



With partners:



COMMISSION ON MEDIA POLICY

Wednesday, 29 November 2017

Post - event: Special workshop for journalists: 30 November and 1 December 2017

COVERING AND CLARIFYING COMPLICATED QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**HUMAN RIGHTS, LGBT RIGHTS, MINORITY RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL
IN THE CONTEXT OF MEDIA FREEDOM AND PLURALISM**

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CO-CHAIRS: ERHARD BUSEK AND ELLEN MICKIEWICZ

CONTEXT FOR TODAY'S MEDIA

THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS RELATIVELY NEW. IT CANNOT BE FOUND IN BIBLICAL TEXTS—JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN IT IS ABSENT IN THE WRITINGS OF ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHERS IT SURFACES IN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN ENLIGHTENMENT AND HAS SPREAD IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS: RIGHTS ARE PROLIFERATING, AND JOURNALISTS IN ALL MEDIA FIND THEM PART OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF UNDERSTANDING A COMPLEX, CONNECTED WORLD.

Conference venue:

Hilton Sofia, Boulevard Bulgaria 1, 1421 Sofia

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29 November 2017

CO-CHAIRS: ERHARD BUSEK AND ELLEN MICKIEWICZ

9:30-9:45 Welcome by

Erhard Busek, former Vice-Chancellor of Austria, President of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe, Coordinator Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), Vienna

Ellen Mickiewicz, James R. Shepley Emeritus Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, Duke University, Durham, USA

Oliver Vujovic, Secretary General, South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), Vienna

Henrik Kaufholz, ECPMF, Leipzig

Introduction of participants

9:45-10:45 SESSION I

HOW DEMANDING THE CLAIM?

Chairperson: Ellen Mickiewicz

Panel

Tasos Morfis, Greece

Jeta Xharra, Kosovo (former Busek SEEMO Award Winner)

Omer Karabeg, Czech Republic (former Busek SEEMO Award Winner)

A human right has a specific meaning with enormous implications: a human being, simply because of being human has rights. Therefore, all human beings have claims that these rights be recognized AND implemented. Each person in society is affected, because each person is among those who must help to make that claim a reality—the powerful, more than others, because the powerful, the leaders, have the duty to implement the rights claim on a larger scale.

If a human right is claimed, where do you look to find if:

The claim really is a human right?

Who has the responsibility of implementing that claim?

To cover a story, do you need to have many, a few, one such claim?

When you as journalists come to a human rights story, which right or rights are the story?

What has to happen to make it a story that gets into a media outlet?

Where do you look for answers?

Is there an audience for a human rights story?

10:45-11:45 -SESSION II

INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Chairperson: Erhard Busek

Panel

Boris Bergant, Slovenia (former Busek SEEMO Award Winner)

Milorad Ivanovic, Serbia

Matteo Finco, Italy

Some argue that this class of rights, which apply only to individuals—not to groups—is the most important. They are the traditional rights, such as

Freedom from interference with speech and assembly

Freedom from torture

Freedom from search and seizure
Freedom from imprisonment without legal protections
Freedom from religious persecution and inequality

WHERE IS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS? DOES IT APPLY TO OWNERS OF PRESS OUTLETS [IN WHATEVER MEDIUM] OR TO STAFF/JOURNALISTS WHO PROVIDE COPY, OR TO FOLLOWERS/READERS/AUDIENCES WHO WANT TO HAVE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN? Or all of the above?

11:30-12:30 SESSION III

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Chairperson: Ellen Mickiewicz

Panel

Saso Ordanoski; Macedonia

Milena Dimitrova, Bulgaria (former Busek SEEMO Award Winner)

Marina Constantinoiu, Romania (Busek SEEMO Award Winner 2017)

Some argue that sufficient economic well-being and protection are *by right* due to collectives, groups. As with any right, they are claimed as entitlements—required by the group and the duty of the state and society to fulfill

They include:

The right to sufficient food

The right to work

The right to housing

12.30 Presentation of the Dr. Erhard Busek SEEMO Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe 2017 to **Marina Constantinoiu**

12.45-13.30 Working lunch

13.30-14.30 SESSION IV

COLLECTIVE RIGHTS

Chairperson: Erhard Busek

Panel

Chiara Sighele, Italy

Zrinka Vrabec Mojzes, Croatia

Istvan Deak, Romania

Rights of groups. These groups claim rights not as individuals, but as a whole group or population. They include:

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer [LGBTQ]

Indigenous peoples (for example, Sami, Inuit, American Indians, Maori, Aborigines) and many more

Any people persecuted because of its group

(there are other classes of rights, for example, species rights [also known as animal rights])

14:30-15:30 SESSION V

CLASH OF RIGHTS

Chairperson: Ellen Mickiewicz

Panel

Alexenia Dimitrova, Bulgaria

Mitja Mersol, Slovenia

Anna Babinets, Ukraine

Otmar Lahodynsky, Austria

No right is unlimited. When one right comes into conflict with another right, what does a journalist do? How do you cover this—do you cover it? With so many rights already claimed, it is inevitable and even frequent that exercise of one or more rights will clash with other rights.

How do you cover the clashes?

Whom would you interview?

What data do you need?

How do –or do you?—look at historical roots of a clash?

**DO YOU SEE CASES OF RIGHTS OPPOSING EACH OTHER WHEN
CONTESTING DECISIONS?**

**DO YOU SEE GROUPS IN YOUR COUNTRIES SPLIT ON WHICH RIGHTS THEY
SUPPORT AND**

WHICH RIGHTS THEY REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE?

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

15.45.-16.45 SESSION VI

CLASH OF RIGHTS

Chairperson: Erhard Busek

Panel

Francesco Martino, Italy-Bulgaria

Radka Betscheva, Switzerland

Sasa Lekovic, Croatia

- WHAT ARE YOUR CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE HIERARCHY OF RIGHTS?
- DOES OR SHOULD SUCH A HIERARCHY EXIST—WHEN SOME RIGHTS ARE “MORE” RIGHT THAN OTHERS?
- ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU CHOOSE TO COVER SOME, BUT NOT OTHERS: IS IT BECAUSE YOU HAVE A POLICY REGARDING HIERARCHY OR IS IT YOUR PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING OF HIERARCHY?
- WHEN YOU PROPOSE A STORY ABOUT RIGHTS, ARE YOU EVER TURNED DOWN BY EDITORS OR OWNERS. WHY?

16:45-17:30 RECOMMENDATIONS
ELLEN MICKIEWICZ AND CRAIG LAMAY

17:30-17:45 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Post - event - follow up: Special workshop for journalists from EU and *enlargement countries*: 30 November and 1 December 2017

- Coverage of human rights, LGBT rights, minority rights and rights of the individual
- Professional standards in the work
- Needs of readers / viewers
- Better understanding of human rights
- Using recommendation from the Commission on Media Policy
- Conclusions