

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

**COMMUNICATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CITIZEN PROTESTS:
THE EXPERIENCES FROM THE SEE REGION**

THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY 2016
SARAJEVO

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

- To present and discuss the research on communication practices in the context of citizen protests in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia that was conducted in the period 2014 -2015. The research focused on the way the protests are framed in the media content, and on how the three major stakeholders (journalists, activists and party/government officials) perceive the communication practices during the protests.
- To discuss recommendations on how to enhance communication between government, citizens/activists and the media in the course of citizen protests and social uprisings.
- To share experiences with other researchers and participants of citizen protests in the region.

VENUE: MEDIACENTAR SARAJEVO, KOLODVORSKA 3

The project is funded by the Regional Research Promotion Programme (RRPP), which is aimed at fostering and promoting social science research in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia). RRPP is coordinated and operated by the Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe (IICEE) at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). The programme is fully funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY

9.00-9.30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Tarik Jusić, Local Supervisor of the Regional Research Promotion Programme (RRPP) in the Western Balkans, Local Coordination Unit Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sanela Hodžić, research coordinator, Mediacentar Sarajevo: Introduction to the research

Chairperson: **Boro Kontić**, Mediacentar Sarajevo

9:30 – 11:00

MEDIA(TIZA)TION OF THE PROTESTS: GLOBAL INSIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES FROM THE REGION

Mediation and mediatisation in the studies of social movements; mechanisms of delegitimisation of protests; politics of disregard towards the protests; appropriation of protests for particular goals of political elites; contribution of media to the mobilization and visibility of protests, and finally their contribution to social change.

Keynote speaker/chairperson: **Mojca Pajnik**, Peace institute Ljubljana, Mentoring institution in the research project

Tijana Cvjetičanin, associate of Mediacentar Sarajevo, BiH

Bojan Georievski, School of Journalism and Public Relations, Skopje, Macedonia

Boris Mance, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Open discussion

11.00-11.15 BREAK

11.15-12.45

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY DURING AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE PROTESTS

The session will focus on the issue of government accountability and any changes of the notion of accountability in the view of citizen protests. Some of the questions for discussion include: How is the public accountability debated in the communication concerning the protests? How were the protests delegitimised and/or appropriated for political promotion?

Chairperson: **Žaneta Trajkoska**, School of Journalism and Public Relations, Skopje, Macedonia

Simona Zavratnik, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Ilda Londo, Albanian Media Institute, Tirana, Albania

Tijana Cvjetičanin, associate of Mediacentar Sarajevo, BiH

Peđa Kojić, political party Naša stranka, BiH

Open discussion

12.45-14.00 LUNCH BREAK

14.00-15.45

CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNICATION DURING THE PROTESTS

The skills and capacities of media, officials and in particular protest groups themselves to communicate during the protests; new forms of organisation - plenums; constraints and opportunities associated with online platforms; predictions of interviewees about the future of protest behaviour and the implications in terms of communication practices; lessons to be kept for the future.

Chairperson: **Slobodanka Dekić**, Mediacentar Sarajevo

Blendi Salaj, journalist and protestor, Albania

Darko Malinovski, representative of Student Plenum, Macedonia

Aldin Arnautović, journalist and activist, BiH

Maša Durkalić, journalist and activist, BiH

Marko Ribač, Peace Institute, Ljubljana, Mentoring Institution supporting the research project

Open discussion

CLOSING REMARKS AND END OF CONFERENCE