

CROATIA COUNTRY REPORT APRIL 2013

Proposed Amendments to the Electronic Media Act: Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Electronic Media Agency, has proposed amendments to the Electronic Media Act (OG. 153/09; 84/11), to be adopted by the end of the first half of the year.

There is an ongoing public debate about the system of distribution and control mechanisms used regarding the Fund for media pluralism and content diversity. Changes to the structure and the system are being proposed in the new amendments to the Electronic Media Act, as suggested by the Ministry of Culture.

Fund for Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media: Radio and television broadcasters are required to justify allocation of the financial resources for the 2nd Call/2012 - Fund for the promotion of pluralism and diversity of media. Deadline: April 12, 2012.

The Council for the Electronic Media launched the PUBLIC TENDER No. 01/13 allocation of the Fund for the Promotion of Pluralism and Diversity of Electronic Media - television and radio. (December 2012). The workshop related to the Call/2013 - Fund for the promotion of pluralism and diversity of media - television and radio has been organized (February 2013, Zagreb), with secured live stream. More than 200 media representatives participated the workshop in person and via live stream.

The Council for Electronic Media launched the **Call for expression of interest to the public activity of the electronic media** and invited civil society organizations, scientific, cultural, sports, professional, religious, educational, charitable organizations and institutions as well as other interested legal and natural persons from Croatian territory to submit a written explanation of the existence of the public interest and the importance of television as a electronic media for their work.

The Council for Electronic Media invited interested legal and natural persons to express their interest for provision of media services at the national tv level in the **multiplex B** (October, 2012).

Economic crisis: 2 radio stations had to give up the current licenses; RADIO NETGATE / area Čakovec (G-CK2) and RADIO SALONA / wider area of Solin (G-MA).

Delivery of data on ownership structure, updated: Every year, till January 31, in accordance with Article 52 of Electronic Media Act Media service providers in Croatia are required to provide information to the Council for Electronic Media, on the legal person and seat or name, surname and residence of all legal and natural persons who are directly or indirectly become holders of shares or units in a given media service provider, with data on the percentage of shares or units .

Conference - Electronic Media Days (December 2012, Opatija) organized by the Croatian Association of Radio and newspapers and co-organizers: Agency for Electronic Media - Electronic Media Council, the Croatian Agency for Post and Electronic Communications Agency and the National Association of Television, and other sponsors; included a variety of current topics: the concession fees and other

financial obligations and restrictions, Fund for the promotion of pluralism and diversity of media and other issues.

Studies: Study about the possibility of introducing new ticketing TV service. Croatia has the potential for growth, IPTV is dominant and the most viewed domestic national TV channels, while continuous upward trend is recorded regarding localized TV channels. These are the main highlights of the feasibility study on the introduction of new ticketing TV service by the Agency for Electronic Media, commissioned for the project SEE Digi. TV (co-funded by the EU IPA funds) made by AGB Nielsen Media Research.

As part of SEE Digi. TV project, Agency for Electronic Media ordered a CATI methodology based research. The research was conducted by IPSOS PULS that interviewed 1021 Croatian citizens in December 2012. The conclusions of the research implicate that level of public awareness about digitization is still relatively low and that most respondents indicated low level of satisfaction regarding quality and quantity of FTA channels. The research results also point to the modest penetration of TV screens with advanced technologies (plasma, LCD, led) in Croatian households, with no less than 66% households still using „old type screens“ televisions.

International Cooperation: The workshop was organized by the Croatian Post and Electronic Communications and the Electronic Media Agency on digital television (Zagreb, December 2012) as a part of the international project "Digital television in Southeast Europe - SEE Digi.TV ", co-funded by IPA - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. AEM participated at the 2nd Transnational SEE Digi.TV Conference, organized by the Slovenian regulator (Post and Electronic Communications Agency – APEK) October 2012, Ljubljana. Representatives from a dozen countries, regulatory bodies and their distinguished guests, stakeholders from the region, gathered for the second time on the topic of identifying best practices of the analogue to digital transmitting television signals, implementing digitalization process, reduce the digital divide and harmonization of the use of the digital dividend.

By the initiative of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo Council for the Electronic Media hosted the Delegation of the Independent Media Commission of the Republic of Kosovo, representatives of Radio Television Kosovo (RTK) and representatives of the OSCE mission in Kosovo. Topics of the meeting were the digitization process and the application of EU law into national legal frameworks (December, Zagreb).

Representatives of the Council and the Agency for Electronic Media participated at a meeting of the EU Working Group of regulatory authorities, organized by the Directorate-General DG Connect (Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, November, Brussels).

At the 14th Plenary Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities, (November, Lisbon) the Agency for Electronic Media became a member of the MNRA.

AEM participated at the conference *Future of Community Media in Central and Eastern Europe*, organized by AMARC, the International non-governmental organization, that brings together Community Radio representatives from more than 130 countries (November 2012, Budapest).

Bilateral meeting of the delegations of the Council / Agency for Electronic Media and the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina was organized in Sarajevo (October, 2012).