

15.03.2012

The Press Council in BiH

Organized the international conference

“Challenges of Online Media in SEE”

14-15.03.2012

Hotel Bosnia, Sarajevo

The Press Council in BiH held the two day international conference titled “Challenges of Online Media in SEE” under sponsorship of KAS (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung) Media Program for South East Europe, during the 14th and 15th of March 2012 in the Hotel Bosnia in Sarajevo. Participants of the conference were journalists, editors and owners of online media and agencies from countries of the Western Balkans and South East Europe, representative of the Press Councils and Journalists Associations from BiH, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Monte Negro, Bulgaria, Slovenia as well as experts and guests from Germany and Belgium.

It was a great opportunity to exchange experiences from the region and Europe about the professional problems and needs of new media in the Western Balkans Region and SEE, about the practice, rules and regulations in regards to protection of copyrights during the taking of original articles and photos from agencies, print and online media, as well as about media self-regulation in the region, online media ethics and dealing with UGC.

The conference was opened by Ms. Ljiljana Zurovac, Executive Director of the Press Council in BiH and Mr. Matthias Barner, Director of the KAS Media Program for SEE.

The issue of identifying professional problems and needs of new media in the Western Balkans region and SEE was addressed by Mr. Vladimir Novakovic, former Editor in Chief and current Sports Editor of the portal B92 from Serbia, Mr. Adis Karadza, Editor in Chief of the portal Sarajevo-x.com and Board Member of the Press Council in BiH, as well as by Ms. Velislava Popova, Editor in Chief of the portal Dnevnik.bg from Bulgaria.

Presentations on the topic of practice, rules and regulations in regards to copyrights and online media were held by Mr. Bart Van Besien, Research Fellow at the Free University of Brussels in Belgium, who focused on the subject of “EU Practice: practical conditions under which journalists or media can use copyrighted articles for quoting and reporting on current events (in accordance with Articles 5.3(d) and 5.3(c) of the EU Warrant on Copyrights)” and Mr. Zdenko Duka, President of the Croatian News Association, who spoke about the Association for Protection of Journalists’ and Authors’ Rights of Croatia - DZNAP, about the agreement on taking content, signed by publishers owned by or associated with Europapress Holding - EPH, and publishers owned by or associated with Styria Media Group AG, in the Republic of Croatia.

“Print media and news agencies in the time of new media” was the topic elaborated by Mr. Dario Novalic, Editor in Chief of the magazine Start BiH and the portal Startbih.info and Board Member of the Press Council in BiH, and Mr. Zekerijah Smajic, Director of the Regional Audio-Video Agency Sensservis.eu.

The second day began with the subject “Media self-regulation in the region and ethics of online media” which dealt with the issues of application of professional reporting standards in print and online media, how to treat user generated content, and standards of the Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe, AIPCE: Editorial intervention to visitor comments: censorship, denial of freedom of speech or need due to protection of professional reporting standards? The discussion on this topic was conducted by the panel comprised of Ms. Gordana Novakovic, Secretary General of the Press Council of Serbia, Ms. Silva Celebrini, Chairperson of the Association of the Croatian Press Council, Commentator and Mentor of Channel 1 of the Radio Television of Croatia, Ms. Kristina Mackic, Board Member of the Journalists’ Association of Macedonia and Ms. Ljiljana Zurovac, Executive Director of the Press Council in BiH, while the moderator of the discussion was Mr. Miodrag Zivanovic, Ph.D. Professor of Philosophy at the University of Banja Luka.

The closing presentation was conducted by Mr. Miodrag Zivanovic on the topic of what the self-regulatory bodies in the region can do together.