

Parliamentary Projects Support Division

PPSD (2020) 12
22 September 2020

WEBINAR

Public Service Media in transition: current challenges and ways forward

Organised by

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

for the staff of the specialized commissions of the Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia

21 - 22 September 2020

10 am - 12.30 pm CET

AGORA 03

PROGRAMME

*Financed by the
Horizontal Facility II, joint programme financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe
and implemented by the Council of Europe*

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EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Implemented
by the Council of Europe

BACKGROUND

The Horizontal Facility II joint programme financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe action “PACE Cooperation with the parliamentary assemblies with a view to achieving legislative improvements” aims at improving the regional co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia, in line with the European Union’s Western Balkans Strategy. The four countries have agreed to jointly advance legislative reforms in the field of Freedom of expression and freedom of media through co-operation activities focusing on establishing an appropriate model for public service media to ensure its editorial, financial and managerial independence against political and economic interference.

The scope of this webinar is to improve the knowledge and understanding of the staff members of the parliaments specialized committees and departments about the Council of Europe standards for media and their implementation, about their role in supporting sustainable and independent public service media, and raise the awareness about the implementation challenges in regulating the independence and pluralism of audio-visual media in their countries, the region and other Council of Europe member states.

SPEAKERS AND WORKING LANGUAGES

- Council of Europe: Members of the PACE Secretariat, PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law JUFREX 2 programme,
- International experts: A member of the European Parliament, European media regulators and public service broadcasters, CEU School of Public Policy
- Staff from the specialised Committees and relevant departments of the Parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia,

The working languages will be English, Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian and Serbian.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- [Resolution 2317 \(2020\) on Threats to media freedom and journalists’ security in Europe](#)
- [PACE Resolution 2255 \(2019\) on Public service media in the context of disinformation and propaganda](#)
- [Resolution 2254 \(2019\) on Media freedom as a condition for democratic elections](#)
- [Resolution 2179 \(2017\) on Political influence over independent media and journalists](#)
- [PACE Resolution 2065 \(2015\) on Increasing transparency of media ownership](#)
- [PACE Recommendation 2074 \(2015\) on Increasing transparency of media ownership](#)
- [PACE Recommendation 1878 \(2009\) on the funding of public service broadcasting](#)
- [PACE Recommendation 1641 \(2004\) on Public service broadcasting](#)

- [Conclusions of the Conference “Public Service Media and Democracy”, Prague, 10-11 November 2016](#)

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

- [Recommendation \(2012\)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on public service media governance](#)
- [Recommendation \(2007\)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the remit of public service media in the information society](#)
- [Recommendation \(2007\)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on media pluralism and diversity of media content](#)
- [Recommendation \(2007\)15 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures concerning media coverage of election campaigns](#)
- [Recommendation \(2000\)23 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the independence and functions of regulatory authorities for the broadcasting sector](#)

- [Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the guarantee of the independence of public service broadcasting in the member states](#)

Other

- [Council of Europe Publication on Standards related to media](#)
- [Commissioner for Human rights' webpage on media freedom](#)
- [Public service and public interest content in the digital age: the role of regulators](#)
- [Common Principles on PSM Governance/Supervision in the Western Balkans](#)

PROGRAMME

Monday 21 September 2020

09.00 - 10.00 **KUDO Connectivity Tests**

10.00 – 10.30

OPENING SESSION

Welcome by **Mr Geza Mezei**, Head of the Secretariat, Parliamentary Project Support Division (PPSD)

Mr Roberto Fasino, Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media of the PACE

Presentation of the Activities of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media of the PACE

Discussion

10.30 – 12.15

SESSION I

The role of national parliaments in supporting sustainable and independent public service media. Council of Europe standards for media and their implementation

Panel Discussion:

Facilitator:

Mr Rast'o Kužel, Executive Director, MEMO 98, Slovak Republic
Presentation of the Road Map

Ms Martina Silvestri, Project manager, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Information Society Department, Media Cooperation Unit
Presentation of JUFREX 2 Programme

Mr. Vladimír Bilčík, MEP, Member of the Delegation to the EU-North Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee

Presentations from the staff members of the National Parliaments on the situation in their countries

Exchange of views

12.15 – 12.30

Wrap up and overview of 22 September session

Tuesday 22 September 2020

9.00 - 10.00

KUDO Connectivity Tests

10.00 – 11.00

SESSION II

Regulating independence and pluralism of audio-visual media: implementation challenges

Facilitator:

Mr Rast'o Kužel, Executive Director, MEMO 98, Slovak Republic

Ms Maria Donde, Vice-Chair, European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA)

Mr. Ľuboš Kukliš, Chair of Sub-group on Disinformation, European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA)

Exchange of views

11.00 – 12.15

SESSION III

Institutional and editorial independence of public service broadcasting: topical challenges

Radka Betcheva, Head of Members Relations, Eastern Europe, European Broadcasting Union (EBU)

Marius Dragomir, Director for Media, Data and Society at CEU School of Public Policy

Presentations from the staff members of the National Parliaments on the situation in their countries

Exchange of views

12.15 – 12.30

Wrap Up Session

Conclusions by **Mr Rast'o Kužel**, General rapporteur

Concluding remarks by **Mr Alessandro Mancini**, Deputy Head of the Secretariat, PPSD