

THE PRESS COUNCIL IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

realized the educational program

“Regional Dialogue and Exchange of Successful Media Self-Regulation Experience”

Members of the Macedonian Ethics Council visited the Press Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo, June 26 - 29, 2014

The Press Council in BiH organizes and successfully realized the Study Visit educational program of the Macedonian Ethics Council “Regional Dialogue and Exchange of Successful Media Self-Regulation Experience”. The seven member delegation of our colleagues from Macedonia visited the Press Council from the 26th to the 29th of June 2014. Getting to know the way of work of the Press Council in BiH and the practice of the Complaints Commission reaching adjudications on citizens’ complaints about coverage of the press and online media - are the key aspects of the Macedonian delegation’s visit.

- We are just in the phase of forming the Complaints Commission, many challenges and

problems lie before us, but the experiences of the Press Council in BiH will greatly help us. Through gaining insight into the work of your Complaints Commission, and your Press Council in general, and the discussion about your manner of work, we have already identified several key things that we will have to address in Macedonia. I would emphasize that the knowledge we gained is a rare and valuable experience. The experience and the knowledge you so professionally and generously shared with us are of priceless value for our future work and the work of the Macedonian Ethics Council - said Vesna Rosokolija, Deputy Member of the Board of Directors of the Macedonian Ethics Council.

During the three day, intensive program, also addressed were the problems and challenges faced by self-regulatory bodies in the region, the implementation of professional journalism standards, the practical application of Article 10 of the European Convention on Protecting Human Rights and Essential Freedoms and the recommendations of the Council of Europe, the importance of mediating prior to initiating a court proceeding for defamation, hate speech in media, and the organizational aspects of the operations of self-regulatory bodies.

- The visit to the Press Council in BiH was an excellent opportunity for our Ethics Council to see concrete examples of work. Everything we have learned and seen will be of great use for our Council - said Dejan Georgijevski, Chair of the Center for Media Development of Macedonia.

The delegation of the Macedonian Ethics Council consisted of Anita Dimitrijevska, Deputy Member of the Board of Directors, Dragan Antonovski, Member of the Board of Directors, Bekim Ajdin, Editor of the daily "Koha", Filip Gjurginovski from the Independent Syndicate of Journalists and Media Workers of Macedonia, Sefer Tahiri, Professor at South East European University, Vesna Rosoklija, Deputy Member of the Board of Directors and Dejan Georgijevski, Chair of the Center for Media Development of Macedonia. The Macedonian colleagues gained insight into the experiences of Liljana Zurovac, Executive Director of the Press Council in BiH, Dejan Jazvic, Member of the Board of Directors of the Press Council in BiH, Maida Bahto

Kestendzic, Project Coordinator for Complaints, as well as the members of the Complaints Commission, Prof. Miodrag Zivanovic, PhD, Doc. Enes Osmanovic, PhD, Nada Arsenic, Milan Sutalo, Drazen Zubak, Fuad Kovacevic, Muhamed Jusic and Doc. Zlatiborka Popov Momcinovic, PhD.

The study visit of the seven-member delegation of the Macedonian Ethics Council is further evidence that the knowledge, success and experience of the Press Council in BiH are recognized in the regional and international media community, and that they represent a development model for self-regulatory bodies in South-East European countries.

The photo gallery from the study visit can be viewed [here](#) .