



## ***NEWSLETTER***

July 2017

No. 7/2017

### **Reinhard Priebe and His Team of Experts Pay Visit to the Agency**



As part of the implementation of urgent reform priorities arising from the 2015 Report and Recommendations, the Director of the Agency and members of the Agency Council held a working meeting with the expert team headed by Mr. Reinhard Priebe on 20 July 2017.

The participants in the meeting discussed the way the regulatory authority had been functioning following enforcement of the Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services and the Law on Media, the Agency's political and financial independence and transparency, as well as the weaknesses of the media sphere and the need for their resolution, particularly with regard to sanctioning hate speech, respect for professional journalistic standards and ensuring conditions for journalists' unhindered pursuit of their professional activities.

### **Memorandum of Cooperation Signed with "Iustinianus Primus" Faculty of Law**



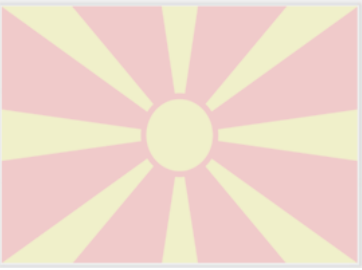
The Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services and the "Iustinianus Primus" Faculty of Law signed, a Memorandum of Cooperation on 7 July 2017, with the aim of expanding their cooperation and, thus, contributing to an exchange of experiences and reaffirming their joint commitment to and interest in promoting higher education, scholarly research and applicative activities.

Both institutions will be cooperating in the preparation of joint research projects and will be extending each other support in the organization of seminars, scholarly gatherings, round tables and other types of events of common interest. The Memorandum creates an opportunity for the students of the Faculty to attend practical tuition in the premises of the Agency.

### **Agency Reacts Against Hindrances to Journalists in the Pursuit of Their Profession**

In July, the Agency reacted twice against instances of hindering journalists in the pursuit of their professional tasks. In the first instance, the Agency was informed that a journalist crew of the KANAL VIS TV from Strumica, which had been covering a public session of the Novo Selo Municipality Council, had not only been prevented from doing their job, but had also been exposed to verbal attacks. In its reaction, the Agency condemned all forms of pressure and insults against journalists and media workers and once more called for respect of the dignity of journalistic profession and the personal dignity of journalists.

In the second instance, the Agency condemned the incident in Chair municipality, where a crew of reporters of the Shenja TV had been exposed to threats by persons claiming to have been a political party's followers. The Agency pointed out that the essence of journalistic profession was to make sure that the public was informed about all issues and, hence, journalists must not be hindered in their reporting on any problem regardless of whether it affected all citizens or the population of a certain local community. At the same time, the Agency reminded that ensuring conditions for unhindered pursuit of media's professional duties was a *sine qua non* for the functioning and development of any democratic society.



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### **Agency's Stands and Opinions Regarding the Proposed Media Reforms**

Having considered the proposed reforms in the media sector included in the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Plan 369, the Request for Urgent Reforms by the five associations/organizations and the Draft Law on Amending and Supplementing the Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services of March 2016, the Agency came out with stands and opinions of its own about the proposed media reforms. It submitted the same to the Ministry of Information Society and Administration and to all media, and published them on its website.

### **Data on Radio-Stations' Reach and TV Stations' Share in the Total Viewership in May and June 2017**

In July, the Agency published on its website data about the radio-stations' reach and the TV-stations' share in the total viewership in the period May and June 2017.

### **Analysis of the Market of Audio and Audiovisual Media Services in 2016**

The Agency prepared an Analysis of the Market of Audio and Audiovisual Media Services in 2016. The analysis presents data about the number of broadcasters, their economic performances in 2016 (total revenues, income structure, total expenditures and their structure, the financial results of their operations, as well as the average number of regular employees) and information about the television stations' viewership and radio stations' listenership in 2016.

### **Supervisions/Measures Imposed**

#### **Regular Supervisions**

In July, the Agency performed programme supervision over 13 broadcasters concerning their obligation to meet the quota for European audiovisual works and works by independent producers. The supervision showed that all broadcasters had acted in line with the legal provisions.

Administrative supervision was performed over all 130 broadcasters that air TV or radio programmes, in terms of their obligation to publish data about their ownership structure, the editorial board's premises, and the sources of financing during the preceding year, by 30 June 2017 at the latest, and to submit the recorded announcements of these data to the Agency within 15 days from the day of publishing. In this case, too, the supervision found that all 130 broadcasters had met the legal obligation.

#### **Ad Hoc Supervisions**

Ad hoc supervision was performed over the RFM regional radio station from Skopje, to establish the identification sign, and it was found that it differed from the one defined in the radio-broadcasting license, although the Agency had not been notified about this change. The Agency imposed a warning measure against this broadcaster for this legal offence.

Ad hoc supervision was conducted over the MULTIMEDIJA-NET cable operator as well. Due to retransmitting the Cartoon Network and the Boomerang programming services, which had not been included in the programming service registration certificates issued by the Agency, the cable operator was issued a warning decision seeking that it halt the retransmission of these programming services.