

## NEWSLETTER

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### Process of Introducing 5G in the Republic of Macedonia Takes the Spotlight at Agency's Second Public Meeting in 2018



On 28 June, the Agency held its Second Public Meeting in 2018. On this occasion, Agency Director Zoran Trajchevski presented the activities carried out in line with the part of the Annual Work Programme relating to the past quarter. He summarized the conducted supervisions and the warning measures imposed against certain broadcasters, operators of public electronic communication networks, providers of on-demand audiovisual media services and print media publishers. Particular attention was devoted to the Agency's engagement in dealing with hate speech and in promoting gender equality, its activities in the area of international cooperation and EU integration.

A special accent at the event was placed on the process of introducing 5G in the Republic of Macedonia. Igor Bojadziev of the Agency for Electronic Communications, who is also chair of the work group tasked to define the measures and activities required to introduce the 5G mobile technology in the Republic of Macedonia, explained in more detail the current infrastructural resources, relevant regulations, draft measures and completion deadlines. This work group, formed by the Ministry of Information Society and Administration, also includes a representative of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services. According to the dynamics established by the EU's 5G Action Plan, all EU member states must designate one major city to be '5G enabled' by 2020, while all urban areas and major terrestrial transport paths must have uninterrupted 5G coverage. Macedonia as a country aspiring to become an EU member state, started preparations for introducing 5G in late 2017 and began preparing a national operational plan for the development of fast and super-fast electronic communication networks in Macedonia.



### Press Release

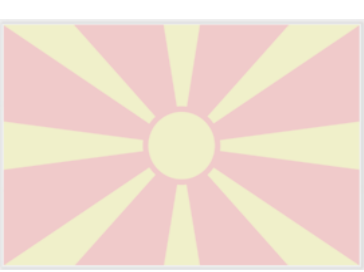
By issuing a press release, the Agency condemned the attacks on certain media workers, the violent apprehension of journalists, as well as the unprofessional conduct of certain reporters, during the protest before the Macedonian Parliament building on 17 June 2018. In its reaction, it appealed that media workers must be exempt from any form of pressure, while the journalists must keep their professional distance when reporting and provide unbiased and balanced coverage. In this context, the Agency appealed not to implement any form of inappropriate communication with the public, let alone stir violence on any grounds whatsoever, adding that only through media's professional reporting can one initiate broader public debates and contribute to the public's free formation of their opinions and critical standpoints.

### Supervisions over Broadcasters, Print Media and OPECN

#### Broadcasters

The Agency conducted supervision over 24 Vesti TV, Nasha TV, Kanal 5 Plus TV and Sonce TV concerning language use in their programmes, their obligations to air at least 12 hours of programme daily, meet the quota for airing programme originally made in RM, publish Impressums, information that should be made available to the users and broadcaster identification. The supervision found that certain parts of the programme that Nasha TV aired on 7 May 2018, did not contain broadcaster identification data.

The same broadcasters were supervised concerning their obligation to protect minors, the rules on airing audiovisual commercial communications, the rules related to airing quizzes and other forms of award winning participation, the use of value-added telephone services and telephone voting, as well as airing of lottery games. The supervision found that, on 7 May 2018, 24 Vesti TV aired promotional announcements of feature programme without marking them with the signals on minors' protection.



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As regards the obligation to ensure that at least 51 % (60 % in MRT 1's case) of the entire programme aired throughout the year, be European audiovisual works, and to set aside minimum 10 % of the budget for European audiovisual works by independent producers, supervision was conducted over Alsat-M TV, Kompani 21-M TV, Makedonska Radiotelevizija – MRT 1, Nasha TV, Telma TV, 24 Vesti TV, Alfa TV, Kanal 5 TV, Kanal 5 Plus TV, Shenja TV, Sitel TV and Sonce TV. The supervision found that these broadcasters had acted in line with the relevant legal obligations.

The Agency conducted an ad hoc administrative supervision over *Radio 5 Choki, Aleksandar Makedonski Radio, Radio Arachina, Student FM 92.2 University Radio, Lajf Radio, Albana Plus Radio, Holidej Radio, G-TV Televizija, Shutel TV and Topestrada TV*, concerning their observance of the obligations arising from the Rulebook on Minimum Technical, Spatial, Financial and Staffing Conditions Required for Obtaining a Radio or Television Broadcasting License. The supervision found that the above broadcasters had met the minimum staffing conditions stipulated by the relevant Rulebook.

Further to a complaint about alleged disregard for the principles under Article 48 (specific prohibitions) of the LAAVMS during the religious sermon titled “Ramadan Nasihats”, aired by Spektra TV from Labunishta on 5 June 2018, the Agency conducted ad hoc programme supervision over the broadcaster's programme. The supervision did not detect any violation against Article 48 of the LAAVMS, but did find the broadcaster in violation of Article 54, Paragraph 5, of the LAAVMS (prohibited sponsorship), as, contrary to the Law, this religious programme has been sponsored. The Agency imposed a warning measure against the broadcaster due to this violation.

Based on a citizen's complaint, the Agency conducted an ad hoc programme supervision against the national Television station Telma TV, concerning the principles stipulated by Article 48 of the LAAVMS, yet, did not find any violation.

### Print Media

The Agency conducted regular administrative supervision over 21 print media publishers, with the aim of establishing if the same had published Impressums, data about their headquarters, printing houses, dates of print and reprint and the circulation figures, which is an obligation under the Media Law. It was found that all 29 print media outlets covered by the supervision had met this obligation. In June, the Agency also conducted regular administrative supervision concerning the obligation to publish data about the headquarters, editors, the printing plant, and dates of print and reprint, over the print media publishers Heni Balkan DOOEL Skopje (publisher of the “Jeni Balkan Haftak Bilten” and “Heni Balkan”), Zaman DOOEL Skopje (publisher of the “Zaman” and “Zaman Shqip” newspapers) and Vizioni M Skopje (publisher of the “Shenja” Magazine). Two of the print media outlets had met this obligation partially (“Jeni Balkan Haftak Bilten” and “Zaman”) – they had failed to publish the circulation figures.

In order to verify if the “Leona” Magazine had acted in line with the warning measure used due to its failure to publish an Impressum, the Agency conducted a control supervision, which found that the relevant obligation under the Media Law had been met in full. The control supervision over the publisher of “Porta 3” Magazine also found that the latter had acted upon the warning measure in full, i.e. had published data about the ownership structure in a daily newspaper and had submitted a clipping of the same to the Agency.

### OPECN

The Agency conducted regular programme supervision over TOTAL TV, Mobi Servis and Kabel AS KTV cable operators concerning their observance of the rules on registering the programming services they retransmit with the Agency and on providing subtitles in the Macedonian language or the language of the community that does not constitute a majority in the RM. The supervision found that, contrary to the legal provisions, Total TV had been retransmitting the programming services of HAPPY TV, Studio B, Aurora TV and BK TV, which had not been covered by the programme service registration certificates issued by the Agency. Due to this, and the fact that the Total TV OPECN had been warned before against committing the same violation of the law, a misdemeanour procedure would be initiated against it.

The Agency conducted control programme supervision over the SIGNAL-NET, TELENET KOM and KOMBO 2003 cable operators concerning their legal obligation to register their programming services with the Agency and provide subtitles in the Macedonian language or the language of the community that does not constitute the majority in the Republic of Macedonia. The supervision did not find any violation of the relevant LAAVMS' provisions.

