



## NEWSLETTER

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### Closing Event Held of the Twinning Project for the Enhancement of AVMU and MRT Capacities



On 24 January, the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services and the German Foundation for International Cooperation (IRZ) held a joint event to round off the Twinning project on "Enhancing the Capacities of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services and the Public Broadcasting Service", funded by the European Union. The event was opened by the project leader Holger Albrich, who dwelled on the importance of the project for AVMU and the MRT, as well as for the two countries, Germany and Macedonia.

The President of the AVMU Council, Lazo Petrushevski, emphasized the following in his introductory speech: "The opportunity to closely exchange knowledge and experiences with relevant institutions and organizations, primarily regarding alignment with the revised EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive that took place shortly after the start of the Project, was of great importance. We adapted these experiences to our conditions and translated them into bylaws, guidelines and guides... All activities under this Project were useful for consistent implementation of the amended media legislation."

The Editor-in-Chief of the MRT's First Programming Channel, Dragan Nikolovski, added that the experiences and knowledge gained by the employees of various multiple sectors, departments and organizational levels at MRT were invaluable and expressed gratitude, on behalf of over 600 employees of the Public Broadcasting Service, for the opportunity to be part of the Twinning Project.

EU Ambassador Michalis Rokas pointed out that the results of the Project should be sustainable and that reforms require dedication and constant work, especially in the field of media, which are essential to every society's democracy. The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Petra Drexler, speaking about the joint commitment to ensuring freedom of expression and fundamental rights, emphasized that the improvement of the situation must continue, because only in this way can public broadcasters remain relevant actors, and regulators fulfill their oversight role in the long term.

Resident Twinning Advisor Ulrich Hermanski presented the mandatory outcomes of the project activities in his speech and pointed out that the planned key results aimed at enhancing the capacities of AVMU and MRT had been achieved successfully.

In the panel discussion titled "Disinformation: How to Recognize and Prevent Them," the moderator Sasho Bogdanovski of AVMU launched the Handbook on Recognizing Disinformation, that had been prepared as part of the Twinning Project, while Marina Trajkova presented the practical tools from the Handbook for recognizing videos and photos created with the help of artificial intelligence. In the discussion, Thomas Rathgeb, Head of the Media Literacy Department at the State Institute for Communications in Baden-Württemberg, stressed the importance of tackling disinformation in the Project. Maja Stojanova, journalist and editor at MRT, and Dr. Nikola Panovski, professor of medical microbiology, spoke about the abuse of their names in advertisements for medical products.

### AVMU Publishes a List of Radio Stations That Have Voluntarily Signed In to Air Domestic Music in 2025

On 15 January, the Agency published, on its website, a [List of Radio Stations that Have Voluntarily Signed In to Air Domestic Music in 2025](#). The legal opportunity to voluntarily register a percentage of domestic music that they would air was used by 14 radio stations, of which one is a state-level radio, five are regional radio channels, and 8 are radio channels that broadcast programmes at the local level.

The radio stations that voluntarily registered percentages of music in Macedonian and the languages of the ethnic communities they would be broadcasting in on a daily basis, were granted discounts on their license fees in accordance with the percentages registered.



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### Supervisions over Broadcasters and Operators of Public Electronic Communication Networks

#### Broadcasters

The Agency conducted programme and administrative supervisions over the Public Broadcaster's television programming services of MRT 1, MRT 2, MRT 3, MRT 4 and MRT 5, regarding several legal obligations: use of language in the programmes; broadcasting of at least 12 hours of television programme daily; broadcasting of at least 40% of programme originally created as Macedonian audio or audiovisual works; the rules for broadcasting audiovisual commercial communications; protection of minors from programmes that could harm their physical, mental or moral development; protection of minors' personal data; provision of quizzes or other forms of prize winning participation; use of value-added telephone services and telephone voting; broadcasting of games of chance; publication of Impressums, broadcaster's identification and information that should be made available to the users. The supervisions found that MRT 3 had failed to provide the information that should be made available to its users.

#### Operators of Public Electronic Communication Networks

The Agency carried out two regular and two ad hoc programme supervisions over the operator Multimedia Network L from Gostivar for various legal obligations. One of the ad hoc supervisions found that, contrary to Article 144, Paragraph 3, of the LAAVMS, the operator – which, according to the notification by AEC – may perform activities on the territory of the municipalities of Gostivar, Vrapchishte, Bogovinje and Kichevo – did not submit to the Agency a signal with the same content as that available to its subscribers. The second ad hoc supervision showed that, contrary to Article 143, Paragraph 1, of the LAAVMS, the operator had been retransmitting the programming service of Koha TV on the territory of the municipality of Kichevo, which had received a license from the Agency for broadcasting at the regional level for the region D8 - Popova Shapka (Tetovo, Gostivar, Vrapchishte, Bogovinje, Brvenica, Tearce, Jegunovce, Zhelino). The regular supervision found that, contrary to Article 141, Paragraph 13, of the LAAVMS, on 21.01.2025, it had retransmitted the programming services of "HBO", "HBO 2", "ATV", "Hayat Folk Box", "Hayat 2", "Hayat Music Box", "Star", "Kanal D" and "Haberturk" for its users, which are not covered by the programme service registration certificate issued by the Agency.

Regular programme supervisions were also carried out over the operators Kabel, Transped Trade, Multimedia-Net, Globalsat, Biv Piramida, Inel International, Pet Net and Signal-Net regarding their compliance with the obligations to register their programming services, provide subtitles for the programming services they retransmit and to provide, mandatorily and free of charge, as part of the programme packages they retransmit, the programming services of the Public Broadcasting Service. The supervisions found no violations of the provisions of the LAAVMS.

#### Public Warning Measures Imposed

At its 3rd Session held on January 29, the Agency Council imposed three public warning measures against the cable operator of Multimedia Network L, due to non-compliance with the provisions of the LAAVMS. One of the measures was imposed due to retransmitting programming services that are not covered by the registration certificate issued by the Agency; the second one – due to retransmission of programming service with a regional broadcasting license on a territory that is not covered by its license, and the third measure – due to failure to deliver a signal with an identical content to that available to its subscribers, which is contrary to the legal provisions.

At its 2nd Session held on January 21, the Agency Council imposed public warning measures against Spektra TV and DUE TV, due to non-compliance with the provisions of the LAAVMS. A public warning measure was imposed against Spektra TV for broadcasting programming content in a foreign language without translation into Macedonian and due to failure to air at least 30% of programme originally created as Macedonian audiovisual works, while DUE TV was issued a public warning measure due to lack of information that should be made available to its users.

