

CMFE

COMMUNITY MEDIA FORUM EUROPE



1

CMFE 2011
1st Conference and General Assembly
Nicosia, Cyprus
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ABSTRACTS

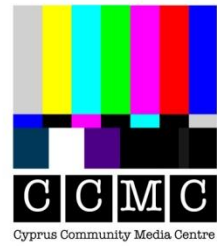
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2

PLENARY SESSIONS

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Plenary Session 1 – Opening: *The state of Community Media in Europe*

This plenary session will review recent cross-European community media policy and practice, including the 2008 resolution of the European Parliament and the 2009 Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as well as the development of a participatory audiovisual network.

Discussants:

Pieter de Wit, President, Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE)

The state of Community Media in Europe: CMFE's perspective

In opening the 1st CMFE conference, this contribution will be a review of CMFE's work in the European Community Media scene, and the achievements, challenges and issues emerging from its activities so far.

Pieter de Wit is the current President of CMFE since 2007. Prior to that he was the Director of the Dutch Federation of Community Broadcasters (OLON) from 1982 to 2008. He was also member of the Board of AMARC Europe from 1997 to 2001. An active contributor to academic and industry conferences in the last three decades, he has been consulted by the Council of Europe as an expert in the fields of broadcasting and digitalization.

Soledad Galiana, Vice President, AMARC Europe

The state of Community Media in Europe: AMARC Europe's perspective

Community media is now recognised as the Third media sector at European policy level, facilitating positive legislative developments at national level in some European countries. However, regulations emerging from those new laws, scarcity of resources and the development of new technological platforms represent new challenges to the sustainability of community media. We must work together to ensure that participative, accessible citizen media is protected at local, national and international levels.

Soledad Galiana is the Vice-President of AMARC Europe. She has been working in Dublin at *nearfm* since 1997 and is its Radio Coordinator since 2002. An experienced local coordinator for European projects, she has published on intercultural media training and community radio in Ireland. She is also coordinator of special broadcasts for key dates in the international calendar, such as *International Women's Day*, *International Day Against Racial Discrimination*, *World Refugee Day*, *Earth Hour*, and the *UN Human Rights Day*,

Thierry Michel, Coordinator, European Participatory Audiovisual Media Network

Building an European Participatory Audiovisual Media Network

The *European Participatory Media Meetings 2010 – Audiovisual and Territories*, organised by the Fédération des Vidéos des Pays et des Quartiers in July 2010, brought together 60 participants working in local television from 8 European countries and Québec. During the 2010 Meetings, the European partners discussed the different issues their particular federations had to deal with (economic models, relationships with public authorities, approaches to production, etc.), shared their knowledge and experience in participatory media in Europe and set up a committee to pilot the Participatory Audiovisual Media Network.

An informal network based on the common projects and the sharing of information between the international partners was established with the aims to a) open to future international partners working in participatory media; b) enhance partners' projects concerned with those international and European situations not covered by traditional media; c) to become part of the European networks already working in media, education, social economy and cohesion.

In 2011 a meeting was convened in Niolon (France), from 21 to 25 October, welcoming 50 partners from France, Spain, Northern Ireland, Italy, Germany, Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia. Projects experience were shared and further cooperations were built. This contribution will present a summary of the conclusions of the 2011 event.

Thierry Michel is the Coordinator of the *Federation des Vidéos des Pays et des Quartiers* in France, where he works in audiovisual production and participatory local televisions since 1999. He has been an active organizer of meetings, workshops, training and conferences to illustrate the potential of the participatory audiovisual approach to French institutions. He has also participated in several studies and films on the topic of local television in France and directed documentary films, as well as training volunteers and employees in audiovisual participatory methods and techniques over the last decade.

Peter Lewis, Senior Lecturer in Community Media, London Metropolitan University

The state of Community Media in Europe: a research perspective

Academic engagement with community media at first followed a sequence of overlapping stages as the field came to be constituted. First came practice - a form of direct action which challenged the assumptions, values and practices of mainstream media and in which, as in all practice, theory was implicit. Next came description, and the demarcation needed to classify adjacent types of media practice in order to establish the boundaries of the community media field.

In the 'new wave' of academic interest in this field at the beginning of the millennium, there was considerable debate about labels and relationships, often linked to the author's favoured source of political or social theory. At the same time the revival of social activism on a global scale using the Internet, coupled with a growing discontent with traditional democratic processes has made interaction with policy-makers a priority for academics.

Establishing the claim for recognition of community media needs support from a range of sectors of opinion - academics, broadcasters, funding agencies and policy-makers at both national and European level. As agenda-setting studies have shown, a precondition of successful policy intervention is sympathetic notice from press and broadcast media. But for community media advocates to attract such notice is a difficult if not contradictory strategy since community media usually defines itself in opposition to the mainstream

Often it is at the local level that success stories can be recorded and evaluated by academic institutions in order, as a first step, to win the attention and support of local political representatives.

Peter Lewis is Senior Lecturer in Community Media at London Metropolitan University since May 2007, There he formed the Community Media Research Group (CMRG) and its first task was to organise the international colloquium *Finding and Finding Voices: the inner-city experience* in September 2007 He helped set up and manage *Bristol Channel*, one of the local cable stations that piloted the practice of community TV in the 1970s . Subsequently, I have undertaken studies of community media in Europe and beyond for UNESCO and the Council of Europe . Over the last ten years he has been a partner in a series of EU-funded projects concerned with training marginalised social groups in the use of community media.

Chair: Helmut Peissl, President, COMMIT, Austria

Helmut Peissl is one of the two Vice Presidents of the Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) (2007-2011). From 2001 to 2010 was President of the Austrian Community Radio Federation (VFRÖ). In 2010 he set up the training organisation COMMIT (Community Media Institut) in Austria. He has worked from 1997 to 2000 as a general manager to establish the bilingual Radio AGORA in Carinthia (Austria) and as an expert for the Council of Europe's report on "Regional Media and transfrontier co-operation". He is the author of studies on Community Media for the Austrian media authorities, a journalist and communication engineer and holds a MA in Communication and Media Science.

Plenary session 2: *Community media and the Arab Spring*

The location of the CMFE conference in a country which symbolises the crossroads of the Mediterranean inevitably brings our attention to the Arab Spring that has dominated the international news for much of 2011. Social and community media have been at the heart of many of the events as they have unfolded, providing access to independent news and information, a place to organise and a focus for media reform demands. This panel brings together community media activists from Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine to share their experience and to engage with the European community media movement. An opportunity to strengthen bridges and reinforce the contribution of community media to freedom, rights, justice and democracy.

Discussants:

Fahem Boukadous, Radio Sawt Al Manajem (Voice of the Mines), Tunisia, and **Francesco Diasio**, AMARC Europe/IFEX Tunisia Monitoring Group
People's Media and the Tunisian Revolution

The Tunisian Revolution of 2011 unfolded at lightning pace after street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set fire to himself on 17 December 2010 in response to petty harassment and humiliation by state officials in Sidi Bouzid. He died in hospital 18 days later. His act of self immolation triggered widespread protests forcing the dictator Ben Ali to flee the country and setting in motion a wave of protest across the Arab world that can be considered a "revolutionary rivalry" or positive competition for social and political change. This presentation traces the genesis of the Tunisian Revolution to earlier popular protests including the Gafsa revolts of 2008 and examines the role of "people's media", including Tunisia's cyber-dissidents, satellite television channels and Facebook groups that were able to get around the severe restrictions on freedom of expression imposed by the former regime. It reflects on the challenge of transition and Tunisia's progress in building a new media environment.

Fahem Boukadous is an independent Tunisian journalist and General Manager of Radio Sawt Al Manajem (Voice of the Mines), Gafsa. In January 2010 he was sentenced to four years in prison for promoting activist journalism, in a trial that lasted just five minutes. He was released 5 days after the fall of the dictator.

Francesco Diasio is an Italian journalist involved in community media and freedom of expression since two decades. His involvement in Tunisia started in 2005, with the support of independent media initiatives through political lobby and on the ground initiatives. He is the current Secretary of AMARC Europe.

Ahmed Samih, Radio Horytna, Egypt

Radio Horytna - Voices for Egyptian Freedom

In 2007 a group of young journalists in Cairo, dissatisfied by the mainstream Egyptian press, decided to start their own radio station, which they called Horytna - 'Our Freedom'. Unable to gain a broadcast frequency they launched the station on the Internet, not only as a live audio stream but also developing the use of blogs, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The station has gathered a loyal following, tackling controversial topics and encouraging young people to become politically active. It has become the voice of a new generation fighting for its place in society. Radio Horytna was among the first media on the scene when protestors occupied Tahrir Square on 25 January. With reporters in the Square and studios in an old building, just a few blocks away, Radio Horytna brought news from the heart of the Egyptian Revolution as it unfolded. This case study examines the role and impact of social and community media in Egypt and their importance in the context of the forthcoming elections.

Ahmed Samih is Director of the Cairo-based Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-Violence Studies and Founder of Radio Horytna, Egypt's first Internet radio.

6

Sawsan Zaideh, Vice-President MENA region, AMARC International / Radio Al Balad, Jordan

Social movements / social media a Jordanian perspective

This paper presents the role of community and social media in promoting social movements and their demands for reform in Jordan. Community and social media have played a major role in covering demonstrations freely. Community radio Al-Balad allocates much of its air time to live reports of protests, workers' strikes and cultural activities demanding social and political reform. It works with a network of community and university radio stations, correspondents and citizen journalists. Facebook and Twitter are tools of change for youth movements in the region. Al-Balad radio and the wiki-blogs website 7iber.com are working to expand the impact of social media activism by monitoring and disseminating their content. The challenge now is to go beyond the virtual world and create forums for young activists to meet face-to-face and discuss their views on political, economic and social reform. There is a role for AMARC and others to facilitate regional networking among Arab world social media activists to enable exchanges and to learn from others experience.

Sawsan Zaideh is Vice-President for MENA region on AMARC International Board and Producer of Eye on the Media radio program for Radio Al Balad, the first community radio in Jordan and the first Internet-based radio in the Arab region.

Lina Chawaf, Radio Arabesque, Syria

Social media and the Syrian struggle

Lina Chawaf is a writer and broadcaster, and founder of Syria's first private radio station, Radio Arabesque.

Daoud Kuttab, AmmanNet/Radio Al Balad, Jordan

Media and Political Pluralism after the Arab Spring

Many Palestinians are talking publicly about the need to create new political parties different in structure, ideology and working procedures from the present set of nationalist or Islamic factions. Such scepticism about existing political configurations is not unique to Palestine. It can be argued that the absence of genuine political pluralism has been the major problem facing the Arab world. While those in power are working tirelessly to ensure that new electoral policies reinforce the status quo, young people in the Arab world who have been credited with creating the revolution seem unable to cause deep changes. To remedy this problem, some civil society activists have begun to educate themselves and their community in such political procedures and their consequences. A pluralistic multiparty system continues to be the best guarantee that the voices of Arab citizens will be respected and that change will be allowed to see the light, whether in a temporary process or in the long term. But political pluralism is only sustainable if accompanied by pluralism and independence of the media. The vital role of community media is to reach beyond the urban elites.

Daoud Kuttab is an award winning journalist and a leading community media activist. He is founder of AmmanNet and Radio Al Balad based in Amman, Jordan and General Manager of Penmedia, a Palestinian media NGO, based in Ramallah.

Concluding remarks: Emmanuel Boutterin, Vice President, AMARC International

Emmanuel Boutterin, magistrate, is the Vice-president of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC). He is notably responsible for the MENA regional zone of operation, as well as occupying the role of President of the Syndicat National des Radios Libres in France (Europe's largest

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federation of community radios and associates), and being a member of the Conseil Supérieur de la Propriété Littéraire et Artistique as a representative on broadcasting. Founded in 1983, AMARC unites over 4000 community radios, federations, experts and partners of community media across 114 countries. It promotes the right to freedom of expression on an international, national and local level, working within towns, rural areas, and in sensitive zones across the world. AMARC's goal is to defend and promote the interests of community radios based on the principles of solidarity and international cooperation

Chair: Steve Buckley, former President - AMARC/Mission leader for IFEX Tunisia
Monitoring Group on freedom of expression.

Steve Buckley is a communication rights activist and former President of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC). He has been involved for over ten years in supporting media reform in the Arab world including as a founder and mission leader for IFEX Tunisia Monitoring Group on freedom of expression.

This panel is organized by the World Association of Community Radio broadcasters (AMARC) in collaboration with CMFE, and the support of IMS, AMARC and the Europe for Citizens Programme (EACEA)

Plenary session 3: Community media, intercultural dialogue and participation

This plenary session will bring together examples of intercultural dialogue from practice and research and discuss media and cultural policy matters, including the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue of the Council of Europe. The session will aim also to be useful for Cypriot community media practitioners and policymakers to inform their work, as well as being of general interest to CMFE members and conference delegates.

Discussants:

Reynald Blion, Media & Diversity Manager, MARS - Media Against Racism in Sport - Programme Manager, Directorate Democratic Governance, Culture & Diversity Council of Europe.

Media & Diversity: Towards a truly inclusive and intercultural information.

In Europe, only a quarter of news' subjects are women, even when they account for over half of the European population (*GMMP, 2010*)! While immigrants represent around 10% of the EU population (*Eurostat, 2011*) migrants and ethnic minorities represent less than 5% of the main actors in the news in Europe (*Ter Wal, 2004*). Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (*LGBT*) people represent roughly 6% of the population of the United Kingdom but account for less than 1% of the population seen on TV. 20% of the British population is disabled but less than 1% is represented in British TV (*CDN 2009-10 Progress Report*).

Through the sources they use, the subjects they select and the treatment they choose, the media influence the agenda (*what to think about*) and public perception (*how to think*) of contemporary debates. This is why the Council of Europe considers truly inclusive information - where everyone can participate as witnesses, players, producers etc. - to be crucial for social cohesion and democratic participation. But today, too many people are still excluded from public debates.

The MARS - *Media Against Racism in Sport* - EU / CoE joint programme chooses to focus, though not exclusively, on sport because it is considered as an important area for building social cohesion and it is

also a major sector of investment in the media industry. However, sport media coverage does not reflect social and cultural diversity and does not ensure equality for all. Only 5% of press articles cover cultural and social aspects of sport; 40% of all sport articles refer to only one source and 20 % refer to no sources at all; female athletes have four times more chances to be covered by a female rather than a male journalist but less than 5% of sport news and stories are covered by female journalists (*Play the Game, 2005*).

Building upon standards set by various Council of Europe bodies on media pluralism, expression of diversity and non discrimination, and the outcome of the 2008-10 CoE's antidiscrimination Campaign, the MARS – *Media Against Racism in Sport* – EU / CoE joint programme aims at considering non discrimination and expression of diversity as an ongoing angle of media coverage. Through this approach applied to sport coverage, MARS would like to encourage innovative modes of media production that could be reproduced in all media sectors and used by any form of media coverage and that will allow to develop ways of producing truly inclusive media contents.

Reynald Blion is the *Media & Diversity* Manager for the Directorate General *Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport*, since September 2008. Until December 2010, he has been responsible for the implementation of the *Media & Diversity* part of the *Speak out against discrimination* Campaign of the Council of Europe. Within the same Directorate General, he has joined in January 2011 the Directorate *Culture and Heritage* and its Division *Cultural Policy, Dialogue and Diversity*. Reynald BLION manages the European Union/Council of Europe joint programme MARS – *Media Against Racism in Sport*; programme he conceived and developed on the basis of previous actions of the Council of Europe and of the results of its antidiscrimination Campaign. More globally, in his division, he contributes to facilitate and develop Council of Europe's actions in the field of *Media, Diversity & Intercultural Dialogue* in Europe ; issues on which he specialised for more than fifteen years. He produced, or contributed, to several publications as, *Tell us about diversity! A practical Approach to Intercultural Media Content*, Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 2011, *To fight against discrimination and for cultural diversity: a major challenge for the media* in: Cavdar A., Yildirim A.B. (Eds), *Hate Crimes and Hate Speech*, Istanbul, The International Hrant Dink Foundation Publication, 2010, *Le "Non" de Journalistes Européens, Agenda interculturel*, n° 275, 2009, *Europe's ethnic and diversity media: Beyond mere visibility* in: C. Dientz, P. Stamen (Eds), *Media on the move. Migrants and minorities in the media*, Aachen, CAMECO, 2009,

Stefan Tenner, Media Against Racism in Sport (MARS) Coordinator, Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE)

Media against Racism in Sport: the MARS project

CMFE has welcomed and supported the Council of Europe's recent campaigns and projects in the field of media. CMFE was already involved in the former campaign "Speak out against discrimination" and is now a partner in the MARS programme - Media Against Racism in Sport, a great opportunity to involve media on a very practical level. The association is working closely with its members, but, at same time, building bridges and including mainstream and minority media as well. To raise awareness about discrimination, antiracism and intercultural dialogue in the context of media is a daily challenge in all media. Community Media have to offer quite unique experiences in this field, mainly due their open access policy and the use platform to make voices heard, especially those that are not recognized in other media. CMFE is now responsible for organizing five National and one European Encounter and Media Work Exchanges on Cross Production. On each encounter the involved journalists work in groups and create and publish articles and reports. This contribution will report the experiences of this project so far and present results from the first encounter held in Austria in September 2011, organized with in collaboration with VFRÖ, the Federation of Community Radios in Austria.

Stefan Tenner is the MARS coordinator for CMFE - Community Media Forum Europe. He is a journalist, worked as a correspondent in South Eastern Europe or research associate at the Berlin University of the Arts, coordinator for several European radio projects and media trainer. He is engaged in activities with the community radio station Radio CORAX (Halle, Germany) and the Association of Free Radios in Germany (BFR).

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Ciarán Murray, Community Media Coordinator, NEARfm, Dublin

Intercultural Dialogue through Community Media

Near Media Co-op's new initiative, *Intercultural Dialogue through Community Media* seeks to increase integration and intercultural understanding in society at local and community levels by bringing together 32 participants (16 non-EU nationals and 16 Irish nationals) to work in collaboration to develop skills for understanding and creating media from an intercultural perspective. It aims to achieve this through:

- offering four certified training courses in community radio, and further specialised training in digital editing and Intercultural Media Literacy, supported by a mentoring structure, for third country and host country nationals
- facilitating the creation of four intercultural production teams that will produce 52 weeks of intercultural programming each
- encouraging intercultural dialogue at all organisational levels by promoting the participation of third country nationals in the procedural, social and broadcasting activities of the Near Media Co-op for the duration and after the conclusion of the project
- providing English language support and training for any participant who might require it for the duration of the project
- developing multi-lingual production terms glossaries to facilitate training with new communities, and developing an Intercultural policy for community radio

In July 2011, Near90fm began broadcasting *Culture Shots*, the first series of 13 programmes emerging from this initiative. Through interviews, conversations, dramatic readings, poetry and world music, project participants are achieving their aim of "exploring culture and creating a sound" and bringing new perspectives and languages to Near90fm's listenership. Before production of the series, all 8 participants completed requirements towards earning a FETAC Level 4 in Community Radio, and a certificate in Intercultural Media Literacy.

Ciarán Murray is the coordinator of the Near Media Co-op in Dublin. He has been involved in community media, both radio and television, as a volunteer, producer, radio station manager and committee member for almost 20 years. He is currently chairperson of Dublin Community Television and secretary of the Craol, the Community Radio Forum of Ireland. Ciarán also sits on the board of the Community Media Forum of Europe (CMFE). He initiated and worked on many pieces of research including the 2003 Craol research, "Community Radio & Community Development" and the recently published, 'Cross National comparative analysis of Community Radio funding schemes'.

Helmut Peissl, President, COMMIT, Austria

This contribution will give an historical perspective on Community Radio stations in Austria, reviewing how they started as monolingual projects to become the only media sector in the country that now represents better the language and cultural diversity of the Austrian society at this time. This is a characteristic that plays currently a relevant part of the sector's reputation and recognition at the level of the media regulator and the Austrian political institutions. The development actions of community radio stations in Austria have included looking out for program concepts that could help to overcome the borders between the involved (language) communities across the country's borders, with activities as the BABELINGO working group - Intermedia-Project and some other initiatives focusing in International Media Literacy (IML) learning partnerships.

Helmut Peissl is one of the two Vice Presidents of the Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) (2007-2011). From 2001 to 2010 was President of the Austrian Community Radio Federation (VFRÖ). In 2010 he set up the training organisation COMMIT (Community Media Institut) in Austria. He has worked from 1997 to 2000 as a general manager to establish the bilingual Radio AGORA in Carinthia (Austria) and as an expert for the Council of Europe's report on "Regional Media and transfrontier co-operation". He is the author of studies on Community Media for the Austrian media authorities, a journalist and communication engineer and holds a MA in Communication and Media Science.

Chair: Nadia Bellardi, Vice President, Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE)

Nadia Bellardi is a public relations and intercultural communication specialist with experience in both the corporate and NGO sector. Her project work and research focuses on intercultural, migration and gender issues. Nadia is currently one of the two Vice Presidents of CMFE (Community Media Forum Europe) and following the work of the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC) of the Council of Europe as observer. Until 2010 Nadia was in charge of public relations and fundraising at Radio LoRa, a community radio station in Zurich, Switzerland and a member of its collective management team. There she has been involved in several intercultural radio projects.

Plenary session 4: *Towards an enabling environment for Community Media in Cyprus*

This plenary session will bring together practitioners, researchers, policy and decisions makers to review the current status of community media practice and steps needed to work towards an enabling environment for community media in Cyprus. This session will be organised by CCMC.

Discussants:

Vaia Doudaki, Cyprus University of Technology and **Nico Carpentier**, Loughborough University, United Kingdom / Free University of Brussels, Belgium

Community Media for Peace-building, conflict resolution and reconciliation. A roadmap to develop a bi-community radio station in Nicosia

Community media are described as those that serve the community, by providing news and information relevant to the needs of its members, while promoting access and participation of the latter (Jankowski, 2002). Community media are also regarded as the *third voice* in comparison with or in opposition to the state and the private commercial media, fostering the voice of the ordinary people of civil society (Carpentier, Lie and Servaes, 2001). Also, by encouraging the expression of minorities and marginalized groups they are claimed to build an alternative news agenda to the one of the mainstream media, that demonstrate a *structural bias* (McNair, 1998) in favour of the elites.

However, at the same time, the focus of community media on the interests of their members and the emphasis on the local may result in closed communication systems, relevant only to their members. In fact, one of the greatest challenges for community media in countries and/or in regions where communities with distinct characteristics coexist is to create liaisons among them.

Purpose of the proposed study is to examine the possibilities and the limits of community media in Cyprus. Bringing into the discussion the tradition of peace journalism it will be explored whether community media in Cyprus could offer diverse/alternative representations of the Cyprus problem by giving voice to and promoting the dialogue between the members of the Greek-Cypriot and the Turkish-Cypriot community.

Under this prism it will be examined what characteristics community media in Cyprus should have to meet this purpose and whether an alternative concept of community media, like that of inter/intra-community media could be implemented to better serve the particularities of the island.

In parallel it will be studied whether the new media -with emphasis on the internet- can help overcome barriers or dysfunctions of the 'traditional' community media, giving way to new modes of sharing, connectedness and community building.

Vaia Doudaki is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Communication and Internet Studies in Cyprus University of Technology. She holds a Ph.D. from the faculty of Communication, Media and Culture of Panteion University in Athens, specializing in the sociology of news production (2004). She also holds a B.A. from

the same faculty (1996). She has worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Panteion University investigating the modes of interactivity in the Greek news websites. Her past teaching experience includes lectureships at Panteion University and at the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (Athens) on “Media Theories”, “Web Journalism” and “Public Relations”. She has also worked for several years as a journalist in the Press and the Internet. Her research work focuses on issues relating to the content of news on the Internet, the comparison between the “old” and the “new” media, the journalistic identities and the re-consideration of the journalistic practices in the Internet age.

Nico Carpentier is currently Senior Lecturer at the Social Sciences Department of the Loughborough University and Associate Professor at the Communication Studies Department of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB - Free University of Brussels). His theoretical focus is on discourse theory, his research interests are situated in the relationship between media, journalism, politics and culture, especially towards social domains as war & conflict, ideology, participation and democracy. He is currently the Vice President and Treasurer of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA).

Mashoed Bailie, Global Media Journal – Mediterranean Edition

Conflict or Cooperation? Alternatives to the Ethnocentrism in the Cypriot Press

This paper is part of an ongoing project of critically examining the media in Cyprus. Earlier parts of the study were presented at conferences in Cyprus prior to their publication (Bailie, 2006; Bailie and Azgin, 2008; Bailie and Azgin, 2009; Bailie and Azgin, 2011). Where previous articles focused on questions of journalistic practices, media content and gender distribution within media industries, this present paper considers: 1) The ways in which mainstream Cypriot newspapers help to shape the way audiences “think about” the conflict in Cyprus. 2) The ways in which columnists and journalists contextualize their work within broader political, economic and cultural constraints/expectations; 3. The perceptions of Editors of the mainstream Cypriot press and the ways in which those perceptions partially shape the ways in which they approach both the work of editor and the organization of the journalistic labor force.

The presentation includes an examination of the results of interviews conducted with the Editors of the major newspapers in Cyprus and considers the implications of the way Editors frame both their own roles within the media industries and the more general role of newspapers as powerful storytellers within the context of their respective communities. The interviews engaged editors of both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot newspapers – including *Politis*, *Simerini*, *Yeniduzen*, *Kibris*, and *Africa* – and drew out patterns of underlying assumptions, values, beliefs and perceptions of roles.

The paper draws on a political economy of communication perspective, emphasizing the potential power of ownership and editorial control and emphasizing the importance of developing and sustaining an alternative mode of communication – most clearly visible in the form of “community media”. The paper also draws out a frame informed by peace communication/peace journalism scholars who emphasize or highlight the empowering possibilities of human agents to resist and transcend barriers that impede the possibility of cooperation, mutual trust and understanding.

Ultimately, the paper finds that editors across the cultural and ideological spectrum tend to accentuate ethnocentric formulas that do little to encourage introspection, self-reflexivity or empathy for the viewpoint of the “Other”: That under the current communication climate and the current configuration of mainstream Cypriot media around partisan political agendas, the work of community media and specifically the opportunities and possibilities presented by the development of the Cyprus Community Media Center are crucial to deepening the understanding and empathy of Cypriots toward each other across the island of Cyprus.

Mashoed Bailie is the Founding Director of the Center of Research and Communication for Peace and the Editor of the Global Media Journal: Mediterranean Edition. (<http://globalmedia.emu.edu.tr>) Mashoed’s areas of research and teaching interests include, communication for peace, media literacy, media and democracy, gender and the media, and the new social media.

Berangere Blondeau, Media Education Teacher and Founding Board Member, International Children's Film Festival Cyprus

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Community Media and the preservation of cultural heritage: Cyprus Artefacts Treasure

The Cyprus Artefact Treasure in Action group (C.A.T 1) was based on the Ayia Irini Artefacts Collection and involved a group of ten Greek Cypriot and ten Turkish Cypriot children as well as five adults from each community (teachers and filmmakers) meeting regularly over a five month period to create five animation films based around the Cypriot artefacts that they had viewed in museums on the island. The films were previewed at the closing ceremony of the International Children's Film Festival of Cyprus (ICFFCY) in February 2011.

The project involved implementation of a specific educational approach inviting the students to interact with the concepts of artefacts and why they are important for history by questioning about the things themselves and about evidence for example: What is it made of? How was it made? What could it be used for? Make links between these objects and their known world.

CAT focused on the development of critical and historical thinking by questioning artefacts and encouraging student to formulate their own theories. Interpretation should be based on the context of which the artefacts are found.

It aimed to implement a cross curriculum teaching approach in media education and historical critical thinking. The ICFFCY and AHDR, two Non Profit Organisation, worked in a bicomunal setting to implement this project together with an end result in the publication of two booklets, a teacher's guide and a student's booklet, on the Cypriot artefacts entitled "Learning to investigate the history of Cyprus through artefacts". It was published in English, Greek and Turkish and dissemination of the two packs on the island, in both communities, in schools and in educational bodies is planned to continue

Finally, CAT successfully brought together a group of elementary students in a bicomunal setting which is an age group that is often over looked in many bicomunal programs. The target audience was associations, teachers, students and parents from Paphos and Famagusta, which due to their geographic location do not have the opportunity to be involved in or exposed to bicomunal activities as other communities have been

Bérangère Blondeau, media education teacher, has carried out for the past eight years in schools Media Literacy and studies projects in Cyprus. She is running pedagogical, educative and cultural projects based on Film education and media studies within the "Highgate Primary school" and "American Academy Nicosia secondary and primary", building on ten years of teaching experience in France. She has created and implemented the International Children's Film Festival of Cyprus (ICFFCY www.icffcy.org). Since September 2010, she is the coordinator of the Cyprus Artefact Treasure in action project (CAT) a multicomunal media education project promoting Peace building and Reconciliation through archaeological Cypriot artefacts.

John W. Higgins, [via Skype], Adjunct Professor of Rhetoric and Language, University of San Francisco, USA

Best Practices: the CCMC and U.S. Public Access Television"

This presentation looks at the "best practices" of U.S. community video ("public access") channels and facilities, comparing them to the organization, policies, and practices of the Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC).

Community-based production and distribution facilities and channels on cable television were institutionalized in the early 1970s in the U.S., based on experiences with community radio and social activist film and video in Canada. For nearly forty years the public access movement has provided a living laboratory for implementation of practices based on increasingly sophisticated interpretations of democratic principles. Starting with simple notions of "free speech" and practices of "first come, first served," the cutting edge in these discussions of philosophy and practice have evolved from practitioners/animateurs engaged in making media tools available to the local community.

The presentation explores CCMC policies and practices in light of the current and past practices and philosophies of the U.S. experiences with community-based media. A focus is on the notion of "free speech" as a social good rather than an individual right and the desire for a quality over simple quantity in dialogic exchanges.

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John W. Higgins has been associated with commercial and non-commercial media for over three decades. His experience includes work in production, management, performance and research; he has served on governing boards for community-based cable television and broadcast radio organizations. The author of several articles exploring community-based media, Higgins has served as a member and president of the board of directors of the San Francisco Community Television Corporation, the non-profit organization managing the city's and county's public access cable television facilities and channel from 1999 to 2009. He has been active in U.S. and international organizations practicing, promoting, and studying community-based media. Dr. Higgins is a communications consultant in San Francisco. He has developed media facilities and educational programs and taught at colleges and universities in the U.S. and overseas. A former associate professor in communication and media at Menlo College in Atherton, California, he holds a Ph.D. in Communication, an M.A. in Telecommunications, and a B.A. in Communication Arts. Dr. Higgins' areas of expertise include community-based media; multi-media production; advanced media technologies and social networking; critical pedagogies; and storytelling and oral history as art and social science. Higgins' interest in narratives led to pursuits in electronic media and academia; it has always been focused on the stories told by people within communities. Dr. Higgins was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar grant from the Cyprus Fulbright Commission and was in Cyprus in Fall 2010, utilizing digital storytelling, oral history and puppetry as methods of peace and community-building.

Christos Barboutis, URIAC, University of Athens, Greece

Aspects of interdisciplinary media research: the case of community radio in Cyprus

This paper sets out to examine the intricacies of the study relating to the organization and operation of community media in Cyprus. It, thus, argues that only the combined use of history, law, economics and politics leads to the effective study of the perspective community media practices. Above all, however, this study maintains via an interdisciplinary focus a common methodological basis among the above-mentioned domains of social and humanistic sciences. It revolves around the possibility of promoting public purposes in the media domain, without downgrading, at the same time, the need to bring together the relevant social and economic interests. The paper considers the latter position by focusing more specifically on the particular case of community radio. It examines the possibility of upgrading the diversity of media content provisions to the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot audiences and, therefore, envisaging the promotion of pluralism.

Thus, the paper firstly considers radio broadcasting as part of the wider media landscape which is composed by print, electronic and digital media. Secondly, it ponders the benefits of the complementarity of the private, public and community media tiers in the Cypriot landscape. It analyses the characteristics of the latter within the context of the international communication system as part of the 'Mediterranean/Polarized model'. Thirdly, it argues that the eminent characteristics of this model may also prescribe future development trends in regards to community radio. As far as Greek-Cypriot community radio broadcasting is concerned, the relevant experience of the Greek radio landscape –which provides the most influential model for the moulding of Greek Cypriot radio– appears beset with severe constraints. However, despite also subscribing to the polarized model, other Mediterranean countries exhibit sustained community radio activities.

For this reason, the paper concludes that community radio needs to develop in Cyprus via the peculiarities of its up-bottom introduction being combined with the bottom-up development of relevant civil society activities. Therefore, the introduction of radio literacy and training initiatives –in tandem with the creation of audience research fora in the existing analogue and multimedia environments– remains cardinal for their success.

Christos Barboutis is a researcher at the Laboratory of New Communication Technologies, Department of Communication and Mass Media, University of Athens. His research interests include: interdisciplinary approaches in media communication in the domain of social sciences; the comparative study of the organization, production and use of analogue and digital media output; the designation and operation of different communication systems. The international aspects of quality in distance-learning in High Education is the latest project he is currently involved in.

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Discussant: Lawrie Hallett, University of Westminster, UK

Lawrie Hallett is currently studying for a PhD focusing on Community Radio at the University of Westminster in London. He has a background in radio journalism and music presentation and production, and currently works part-time for the UK broadcast regulator, Ofcom, on community and digital radio issues. He is also act as a trustee for a local Community Development charity, Future Projects in Norwich. Prior to working for Ofcom, he completed an MA in International Relations and Development studies and worked for the Community Media Association, developing Community Radio policy during the early experimental period of such broadcasting in the UK.

Chair: Angeliki Gazi, Cyprus University of Technology

Angeliki Gazi is a psychologist, graduated from the University of Ioannina. She holds a Master's Degree and PhD on Media Psychology, on the subject of Radio and Identity, from the Department of Communication and Media Studies, University of Athens. Her clinical training concerned group analysis. She has taught Psychology and Media at University of Athens, University of Peloponnese and National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government, Ministry of Interior, Decentralization, and E-government, Athens. She has published articles in refereed international journals, two books and participated in international conferences. She is reviewer in two International Journals, member of the International Editorial Board of the "Journal of Radio and Audio Media", nd member of the International Editorial Board of "The Radio Journal". She is founding member and elected Vice Chair of the Radio Research Section of European Communication Research and Education Association (ECEA), member of Scientific Committee of Groupe de Recherches et d' Etudes sur la Radio (GRER) and member of Hellenic Psychological Association.

Plenary session 5 – Closing: *Opportunities and challenges for Community Media in Europe: the way ahead*
Presentation of the 'Cyprus Community Media Declaration'

This session will review the conference proceedings, as well as discuss issues relevant on the future of European community media practice as sustainability and digital switchover. The *'Cyprus Community Media Declaration'* will be presented to conference delegates and stakeholders.

Discussants:

Arne Hintz, McGill University, Montreal, Canada [via Skype]

Connecting with New Themes and Other Policy Initiatives

Community media advocacy by CMFE and AMARC has been very successful. It has put the 'third media sector' on the agenda of policymakers and the public, has changed their understanding of 'media', and has significantly contributed to policy change both nationally and internationally. However it has focused on radio and has only sporadically interacted with other recent policy initiatives and their agendas, particularly with regards to internet policy. In a converging media environment, I would argue, it is important to link up with other such initiatives, learn from their successes and failures, and engage with policy debates that concern other media platforms but are closely related to community media concerns.

In this brief intervention I would like to do three things:

1. Map out areas of policy challenges – access to infrastructure, access to content, resources, etc – and suggest how community radio concerns connect with other issues.
2. Point to a few civil society initiatives that work on these challenges and in fields similar to community media, but without any interaction with CMFE, AMARC, etc.

3. Point to a few success factors of these initiatives which could provide interesting 'lessons learnt' for CMFE.

Arne Hintz is the Media@McGill Post-doctoral Research Fellow 2009/10 at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, where he is currently working on the project "Mapping Global Media Policy", together with Prof. Marc Raboy and Visiting Professor Claudia Padovani. Before moving to McGill, he was Program Director of the Center for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS) at Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary, and he continues to be affiliated with CMCS as a Research Fellow. He studied Economics, Political Science and International Political Economy at the Universities of Hamburg, Germany, and Warwick, UK, and he holds a PhD in Political Science. His work focuses on media and communication policy; community and alternative media; digital media; media development and democratization; civil society and social movements. He is an active member of several international research associations and collaborations, including the OURMedia network and the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). He has worked as a journalist and with start-up Internet services, and he has been a media activist with alternative online media, community radio and media campaigns such as Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS). He participated as a community media expert in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and he is a Board member of the Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) (2008-2011).

Friederike Maier, Leibniz University, Germany

Bits and Bytes on the Air, and Community Radio?

The digitalization of radio is a long lasting story not only in Europe and there is no end to be seen soon. Since the declaration of the European Commission to switch off all analog broadcasting (radio and television) by the end of 2012, the radio part was adjourned more and more. In very little countries Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB) has been accepted by the listeners and mostly an insignificant number of receivers was sold. However the plans for analog switch off are still there. The Digital Audio Broadcast standard, which was developed in the 80s already has received an upgrade with new audio codecs, called DAB+. And in Germany for example a new digital roll out with a national DAB+ multiplex, carried out with millions of public money just took place last August.

Since the declaration to switch off FM radio, many community radios were rising their voices, not to be discriminated by the digitalization. As DAB/DAB+ is a multiplex system with many programs in one multiplex there is hardly a possibility to run an own radio transmitter and the coverage of the multiplex is mostly not adapted to local radio, which makes it expensive to rent.

In the meantime many other standards for digital radio has been developed and the Internet has become a serious radio provider. The talk shall give an overview of the different digital radio standards and formats (DRM/DRM+, HD-Radio, DVB-T (Radio), Internetradio) and their technical details in respect to the needs of community radios. The impact of the process of digitalization on community radios in different countries shall be discussed and also the possibilities, that can arise from digital technologies.

Friederike Maier, is a Research Assistant based at Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany, where she is working in the technical field of Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM+). She has been conducting several field trials in different countries and participated in the discussions on ITU' DRM+ standardization. She has been working in community radios for nearly 15 years, creating radio shows, and supporting the survival of servers and networks. In the field of community radio she has been also active on the European level, by attending the AMARC conference in Dublin (2011) and recent Civilmedia conferences in Salzburg. She is a member of the board of BFR (Bundeverband Freier Radios/Association of Free Radios).

Emmanuel Bouterin, Vice President, AMARC International

Placing community radio at the center of media challenges in 21st Century

Since the end of the last century we are facing a trend both, to an increasing diversity of audiovisual media actors and their growing concentration. The tendency is for large groups to absorb independent media.

This is valid for radio as well as for the television sector. As a result, contents tend to become uniform, even identical, in spite of the retention of independent branding.

One sector is not involved in this world trend: community media, also frequently identified as the third sector: social economy media, whose economic model is impervious to media concentration. This third sector, by its unique approach is the vector to cultural diversity and democracy building.

One of its challenges is the community radio sustainability model, because it depends on the consolidation devices of each individual radio: being a specific media that reinforces and maintains its audience through serving communities, women, minorities and democracy. Its sustainability is linked to the advances in legislation recently attained in Bangladesh and India; to the content sharing by Pulsar information agency in Latin America; through knowledge sharing in Nepal or; against all political odds in a permanent common struggle with civil society as in Mexico.

In this global and multi-form challenge, community radios in Europe have an essential role : to build a « relevant radio » for all audiences ; a specific media of the social and solidarity economy that faces the new frontiers of the transition to digital radio to be extended to the whole planet in the next 20 years.

Emmanuel Bouterin, magistrate, is the Vice-president of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC). He is notably responsible for the MENA regional zone of operation, as well as occupying the role of President of the Syndicat National des Radios Libres in France (Europe's largest federation of community radios and associates), and being a member of the Conseil Supérieur de la Propriété Littéraire et Artistique as a representative on broadcasting. Founded in 1983, AMARC unites over 4000 community radios, federations, experts and partners of community media across 114 countries. It promotes the right to freedom of expression on an international, national and local level, working within towns, rural areas, and in sensitive zones across the world. AMARC's goal is to defend and promote the interests of community radios based on the principles of solidarity and international cooperation

Cyprus Community Media Centre

Presentation of the 'Cyprus Community Media Declaration'

Pieter de Wit, President, Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE)

Concluding remarks of the 2011 CMFE conference

Pieter de Wit is the current President of CMFE since 2007. Prior to that he was the Director of the Dutch Federation of Community Broadcasters (OLON) from 1982 to 2008. He was also member of the Board of AMARC Europe from 1997 to 2001. An active contributor to academic and industry conferences in the last three decades, he has been consulted by the Council of Europe as an expert in the fields of broadcasting and digitalization.

Chair: Salvatore Scifo, Secretary, Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE)

Salvatore Scifo is the Secretary of the Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) (2007-2011) where he has also had the mandate for the association's communications platforms. Has been involved in community radio practice in 1992, as volunteer for the local station Radio Popolare Raffadali and has been part of the first Italian university radio station Facolta' di Frequenza, based at the University of Siena, where he started as a volunteer in 1999 and worked as Deputy Station Manager from 2001 to 2004. He is nearing completion (December 2011) of a PhD research project on 'The origins and development of community radio in Britain under New Labour (1997-2007)', based at the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI), University of Westminster, in London. He has been a Visiting Lecturer in Media Studies at the School of Media, Arts and Design, University of Westminster (2005-2007), a Lecturer in Community Media at the Department of Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University (2007-2008) and a Lecturer in Media Policy at the European Union Institute, Marmara University, Istanbul (2008-10). Currently, he is a TUBITAK visiting research fellow (until June 2012) in Istanbul, Turkey.

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COMMUNITY MEDIA FORUM EUROPE



17

PARALLEL SESSIONS

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Friday 18 November – 11.30/13.00 – Session 1

18

1.1 Panel: Historical Perspectives on Community Media Chateau Status Grand Hall

Nico Carpentier, Loughborough University, UK

Before Community Media. The Czechoslovak Kinoautomat, spectator participation and technological affordances

Long before At the 1967 world exhibition, the Czechoslovak pavilion featured the interactive film *Kinoautomat*, where spectators could influence the story line of the film by voting (on a number of occasions) for one of two possible story lines. In order to enable this early form of audience participation, the armchairs in the film theatre were equipped with voting facilities, and a (still very primitive) computer was installed to process the voting results. After each vote, the results were projected on the screen, the decision was announced and the film continued. Through these participatory technologies the audience was allowed to co-decide on the storyline of the film, which had up to then (but also in the years to come) been the privilege of the producers of the film.

The experiment was fed by the ambition to shift citizenship and participation beyond the realm of institutionalized politics and to deepen (cultural) democracy by altering the power relations within the film theatre, where the interaction with the film text is traditionally limited to the abilities of spectators to generate different readings. Paradoxically, the film was produced within/by a totalitarian regime which was keen to show its cultural and technological achievements, and disappeared from the screens shortly after the end of the Prague spring, only to be restored in the mid-2000s.

This presentation aims to contribute to the development of a history of participation, which is relevant for all engaged in participatory practices today, and which allows to position other participatory media like community media within this broader history of participation. Moreover, it wants to launch a discussion on the participatory affordances of technology, looking at the ways that the used film technologies, but also reception cultures, impacted on what kind of participation was allowed and what kind was disallowed.

Urszula Doliwa, University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland

Radio stations run by NGOs as a stub of the community radio sector in Poland

Poland was a leader in the community media in the East-Central Europe before 1989. There were more than 2000 illegal, independent press titles. The pirate radio station „Solidarity”, which broadcasted between 1982-1990, played an important role in the Polish society. Nowadays, the situation of community broadcasting in Poland can be characterized as unclear. There are as many as 10 so called ‘social broadcasters’, all connected to the Church. However, also other radio stations with non-commercial goals are present on air in Poland. Unfortunately, they exist in the framework of the commercial sector. Yet, they may be referred to as a stub of community radio sector and become a basis for the development of the community media. Stations run by NGOs seem to be one of the most important examples of non-religious radio stations which fulfill non-commercial goals. In the study I tried to determine to what extent they may be called community radio station, to identify the main problems of this sector and obstacles in the development of such radio initiatives in Poland as well as to collect opinions and ideas about changes in the media system which would contribute to the development of the third sector of media in Poland. The research included telephone interviews with representatives of all NGOs radio stations with non-commercial goals present on air, a case study of one selected NGO radio station – Radio Mazury - and content analysis of the weekly programme of this station.

Nuria Reguero Jimenez, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

UNESCO policies on civil society media (1970-2009)

Civil society media (also known as free media, community media or third media sector) are not-for-profit organisations managed directly by civil society as a distinct pillar besides commercial and governmental media. Since the earlier experiences, these media have been marginalized or persecuted by many governments because of the absence of a legal framework recognizing their rights.

For that reason, and during more than 30 years, civil society media have been appealing to the Human Rights as well as the UNESCO principles. Indeed, jointly with the Council of Europe (CoE), UNESCO has been the former international institution promoting civil society media from a Human Rights perspective.

This communication, which is a result of the author's previous researches, presents an overview of the UNESCO policies on civil society media since 1970, when the former reports were entrusted, up to 2009. The theoretical framework is based on the communication rights perspective and the methodology used is the documental analysis.

Akpojivi Ufuoma, University of Leeds, UK

Community Radio in Emerging Democracies: Bridging the Information Gap. Case Study - Radio Ada in Ghana

Citizen participation is germane to the sustenance of democracy. This is because the quality of democracy in any society is dependent on the ability of the citizens to access quality information that will innately influence their participation in the political process and in the wider debates. Unlike in most Western countries where accessibility of the media has been enhanced by the broad range of media, and citizens can access information with ease, most emerging democracies like Ghana still struggle to bridge the information gap that has excluded 52.2% of the populace residing in rural areas due to political, economic and geographical factors (see McKay, 2009).

Community media is a relatively new phenomenon in Ghana established mainly to facilitate accessibility of the media to marginalized rural communities and encourage local participation. This initiative is considered a valuable tool for enhancing societal development as was the case in Senegal.

Therefore, this paper proposes that following the establishment of the first community radio in Ghana "Radio Ada" in 1998, the marginalized (farming and fishing) communities covered by Radio Ada have benefited from increased citizen participation in the development of their communities. Not only does Radio Ada provide valuable information about farming and fishing to local residents, it has also succeeded in encouraging residents to participate in natural resource management. More so, accountability within government and private enterprises in these communities has been enhanced.

Chair: Holger Briel, University of Nicosia

1.2 Panel: Community Media Policies

CCMC Community Space

Kate Coyer, Center of Media and Communication Studies-Central European University, Hungary

Policy and practice of community radio in Bosnia and Herzegovina: prospects for development

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the development of community broadcasting faces many hurdles that seem almost insurmountable at present, foremost among them the lack of an overall enabling environment. Adding to the challenge is a licensing system for non-profit broadcasting which, while forward-thinking in intention, does not encourage self-sustainability or provide for adequate funding mechanisms.

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This paper presents the status of community radio in Bosnia and Herzegovina and place it in the context of similar initiatives across Europe. It examines three models of stations that approach the function of community media but operate with commercial licenses, and considers prospects for the development of this sector in the future. In particular, it will review the relationship between local broadcasters and local government authorities, and the challenges that community-oriented broadcasters face in this interaction. The paper raises challenging questions about the hurdles and complexities involved in pursuing community broadcasting in places where there lacks incentives for civic engagement, where local governance is highly politicized, and where broadcasting, politics and community life are highly segmented by ethnicity.

The paper draws on interviews with station organizers, policy analysis, and seeks to place the situation in BiH within a wider European context. This research is part of a larger project organized by Mediacentar Sarajevo and includes recommendations as to what might be necessary in establishing a stronger enabling environment for community radio in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This Paper is authored by:

Kate Coyer, Director, Center for Media and Communication Studies, Central European University

Joost van Beek, Research Fellow, Center for Media and Communication Studies, Central European University

April Glaser, Temple University, USA

Low Power to the People: A History of the U.S. Local Community Radio Act of 2011

On 4 January 2011, President Obama signed the Local Community Radio Act into a law, expanding community (low power FM) radio in the U.S. by reserving unused FM spectrum for noncommercial community groups. This marked the largest expansion of community radio in U.S. history. The law was the result of a national campaign spearheaded by Prometheus Radio Project, an activist non-profit organization. Their unusual success, the freshness of the victory, and the lack of media attention to this legislation warrant a closer look.

My paper explores the work of the Prometheus Radio Project and the unconventional tactics they used to create relationships between activists, community leaders, the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Congress. Drawing on in-depth interviews with the founder of Prometheus and my own participation in the movement since 2005, I uncover the particularities and circumstances that worked to shift the terms of a ten-year campaign into a law. I explore the larger historical context of the fight for local media representation in the U.S., and analyze the decade preceding the law.

I argue that despite regulatory corruption and the hurdles of consolidated media ownership, grassroots activism functioned to educate and generate broad public interest. Consequently, the direct demand for access to community radio could not remain unaddressed by elected representatives. Finally, I reflect on the task ahead as a national effort to build local radio in the U.S. and the possibility that community radio holds in the formation and fortification of local communities in a world of global connectivity.

Juan Ramos Martin, Instituto Universitario de Iberoamérica-Universidad de Salamanca, Spain

Likeness and mutual cooperation: Policies and alternative media networks in Bolivia and Spain

Bolivia is one of the most successful examples of alternative media used for helping to create a "critical citizen movement" during the second half of the 20th century, copied by a lot of European alternative media experiences. But the financial crisis, and the privatization and media concentration processes last decades in Latin America and Europe have caused a great problem for the alternative media support all over the world.

Trough the recovering of the historical Andean tradition based on the radio experiences on communication for social change, the works looks for establish the strength of the relationships between the recent creation of the Spanish and the Andean alternative media networks last decade, in the context

of a strong legal and political change referring to the community communication, its future lines of work and the role of the alternative media networks on their change or their consolidation, based on the "reticular profit" concept, the study of their increased number of partners and the legal documents analysis. The theoretical framework includes concepts taken from the political economy of communication, the critical theory and the communication for social change, and it's specially concentrated in the study of two local radio networks: Onda Local in Bolivia and EMA RTV in Andalucía (Spain).

Jaqui Devereux, Community Media Association, UK

Community radio, local television and convergence development in the UK

The presenter will give an overview of community radio, local television and convergence development in the UK and illustrate what the Community Media Association aims to achieve in the new Communications Bill being discussed in Britain at this time.

Pierre Boucard, SNRL, France

Developing digital broadcasting for community media in France

Since May 2010 the *Groupement des Radios Associatives de la Métropole Nantaise* (GRAM), a group that brings together community radio stations in the metropolitan area of Nantes, France, is experimenting with digital terrestrial broadcasting using DAB+ and DMB in band III. This unique project in Europe has been developed in collaboration with public and commercial radio stations and local authorities. After more than a year of broadcast experience, supported by the Higher Audiovisual Council of France (CSA), the project is ongoing and will expand by the end of this year to cover an audience of one million listeners in the area. The presentation will illustrate the first results of tests, costs and benefits of the technology of *Local Windowing* that helps to meet the needs of community radio stations in context of digitalization and in the adoption of an independent multiplex.

Chair: Pieter de Wit, President CMFE, The Netherlands

1.3 Panel: Community Media Development and Learning

Home for Cooperation Meeting Room

Stefan Tenner, CMFE Board, Germany

Share & Spread - Collaborative exchange of content within community radios in Germany and Austria

The sharing of content is an important component of self-understanding since the establishment of community radio, whether at regional, national or international level. The Internet is an ideal complement to the Radio and its rapid development makes it more easier to provide content to other community stations or even the own radio. Through collaborative cooperation and the use of Creative Commons licenses in recent years, unique and open archives about civil society and alternative media coverage, non-commercial research tools and easy distribution means of emancipatory mediawork emerged. The presentation will focus on two exchange platforms for Community Radios in Germany and Austria, who cover both now more than 60.000 radio broadcasts, reports and interviews. In addition, established models but also new experimental forms of distributed editorial work between several stations will be presented, that allow an editorial work beyond borders.

Ben Keyneswood, University of Birmingham, UK

Learning practices in UK community radio

In the UK, learning is chiefly teacher- and curriculum-led. Pupils must adapt themselves to a formal school environment and pre-defined abstract terms on a curriculum trajectory they have little control over. They will be judged on how they adapt to this trajectory. By 2015, young people in the UK will be expected to do this full time until they are 18. Yet learning is about more; it is about understanding yourself and society, and addressing the conflicts that arise between the two. For young people, this learning is social and often occurs outside of school when volunteering.

Yet youth volunteering in the UK has declined since 2005, according to the Institute for Volunteering Research (Hill, 2009: 4). However, in one area it is increasing. Community radio is buzzing with young people. Since 2004 the community radio sector in the UK has developed into over 200 full time FM stations with 25 FM youth station licences awarded. The sector benefited from two million volunteering hours in 2010 (Ofcom, 2010: 4), with many of these coming from young people. What has community radio got that young people want?

Firstly, they appear to enjoy shared practice, on their terms, and with clear community benefit. They learn broadcast skills and improve résumés. The other side of the coin is less explicit. Adolescents ask 'What kind of person does society require me to become? What kind of person would I like to become?' (Carugati, 2004: 119). Young volunteers are engaging in praxis, testing their own and adult theories of what works for them through practice and reflection.

Using a participatory approach I am researching with 12 young UK community radio volunteers. We will be using blogs and running orders to explore and describe informal learning practices they engage in. This session will explicate these method choices, and their particular applicability to a community radio environment.

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Carme Mayugo, Research group Ciudadania e Comunicación – CIDACOM (University of Santiago de Compostela) and Teleduca. Educació i Comunicació SCP, Spain
Community media and media literacy providing together answers for new socio-educative needs

The paper focuses on the possibilities of community media and media literacy to satisfy together some of new socio-educative needs in several social contexts. Our cities and our neighbourhoods are becoming multifaceted, difficult to be understood even from inside. These environments are very complicate to be managed only by external outputs, without a direct and comprehensive knowledge of them. It is becoming more and more important to share citizens' stories, to promote discourses based on a bottom-up design, and to perform actions using the audiovisual language. Communities need to participate actively in their own communicational fluxes.

Nowadays, it is crucial to hear all voices and to watch all regards living together in each town or neighbourhood. Community media and media literacy are essential to construct a better co-existence. They provide a broad cultural exchange within different collectives, but they also bring socio-educative actions and methodologies to the networking. Then, it is necessary to know how community media and media literacy can be complementary. There is a big challenge to encourage programmes and initiatives to make possible and easier a collaborative work between community media and media literacy, promoting a more inclusive citizenship.

This paper combines contributions from a theoretical triangulation between three concepts: new socio-educative needs, community media and media literacy, and the results from a cases' study of three projects based on participatory methodologies and audiovisual self-expression. These projects have been

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designed to promote demands and potentialities of different social collectives, which are living together and sharing their daily life. The three initiatives come from Catalonia (Spain): 1) *Dones Reporteres de Mataró*, 2) *La Llagosta: vides i camins*, and 3) *Et sona? El Sud Sona*. They have been developed in three medium and small cities around Barcelona, with different kind of participants: women, old people and youngsters.

Andrew David, Siren FM, UK

Managing a diverse workforce: Siren FM in Lincoln, UK

The City of Lincoln's Siren FM is the first community radio station to be based on an English university campus. When it began broadcasting in 2007 it had to shed its student image in order to embrace a new focus; that of serving diverse communities in the greater Lincoln area. What was clear was that the volunteer workforce would in time become similarly diverse, what was less clear were the challenges this diversity could pose.

A campus based community radio station not only offers an interesting model for the new Third Tier of radio but also can provide the opportunity to effect 'community benefit' and 'social gain'; the twin requirements of community radio in the UK, by inspiring individuals to further their education and increase their academic qualifications. However, the body of community radio volunteers at Siren FM comprises members of the local communities who, in most cases, have little or no aspiration towards higher education. As the student and non-student volunteers work together on the campus of the University of Lincoln, they blend with a group of people who encompass professors, taxi drivers and a chef from the local high security prison amongst others, sharing solely an interest in, and commitment to, community radio.

Using Siren FM as a case study, this paper looks at the task of managing such a vibrant and eclectic workforce from the uniquely personal perspective of the station's Managing Editor. It will also document some of the success stories of the Siren FM volunteers who are demonstrating the power community radio can have to change lives. It will describe the challenges faced in balancing the disparate abilities and perspectives of the volunteer workforce and the efforts made to deliver a positive broadcasting experience for both student and non- student alike.

Chair: Christophoros Christophorou, University of Nicosia

Friday 18 November - 14.30/16.00 – Session 2

24

2.1 Panel: Methodologies for qualitative and quantitative community media research

Chateau Status Grand Hall

Lawrie Hallett, University of Westminster, London, UK

Measuring Community Radio Audiences

Audience research is rarely a high priority for community radio practitioners, with some even taking the view that such activity is not particularly relevant for the sector. Suggesting that such attitudes might sensibly be reconsidered, this paper explores various reasons, beyond the traditional commercial ones, why both quantitative and qualitative audience data could be useful for individual community radio broadcasters.

The paper argues that the approach taken in professional audience measurement (as typically carried out by public service and commercial radio broadcasters) is inappropriate for community radio services. The high recurrent costs of such campaigns is only the first problem. More fundamentally, there is also the more fundamental problem that such approaches are typically too 'granular' (with a tendency towards inaccuracy when measuring smaller specialist services). Moreover, such professional audience surveys tend to tell only half the story, focusing on the issue of audience size, and ignoring the equally important qualitative element of audience satisfaction.

Using the example of the approaches taken by UK Community Radio station, 'Future Radio', this paper will examine the collection and use of both quantitative data (primarily through street surveys) and qualitative data (through on-line questionnaires). It also, explores why this station came to regard such research to be both necessary and beneficial. Showing how reasonably accurate data can be obtained on a cost-effective basis, issues of accuracy and practical difficulties will also be covered.

Finally, the paper will examine some of the opportunities and challenges raised by the changing nature of radio listening and interaction brought about by new methods of consumption such as Internet streaming and mobile 'smart-phone' applications.

Otto Tremetzberger, Freies Radio Freistadt/dorf.tv and Alexander Vojvoda, Radio FRO-Linz, Austria

Community Radio and Community TV in Upper Austria: Audience and Potential Research Analyses

This session presents the main features of the audience and potential research carried out in Upper Austria in 2011. The main figures will be presented and we will give a brief overview of the questionnaire, scientific and methodological approach and the main findings of the research

Basic facts:

From January to November 2011 Radio FRO 105.0 MHz – in cooperation with the other community radios (Freies Radio Freistadt, Radio B 138 and Freies Radio Salzkammergut) and the community TV channel "dorf.tv" – has realized a wide-ranging audience and potential research in Upper Austria. 1000 CATI interviews with persons over 15 years give an insight in the basic structure of the audience of the third media sector in Upper Austria and therefore developed an alternative approach to quantitative audience and potential research in community media and main stream media beside the "Radiotest" in Austria.

Alexander Vojvoda, Project Manager Radio FRO 105.0 MHz and post-graduate student at Goldsmith's College, University of London; Otto Tremetzberger, managing director "dorf.tv" and "Freies Radio Freistadt"

Henry Loeser, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Wake up and smell the flowers! – The misdirected dreams of advertising revenue development by community radios in the United Kingdom.

Community radio in the United Kingdom is not the same as commercial radio. It's different in many ways, and in fact better in some. But community radio broadcasters seem either unwilling or unable to embrace these differences, and take advantage of the opportunities they present. Certainly it requires a combination of vision and strategy, mixed in with a commitment to organizational development, but the opportunities exist. Community radios are not just charities; they are social enterprises with a responsibility for effectiveness and sustainability. The way to achieve those ideals is to be an effective organization building strong relationships with local businesses to develop reliable advertising revenue streams. Furthermore, additional revenue streams from new ideas and technologies are opportunities waiting to be developed for the astute and well-managed operators. Community radio in the United Kingdom needs to stop dreaming about audience research, and start concentrating on people, systems and tools that will lead to their success. The keys are located right in their community, and indeed, right inside their own building.

Chair: Salvatore Scifo, Secretary, Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE)

2.2

Workshop: Building Self-reflexivity and Community through Digital Storytelling in Cyprus

CCMC Community Space

Beran Djemal, Media Outreach Officer, CCMC, Cyprus

Facilitating the story circle

Alana Kakoyiannis, Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Performing and Visual Arts, American University in Cairo & former Technical Officer of the CCMC, Cyprus

Teaching low-tech digital story production

Gökçe Keçeci Şekeroğlu, Digital Storytelling Expert, Cyprus

Self-reflexivity in the media production classroom: pushing the personal boundaries

Joanna Gorka, European University of Cyprus, Cyprus

Self-reflexivity as a means of idea generation in the art classroom

Chair: John W. Higgins [via Skype], Adjunct Professor of Rhetoric and Language, University of San Francisco, USA

This panel presentation/workshop discusses the ability of Digital Storytelling and Community-Based Media to empower significant personal and social change, described through experiences in Cyprus fall

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2010. At that time the Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC) collaborated with U.S. Fulbright Scholar John W. Higgins, facilitating digital storytelling workshops held at universities and the CCMC.

Digital Storytelling is a method of telling personal stories using simple digital tools. The narratives are typically stories of personal relevance: transcendence, transformation, change. One outcome of the digital storytelling process is a recognition that we are all more the same than different, thus building community. Community-based media share similar goals of person-to-person communication, of personal and social empowerment and change.

The focus of both community media and digital storytelling is more on the stories told and less on the technical polish of the finished production. Emphasis is placed on hearing the stories of everyday people, the communities in which we live, and the people with whom we share the planet. The belief is that there is empowerment in hearing the stories, as well as empowerment in the telling of the stories. Simple media technologies are tools to aid in this ancient human process.

This panel addresses an overview of the 2010 project with an update on digital storytelling workshops offered in 2011; outcomes for participants and their communities; and recommendations for building successful digital storytelling workshops. The focus is on the importance of focus on the “story circle,” reflexivity, deep-listening, and sharing stories with universal themes.

2.3

Workshop: Rate My Regulation – developing a project to rate community policies and regulations in Europe

Home for Cooperation Meeting Room

Facilitators:

Christer Hederström (Board Member, CMFE, Sweden) and Ciaran Murray (Board Member, CMFE, Ireland)

In contrast to the public service media and the private/commercial media sector the political and juridical condition for the community media (CM) sector differ from country to country in Europe.

This is even the case in European regions with common cultural variables as language and history i.e. the Nordic countries or for Austria-Germany-Switzerland.

In country like Denmark there can be a basic governmental support for CR but not a transparent infrastructure as in the UK. The future for CR seems to be more promising in Austria than in Germany. Will the a new structure for CM in Poland or the Czech Republic be much better developed than the one in Hungary? And so on.

It should be the task of CMFE to collect all relevant information about CM in Europe and put all plus and minus on the table to considered by European and national politicians as well as media authorities in all 47 countries of Europe. Of course the decision makers should understand that CM is not a local question rather a common European movement or development. Questions might be poised like how come than CM is so well developed in X but not in Y? Would be good to see a Finnish MP pushing for CR asking why Finland is not on the tracks when other Nordic countries are.

Probably the European Community Media Rating (ECMR) will stimulate interest also within the media research community.

It will be a special challenge to make the decision makers understand that freedom of speech is not complete before broadcasting which is open to all citizens (to own and operate) not only journalists and other professionals.

An official rating list will put more focus on this. Such a list should be published on the CMFE website and frequently updated for example quarterly but not promoted more than once a year to get optimal media attention. This can be presented as a ranking list ("Community media: Ireland is ranked as number 1 in Europe 2012").

How

A pilot period can be organised in two parts. First we start with an internal listing of the countries which we ourselves are close to and know best. Second part will be a complete listing of all other European countries. Here is the question if should include all 47 and then there will be lots of 0 points (for several years to come). Might be good to let all the non-CM countries become pilloried especially if we can keep tying CM development to the EU/CoE sphere.

Task force group/working group

This is the start up of the working group work. We will do this workshop to prepare the pilot period for this project in 2012.

and with a contribution of Arne Hintz, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, on the **Mapping Global Media Policy** project [via Skype]

Mapping Community Media Policies: Proposal for a Collaborative Project

The media policy environment is crucial in enabling, constraining or obstructing community radio. Advocating for positive policies requires knowledge on national media laws, international policy debates, institutional processes, and the agendas of relevant actors. The international project *Mapping Global Media Policy* seeks to activists, advocates and researchers to identify, monitor and analyze issues, actors, processes, outcomes, resources and trends of media policy on a global level. It enhances actors' capacity to effectively intervene in policy settings.

The project's online platform www.globalmediapolicy.net is currently being finalized and will soon include an elaborate database for gathering, analyzing and presenting relevant policy information, as well as digital visual mapping tools. Content in several thematic areas is currently being created, for example on media policy change in North Africa and the Middle East, on gender policies, on financing regulations of public service broadcasting, and on the digital switch-over. In this brief presentation I would suggest a thematic section on community broadcasting.

Saturday 19 November – 9.30/11.00 – Session 3

28

3.1 Panel: Developing Convergent Community media CCMC Community Space

Chris Haydon, Community TV Trust, UK

Community media developments in London and the UK

This paper will report on community media developments in London and the UK, and explore how Local Media's full potential to connect individuals across complex communities lies *beyond the mainstream*.

Southwark, in part the subject of this Paper and home of Community TV Trust, is one of London's 12 inner boroughs. There are 32 in total. Southwark's population of 270,000 residents come from 169 nations, so notions of pluralism, diversity and global community find new definition. Whilst there are troubles between rival groups of young people and August witnessed major social disorder in London and other UK cities, these do not constitute 'Belfast' or 'Beirut'. Tribal issues of territory engage youthful machismo, fuelled by drug culture, but by and large this complex community lives in peace with itself. Concern for terrorist cells may underlie life but that is a general truth for us. Difference is simply accepted.

Media in the UK dominates contemporary culture, yet change has been so rapid that culture is struggling to settle.

UK Government-funded experiments in local media on micro communities – for which there never was an economic model, have now been supplanted by a Ministerial dream of a network of local TV stations supported by local advertising. Is this the way when staring at recession and depression? Is not Local Media laden with potential ripe for investment rather than subsidy?

This Paper argues that political vision is the real and live issue. Or is Government afraid of an empowered and vocal citizenry?

Finally, the Southwark Template [WEB-EVENT-TV], devised by CTVT as an affordable model for local media, will be proposed for academic, political and cultural consideration. As this Paper shows, in south London the global community is a reality and community media has never been more important.

Trevor Lockwood, East Coast Radio, UK

A Multimedia Approach concentrating upon rural areas

Conventional methods of communication are changing. Within radio we already have an array of broadcast systems and community broadcasters need to take advantage of whatever technology is locally available to create and maintain an audience. How do we make appropriate choices?

In England community broadcasting legislation has allowed over 200 community stations to start broadcasting in their local areas, using FM frequencies. Even so the broadcast range is limited; 25 watts covering, perhaps, 5km radius. That works in cities and towns where there is a concentrated population. Rural areas remain deprived.

A multimedia approach to broadcasting is now required. How is that to be achieved? Reaching an audience is only part of the process, programme quality is equally important. That requires training in the skills of production and presenting.

That can challenge the concept of community broadcasting. Has the time come to work with commercial companies? To look at small-scale projects that can link together to share skills, produce content, gain income to support their activities. The changing economies within Europe demand a radical approach and community media is capable of providing the flexibility, provided it can build a sustainable economic structure.

Two small-scale experiments will be demonstrated: an internet-based local TV network in the west of England of eight stations, and a local radio network in the east of England sharing facilities, training and content, to serve small local communities that collectively can work, but individually would lack the facilities, volunteers and finance required.

Patrice Berger, ORCEL, France

Cross media community media platforms in France

The important growth of community radio stations in France since 1981, after the struggle for broadcast freedom, gives the radios a predominant role in the development of community media projects. We will analyze two recent sets of practices involving cross-platforms including radio, video, print and web documents.

A French national cluster of 160 radio stations shares radio programs for twenty years, managed by EPRA (Exchange and radio production), an institution with public financing. These programs are focused on immigration and especially on the urban studies, with a prominent focus on the cultural and social topics. These radios produce in common radio programs to be shared by all the other stations. These programs are about cultural or social important events. More and more, they accompany these sets of radio programs by video productions and by web pages in order to produce rich archives.

The other large experience to be analyzed is a regional one, in Rhône Alpes. 35 radios work together for years, sharing programs with a web data basis (3000 programs). In 2009, they created with other community media (print, web, video) a cluster, « MediaCitoyens » in order to manage collective projects :

- Coordinated programs productions on topics such as « social discriminations », « men/ women inequalities », « international popular relationships ».
- Collective covering of events (music, cinema, theatre festivals, social or scientific meetings)

The diffusion of the productions is made by each media according to its own modalities, with regard to the social and cognitive strength of sounds, movies or texts, but all the stuff is shared by the actors on common web platforms. The organizers of festivals, meetings and the financing institutions can take part in the diffusion of these documents.

Massimo De Santo, UniS@und, Italy

The Italian College WebRadio's Network and the "WEB irRADIandO" Project

This Presentation will focus on the living *experience* of the Italian Network of College WebRadio's. While it could be considered a young phenomenon, in the last few years the Network reached almost all Italian Universities and proved to be full of innovative ideas and energies. Each webradio has its own shows, but various cooperative productions about information, music and arts are distributed nationwide in a syndication-like way.

Furthermore many relevant events have been followed with *live broadcast* interconnecting more than 25 different stations. In 2011, the Italian Ministry of Youth funded a project named 'WEB irRADIandO', devoted to promote a smart use of the 'webradio/tv' media for entertainment and education of young people. The Project was born from a proposal made by Unis@und, the official webradio of the University of Salerno, together with RADUNI, the Association of Italian College webradio's and TV's. 'WEB irRADIandO' could be roughly translated as "Web Radiate", meaning the *diffusion* (like an energy beam) of the media.

The project has a national scope and it aims to encourage the emergence of new experiences of radio while supporting existing ones. It also wants to enhance the adoption of webradio/tv for exchanging of ideas, content and experiences as a tool for culture, education and training. The Project is in search of national and international projects interested in starting partnerships to organize debates, conferences and events and to encourage experimentation with new languages and formats while building relationships on territory with involved stakeholders.

Main actions covered by the Project will be: a) the definition of webradio/tv productions oriented to entertainment and education and their development on a national scale; b) the definition and implementation of a toolkit for the start-up of a webradio in universities, schools and local government; c) dissemination and promotion activities. In the presentation, the Project structure and first results will be showed with the aim of promoting a debate and stimulating the birth of cooperation proposals in the EU and worldwide scenario.

Alt Altendorf, RadioFabrik, Austria

Expanding Community Media in Salzburg

Radiofabrik, Salzburg's Community Radio, is in an ongoing process to expand its activities to different media (TV, internet), increase its range to broader audiences and improve the quality of production for programme makers and the employed staff. We want to share our experiences and strategies, and discuss the results with a broader audience."

Chair: Henry Loeser, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

3.2

Panel: Comparing national Community Media policies. Regulation, licensing and advocacy after the European Parliament's resolution of 2008-

Chateau Status Grand Hall

Gabriella Velics , Hungarian Federation of Free Radios, Hungary

Hungary

Miriam Meda, Red Medios Comunitarios (ReMC), Spain

Spain

Ciaran Murray, CRAOL, Ireland

Ireland

Helmut Peissl, COMMIT, Austria

Austria

Christer Hederstrom, CMFE Board, Sweden

Sweden

Rui Monteiro, CMFE Board, Denmark

Denmark

Discussant: Peter Lewis, London Metropolitan University, UK

Chair: Nuria Reguero Jimenez, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Relevance of the panel

The main objective of the panel is to compare the current situation of national policies on community Media across the EU paying special attention at the influence of EU policies within the Member States. More concretely, the aim is answering the question: *Did the European Parliament's resolution on CM have any influence on the sector's policies?* by discussing the current CM policies and demands 3 years after the resolution approval.

From the 80's, CM have been promoted by institutions like UNESCO because of their potential to put in practice the right to communicate, which is the citizens' right to exercise the freedom of expression in a direct way, through managing and editing their own media. In the EU, CM appeared under the form of free radios as alternatives to the governmental broadcasting monopolies. Since the firsts experiences on the early 70's the sector has been claiming not only to be legal but also to operate under the same rights than governmental and commercial media, which means to recognize their specificity as a third sector of the media systems.

After 30 years recurring to the European institutions, in 2008 the *European Parliament's resolution of 25 September 2008 on Community Media in Europe (2008/2011(INI))* was passed, calling to the Member States for spectrum availability, considering the text statements when defining Community Media in their regulation and EU funding. Lobbying for the resolution's approval and its application implies a sector's over effort which is worthy to evaluate.

Potential issues of controversy

The state of CM national policies. Regulation, licensing and funding conditions

CM and the digital transition. Is the digitalization a barrier or an opportunity to promote external pluralism?

Effectiveness of recurring to EU instances (sector's and policymakers' appropriation of EP's resolution and other EU legal instruments). Does it worth the effort?

Tentative list of questions to be posed to the panellists

Which are the current situation (regulation and licensing) and demands? Did improve or went worst during the last years? Are there new/same challenges and barriers?

Did the digitalization improve the conditions under which CM operate?

Did the EP's resolution have any influence on CM policies in your country? Were policy makers aware about the resolution? Were they aware by their own means or by CM activists? Are the resolution's principles quoted in the new legal instruments?

3.3 Panel: Community Media challenges

Goethe Institute Hall

Deborah Wilson, University of Lincoln, UK

Community radio in the UK: truly democratic?

Community Radio arrived comparatively late to the UK as it was generally assumed, with the BBC and a healthy commercial radio sector, that such a service was not a necessity. However, after an effective campaign to convince the authorities that a third tier of broadcasting was needed, the first licences were finally awarded in 2005.

Since then 'demand has been insatiable' and with the number of stations on air (200+ licenced) it would appear that the UK has a workable community radio model. Many of the earlier stations have now had their five year licences renewed, so with the sector firmly established it would be timely to evaluate whether demonstrating 'community benefit' or 'social gain' is really enough for what should be the most democratic broadcast medium in the country. It is certainly a diverse and eclectic service, but is it fulfilling all the information needs of the communities served?

This paper will look at the UK's Third Tier of radio with particular reference to factual content, evaluating what emphasis stations place on providing a news service and looking at whether the challenge of delivering news and current affairs can prove too much for under-resourced broadcasters and whether the communities, as a result, are being ill-served.

The questions being addressed will include whether the delivery of community radio news is necessary, whether it adds to democratic debate or simply emulates the neighbouring mainstream service and whether other factual content is, or can be, generated by the stations to enable a more democratic community radio output?

Imre Withalm, Radio Helsinki-Graz, Austria

Objectivity in Media Partnerships - Free Media, Collaboration and Dependence

One of the most important aspects of free media and community media is its independence. Yet, as a local media, a radio station might want to cover important events very closely. It then may decide to become a media partner. But this can lead to a number of difficulties.

Why does a media enter such a partnership? What are the advantages, what are the risks? Based on various practical examples, this presentation, will show how difficult it is to negotiate good terms with small and big players, respectively - especially when working in an organizational structure that is based on voluntary work.

Considering American and European views on objectivity and practical experience with various media partnerships, this presentation and discussion will help participants to reflect media partnerships, i.e. working closely together with a partner and the effort to keep the necessary distance. The objective of the presentation is for all participants to gain knowledge on the theory of objectivity and independence, as well as their practical use when covering an event.

Dragana Jovanovic, Prijatelj Srebrenice, Bosnia&Hercegovina

The role of community media in building and supporting civil society in Bosnia&Hercegovina

The aim of the paper is to present a specific context of BiH and a special role that community media can have in gathering all citizens, regardless of their ethnic background, around the same interests.

Ethnic divisions in Bosnia-Herzegovina were not only written with blood all over the country during the war of 1992-1995. They have been consequently inscribed into the basic legal documents, the territorial and spatial division of the country and into people's minds.

For over a decade, more and less successfully, international representatives, organizations and institutions have been investing efforts in a civic, unified and multicultural state; a vision that opposes ethno-national claims, construes them as the main obstacles to reform Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The results of the field surveys show that the reality is somehow far from the visions of ambassadors, foreign representatives and international community in general. The reality of Bosnia is however more complex. Legacy of ethnic war, spatial and territorial divisions, nationalistic politics, poverty.

What is the role of community media in building and supporting a Bosnian identity and a civil society in BiH?

The Srebrenica Case – Youth Information Centre Srebrenica. Community media as a platform to voice community needs and result in more coherent relations between the ethnic communities. Citizens not as consumers only, but get a chance to create a public opinion and information.

Jillian Hocking , Freelance Journalist

Using radio to promote democratic process and values in Afghanistan.

With the fall of the Taliban ten years ago, a plethora of radio networks emerged, particularly in Kabul, however broadcasting standards remain questionable and the majority of these networks are influenced by powerful political figures. Despite this, radio remains the principle source of information for Afghans, particularly in the regions. Eighty percent of Afghanistan's population is illiterate; consequently radio remains the primary method used for community outreach and advocacy.

In response to the tragic attack in Mazar e-Sharif in April against the UN where seven staff were killed/murdered, and more recently several planned attacks against UN offices and residences in Kabul, UNAMA is in the process of implementing a dynamic new radio initiative. Media resources and multimedia applications are not freely available in Afghanistan, so other more innovative ways need to be determined to both make an impact socially, and reach isolated parts of the country currently unavailable due to security concerns. Afghan society is struggling to overcome and address violations of human rights, widespread corruption, internecine ethnic hostilities and regional conflicts. Under this backdrop UNAMA, in addition to many UN Agencies, plays a key role in supporting the country's move towards the establishment of key democratic processes and associated institutions.

Chair: Michael Simopoulos, CCMC

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