



medienhilfe

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10 years of medienhilfe

## Commitment and Solidarity

It's more than ten years since the political, social and economical collapse of former Yugoslavia escalated into a series of wars. From summer 1991 on, war was again reality in Europe - and the images of war dominated TV every day. Sarajevo became a symbol for this war, during which hundreds of thousands of people were displaced, tortured, killed, and deprived of their perspectives on life.

The images of war and its victims also moved people in Switzerland. In Zurich, a couple of journalists and politically active people gathered with the aim of finding possibilities to counter the dominating war-propaganda on all sides. Out of the first professional contacts and a first public debate in December 1992 an initiative developed, which in the meantime grew into an organisation with ten years of experience. The initial exchange between journalists led to a network offering concrete material support. Commitment emerged out of personal concern, professionalism out of improvisation. Since 1993 **medienhilfe** has established permanent contacts and cooperation with many media organisations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosov@ and Macedonia. Over 50 different media have been supported, among them 4 network projects. Today, **medienhilfe** is a Swiss non-governmental and non-profit organisation (tax exempted), with the aim of supporting independent media and the freedom of press in the area of former Yugoslavia and beyond.

In the region of South East Europe many things changed during the last decade. Before, the struggle of dissident media against autocratic regimes was in the fore, today they are confronted with the new challenge of contributing to the development of democratic conditions, of informing the societies of the crimes which were committed in the past and of measuring the new politicians according to democratic standards. Besides, the orientation on the slowly emerging markets – indispensable for survival in the long term – becomes more and more important.

During these ten years many things changed at **medienhilfe** too. Active members left us, new ones joined, media projects disappeared, others could assert themselves successfully; crisis-oriented emergency support developed into long-term cooperation; the focus of our work moved from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to the South, to Serbia, Kosov@ and Macedonia.

Today **medienhilfe** is an internationally accepted partner for co-operation, for example as member of the Media Task Force of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. A fruitful co-operation with Swiss government agencies and foreign foundations was established. This development was possible only because dozens of people engaged themselves as volunteers and without payment during the last ten years, because hundreds and thousands of people showed their interest and donated money. Their support, for which we thank them a lot, allowed the work of **medienhilfe** and our solidarity with the independent media in their struggle against nationalism and chauvinism.

In spite of all the changes one thing remained: **medienhilfe** sticks to its commitment for independent, professional media. We hope that we will deserve your trust also in the future.

*Roland Brunner, Executive Director*

**Joseph Deiss, former  
Head of the Swiss  
Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs**

«Your organisation provides an important support to the countries of former Yugoslavia. In the media sector, the projects you implement and which are partly financed by the Swiss MFA contribute significantly and noticeably to conflict transformation and democratisation in South East Europe, a region of concern for Switzerland.»



# Partners and projects supported by medienhilfe

The following media received support from medienhilfe in the last ten years. Some of them are still our partners:

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

### Print media:

1. Daily OSLOBODJENJE, Sarajevo
2. Weekly DANI, Sarajevo
3. Magazine NOVI PRELOM, Banja Luka

### Broadcast media:

4. RTV STUDIO 99, Sarajevo
5. Radio ZID, Sarajevo
6. Radio KAMELEON, Tuzla
7. Radio-Network DRINA, Skelani (Srebrenica), Zvornik, Milici, Bijeljina
8. Alternative TV - ATV, Banja Luka
9. NTV ZETEL, Zenica



Our longtime partner Feral Tribune:  
Acid-tongued Journalism for Croatia  
'Rather in the grave than in prison'

## CROATIA

### Print media:

1. Weekly FERAL TRIBUNE, Split
2. Weekly BUMERANG, Osijek
3. Bi-weekly OTOK IVANIC, Ivanic Grad
4. Newspaper PAKRACKE NOVINE, Pakrac
5. Magazine START, Zagreb/Sarajevo
6. Magazine ARKzin, Zagreb

### Other projects:

7. News Agency STINA, Split

## MONTENEGRO

### Print media:

1. Daily VIJESTI
2. Weekly MONITOR, Podgorica
3. Weekly ONOGOST, Niksic
4. Magazine POLJE

### Broadcast media:

5. Radio ANTENA M, Podgorica
6. Radio MIR, Tuzi

### Other projects:

7. Association of Indep. Newspapers of Montenegro MONTPRES
8. Printing-house ROTOSLOG, Podgorica

## SERBIA

### Print media:

1. Daily NASA BORBA, Belgrade
2. Daily DANAS, Belgrade
3. Weekly VREME, Belgrade
4. Magazine REPUBLIKA, Belgrade
5. Weekly NEZAVISNA SVET-LOST, Kragujevac
6. Weekly VRANJSKE NOVINE, Vranje
7. Magazine JEHONA, Bujanovac
8. Magazine PACIFIK, Belgrade
9. Magazine PRO FEMINA, Belgrade

### Broadcast media:

10. RTV B92, Belgrade
11. RTV BAJINA BASTA, Bajina Basta
12. Radio BOOM 93, Pozarevac
13. RTV NISVAVA, Nis
14. Radio O.K., Vranje
15. Radio VOICE OF ROMA, Belgrade
16. RTV KRAGUJEVAC, Kragujevac
17. TV STUDIO B, Belgrade
18. TV Production ARHITEL, Belgrade
19. TV Production MREZA, Belgrade
20. Video-Production VIN
21. TV Production FROLI, Nis

### Other projects:

22. News Agency BETA, Belgrade
23. News Agency FoNET, Belgrade
24. Association of Indep. Electronic Media of Serbia ANEM
25. Association of Independent Local Print Media LOCAL PRESS
26. Association of Private Media APM
27. Independent Association of Journalists IJAS
28. MEDIA CENTER, Belgrade

## Vojvodina

### Print media:

1. Daily VOJVODINA, Novi Sad
2. Weekly CSALADI KOR, Novi Sad
3. Weekly NAPLO, Novi Sad
4. Weekly NEZAVISNI, Novi Sad
5. Magazine CONTRA BELLUM, Pancevo

### Broadcast media:

6. Radio 021 / MULTIRADIO, Novi Sad
7. TV Production urbaNS, Novi Sad

## Kosov@

### Print media:

1. Daily KOHA DITORE, Prishtina
2. Daily ZERI I DITES, Prishtina
3. Weekly ZERI, Prishtina

### Broadcast media:

4. Radio CONTACT, Prishtina
5. Radio CONTACT PLUS, Mitrovica/e
6. Radio HAYAT, Peja/Pec
7. Radio PEJA, Peja/Pec
8. Radio K, Fush e Kosove/ Kosovo Polje
9. Radio KENT FM, Prishtina
10. Radio MAX, Silovo
11. Radio YENI DÖNEM, Prizren
12. KTV Koha Vision TV, Prishtina
13. RTV 21, Prishtina
14. RTV MITROVICA, Mitrovica
15. TV Studio PRIZREN, Prizren

### Other projects:

16. News Agency KOSOVA LIVE, Prishtina

## MACEDONIA

### Print media:

1. Weekly LOBI, Skopje

### Broadcast media:

2. Radio CERENJA, Stip
3. Radio PLUSFORTE, Tetovo
4. Radio VATI, Skopje
5. TV ART, Tetovo
6. TV BTR, Skopje
7. TV ERA, Skopje
8. TV SUTEL, Skopje
9. TV TERA, Bitola
10. TV ZDRAVKIN, Veles
11. TV VIS, Strumica

### Other projects:

12. News Agency MAK FAX, Skopje
13. Macedonian Institute for Media MIM, Skopje
14. Media Development Center MDC, Skopje
15. Association of Journalists of Macedonia AJM, Skopje
16. Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research ISPJR, Skopje

# Principles of our work

- **medienhilfe** perceives its support as an offer for partnership with professional media in South East Europe, but also here in Switzerland.
- **medienhilfe** elaborates and implements all its projects in cooperation with its partners based on their needs and interests. Partners and projects are carefully assessed before being elected for support. The aim of our support is to strengthen partners and help them become independent from international donors as soon as possible.
- Besides direct financial and material support **medienhilfe** offers its partners professional assistance and counselling as well as access to Swiss media.
- During crisis situations, when media and journalists are directly threatened, **medienhilfe** intervenes on behalf of them at the responsible authorities and informs the international organizations in charge of this issues.
- **medienhilfe** sees its engagement as complementary to the projects implemented by the Swiss government and international organizations.
- Criteria for the selection of our partners are the following:
  - ◆ Media who are not owned or controlled by state or para-state structures, by political parties or individual politicians
  - ◆ Media whose editorial policy is independent
  - ◆ Media whose coverage complies with the professional and ethical standards of a responsible journalism
  - ◆ Media whose coverage and language takes a clear stand against nationalism and chauvinism
  - ◆ Media who contribute to political understanding and dialogue, peaceful cohabitation and social tolerance
  - ◆ Media who actively promote civil society and democratization processes
  - ◆ Media who look for cooperation beyond ethnical, religious and national borders
  - ◆ Media who give minorities a voice
- **medienhilfe** relies on the following resources and networks:
  - ◆ advisory board consisting of personalities from the field of media, science and politics
  - ◆ network of Swiss authorities and non-governmental organizations
  - ◆ international institutions like the European Union and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (being a member of its Media Task Force)
  - ◆ international coordination of media organizations including IREX ProMedia (USA), Media Development Loan Fund MDLF (Prague), Open Society Institute – Network Media Program (Budapest) and national Soros-Foundations, Press Now (Holland), Norwegian People’s Aid NPA, Swedish Helsinki Committee SHC

**Hans Saner,  
philosopher**

«**Medienhilfe wants to strengthen the courage of media professionals and therefore give democracy and peace in the world a chance.**

**For:**

**Without courage of media professionals no independent media.**

**Without independent media no democracy.**

**Without democracy no peace.»**

**Vreni Müller-Hemmi,  
member of parliament**

«**Even six years after Dayton the Balkans are still far away from stability and democracy. Because functioning independent media are vital for every democratisation process, Switzerland has to rely even more on the experiences and professionalism of Medienhilfe.»**

## Fields of activities

- Direct support to independent media organizations in the area of the former Yugoslavia, which includes Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina (both the Federation of B-H and Serb Republic), Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia.
- Research and analytical work, consisting of: reports and analyses of media issues in the region as well as a position and a role of media in a broader social context; action research on specific issues related media (e.g. media role in social integration, conflict de-escalation and transformation, and peace-building); reports and analyses of alternative sector (NGOs), strategy papers and counseling (for Swiss NGOs operative in the area of the former Yugoslavia).
- Strategy and policy papers and counseling on media issues in SEE, both for the Swiss Government and other governmental, inter-governmental (EU, Stability Pact) and other organizations.
- Public activities, comprising the following: a) Regular issuing of a bulleting (quarterly), which is sent to Swiss NGOs; journalists, media and journalist associations; politicians and individuals interested to be regularly informed on issues related to media situation in the area of the former Yugoslavia; b) Maintaining website with a variety of information in regard to media in the region; c) Organizing special meetings with prominent media and NGO representatives from the area and representatives of the Swiss state bodies; d) Organizing public events with media and NGO representatives from the area of the former Yugoslavia.

**Chasper Stupan, former director of Radio e Televizion Rumantscha / SRG idée suisse**

«When a war-torn country moves to a new, democratic form of state, when identity and trust in the new political leadership shall grow, then independent and journalistically serious information media are an important step on this way.

Special attention has to be given to the consideration of minorities.»



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- Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs by - Political Division IV (Human Security) and - Swiss Development Cooperation SDC
- Auswärtiges Amt (German Foreign Ministry)
- Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Irish Aid

International foundations

- National Endowment for Democracy NED, USA
- Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Germany
- Swiss cities and communities
- Swiss NGO and foundations
- Individual contributions and donations

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Frauen für den Frieden - Women for Peace  
Genossenschaft Ziegel au Lac  
Gewerkschaft Bau & Industrie GBI  
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Toaster

**Andres Wysling,  
editor of Neue  
Zürcher Zeitung**

«All states of former Yugoslavia are going through a phase of transformation: from autocratic regimes to civil society. Only part of the media are able to live up to their new tasks which consist in providing information instead of propaganda. Journalists need a new education and support.»

## Our Services

### Information

- short reports by mail through our quarterly 'info-letter'
- background and analyses on our website <http://www.medienhilfe.ch>
- ongoing information by email through the mailing-list [mediane-ws@medienhilfe.ch](mailto:mediane-ws@medienhilfe.ch)

### Documentation

medienhilfe's archive contains many visual and audio documents as well as print documents on independent journalism in former Yugoslavia. This includes products and productions of our partners and analyses and reports from independent external sources.

### Presentation

Members of medienhilfe regularly take part in any kind of public event. With their reports and inputs for discussions they offer background analyses and implementable concepts as contribution to your own work.

### Expertise, Counselling, Implementation

medienhilfe takes on missions for background analyses of the social and political developments in the states of former Yugoslavia. Our co-workers compile specific expertises according to your needs, give you advice for your own projects, implement mandated projects or assume the task of external evaluations for your own projects.