

Training Session Skopje

Training in Quality Journalism, Press Freedom and Diversity Reporting. Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

The second international training within the project “Connecting(ex)You” took place from 14 till 18 September 2015 in Skopje, the Republic of Macedonia. The training was organized by the School of Journalism and Public Relations from Skopje and focused on journalism ethics, quality journalism and diversity reporting. It was attended by 12 participants coming from Vienna, Sarajevo and Skopje.

During the theoretical part of the training the participants got acquainted with journalism codes of conduct in different European countries and attended a lecture on the principles of quality journalism in traditional and new media. The trainees were also introduced to the concept of public interest and why it is essential for the work of journalists. They also learned about best practices in diversity reporting and were presented with good and bad examples of media covering minority issues.

Right at the beginning of the workshop the participants were divided into groups of three people. Each group was assigned to a specific topic, on which it had to produce a radio piece by the end of the training. The general topic was “Human Rights and the European Union”. The trainers agreed with the participants that the focus would be on the refugee crisis in Europe and its media coverage in different European countries.

One of the groups did not stick to this topic and instead dedicated its radio piece to the problems of investigative journalism on the Balkans. The reason for this decision was the presentation of the guest lecturer Tomislav Kezarovski, an investigative journalist from Macedonia, who was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison for revealing the identity of a protected witness. Kezarovski described the difficult situation of investigative journalists in Macedonia due to government pressure. The fact that criminal prosecution of reporters is still common in Macedonia has led to a serious deterioration of the press freedom situation in the country.

The rest of the radio pieces produced during this training were dedicated to the topics “LGBTQ+ rights in the Balkans”, “Ethical standards of media reporting on refugees”, “The influence of the Internet on public opinion of refugees”, “The role of sport in bringing people of different ethnic background together”

Connecting (ex)You, funded by the European Union educational program ERASMUS+, aims at encouraging knowledge and cultural exchange among young people from Austria, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina by organizing trainings in the production of radio programs. The project is coordinated by ORANGE 94.0 community radio (Vienna), together with its partner organizations: the School of Journalism and Public Relations (Skopje) and eFM radio (Sarajevo).