# TRANSFORMING JOURNALISM **CURRICULA IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

Journalism studies at universities in the SEE region lack the necessary material, equipment and balance between theory and practice.

> Weaknesses in current undergraduate studies in journalism across SEE can be identified using certain indicators. These indicators result from analysis of SEE concerning:

- journalism education
- democratisation provoked by journalism education
- freedom and expression and media
  - journalism professionalism

### The indicators aim at answering:

- Do journalism studies reflect the current situation of professional journalism?
- Is journalism education able to support the democratisation of society?





### INDICATOR ON THE CONTENT OF JOURNALISM CURRICULA

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE COURSES

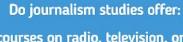
Do journalism studies include a general knowledge course and more specifically:

- courses in political systems, constitution and constitutional order.

- courses reflecting the specific democratic process in the given country (e.g. relating to human rights, EU integration, the judiciary, and transparency).
- separate courses teaching the country's official language(s),

as well as a foreign language. - general education courses which are well adapted to the journalist profession. - research and research methods?

### JOURNALISM COURSES



- separate courses on radio, television, online, printed media and multimedia journalism? - courses encouraging the development of critical thinking and analytical writing? - courses focusing on research and analysis-based

journalism? - journalist skills such as operating a television

camera, editing, photography and design?
- practical training lessons?

### INDICATOR ON THE ROLE THAT DEPARTMENTS OF JOURNALISM PLAY IN SOCIETY

-Are courses relating to public opinion, communication

science, Intercultural communication, and media

literacy being offered in the curriculum?

-Are courses being provided dealing with media-related

legislation, media effects on society and freedom of expression?

-Is ethics being taught as a separate course and what is the manner

in which it is being taught? -Is ethics included in the syllabi of other courses and,

first and foremost, journalism and communication courses?

COMMUNICATION

**COURSES** 

### Do departments of journalism:

- actively participate in the public domain? - publicly present their views on and offer solutions to the state of media and freedom of expression in their respective country? - establish steady cooperation with civil society, journalist associations and labour unions working on advancing and professionalising media-related vocations?

INDICATORS FOR EVALUATING **JOURNALISM CURRICULA IN SEE** 

### INDICATOR ON METHODS OF FUNDING AND CONDUCTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- Is the department of journalism self-sustainable? - Are research projects being pursued? - Are students involved in conducting research projects? - Are the results of scientific research subsequently incorporated in the curricula?

- Are students provided access to the results of scientific research? - Is the department of journalism and its faculty taking part in regional or international scientific research projects?





## **PRATICAL TRAINING**

Is practical training: - compulsory in each academic year?

- regulated and required by law? - implemented via cooperation agreements with media organisations? - facilitated through student career counseling centres or other centres helping students to find practical experience? - evaluated on its quality?

- awarded with ECTS credits or partial/full grades?

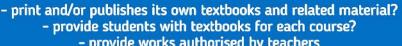


INDICATOR ON THE TEACHING STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS IN JOURNALISM STUDIES

Does the department of journalism employ teachers of journalism-related

- courses on a full-time basis? Do teachers from other humanities departments deliver lectures
- in the capacity of visiting professors? - Do teachers possess professional work experience in journalism? - Are expert practitioners involved in teaching journalism? - Do departments of journalism possess their own facilities
- for conducting classes? - Do departments of journalism operated specialised laboratories (for TV/radio/multimedia) in which to carry out practical work?

INDICATOR ON LITERATURE AND TEACHING MATERIAL USED IN STUDIES



- provide works authorised by teachers (printed lectures or textbooks)? - make additional literature available to students? - incorporate translations of books by foreign authors in the curricula?

Does the department of journalism:









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