DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN EUROPE AND EURASIA

MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY INDEX 2015

IREX
Make a Better World

USAID
From the American People
The Development of Sustainable Independent Media in Europe and Eurasia
MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY INDEX 2015

The Development of Sustainable Independent Media in Europe and Eurasia
www.irex.org/msi
Copyright © 2015 by IREX

IREX
1275 K Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
E-mail: msi@irex.org
Phone: (202) 628-8188
Fax: (202) 628-8189
www.irex.org

Managing editor: Leon Morse
IREX project and editorial support: Neetha Tangirala, Mitchell Sommers
Editorial support: Dayna Kerecman Myers
Copyeditors: Carolyn Feola de Rugamas, Carolyn.Ink; Kelly Kramer, WORDtoWORD
Editorial Services
Translation support: Ultra Translate, LLC
Design and layout: OmniStudio
Printer: Westland Enterprises, Inc.

Notice of Rights: Permission is granted to display, copy, and distribute the MSI in whole or in part, provided that: (a) the materials are used with the acknowledgement “The Media Sustainability Index (MSI) is a product of IREX with funding from USAID.”; (b) the MSI is used solely for personal, noncommercial, or informational use; and (c) no modifications of the MSI are made.

Acknowledgment: This publication was made possible through support provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-14-00093.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed herein are those of the panelists and other project researchers and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or IREX.

ISSN 1546-0878
USAID

USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential.

In an interconnected world, instability anywhere around the world can impact us here at home. Working side-by-side with the military in active conflicts, USAID plays a critical role in our nation’s effort to stabilize countries and build responsive local governance; we work on the same problems as our military using a different set of tools. We also ease the transition between conflict and long-term development by investing in agriculture, health systems, and democratic institutions. And while USAID can work in active conflict, or help countries transition from violence, the most important thing we can do is prevent conflict in the first place. This is smarter, safer, and less costly than sending in soldiers.

USAID extends help from the American people to achieve results for the poorest and most vulnerable around the world. That assistance does not represent a Democratic value or a Republican value, but an American value; as beneficiaries of peace and prosperity, Americans have a responsibility to assist those less fortunate so we see the day when our assistance is no longer necessary.

USAID invests in ideas that work to improve the lives of millions of men, women, and children by:

• Investing in agricultural productivity so countries can feed their people
• Combating maternal and child mortality and deadly diseases like HIV, malaria and tuberculosis
• Providing life-saving assistance in the wake of disaster
• Promoting democracy, human rights and good governance around the world
• Fostering private sector development and sustainable economic growth
• Helping communities adapt to a changing environment
• Elevating the role of women and girls throughout all our work

IREX

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing thought leadership and innovative programs to promote positive lasting change globally.

We enable local individuals and institutions to build key elements of a vibrant society: quality education, independent media, and strong communities. To strengthen these sectors, our program activities also include conflict resolution, technology for development, gender, and youth.

Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of over $70 million and a staff of over 400 professionals worldwide. IREX employs field-tested methods and innovative uses of technologies to develop practical and locally-driven solutions with our partners in more than 100 countries.

Implementing Partners

IREX wishes to thank the following organizations that coordinated the fieldwork for and authored a number of the studies herein:

Mediacentar Sarajevo http://www.media.ba
BTC ProMedia (Bulgaria) http://www.btcpromedia.org
Institute for Advanced Studies GAP (Kosovo) http://www.gapinstitute.org/
Media Development Center (Macedonia) http://mdc.org.mk
Independent Journalism Center (Moldova) http://ijc.md/eng/
Media LTD (Montenegro) http://www.media.cg.yu/index.htm
Center for Independent Journalism (Romania) http://www.cji.ro/
Introduction..................................................................................................... vii
Executive Summary.......................................................................................... ix
Methodology...................................................................................................xix

Southeast Europe
Albania............................................................................................................. 3
Bosnia & Herzegovina..................................................................................... 15
Bulgaria............................................................................................................. 31
Croatia ............................................................................................................. 43
Kosovo ............................................................................................................. 59
Macedonia....................................................................................................... 71
Montenegro.................................................................................................... 87
Romania.......................................................................................................... 101
Serbia ............................................................................................................. 115

Caucasus
Armenia ......................................................................................................... 131
Azerbaijan ..................................................................................................... 145
Georgia .......................................................................................................... 157

Russia and Western Eurasia
Belarus ........................................................................................................... 173
Moldova......................................................................................................... 189
Russia ............................................................................................................. 205
Ukraine .......................................................................................................... 219

Central Asia
Kazakhstan .................................................................................................... 241
Kyrgyzstan .................................................................................................... 257
Tajikistan....................................................................................................... 279
Turkmenistan................................................................................................. 299
Uzbekistan..................................................................................................... 313