

Project bi-annual bulletin

Promoting democracy and freedom of expression

Issue 1, JUNE 2015

overview

Funded by The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the project: “Promoting democracy and freedom of expression” aims to foster peace, sustainable development and democracy through freedom of expression, at the global and regional levels. It includes four expected results: 1) An enabling environment is fostered for freedom of expression, freedom of information and press freedom, both online and off-line; 2) A free and safe environment for journalists is promoted, particularly in post-conflict countries and countries in transition; 3) Journalists exercise professional and ethical standards that contribute to the media’s role as a platform for democratic discourse, including through election reporting and investigative journalism; 4) Women and youth are empowered through enhanced media and information literacy and improved representation in the media. Main modalities of action consist of research, awareness-raising, coalition building, capacity building, promoting legal and regulatory reform and sharing good practices.

This Newsletter is produced bi-annually to report on the highlights of the project and implementation of activities within each 6-month period. It will be shared with donors, stakeholders, and media partners.



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UNESCO BANGKOK LAUNCHES THE RESEARCH STUDY INSIDE THE NEWS – CHALLENGES AND ASPIRATIONS OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In many countries across Asia and the Pacific, women have increased their number in the newsrooms. But the media are still very male dominated: on the global scale women make up only 24% of the people heard, read about or seen in the news and only few manage to reach decision-making position within media organizations.

The research study *Inside the News – Challenges and Aspirations of Women Journalists in Asia and the Pacific* released by UNESCO's Office in Bangkok, UN Women and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) highlights how issues of gender impact the lives and work of journalists in the region with specific case studies from Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu.

What are the working conditions and career development opportunities of women journalists in those countries? What challenges do they face and how do they address them? Can local good practices be emulated elsewhere? Which gender-sensitive policies are favoured by the journalists themselves?

The study that will be launched during a public event on 22 June at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand in Bangkok assesses the situation of women journalists in Asia and the Pacific 20 years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and proposes actions to foster gender equality in the media of Asia and the Pacific.

The publication of the study and the organization of the launch event were made possible thanks to the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Selection of KEY FINDINGS

- Jobs women in the media do: Reporters (30%), Feature writers (16%), Editors (11%), Sub/Copy Editors (10%), Columnists (8%), News Anchor (8%), Producers (7%), Photographers (5%), Design/Layout (2%), Media support (2%), Camera/Sound (1%)
- Gender pay gap in Asia-Pacific Media: \$US 69 (Average monthly salary \$US 437 by women, \$US 506 by men).
- How can we foster gender equality in media? Women journalists say 'Having more women in decision making roles' (25%), 'Affirmative employment strategies' (20%). Male journalists say 'Having more women in the media at every level' (28%), 'More family friendly work conditions' (22%).
- Women at work in the media: 3 out of 10 news staff are women. 23% of women are middle editorial decision makers; 20% are senior editorial decision makers; 18% are media executives.
- 18% of women journalists have experienced sexual harassment at work.
- Do Women have enough visibility in unions? 48% of the respondents say 'No', 23% say 'Yes', 25% 'don't know'.

Link to download the study and access to the recommendations in Thai, Khmer, Lao, Vietnamese, Burmese, Malay, Chinese and Tamil (will be uploaded on 21 June 2015) <http://www.unescobbkk.org/communication-and-information>

Social media campaign for the launch (to start on 15 June 2015) <https://www.facebook.com/unescobbkk>





UNESCO ORGANIZES TRAINING OF SECURITY FORCES ON SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN SOMALIA

National Intelligence and Security Agency, Ministry of Information, NUSOJ came together in Mogadishu, Somalia from 2 to 4 June 2015 to better understand the role of security forces in protecting journalists.

The 3-day training workshop organized by UNESCO, in cooperation with Relief International and UNSOM provided an opportunity for security forces and the media to better understand the role of the media and security forces to uphold democracy. The Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism remarked that the training is taking place at the right time as 'we urgently need to build the confidence and the partnership working between security forces and media, as they both aim to achieve a united Somalia that is democratic, peace and stable'.

Through practical examples given by an international expert, participants reviewed safety operations and procedures when dealing with the media and discussed the role of security forces to ensure that journalists have access to information. The workshop also provided an opportunity to the 15 participants of which 5 women, to obtain hands on experience in basic communication skills and dealing with

the media. First Colonel Nurdin Ahmed Alin from the Somalia Police Force remarked at the end of the workshop that the training was very interesting and I got some experience and technical skills that I will apply and use in my daily work ; I got experience and knowledge on how police and journalists can work together'.

The training is based on the UNESCO Training Manual 'Freedom of Expression and Public Order'. The training manual aims to provide security forces with both theoretical and practical tools to carry out their mission of maintaining order while respecting human rights, freedom of expression and the security of journalists. It elaborates on international standards on freedom of expression and the conditions in which this fundamental freedom can be restricted. It also highlights the important role of journalists in a democratic society and why safety of journalists has become a priority for organizations promoting freedom of expression.

The training is a direct follow-up to a two-day dialogue session on free and safe Somalia media that took place 15 to 16 November 2014 and identified several priorities to address on safety issues for journalists. The two priorities that were addressed during this follow-up training are:

- Opening lines of dialogue and engagement between media, government and key state institutions with a common strategy to deal with the media;
- Raising awareness on the role of the media in reporting on security/terrorism and development.

The activity took place within the framework of the project, entitled "Promoting an Enabling Environment for Freedom of Expression". The project is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and aims at fostering the development of free, independent and pluralistic media. It also promotes institutional capacity-building, the empowerment of women through widened access to information and the role of young people in dialogue, reconciliation and sustained peace.





26 y 27 de marzo de 2015
Asunción, Paraguay

Jornadas de Diálogo
Jurisprudencial y
Capacitación
Especializada sobre
el Derecho a la
Libertad de
Expresión
y el Acceso a la
Información Pública



WITH THE SUPPORT OF SWEDEN, UNESCO TRAINS JUDGES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

From 26 to 27 March 2015, under the auspices of the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO for MERCOSUR and the Andean countries, together with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Conference for the jurisprudential dialogue and specialized training on transparency, freedom of expression and access to public information was held at the Supreme Court of Paraguay.

The event, which took place in the framework of the XVIII Ibero-American Judicial Summit - Working Group "Transparency and legal security for the legitimacy of the judge", had the participation of senior judicial authorities of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay.

High judicial authorities of Paraguay and the Minister of Communication and Information of UNESCO for MERCOSUR and the Andean countries opened the event. An initial conference was offered by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Edison Lanza, who participated by videoconference.

The intervention of UNESCO, held on March 26 at 10:30 am, argued the importance of freedom of expression, access to information, transparency and of the new agendas of the knowledge society for the work of the justice system

in the context of the Working Group. In the words of Regional Advisor Guilherme Canela, "the role of the judiciary power in protecting and promoting freedom of expression is of the highest importance. The judges and other justice system operators are central to the guarantee an environment in which the press can act independently and pluralistically, in which access to information is protected, in which the fight against impunity is a reality."

The program also included a presentation session of successful regional practices including an On-Line Course on Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and the Internet for Judges (UNESCO pilot project in Mexico), and specific actions of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

In its final instance, the encounter focused on the progress and challenges that the judiciary power must face today and will face in the future regarding the development of the right of access to public information. The dialog was opened to experiences and perspectives such as the establishment of banks of comparative jurisprudence, law schools, training of judges, etc. A session on how UNESCO and the Rapporteur can support the work of the Working Group also took place.

The meeting counted on the generous support of Sweden within the framework of its recently launched project "Promoting democracy and Freedom of Expression".



YOUTH ON SCREEN KICKS OFF TO IMPROVE YOUTH'S REPRESENTATION IN TV

On 20 and 21 April 2015, Amman, Jordan, was the scene for the launch of the “Youth on Screen” initiative, which is the result of the collaboration between two EU-funded projects focused on Southern Mediterranean countries: Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth) and MedMedia. The project, which will be implemented next year, reunited representatives of youth organizations, civil society advocates and media professionals from the Middle East and North Africa, as well as programme-makers from Europe.

For the occasion, and with the support the European Broadcasting Union, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and of the Jordan Media Institute, a conference was held to discuss how to enhance youth's presence in the media in the MENA region. Among the key issues addressed were the media consumption habits and the needs of young audiences, as well as the representation of young people in mainstream media and possibilities of collaboration of civil society organizations and media for the benefit of youth.



Young civil society representatives shared their views about the challenges of working with media actors and argued that an insufficient space for the reflection of their views in traditional media is currently available. In turn, participants working in mainstream media called attention to the challenges they face when developing youth-focused programmes. Ideas were shared on how to capture the attention of young audiences and engage them, through cross-media products and interaction through social media. A specific session focused on examining the financial implications of producing this type of programmes, including possible funding sources and marketing strategies. Moreover, examples of successful collaboration were also discussed.



Representing a unique forum for youth to engage in direct dialogue with senior media managers and TV producers, “Youth on Screen” is expected to help shape the development of TV programmes that more closely reflect the realities of youth and better respond to their expectations. It will promote the engagement of youth with media, including contributors to content production. The initiative will also facilitate training and mentoring for TV programme development, in-country meetings between programme teams and senior managers of media outlets, and a number of sub-regional gatherings of stakeholders concerned.

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NET-MED Youth, a project implemented by UNESCO, includes a component encouraging the fair and objective representation of youth through quality media content; while MedMedia, which is implemented by a consortium led by BBC Media Action, facilitates media reforms and promotes public service broadcasting in the region. The Youth on Screen initiative also enjoys support from the Jordan Media Institute, the European Broadcasting Union and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

You can follow NET-MED youth activity online through #netmedyouth.

BUILDING PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL MEDIA CAPACITIES – TRAINING ON BASIC STANDARDS OF REPORTING FOR LIBYAN JOURNALIST



As part of UNESCO's regional projects that promote and support freedom of expression, a three-day practical training on basic standards of reporting was organized for eighteen (18) Libyan journalists from different media backgrounds. The training took place at the Centre d'Apprentissage et de Perfectionnement des Journalistes et Communicateurs (CAPJC) in Tunis from 20-22 May 2015.

The participants expressed their enthusiasm during the practical training conducted by UNESCO's resident Media Development Expert, in which participants worked together to produce a thirty minutes "talk show" designed to expose issues of hate speech in programming.

The journalists agreed on the importance of such training, particularly in the current context. Khadija Alamami, a Libyan journalist, stated: "Practical training like this can really make a significant change for Libyan journalists, especially with the focus on the importance of establishing ethical principles in the practice of the profession, showing clearly what hate speech is, and what needs to be avoided".

Ali Bilal, another Libyan journalist, stated that this was the first time he participated in a training of reform and development of the media. He added that the talk show production experience during training was an enriching experience for all and one that will help prevent the repetition of wrong practice.

"This workshop has really been about helping the Libyan colleagues visualize ethics in practice", emphasized Michael Croft, UNESCO's Representative to Libya. "UNESCO wanted to give the opportunity to a diverse group of Libyan media professionals to see how ethical issues play out in television, print, radio and online journalism and provide them with a framework based on international norms and standards so they can better navigate difficult situations and subjects. The idea is to foster a cadre of journalists who, by their actions, can set a positive example for their peers by incorporating basic professional standards in their daily work."

This activity is implemented by the UNESCO Tripoli Project Office in partnership with the Media Development Center in Tunis, and made possible through the generous support of the Government of Sweden. It is part of the Organization's efforts to reinforce the capacity of Libyan media to make a positive contribution to reconciliation and to promote conflict-sensitive reporting. As the agency within the United Nations system with the lead mandate to promote freedom of expression and freedom of the press, UNESCO works in cooperation with Libyan stakeholders and actors across the various UN agencies, and leading global and regional NGOs promoting press freedom and freedom of expression.



YOUTH MAKE THE NEWS ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

The popular Youth Newsroom was once again featured during World Press Freedom Day's main celebration which took place at the new National Library in Riga, Latvia from 2 to 4 May 2015. The main event of the Day was jointly hosted by UNESCO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia. The theme of the 2015 World Press Freedom Day main celebration is "Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, and Media Safety in the Digital Age".

The newsroom consisted of 12 Latvian and 20 international journalism students as well as emerging journalists, photographers, videographers, podcasters, and social media producers. The "youth newsroom" concept began with the aim to provide opportunities to youth to be engaged in the latest discussions in freedom of expression and press freedom with leading practitioners, experts, and advocates at an international forum.

"Could you imagine how is it to work in a room full of young people from all over the world who love journalism? Believe me it was a great experience! I am sure that members will bring home not only impressions of beautiful Riga but very useful professional experience and inspiration that will help them to be press freedom 'ambassadors'



in their home countries" said Ms Vita Dreijere, a PhD Candidate in Communication Studies from University of Latvia who served as the Editor-in-Chief of the 2015 Youth Newsroom.

The WPF 2015 multicultural newsroom produced two editions of the *Avviso* newsletter which were distributed in the morning of the WPF 2015 as well as a whole range of multimedia coverage that are available on <http://www.youth-newsroom.com>. The newsroom also produced an "Express Interview" segment where the participants were asked the questions "How Can Journalism Thrive?"

The participation of the international youth was made possible by the funding from the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the NET-MED Youth project which is funded by the European Union.

The next World Press Freedom Day's main celebration will take place at the Finlandia Hall located in Helsinki, Finland from 2 to 4 May 2016.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA



This year's World Press Freedom Day, under the theme "Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, & Media Safety in the Digital Age", was celebrated in the West Bank and Gaza reuniting more than 300 persons.

Events were held within the framework of UNESCO's Networks of Mediterranean Youth project (NET-MED Youth), funded by the European Union. Organized by UNESCO Ramallah Office on 4 May 2015, World Press Freedom Day 2015 in Palestine benefited from the co-financing of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

In cooperation with the Press House-Palestine, the event hosted a cultural night and a Photo Exhibition "Panorama Gaza", as part of the celebration of World Press Freedom Day in Gaza. Likewise on 7 May in Ramallah, young journalists/photographers from the West Bank and Gaza featured aspects of the Palestinian culture through a photo exhibition, together with other artistic and cultural performances.

The global celebration of World Press Freedom Day this year took place in the city of Riga, Latvia. Highlighting the importance of this event, on behalf of the head of UNESCO Ramallah Office Mr. Lodovico Folin-Calabi, Mr. Junaid Sorosh, Culture Programme Specialist, declared that "a free press is at the very core of the right to free expression, providing a frontline defense for safeguarding access to knowledge and information, as defined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights". At the end of both events, UNESCO congratulated journalists on their universal day and stressed on its commitment to contribute to raising the awareness on freedom of expression as a right that is instrumental in achieving all other goals including the role of free independent media, as a pillar of a democratic society. UNESCO also emphasized its efforts to build the capacities of different media institutions, promote knowledge sharing and networking to enhance the professional media, and promote ethical standards in reporting through self-regulation mechanisms.

GOT
ETHICS
?

INTRODUCING BEST PRACTICES FOR “CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS” AMONG JOURNALISTS

As part of the follow-up on the UNESCO Report on Media Development in Palestine, which was launched in June 2014, the UNESCO Ramallah Office has organized in cooperation with Filastiniyat a training seminar for journalists and media professionals from 15 – 17 May 2015 in Gaza and between 27 May and 2 June 2015 in Ramallah. Some forty participants were introduced to best practices in the area of codes of conduct and ethical guidelines for journalists. There were additionally involved in the drafting of a proposed set of ethical guidelines for the local media community.

UNESCO, with more than two decades of experience in building capacities of the media professionals globally, is well positioned to undertake this endeavor. The Organization provides in-depth training in numerous areas, including investigative and conflict-sensitive reporting, media sustainability, safety, and election reporting. Codes of ethics are an essential instrument of media self-regulation, guiding journalists on their role, their rights and obligations and on how they can best perform their job, and representing a standard against which their work can be assessed.

The workshop was supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the training was delivered by Filastiniyat and the journalist and media trainer Walid Batrawi, based on the BBC Media Action’s “Best Practices” guide book, which was tailored to include social media in the Palestinian context.

The training seminar provided journalists with an overview of international standards related to media. It focused on challenges faced by journalists at the workplace. “It is important to discuss the ethics of journalism and international standards, particularly given the lack of a clear and written professional guidelines in most media organizations in Palestine, which affects the quality of reporting in the Palestinian media”, said Mr. Walid Batrawi, Director of Projects for BBC Media Action in Palestine and trainer in the workshops.

Two similar training sessions were held in Ramallah with the participation of some forty additional journalists between 27 May and 2 June 2015.. In his opening remarks Dr. Abdel Nasser Nagar, Head of Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate welcomed the initiative and highlighted the importance of codes of conduct and ethical guidelines.

While Dr. Mahmoud Khalifa, Deputy Minister of Information spoke about the profession of journalism and the “importance for journalists to commit to ethics and professional standards”. The Deputy Minister also called on the media to devote more attention to understanding the needs and opinions of its audience and for a fair and balanced report of events.

Dr. Lodovico Folin-Calabi, Head of UNESCO Ramallah Office a.i. highlighted that “according to the Assessment of Media Development in Palestine coordinated by UNESCO in 2014, and despite several civil society-led initiatives, the Palestinian media does not have an established code of conduct or a selfregulation system. Self-regulation is an effective practice for ensuring media independence, professionalism and ethical conduct. Our office is therefore glad to support this training initiative, with the hope that it helps strengthening a culture of professional and effective self-regulatory system for the media”.

