

INTERNATIONAL MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM FESTIVAL

VARAŽDIN MEDIA FEST

- //01 ————— ANALYSES
- //02 ————— DISCUSSIONS
- //03 ————— DOCUMENTARY FILMS
- //04 — STAND-UP AND PERFORMANCE
- //05 ————— ROCK NIGHT

9–10 October 2026

Varaždin City Museum – Herzer Palace

Franjevački trg 10

FREE ENTRY

2

FESTIVAL DAYS

15

PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

37

PARTICIPANTS

5

TOPICS

FESTIVAL TOPICS

- //01 How free (or not) are the media, and how can they be freed?
- //02 What do we (not) know about media audiences?
- //03 Is artificial intelligence a journalist's ally or enemy?
- //04 Stopping the harassment of women in the media
- //05 The ethics of war reporting – does war journalism still exist?

ORGANISER AND PARTNERS

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MEDIA PARTNERS



Thursday, 8 October 2026

17:00–19:00 General Assembly of the South East European Network for Professionalization of Media (SEENPM)

Closed meeting Closed to the public

Friday, 9 October 2026

09:30–10:00 Registration

10:00–10:15 Festival Opening Ceremony

With representatives of the Investigative Journalism Center (IJC) and the City of Varaždin.

10:15–11:45 How Free (or Not) Are the Media, and How Can They Be Freed?

Panel EN

PRESENTATION De-Orbanisation of the Hungarian media – how to free the media from political pressure. **Erik Uszkiewicz** (and panel), Project Manager, Center for Independent Journalism (CIJ), Hungary

PANEL **Branko Čečen** Freelance journalist, Serbia · **Zrinka Vrabec Mojzeš** Journalist, Nacional, Croatia · **Dr Marko Milosavljević** Professor of Journalism and Media Policy, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Vice-President of the Expert Group for Digital Pluralism, Council of Europe · **Anuška Delić** Founder and Editor-in-Chief, investigative and data portal Oštro, Slovenia · **Željko Ivanović** President of the Board of Directors, Daily Press (Vijesti), Montenegro

MODERATOR **Oliver Vujović** (and introduction), Secretary General, South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO)

11:45–12:00 Break

12:00–13:00 Engaged Citizens Reporting (ECR) Tool

Presentation EN

PRESENTATION **Xhorxhina Bami** Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), Kosovo

13:00–14:30 LUNCH

14:30–16:00 What Do We (Not) Know About the Audience — and Why Does It Matter?

Panel Host: Media Diversity Institute Western Balkans EN

How well do non-profit, independent media outlets know their audiences, and how do they get to know them?

PANEL **Željko Ivanović** President of the Board of Directors, Daily Press (Vijesti), Montenegro · **Alma Kardović Radetinac** Editor-in-Chief, Mahala Podcast, Novi Pazar, Serbia

MODERATOR **Milica Pešić** Executive Director, Media Diversity Institute, UK

16:00–16:15 Break

16:15–18:15 The Ethics of War Reporting – Does War Journalism Still Exist?

Panel EN

SCREENING An episode from the documentary series “Journalists – Witnesses Before the Hague Tribunal” (author/production: Boro Kontić, Mediacentar Sarajevo)

PANEL **Boro Kontić** Mediacentar Sarajevo, BiH · **Dragan Golubović** BiH · **Hassan Haidar Diab** Večernji list, Croatia · **Nikola Šolić** Freelance photojournalist, Croatia · **Emmanuelle Chaze** (online), freelance French correspondent in Ukraine

MODERATOR **Danica Ilić** (and introduction), Journalist and media trainer, UK/Serbia

18:15–18:30 Break

18:30–19:45 Book Presentations

Book presentation HR

BOOK A Guide to Contemporary Croatian Literature – Kristian Novak: *Ciganin, ali najljepši*

BOOK *Osam dana u svibnju* (Eight Days in May) – Goran Gavranović, co-author

WITH **Kristian Novak** Author · **Goran Gavranović** Co-author · **Helena de Karina** Editor · **Kruno Lokotar** Editor

19:45–20:00 Break

20:00 Stand-up: Shelf Life

Stand-up HR

PERFORMANCE **Peđa Bajović** Stand-up comedian

Saturday, 10 October 2026

09:00–10:00 International Cooperation: Project Presentations

Presentation **EN**

PRESENTATION Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa (OBCT): **Luka Zaroni** Italy and **Giovanni Vale** Croatia · Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN): **Xhorxhina Bami** Kosovo

10:00–10:15 Break

10:15–11:45 Is Artificial Intelligence a Journalist's Ally or Enemy?

Presentation **EN**

“The Good, the Bad, and the Inevitable”: presentation of the Olympus AI system for optimising media organisation workflows.

PRESENTATION **Vladimir Lelićanin** System developer and creator, Serbia · **Ilir Gaši** Journalist, Serbia · **Branko Čečen** Journalist, Serbia

11:45–12:00 Break

12:00–13:30 Women in Media

Panel **EN**

Stopping workplace harassment in the media sector in Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

PRESENTATION Results of the regional study “Women in Media: Forms of Workplace Harassment in Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina”

PANEL **Maja Sever** Trade Union of Croatian Journalists · **Selma Zulić Šiljak** Mediacentar Sarajevo, BiH · **Darko Šper** Branch Union of Culture, Art and Media “Nezavisnost”, Serbia

13:30–15:00 LUNCH

15:00–16:30 Shared Threats, Shared Defence

Panel Host: SEENPM & MDI **EN**

Security risks journalists face in tense and volatile situations and strategies used to protect themselves and their work.

PANEL **Irena Pejić** Journalist, Mašina, Serbia · **Dorian Matlija** (online), Lawyer and media freedom activist, Res Publica, Albania · **Jona Cenameri** Investigative and fact-checking journalist, Faktoje, Albania

MODERATOR **Bojana Mrkić** Mediacentar Sarajevo, BiH

16:30–16:45 Break

16:45–17:30 Reporting on War Crimes: Lessons Learned and New Challenges

Conversation Host: MDI & The Reckoning Project (TRP) **EN**

GUEST **Mykhaylo Shtekel** The Reckoning Project

MODERATOR **Danica Ilić** Journalist and media trainer, UK/Serbia

17:30–18:00 Break

18:00–20:30 Selected by Đelo Hadžiselimović: “2000 Meters to Andriivka”

Film **HR**

Documentary film directed by Mstyslav Chernov. Film presentation and post-screening discussion moderated by **Đelo Hadžiselimović**.

20:30 Performance: “What Doesn’t Kill You...”

A participatory lecture performance and live installation **HR**

A performance about how digital platforms deliberately exploit human emotions, and how algorithms reward hate and controversy.

PERFORMANCE **Ana Katulić** Actress and performer

22:00 Musical Treat: Mark Osman & Dinko Likar Acoustic Duo

Concert Pub Medina škrinja, Ulica Ivana Kukuljevića Sakcinskog 13