

European Community Media News



Photo credit: V-FRÖ

Before diving into the the articles of this newsletter: do consider joining CMFE in our **General Assembly in Hamburg October 30**. Our CMFE

General Assembly takes place in the midst of the vibrant CMMA Migration and Media Awareness Conference - read all about it hereunder, and under 'Events' in 'Classifieds'.

This issue of the CMFE newsletter focuses on the challenges faced by all of us who take up our democratic right - and duty - to express ourselves in the public sphere - be it in community media, in local public radio or as journalists in general. This includes the funding crisis of the Slovenian public service-focused Press Agency.

The messenger has always been the target, but the risks of being 'out there' have increased - not just in Afghanistan and other fragile states or states in dissolution, but in Europe. So despite no narrow community media focus, we salute and share the elements of both Ursula von der Leyen and Vera Jourova's recent positions on the threats against journalists in our very own Europe, and the urgent need for action.

Get The Trolls Out, one of projects in which CMFE takes part, highlights in this issue how the democratic crisis in Poland and Hungary threatens journalists, and we share resources on how to become a better peace journalist and how to cover migration and refugee matters better. And we share some highlights in the programme of Refugee Radio Network's upcoming CMMA conference. Read on for that!

With the UK we celebrate the upcoming October 15 'Local Radio Day' and share the assessment that cutting 'local' from public service in the UK does not seem to be what the listeners want? And we celebrate 'Are we Europe's anniversary, New Neighbour's nomination for a Price, share information about the upcoming 'Radio Days Europe', share urgent calls, a fundraising guide and valuable free online publications - so **get on with it!**

Warmest greetings from us at the CMFE - and stay safe!

Birgitte Jallov
President

CMFE Newsletters

From Our Own World: CMFE General Assembly October 30!



The CMFE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021 takes place at [Kampnagel](#) in Hamburg and online, **October 30 at 15-16:30 CET**

Please check back in October's CMFE Newsletter for detailed information about precise venue and Zoom access details. For now, we want to ensure that you have the date reserved. Please let us know whether you intend to participate physically in Hamburg, or via Zoom / online, by the 30th September 2021 by writing an email to membership@cmfe.eu

We are grateful that the General Assembly is hosted with Refugee Radio Network's CMMA 2021 conference. The conference and all that it stands for, is at the core of why community media are important.

Conference on Migration and Media Awareness <https://www.cmma2020.info/>

If you are not able to take part physically or via Zoom, we should like to receive your proxy to ensure that your vote and voice are heard (that's what we are all about). Please write to membership@cmfe.eu to receive a proxy form.

Thank you for your support!

Strengthening an Enabling Environment

Get The Trolls Out!

Reports on the targeting of minority groups in Hungary and Poland



Several worrying incidents have been identified over the past few months in both Hungary and Poland which show an increase in the targeting of minority groups, largely due to rising political tensions in both countries. In Hungary this is largely related to the upcoming elections, which are set to take place in 2022 and for which candidates are in the full swing of campaigning. In Poland, tensions are high due to a draft bill which seeks to limit WW2 property restitution claims in the country.

Hirado.hu, the official news site of the Hungarian public service broadcaster (MTVA), published an article slandering both the LGBTQ+ community and the Hungarian born Jewish billionaire and philanthropist George Soros. Specifically, Hirado focused on the work that George Soros and his son Alex do to support migrants and LGBTQ+ rights.

In Poland GTTO continued to see worrying incidents of antisemitism in response to the proposed WW2 property restitution claims bill, which already ignited a series of antisemitic media incidents in June.

The real worry is the increasing hatred publicly shown in both the media and social media, as well as in real life, against marginalized communities at the hands of political gains and tensions. Groups of people should not be targeted in order to run a successful political campaign, as shown in Hungary, and political tensions around a proposed bill is no excuse to spread vile antisemitism. The rise in cases in recent months is showcasing a worrying trend of normalizing such hatred, and it must be countered before these communities suffer any further.

You can read the full article on the GTTO website here:

[Read more!](#)

European Commission calls for monitoring the Safety of Journalists in Member States



Vice-President of the European Commission Vera Jourova presented a Recommendation 'on ensuring the safety of journalists' on 16 September 2021. (Photo credit: Credit: European Union, 2021)

During the press conference to present the Commission's recommendations, Vera Jourova paid tribute to all the journalists attacked, and in particular to those who paid “the highest price”. She highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the worsening of journalists’ working conditions in the European Union, citing that 900 journalists and media workers were attacked in the European Union and candidate countries last year.

“This must not continue, this must not be happening. No journalist should die or be harmed for doing their job. Today, we ask Member States to act and we put forward a series of measures they should take,” said Commissioner Jourova. She promised to engage with Member States individually as well as in the European Council.

“This is a very strong call on the Member States: do not underestimate the threats and the warning signs that journalists are under real risks,” she added.

The recommendation incites Member States to:

- Investigate and prosecute all criminal acts committed against journalists whether offline or online

- Initiate cooperation between law enforcement authorities, journalists and associations representing journalists
- Support the establishment of independent rapid response mechanisms to help journalists in need, such as legal advice, psychological support, shelters, emergency helplines
- Ensure access to information, press conferences and sources of information
- Promote trainings for law enforcement authorities, judges, prosecutors
- Ensure social protection against unemployment, sickness, disability, retirement and professional risks, including for self-employed journalists.

CMFE underscores the importance to not forget community media in this context and appreciates EFJ president **Mogens Blicher Bjerregard's** explicit reference to the importance not to forget freelance journalists and his expressed regret that we have reached a situation where the European Union has to remind states of their basic obligations. "It proves, by default, the passivity of states when it comes to defending press freedom and decent working conditions for journalists."

The EFJ Director **Renate Schroeder** stressed that "We only regret that the Commission does not go further in establishing a mechanism to evaluate the implementation of the 30 recommendations by the Member States. We must be able to point the finger at those states that don't do enough to protect journalists and media workers. We call on the European Union to put in place an independent assessment mechanism to denounce states that harm journalists and endanger the public right to be informed".

[Full EFJ coverage](#)

Ursula von der Leyen also calls on EU member states to protect journalists



The EFJ reports that President of the European Commission **Ursula von der Leyen** gave the annual address on the State of the Union in front of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on 15 September.

In her speech, she stressed the need to better protect journalists, media outlets' independence and the public right to information.

The **European Federation of Journalists** (EFJ) welcomed a strong statement in favour of media freedom and demanded concrete binding initiatives for EU member states to make these words a reality.

President Ursula von der Leyen's long speech outlined her vision for the future of Europe and reaffirmed European values “enshrined in the treaties”, such as the rule of law and the freedom of expression.

For the very first time, she addressed the deteriorating situation of media freedom in the European Union citing the numerous attacks that journalists are increasingly facing and the tragic assassinations of **Daphne Caruana Galizia** in Malta, **Jan Kuciak** in Slovakia, **Peter de Vries** in the Netherlands.

Visibility of Community Media

CMFE co-signs protest:

Urgent solution needed: Slovenian Press Agency funding crisis passes 250 days

More than 250 days have now passed since the Slovenian Press Agency (STA) last received state funding for carrying out its **public service mission from the government of Janez Janša, which currently presides over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.**

Since the beginning of the year, the STA has been forced to operate without public funds guaranteed to it under two separate laws while a contractual dispute manufactured by the Government Communication Office (UKOM) is played out with the aim of forcing the agency to submit to greater government control.

As the Slovenian government took over the rotating presidency of the European Council in July, an end to the crisis appeared to be in sight after the administration pledged to resolve the issue. However, the reworked public service agreement for 2021 included conditions which left the STA's management with a choice between its existence or independence and it was not signed.

Despite repeated calls for negotiations, UKOM refused and the government instead passed a controversial regulation on STA's financing. Top government officials have meanwhile continued to try to discredit and undermine the STA on social media.

[Read more here!](#)

"There's never been a greater need for local radio than now!"

LOVE YOUR PLACE!

Local Radio Day is back for the sixth time on Friday 15th October 2021, celebrated by community, commercial and public (local) radios in the UK.

The event, which was started by UKRD in 2015, will this year **celebrate the theme "Love Your Place"** and is organised by the Local Radio Alliance. Last year 150 stations participated - many among them community radio stations.

Listeners and presenters will be encouraged to share their favourite locations – the special spots which have meant the most during challenging times.

Maxine Stride, Director at Local Radio Alliance says, "Wherever you feel you belong and wherever makes you happy, we want to know about it. This will highlight what is special about where we live; from local businesses to arts, sports, countryside, and urban spots.

An abundance of community, BBC and commercial services are taking part. This year's celebration is supported by The Radio Academy, Community Media

Association, Local Media Network, BBC Local Radio, RadioToday and hundreds of radio stations across the UK.

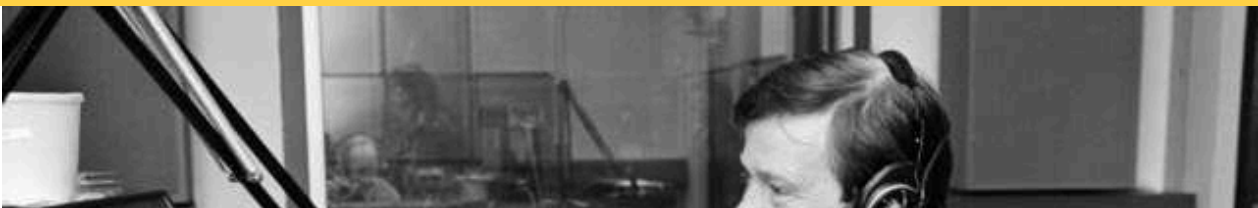
Dom Chambers, who chairs the Community Media Association and is a Radio Academy trustee, founder of the Local Radio Alliance told Radio Today, “I think it’s important that we have a day when we can celebrate and mark the achievements of local radio. ***There’s never been a greater need for local radio than now, and I think the pandemic has shown this. There are many ways we can feel connected, but radio is such a powerful and potent way.*** It’s about tuning into those locally trusted voices to hear about what is going on in your community.”

John Dash, CEO of The Local Media Network (LMN) says “All our team at LMN have local radio in their DNA. They know full well that to do the job it does so well, local radio has to love the place it serves with a passion and a pride that can be heard loud and clear.”

[Much more here!](#)

From our Public Service colleagues cutting local stations...

The BBC has totally underestimated our loyalty and affection for its local radio stations



As more presenters are shifted or axed, I fear we may lose the shows that we counted on to learn the latest local news sooner than we thought, [Gillian Reynolds writes](#). Still, however, we're a year away from a big birthday: On October 18, 1922, the British Broadcasting Company Ltd. was formed. On November 14 the first transmission was made, and ...

...it all began with radio...

Successive BBC managements seem to have regarded their [local stations](#) as foundlings, a responsibility they would prefer to be without. Big decisions are made about them from afar. Budgets cut and cut again. The result? Many hours are now shared with other BBC locals stations. Opportunities to originate are rare, ditto the chance to develop talent. Yet emerging stars are not the only reason we listen to BBC local radio. It's for familiar voices telling us which schools are closed, why buses aren't running. There's not much of either on commercial radio these days. BBC local radio is where we'll hear our MP defend (or oppose) government decisions, the place to go when I need to know why my vote actually counts. Any MP will tell you the value of BBC local radio.

Yet as lockdown ends and we begin edging toward the BBC centenary, there are hints that more changes on the way. Familiar presenters are being shifted or axed, Shows that I counted on to learn the latest local Covid news will alter. Don't scold me for being set in my ways. Set ways are what make ratings. Oh yes, I know (since my radio keep telling me) that I just have to tell my smart speaker which station to play and, wham, it plays it. But I like dial twiddling, finding things by accident. That's how I discovered Robert Elms on Radio London, Jess Gillam on Radio 3, Simon Mayo's *Essential Albums* on Scala and all the jokes on Union Jack.

The broadcasters are coming back into studios just as their bosses are making cuts disguised as improvements. Meanwhile, out here in Listenerland we are still faithfully putting on the radio, expecting things to be where they usually are. We know everything has to change. But add in other imminent changes across the BBC and ponder if they're trying to hook us actual licence fee payers before the expanding universe of Sounds turns us all into subscribers.

Happy birthday to Are We Europe!

In September 2017, four friends went to have their journalistic project officially registered as a foundation at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce. Fed up with the boring and negative news coverage of Europe, they wanted to create a

place for personal stories about what it means to live in, and belong to, Europe.

They called it Are We Europe... (no question mark).

Four years later, in 2021, Are We Europe has blossomed into a dedicated team of 18 people keeping the dream of a truly pan-European media alive (not to mention the 700+ storytellers in the network).

They have printed 11 magazines, shipped thousands of copies to readers and bookstores around the world, opened their own coworking space in Brussels, and hosted almost a dozen storytelling workshops at the “edges” of Europe.

And there is more to come! With ‘Untold Stories - Immersive multimedia stories from Europe’s peripheries’, interdisciplinary workshops will take place in seven countries (Estonia, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Greenland, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary, Romania) over the next twelve months. Young journalists and campaigners will meet to produce a platform for local, immersive multimedia stories about the most pressing issues of our time and their ideas about our collective future. We all have something to learn from our neighbours, and without these perspectives and ideas, we risk losing sight of the bigger picture!

[Read more!](#)

Action for Cooperation and Change

**New Neighbours at the 40th International
URTI Grand Prix for Author’s
Documentary**



40TH INTERNATIONAL URTI GRAND PRIX FOR AUTHOR'S DOCUMENTARY

FREE REGISTRATIONS OPEN UNTIL JUNE 1ST 2021

The [New Neighbours](#) 2019 documentary series has been selected as one among 10 nominees at the URTI Grand Prix for Author's Documentary - Arman Trophy. The Awards Ceremony will be held online on Tuesday, September 28th, 2021.

Created in 1949, URTI is the oldest audio-visual organization and the only one with a wholly global perspective. This professional union organizes television and radio programme exchanges, international audio-visual Grand Prix, co-productions, training workshops and actions for the promotion of world audio-visual creation.

[More info](#)

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Events

Conference on Migration and Media Awareness

Organized by Refugee Radio Network in Hamburg in cooperation with CMFE, online and on-site, Hamburg Oct. 28-30 <https://www.cmma2020.info>

Some highlights:

Thursday, 28 October 17:00 - 18:10

CONVERSATION - Tracking EU Migration Funding in Africa

Where does it go, with what impact and who decides?

GUEST SPEAKER: Giacomo Zandonini, Journalist at The Correspondent

Saturday, 30 October 10:05 - 11:30 AM

WORKSHOP 3

Countering Disinformation Through Media Literacy

With the presentation of the Council of Europe Study

“Media Literacy for all. Supporting marginalized groups through community media”

Presentation by Martina Chapman, National coordinator Media Literacy Ireland

Saturday, 30 October 12:45 - 13:45

PANEL DISCUSSION 2

Les Panafricaines

Media Migrating across the continent through African women journalist in media.

Outlook, Advocacy & Experience.

Session Chaired by Birgitte Jallof, President, Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE)

Saturday, 30 October 16:45 - 17:50

PANEL DISCUSSION 3

Thanatopolitics, immigration and Racism Bugaboo:

«Let's get critical»: This debate will examine migration, xenophobia and the psychosocial effect, with a focus on the increase in racially motivated hate crimes and murders across Europe and around the world.

Session Chaired by Larry Macaulay, Founder, Refugee Radio Network

Saturday, 30 October 19:10 - 20:10

STATEMENTS: "Looking Back, Thinking Ahead"!

Open Platform for statements, petitions, demands and agreements. creating opportunities for yourself without asking permission. the platform is filled with vibrant speakers, individuals you wouldn't have heard from in traditional conferences, and perspectives

[More info](#)

Radiodays Europe - A Hybrid Event

Due to the pandemic Radiodays Europe, as with all other big events, was postponed and will now take place in Lisbon 9 - 11 October 2021.

RDE 2021 will be a live in person event at Lisbon Congress Center, as originally announced for March 2020, but it will also be available virtually, on-line. If you haven't registered yet it's possible to do so today - all tickets give access to the live or online event. All four tracks of the conference are available along with in-person and online networking opportunities. You can also access the videos from the event on Catch Up.

If you are a student, pensioner, academic or community radio station, you can ask for special rates - rde@meetx.se

[More Info](#)

Calls...

OBS! Short notice:

Call for proposal RadUni Degree Award



In memory of our beloved friends **Antonio Megalizzi and Bartosz Orent-Niedzielski** RadUni has decided to open a competition for a **Degree Award** relating to a **thesis discussed at a university based in an EU country**. The thesis must concern the subject of college and university radio and/or, more generally, college/university or community media (associations and volunteering), whether they be Italian or foreign, as a whole or focusing on specific activities.

Our Award seeks to **promote the study of community media**, as well-meaning and innovative communication tools, from both a planning, artistic and operational point of view.

Call for proposal RadUni Degree Award

The competition is **open until the 30th of September 2021**. For all the information regarding the application and the participation requirements we refer to the notice of competition. The notice is available in 24 languages, thanks to the work of **our partners of the Audio and Podcast Unit of the European Parliament**.

For any further information contact us at project@raduni.org.

The translation of this page was made by the Audio and Podcast Unit of the European Parliament.

[Notice of participation](#)

NewsSpectrum third call

[IPI](#), [MIDAS](#), and [ERAC](#) have announced the third and final call for applications for the [NewsSpectrum Fellowships](#) programme.

The fellowship is open to staff and freelance journalists and other media professionals working for minority-language media in the EU and the UK (including Roma and migrant languages). It aims to encourage working partnerships between minority-language media and their majority-language counterparts across the EU.

NewsSpectrum expects to fund around 40 fellowships in 2021 through two schemes: the [Collaborative Reporting Fellowships \(CRF\)](#) and the [Professional Placement Fellowships \(PPF\)](#), providing grants of up to €6000 to both minority-language fellowship applicants and their majority language partners, for a total of €480,000 in funding in 2021.

The deadline for all applications is September 27, 2021, 23:59 CEST.

[Full Info](#)

[FAQs](#)

Tools

The MediaDev Fundraising Guide

**GLOBAL
FORUM
FOR MEDIA
DEVELOPMENT**

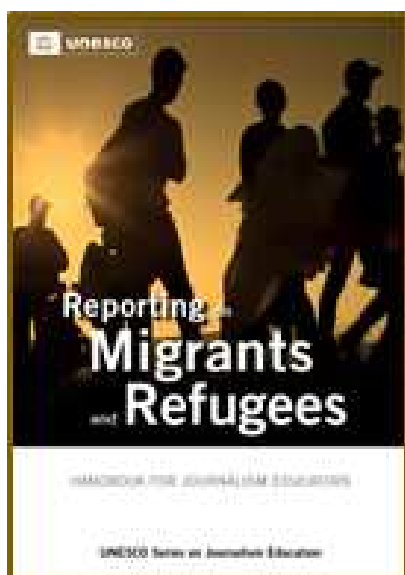
The GFMD MediaDev Fundraising Guide is designed to help anyone seeking funding for media development or journalism support projects. It aims to be

comprehensive, and support individuals and organisations making their first applications as well as provide a refresher for more experienced fundraisers.

Fundraising Guide

Publications

Covering migration and refugee matters better



Covering migration:

A challenge for journalism educators worldwide

This handbook enables journalism educators worldwide to address one of the challenges of the 21st century – migration and refugee matters. In a set of thirteen modules, journalism educators are provided with a comprehensive curriculum. It covers all aspects needed to train analysis, research, presentation, marketing, and ethics of

migration coverage. The handbook is unique as it comprises results of communication studies as well as political and social sciences. It has been developed by an international and cross-cultural group of media researchers, media educators and media practitioners. Journalism students will learn that matters of migration and forced displacement are concerned about human beings and therefore require knowledge and awareness of accurate facts, reliable sources, ethical reporting and good practices. Experienced journalists will benefit from using the volume as a self-learning tool, and media development organizations may adapt the curriculum to their training plans. The project will impact a more comprehensive coverage of migrant and refugee matters in countries of origin, transit and destination, and a more balanced and informed public debate across countries and cultures.

Find it here!

Out now: Peace journalism as a tool in media development



A FoME publication

Based on the question: “**Peace Journalism: A Tool Within Media Development?**” Fabíola Ortiz dos Santos, a MEDAS 21 PhD student at University Duisburg-Essen brings our core findings meant to result in **conclusions for practitioners** - and bou! do we need them!

Dos Santos' three key findings are:

The study of **peace journalism** emerged in the 60s, drawing on the overlapping fields of conflict analysis and peace research. The seeds of this notion were first introduced in a paper authored by **Johan Galtung and Mari Ruge** in 1965. Their study was instrumental in the development of the theoretical perspectives called ‘peace/ conflict journalism’ on the one hand, and ‘war/ violence journalism’ on the other.

The concept of peace journalism is not without its **critics**, who blame it for its **advocacy role** and ‘**false morality**’. According to the critics, this notion cannot be imposed from the outside, and can only evolve within a culture of peace in each society. Questions posed by scholars and practitioners have raised doubts as to whether the peace journalism approach can be implemented by journalists in their day-to-day reporting and if the circumstances of news production can be adjusted to the different contexts.

The label ‘**peace journalism**’, or ‘**conflict-sensitive journalism**’, is usually reflective of the practitioners’ perception of what is more context-relevant and likely to be conducive to the engagement of the donors, the audience, and the public at large. Regardless of how it is framed, the underlying precept is that professionals are **willing to question their own prejudices, opinions, and biases** when striving to accurately present the various perspectives involved in a conflict.

The full study:

"Santos, F. Ortiz dos (2021). Peace Journalism: A Tool Within Media Development?" is available online and free of charge:

[here!](#)

Community Media Forum Europe - cmfe.eu

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