Electronic Media

EPRA COUNTRY REPORT FOR CROATIA April 2016

Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities

The 17th Plenary Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA) was held in Split, on October 1 and 2, at the invitation of Croatian Agency for Electronic Media assuming the Vice Presidency of the network, under the chairmanship of Mohamed Hamoud, President of Mauritanian Press and Broadcasting High Authority (HAPA) and the President of MNRA. Twenty authorities from the North and South of the Mediterranean basin were represented at the meeting, which was devoted to two topics of primary importance to the regulatory institutions, namely the future of MNRA and the media literacy. Alongside to the both of sessions, the Migration and Human Rights-what representation in the media and the workshop dedicated to the pluralism and elections, have recorded rich and fruitful exchanges and debates between the authorities represented. A session concerned the implementation of the Declaration of MNRA on the fight against gender stereotypes in the audiovisual media, in which the MNRA working group to promote the gender equality in the media, chaired by the HACA of Morocco and the CAA of Andalusia, has presented the first results of the analyses. The Presidency was attributed to the AEM and the Vice-presidency to the Spain's National Authority for Markets and Competition (CNMC).

Electronic Media Days (8th edition)

The traditional national electronic media event takes place in the city of Opatija during October, each year. Stakeholders representing the government, industry, regulators and academia are discussing topics that include the state of play and perspectives of electronic media in the context of new media policy, highlights of the AVMSD revision, EU models of support for media pluralism and media public value content production, the DVB-T/DVB-T2 switchover strategy and the initial results of recently commissioned research on the Croatian radio market. The event attracts mostly more than 150 participants. In year 2015, the Electronic Media Days hosted EPRA president Ms. Celene Craig from the Irish BAI, Ms Tanja Kerševan Smokvina from Slovenian AKOS, representatives from HAKOM (the telecommunication RA), as well as representatives from the Ministry of Culture and other relevant governmental authorities.

Switchover DVB T-DVB T2

The Agency for Electronic Media representatives participated at the meetings of the Working Group for the drafting of the Strategy of the switchover from DVB-T to DVB-T2. The project teams for the technical framework have produced receiver specifications and after on-site testing of the equipment in cooperation with the PBS proposed HEVC 265 coding standard. The content project team's work is slightly delayed due to certain changes to the structure of the authorities' representatives in the team.

Guidelines on protection of minors - raising awareness about the importance of media literacy

The research on raising awareness about the importance of media literacy of parents, caregivers and children and on the importance of careful selection of media content for children, by the AEM and UNICEF, initiated in 2014, highlighted the important role media plays in a child's development. A national campaign has been launched in 2015, with remarkable success in public. It is crucial to raise the awareness and media literacy of parents and caregivers as well as children on the importance of choosing appropriate content. An expert team has been assembled, including representatives of the Council, the Agency, scientists in the field of sociology and psychology, in order to draft recommendations on protection of minors in the electronic media, which will be presented in June, this year.

Local TV resulted in three days license suspension

Electronic Media Council temporarily suspended the license of the Zagreb-based local television channel Z1 televizija d.o.o. owing to alleged incitement to hatred in the program "Markov trg" which was aired in January 2016. The Electronic Media Council unanimously decided to suspend the license of the Croatian capital city's local TV for a period of three days and to inform the State Attorney's Office of possible breaches of the Penal Law. The Council found that the anchor of the TV show, Marko Jurić, had incited to hatred when he, in his message aired at the very end of the show, warned the citizens of Zagreb not to walk near the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of the Transfiguration of the Lord, because "their children could become victims of Četnik slaughter".

Protest against the Electronic Media Council

About five thousand people marched and held protest in front of the Agency for the Electronic Media against the decision of the three-day suspension of the license of Z1 television, seeking the resignation of the Electronic Media Council President and of all Council members, for

imposing this measure considering that Z1 TV violated the Electronic Media Act for hate speech in the show " St. Mark's square ". The representatives of protesters have been received by the Council President and Council members who explained that the decision of the license suspension was based on the Electronic Media Act, the legislation act providing a permanent or temporary license suspension. Also, they have been informed that the case of hate speech in the show was sent to the State Attorney's Office.

Media Literacy

Electronic Media Agency publishes (since 2015), on an annual basis, a public call for tenders for co-financing media literacy projects. The subject of the Public Invitation is collecting bids for co-financing projects, seminars, conferences, lectures whose are the subject of the development and encouragement of media literacy. The projects are intended to satisfy the public interest for as secured funding from the Agency for Electronic Media. Eligible applicants are universities, institutes, educational institutions, associations and other legal entities that develop and operate projects related to media literacy.

Round tables

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, December 10, the Electronic Media Agency organized a round table "Gender equality in the media". Electronic Media Agency is actively involved in the work of the Mediterranean regulatory network by conducting, in cooperation with other regulators, gender analysis of media content and the results of research and open discussion about possible instruments of media self-regulation for achieving gender equality in the media. The round table "Hate speech and responsibility of the media - from freedom of expression to violations of the law" was organized by the Council, in March 2016. The guest speakers were representatives of the Institute for International Law and Cooperation at the University of Graz, Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The aim of gathering was to exchange knowledge and practice of all significant stakeholders on this very important topic among the representatives of media publishers, scientific community, civil society, journalists, lawyers and other stakeholders.

The Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media

At several sessions held during March and April the Electronic Media Council has adopted decisions on accepting the most of the reports of funding awarded to the media services providers in order to promote the pluralism and diversity of electronic media. The Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media is the Fund of the Electronic Media Agency. The sources of financial means for the Fund are secured by the provisions of the Electronic Media Act and the Croatian Radio Television Act. The Fund's means are assured in

order to stimulate the production and broadcasting of audiovisual and radio programs of television and/or radio broadcasters at the local and regional levels which are of public interest and audiovisual and as well as radio programs of non-profit television and/or radio broadcasters which are particularly important for: the exercise of citizens' right to public information, the promotion of cultural diversity and fostering of cultural heritage, the development of education, science and arts, the promotion of works in dialects of the Croatian language, promotion of specialized programs in the areas of special state concern, the national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, the promotion of the development of the awareness of gender equality, the promotion of the programs for the children and youth aiming at enhancing their wellbeing. Decision of fund allocations is made by the Council.

Regulatory Authority recent issues

At the session held in March 2016 the Croatian Government adopted the Minister`s of Culture proposal to the Parliament of not accepting the Activity Report of the Electronic Media Council/Agency for the year 2014, due to not performing the supervision of the expenditure of public service fee by the Croatian radio-television (HRT) during year 2014, on which basis the Parliamentary procedure of dismissal of the Electronic Media Council members could be initiated. The Electronic Media Council, as the independent regulatory authority, was not contacted or informed by the Ministry of Culture prior to the Government's decision of initiating Council's dismissal so the Council issued the public statement regarding the remarks made by the Minister in which all of activities related to the supervision of the expenditure of public service fee by the HRT were listed.

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