

## How do you feel as a Journalist?

Being a journalist means that you always feel insecure. In some countries, you walk and keep looking around you in a panic way because you're afraid that you'll be attacked or arrested at any moment.

Sometimes people don't want to know the truth because the truth hurts. This freedom of the press and independent media can be very dangerous to some politicians, businessmen, and decision makers and especially for the journalists themselves.

To be a journalist in a civilized country is a very sensitive situation. So imagine being a journalist in a country that suppresses the freedoms and kills the freedom of expression. Then you know that you can disappear or be executed at any time.

Journalists should leave those countries to save their lives, so they flee in order to keep themselves and their families safe. Become journalists in exile and working for their countries, obliged to fight from away.

Ukraine is a big example nowadays so we see the journalists escape from the war to be able to continue doing their duty in journalism.

Hundred of Syrian journalists lost their lives during the last 11 years because they tried to speak of propaganda and controlling forces in the

whole of Syria. Some of them were able to flee and still try to fight for freedom of the press and freedom of expression.



Lina Chawaf

CMFE

President of the board

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## **Strengthening an enabling environment**

**Council of Europe calls on states to support quality journalism**

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## News

### Council of Europe calls on states to support quality journalism: new guidelines

STRASBOURG | 17 MARCH 2022



Following the [decision](#) of the Committee of Ministers on 16 March 2022 the Russian Federation is no longer a member of the Council of Europe. The website will be updated as soon as possible to take account of this development.



In June 2021, CMFE was part of the **World Café on Community Media and Media Literacy** at the Council of Europe Ministerial Conference on Media and Information Society

["Artificial intelligence – Intelligent politics Challenges and opportunities for media and democracy"](#).

**Two of the important documents adopted at the Ministerial Conference endorse the role of community media in a pluralistic media landscape:**

- [Resolution on the changing media and information environment](#) in paragraph 8 states that “We emphasize the crucial role of public service media, in many countries a trusted and reliable source of information, and that of not-for-profit community media.” and then recommends to the CoE to “Promote exchanges of information concerning regulatory, co-regulatory and self-regulatory initiatives in the Member States for the survival of an independent and pluralistic media sector, including local and community media, as well as to promote a wide availability of public interest content and minimize the risks related to disinformation, misinformation, and mal-information.”
- The Council of Europe has adopted a [Recommendation](#) calling on its 46 member States to create a favorable environment for quality journalism to thrive and to play its essential role in democracy. The recommendation contains a set of legal, administrative, and practical guidelines aimed at ensuring sustainable funding for quality media, building trust in journalism, and promoting media literacy.

The Recommendation was developed by the [MSI-JOQ Committee of experts on quality journalism in the digital age](#), where CMFE actively participated.

In relation to community media, the Recommendation states that:

### **Scope and context**

(...) it is important to ensure that everyone has access to a diverse range of journalistic content, irrespective of income levels and socio-economic barriers. Public service media and not-for-profit community media must be able to maintain their crucial role in that regard. They should be supported in their progress towards digital transformation, including through adequate means and funding, in order to retain their social value and relevance. (...) A.14

### **1. Funding: promoting quality journalism as a public good**

- **Targeted support:** any proactive or corrective measures taken by States should take into account the distinct roles and important contributions to quality journalism of different media actors, including commercial media, public service media, community media, and independent journalists, whether traditional, digital-based, or mixed. They should all be eligible, in principle, to benefit from State policies and measures aimed at enhancing the financial viability of the sector, with the understanding that targeted differentiated support for specific types of journalism may be more effective than generalized measures. National frameworks providing for support measures should include appropriate safeguards to protect the editorial independence and operational autonomy of all media. 1.1.3.
- **Community and local media:** in upholding media diversity as a basis of quality journalism, States should develop and promote a range of funding schemes and instruments, including at the local level. This may include the availability of public funds for the provision of local news in the public interest and other measures to ensure that community media, as well as other types of independent media serving local and rural communities, have the space and adequate resources to operate on all distribution platforms. 1.1.5.

### **2. Ethics and quality: rebuilding and maintaining trust**

- **Children:** (...) Community media activities involving different age groups in journalistic training and production contribute to exchange and dialogue across generations and also need specific support. 2.1.6.

- **Local media:** rebuilding trust and healthy relationships with (local and hyperlocal) audiences can be achieved through collaborative practices such as hyperlocal online newsrooms and other innovative approaches that enable journalists and the public to work together on issues that are original, relevant, and popular. In particular, mechanisms for support of the following activities should be developed through multi-stakeholder engagement, including with local communities:
  - development of viable business models for local and hyperlocal journalism;
  - building a digital presence for local and hyperlocal media outlets;
  - capacity building for not-for-profit and community media serving the needs of local communities, including linguistic needs. 2.4.3.

### 3. Education and training

- **Support for independent MIL initiatives:** States should establish adequately funded financing instruments for independent MIL initiatives. Such initiatives by media organizations, public service media, community media, independent regulatory bodies, civil society actors, and other relevant actors should be supported by way of strategic coordination at the national level, based on a dedicated policy and strategy development, implementation, and evaluation. 3.1.4
- **Community media:** community media play an important role in training future journalists and in promoting inclusion by meeting the various communication and media needs of different segments of society, offering spaces for self-representation to the otherwise “voiceless” and reflecting diverse communities as integral and respected parts of the audience. They should be supported in encouraging students and young people to become involved in journalism, and improve their media literacy as well as their general knowledge through research, identifying experts, conducting interviews, and producing and broadcasting journalistic pieces. Furthermore, support should be provided for exchanging good practices in multilingual and intercultural media training to facilitate inclusive quality media output and production across Europe. 3.2.5.

#### Links to the Recommendation:

[CM/Rec\(2022\)4](#)

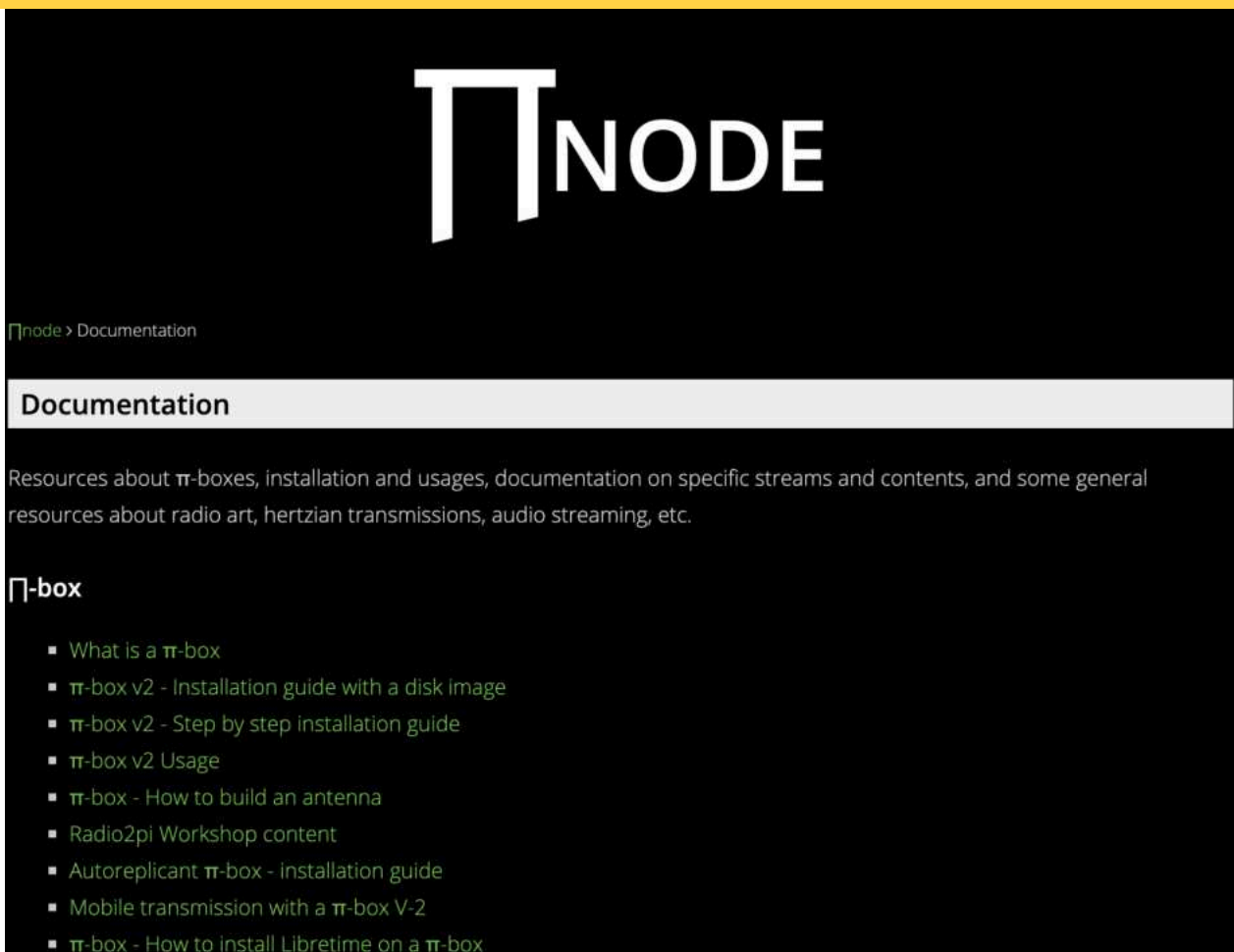
Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on promoting a favorable environment for quality journalism in the digital age

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 March 2022 at the 1429th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

[CM/Rec\(2022\)4](#)

Recommandation du Comité des Ministres aux États membres sur la promotion d'un environnement favorable à un journalisme de qualité à l'ère du numérique (adoptée par le Comité des Ministres le 17 mars 2022, lors de la 1429e réunion des Délégués des Ministres)

## Experimenting with the future of radio - $\pi$ - node



$\Pi$ NODE

[Pi-node > Documentation](#)

### Documentation

Resources about  $\pi$ -boxes, installation and usages, documentation on specific streams and contents, and some general resources about radio art, hertzian transmissions, audio streaming, etc.

### $\Pi$ -box

- [What is a  \$\pi\$ -box](#)
- [\$\pi\$ -box v2 - Installation guide with a disk image](#)
- [\$\pi\$ -box v2 - Step by step installation guide](#)
- [\$\pi\$ -box v2 Usage](#)
- [\$\pi\$ -box - How to build an antenna](#)
- [Radio2pi Workshop content](#)
- [Autoreplicant  \$\pi\$ -box - Installation guide](#)
- [Mobile transmission with a  \$\pi\$ -box V-2](#)
- [\$\pi\$ -box - How to install Libretime on a  \$\pi\$ -box](#)

$\Pi$ -node is an experimental platform for the development of a hybrid web/FM radio format. Through the interlinking of different approaches, tools, technologies and networks a decentralised broadcast structure will be established where each of the network's nodes serves to both receive and transmit information. Such a structure seeks to break with the classic one-way communication scheme, substituting it with a horizontal peer-to-peer model.  $\pi$ -node wants to explore the many dimensions of radio – its physicality (ether, radio waves and the electromagnetic spectrum), its spatiality (bandwidth, frequencies), its infrastructure (network of radio receivers/emitters), its

methods of production and editorial content management (programming boards/teams, recording studios), its methods of metadata reception (RDS/SDR), its history (free radio and pirate radio movements), and its legislation. Most importantly, π-node also wants to examine the future role and potential of radio in a time when everything is going digital.

<https://p-node.org/actions>

## Improving the Visibility of CM

### #KidsDrawPeace4Ukraine



Producers of news around the world are inviting their youngest readers and viewers to submit art that wishes peace and love for the children of Ukraine on all kinds of platforms, simply with the common hashtag #KidsDrawPeace4Ukraine.

[Global Youth & News Media](#) is organizing the project, inspired by the work of Kleine Kinderzeitung in Austria and News-O-Matic in the United States, the first news media for children to gather such art.

The goal of this project is to provide modest but widespread art therapy, which helps soothe anxiety through drawing, for children everywhere dealing with the unavoidable news of this war.

Find out more and how to participate [here](#).

**The first newsletter of „netzwerk  
medien.vielfalt! is out!**



The netzwerk medien.vielfalt! is a transcultural association of several multilingual radio projects and editorial teams of people with refugee and migration experience in independent radio stations in Germany. The „netzwerk medien.vielfalt!“ started on 1 January 2020 in cooperation with media initiatives throughout the country.

The network has set itself the goal of establishing a sustainable and supra-regional association of editorial offices and media professionals throughout Germany. The network aims to make the perspectives and realities of people with refugee experience more audible and visible in the media discourse and to enable their social and individual empowerment.

You can find their first newsletter (in English, French and German) and their statement concerning the war in Ukraine [here](#).

**The trolls who cried wolf**





[Get the Trolls Out!](#) has partnered with Are We Europe for a deep dive into disinformation, social media, and pop culture. On **Thursday, March 17th**, the Brussels cultural center [De Buren](#) hosted an interactive evening with poetry and panel discussions aiming to answer one question: **To what extent has our pop culture and our understanding of our society been shaped by online lies?**

Organized by [Are We Europe](#) in partnership with [Dare to be Grey](#) and [Get the Trolls Out!](#), the event was moderated by **Anneleen Ophoff**, AWE's new editor-in-chief.

**Sarra Riahi**, Policy and Advocacy Assistant in Brussels at [ENORB](#), the European Network On Religion and Belief, represented GTTO. **A recording of the event is available [here](#).**

*From oral history to memes, and ultimately, to life-threatening conspiracy theories: false narratives have been around for a while. But what forms does disinformation take today?*

The evening started with spoken words by poet **Maxime Garcia Diaz**, followed by an immersive keynote on conspiracy theories and how they're affecting us by **Hannah Richter**, campaign manager for Dare To Be Grey. Then, in the panel discussion moderated by AWE's **Anneleen Ophoff**, author **Ellen McVeigh** took us on a journey to Bodegraven, a Dutch town that became the unlikely center of a satanic conspiracy theory—and suddenly received hundreds of flowers to commemorate the (non-existing) victims of a global child trafficking network. Next, Bellingcat researcher **Aiganysh Aidarbekovawill** shared her experience investigating conspiracies across

Europe and training hundreds of journalists in truth-seeking. Finally, **Sarra Riahi**, from the European Network On Religion and Belief, has discovered tropes that keep appearing both on- and offline, from antisemitism to anti-vax conspiracy theories.

The audience also got to play a fun disinformation-themed game, “Never Have I Ever”. Raising green cards to mean “I have” and red cards to mean “I have never”, the audience was invited to answer questions related to disinformation, such as “Have you ever liked or shared a post without opening the link?”. A powerful and fun way to reflect on how our own behavior is central to the health of the digital environment we interact with.

**Are We Europe** is a pan-European, independent magazine publishing stories with local perspectives to help us figure out what it means to share a continent. AWE recently invited young storytellers to explore the real, intimate stories of people whose lives have profoundly changed due to online disinformation. You can become an AWE member and discover the whole **Disinformation** issue and more [here](#).

## Action for Coop. and Change

Community media ready to show actual  
solidarity – beyond words



While CMFE and its partners are preparing a package of solidarity projects in Ukraine and in the rest of Europe, CMFE has asked our national community media association members, what their plans are. We will share them with you also in future issues of the newsletter. Here we bring the preliminary plans developed by the Swedish community media association, NRO:

### **Refugee program in Ukrainian – in Sweden**

**Purpose:** to launch local radio broadcasts with the help of refugees from Ukraine.

**Background:** 200,000 refugees may arrive by summer 2022. They need information and activities. Community radio stations have extensive experience collaborating with earlier groups of refugees and immigrants settling in Sweden. NRO has good training materials that can be quickly translated into Ukrainian via Google translate.

**Goal:** to get as many of NRO's associations involved in this.

#### **Plan:**

- check where we can apply for grants
- look for a partner, perhaps Sensus, the Swedish Migration Board, MPRT
- market the project to our associations
- provide ideas and suggestions for how the programs can be designed
- be clear about the rules that apply, in the beginning, it is most likely an already active association working with the refugee program that will take responsibility, but later on, the refugees can form their own association and apply for a sending permit.
- give examples of how to contact refugees and try to find people with media experience
- give examples of local educational initiatives that can take place on the radio's premises
- offer national online education
- consider whether you can make summaries of programs for exchange, that are broadcast nationally
- collaborate with community radio in Ukraine and elsewhere in Europe

#### **Central costs:**

- project coordinator ½ time 6 months
- digital education
- national programs

# Community Media Ukraine Solidarity

A week into the war on Ukraine, hectic activity by individual community media activists in Europe, reaching out to our colleagues working to develop community-owned media all over Ukraine, was transformed into an action group 'Community Media Ukraine Solidarity'. The group is made up of CMFE board members and CMFE Experts.

The group as its first action sent out [an alert](#), sharing our shock and unconditional support to Ukraine. [<https://preview.mailerlite.com...>] The alert explains our plans and also invites community media and civil society activists receiving it to complete a questionnaire letting us know of any challenges encountered and what support you would be pleased to offer and/or what action you are taking. [To complete our questionnaire here!](#) [<https://framaforms.org/solidar...>]

The group is made up of community media activists from UK, Germany, France, Syria, Poland, Austria, Ukraine, and Denmark and meets on a weekly basis. The group has developed a concept note, covering the most urgent action needed including Programme sharing between Ukrainian and European community media – including translation, sub-titling and dissemination; Sanctuary and support for Ukrainian refugee media workers and civil society activists; Support for the development of Ukrainian language and cultural programs by and for Ukrainian refugees for broadcast on community radio stations outside of Ukraine; Development of a Community Media Ukraine Solidarity network; and finally training workshops to strengthen community media response capabilities both in peace journalism/constructive journalism and on humanitarian crisis response and refugee support.

The group has held meetings with international press freedom and media support organizations to join hands around some of our mentioned actions and plans above, and to secure funding for their realization. This is advancing well – and action is already ongoing in all of the areas above, initially on a voluntary basis.

If you want to know more, you can contact [Steve Buckley](#) <[steve@cmso.co.uk](mailto:steve@cmso.co.uk)> or [Birgitte Jallof](#) <[birgitte@empowerhouse.dk](mailto:birgitte@empowerhouse.dk)>

## Get the Trolls Out! #Break(s)TheBias



How do you deal with trolls and hate speech online? Which strategies are helpful to build solidarity networks? Why is it crucial that especially young women with diverse backgrounds continue to speak up? These and other issues related to women’s empowerment and activism on- and offline were discussed in an [Instagram live session](#) organized by CMFE and GTTO in collaboration with [We Belong](#) on March 8, International Women’s Day.

Embracing the IWD 2022 slogan of **#BreaktheBias**, Sarra Riahi from [ENORB](#) (GTTO partner in Belgium) joined We Belong co-founders Yasmine Ouirhrane and Jana Degrott to celebrate two years of advocating for the New Daughters of Europe.

Sarra, Yasmine, and Jana discussed the lived experiences of women of color across Europe, who continue to disrupt the status quo and lead the way for young women and girls to find the confidence, courage, and voice to belong. The discussion provided an opportunity to share learnings from [Get the Trolls Out!](#) in countering discrimination and hate speech.

**Key take-aways were:**

- When you encounter hate online, report it. These comments are illegal.
- Don’t feed the trolls.
- Hate speech is designed to silence women, don’t fall into its trap.
- Reach out to friends, supporters, and mentors and build your solidarity network.
- Continue to speak up and “get the keys” to deal with hate, without letting it stop your work.

If you missed the live Instagram session, you can find the recording [here](#) and hear more about:

- Navigating hate: the media and the normalization of prejudice
- The racialization of religion: securitization and criminalization in the EU
- Belonging and othering: women in the European public spheres
- Navigating and belonging: Tools, strategies, and ways forward

**We Belong** is a platform and safe space for people of color to share their experiences. Launched in 2020, We Belong has grown to include members across Europe, includes virtual and in-person events, and now features We Belong: The Podcast. Subscribing to the theory that change starts when personal stories are shared, the women behind We Belong are helping legitimize immigrant daughters' stories and spark new conversations about womanhood, the intersectionality of feminism, and challenging the conventional wisdom of what it means to belong. <https://www.webelongeurope.com/about-us>

## With War in Europe, we have all become frontline reporters

When reporting on or in other ways dealing with war and peace, all the ethical core issues of every day in from of the microphone are magnified.

While CMFE and partners are working on plans to offer training courses for community media in Europe, we are happy to share the below resources made available by the International Journalists Network (IJNET), the international center for journalists (ICFJ), and the International Association of Women in Radio and TV (IAWRT).

Resources on conflict reporting:

- <https://ijnet.org/en> (in general)
- <https://ijnet.org/en/toolkits> the toolkits themselves

Resources on crisis reporting from the ICFJ's Pamela Howard Forum on Global Crisis Reporting:

- <https://www.icfj.org/our-work/icfj-pamela-howard-forum-global-crisis-reporting>
- Also, they invite all media workers to join their Facebook group, where questions can be asked and colleagues answer:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147976783096008/>

- “Let it be as local as possible - Dismantling information and communication hierarchies in displacement settings” by Hannah Murphy, released by DW, gives eight recommendations for communication in displacement settings, where participation and inclusion is crucial

<https://www.dw.com/en/more-tha...>

Safety handbook from IAWRT’s website (right-hand column) in English, Arabic, and Turkish:

- <https://www.iawrt.org/>;

All that you did not know you might be missing...

**C L A S S I F I E D S**

**Events**

**Radiodays Europe 2022**



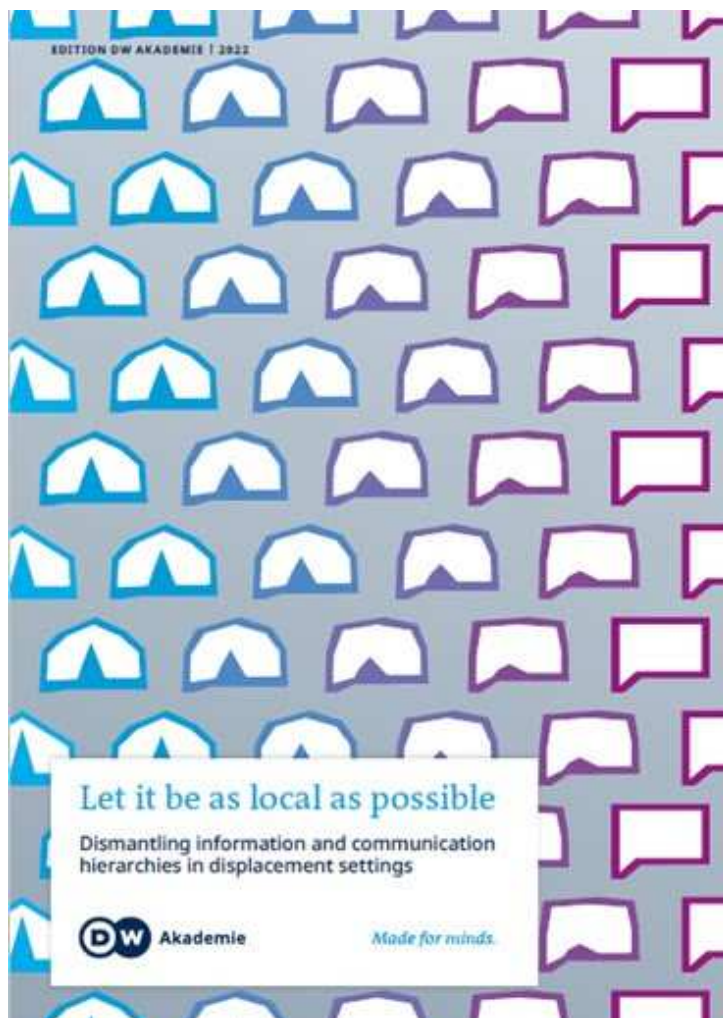
Radiodays Europe 2022 announced

[Link](#)

## Publications

**“Let it be as local as possible -  
Dismantling information and  
communication hierarchies in  
displacement settings.”**





This new report, launched by DW and written by humanitarian expert Hannah Murphy, gives eight recommendations for communication in displacement settings, where participation and inclusion is crucial. This is where we as community media come in! So, if you want to support arriving refugees, include them in your community radio work! Read it all here:

[Link](#)

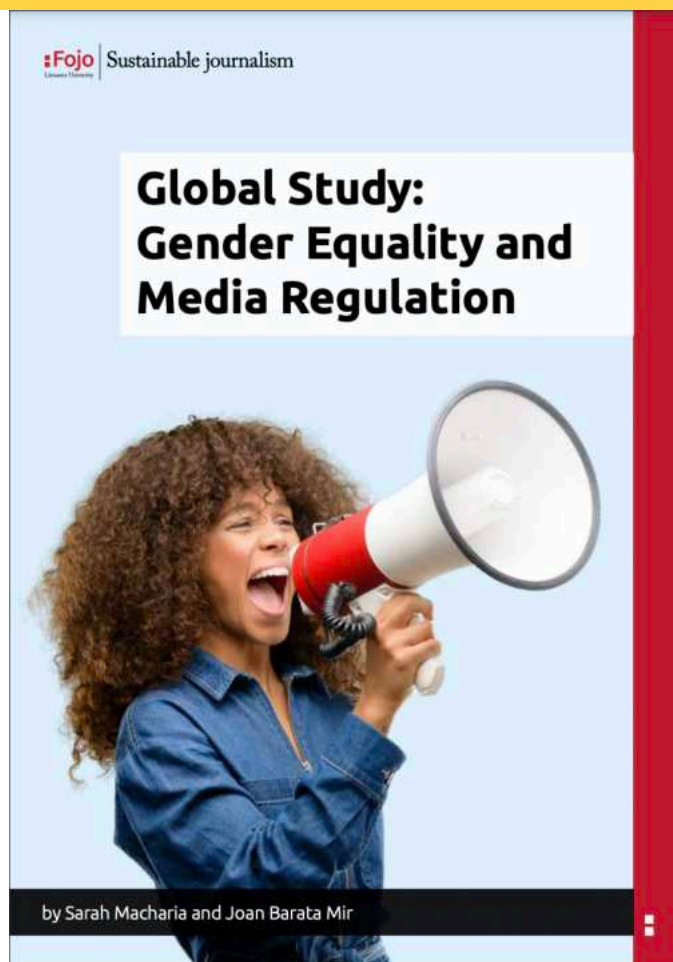
## Community DAB Handbook

The Community Media Association's UK launch of The Community DAB Handbook took place online on Saturday 26th February. The session featured Steve Buckley from Shefcast, the new SSDAB multiplex for Sheffield & Rotherham. Steve worked with Lawrie Hallett, from Future Digital Norfolk, and the Community Media Association to create The Community DAB Handbook.

The Handbook is designed to provide an introduction to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) for community media organizations, community businesses, and social entrepreneurs.

The Community DAB Handbook has been produced in the context of the rollout of small-scale DAB across the UK and the opportunity this new tier of digital broadcasting presents as a valuable community asset and as a platform for community digital sound programming services

## Gender equality and media regulation



*A new global study finds that:*

**Widespread overall interest in gender equality does not seem to filter down into statutory media sector regulation – and the lives of women in the media.**

Fojo Media Institute together with the Department of Journalism, Media and Communication, University of Gothenburg, carried out a study, mapping law and policy (regulation and self-regulation) and identifying measures to promote gender equality in the media and women's freedom of expression. The study covers policy instruments adopted at international to media house levels in over 100 countries. Parallel to the global study, case studies have been developed in a sample of countries in which Fojo Media Institute is active: Armenia, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Somalia, Sweden, and Zimbabwe.

The analysis reveals patterns of inconsistencies between commitment to gender equality in national policies and gender equality in media policies and legislation. Widespread interest in gender equality at the overall international and national level does not seem to filter down into statutory media sector regulation.

Find the study here: <https://fojo.se/genderandmedia...>

Get it here

## Unleashing the Potential for Change through Social Movements and Civic Initiatives



Unleashing the Potential for Change through Social Movements and Civic Initiatives

The past decade in the Western Balkans has seen a proliferation of civic initiatives and protests. They have focused on a variety of issues, ranging from the destruction of urban space, and environmental destruction, to corruption scandals, and even unresolved murders.

Whereas their success has varied, they showed that many citizens in the region are deeply dissatisfied with the lack of accountability of the ruling regimes and ready to actively engage in their societies. Local civic initiatives and new forms of civic engagement prove to be worthy of further attention for exploring democratization potentials in the region. With their focus on tangible

and concrete issues affecting that are affecting the daily lives of citizens, they have a high mobilization potential and ability to cut across ethnic divides and enhance citizens' sense of agency.

Even with limited impact achieved or fast dissipation, they nevertheless create a new momentum in the public discourse and collective memory, from which the new opportunity structures emerge for future possible changes.

[Read more](#)

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### Community Media Forum Europe - [cmfe.eu](http://cmfe.eu)

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