

Russian Federation/ Fédération de Russie

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UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Progress Report

Period of activity: 2007

**UNESCO Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication within the ORBICOM
Network**

Report established by: Professor Yassen N. Zassoursky, UNESCO Chairholder,
Moscow State University

I. Activities

1. Academic activities

Education

During the 2007 period of activity, the UNESCO Chair offered courses on: the mass media situation in Russia and countries of the former USSR; the global informational processes; foreign languages, cultures and media studies.

Target group: postgraduate students in the Faculty of Journalism at Moscow State University and affiliated international centers.

Research

Research projects on the democratization of mass media and the role of mass media in the development of democratic civil society. Other projects focus on the emergence of an information and technological society in post-socialist Russia.

2. Conferences/Meetings

Conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research

Date and Place: July 2007, Paris

The UNESCO Chair organized annual trainings for journalists, politicians, diplomats and scholars in humanitarian studies.

During the 2007 activity period, the UNESCO Chair offered seminars and conferences on topics including: media-education, human rights, communication technologies, digital divide, media images, media ethics, information law and legal practice, International humanitarian law, gender problems in journalism, mass-media and culture, and freedom of the press.

3. Partnerships

UNESCO Office in Moscow, Russian Federation
Russian Union of Journalists, Russian Federation
International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland
Glasnost Defense Foundation, Russian Federation

II. Impact

The UNESCO Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication has advanced local research on the state Russian and Eastern European Media in the context of international global changes and technological developments. The Chair promotes the development of communication technologies and mass media in the territories of the former Soviet Union as tools for the political democratization of the region and the affirmation of individual freedoms.

III. Forthcoming activities

The Chair will offer lectures and seminars on media education, human rights, communication technologies, media ethics and information law. The Chair will promote the influence of journalism and media studies at Moscow State University in an effort to promote freedom of expression and democratization in the Russia and Eastern Europe.