

A circular concrete core sample is shown, surrounded by a wooden frame and metal clamps. The concrete is light gray with some yellowish-brown staining. The text is overlaid in a bold, blue, serif font.

MEDIA DIALOGUE 2021

**FOR CONFLICT SENSITIVITY
AND RESEARCH**

MEDIA DIALOGUE 2021 FOR CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND RESEARCH

**KYIV – YEREVAN
2022**

The brochure describes the international project “Media Dialogue 2021”. Here you can find the activities, which were held during all stages of the project. For your convenience, we collected the most interesting materials from the online seminars, project weeks in Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine. The brochure contains information about super-creative and enthusiastic people who make our projects work better each time. You will be surprised with the famous and respected names of the keynote speakers, real project results as well as our plans. We never stop dreaming and brainstorming ideas. This year we focused on conflict sensitivity and research. The brochure is the reflection of our hard work, communication with real activists and fighters, documentation of difficult times and problem solutions.

Funded by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany



Federal Foreign Office

ISBN 978-617-7370-50-4



DR. WOLFGANG RESSMANN

DON'T FEED THE FLAME - TELL THE TRUTH

The Maidan Revolution in Kyiv in 2014 provided the kick-off for the “Media Dialogue” project in 2015. The development of a pluralistic media system, media practice, and support for building a functioning democracy in Ukraine formed the starting point.

The broad experience of the international association “Youth4Media” (Bennohaus, Münster) and the possibilities of OK-TV Ludwigshafen as the first German citizen station with open access complemented each other perfectly. In line with Youth4Media, contacts were established with the “Association of Independent Ukrainian Journalists” headed by Volodymyr Danyliuk in Lutsk (western Ukraine), and the “Institute of Journalism” at Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv. The project, initiated by the former SPD member of the Bundestag Doris Barnett, is funded by the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.

“Media Dialogue” offered me the chance to tie in with my political work in the 1980s in Eastern Europe - “Roots to the future”. At that time, as a representative of the youth organization of the SPD, it was important to build the first bridges to the then-Soviet Union in order to make a contribution to the peaceful development of our continent.

GERMANY

Almost 25 years later, the general conditions changed fundamentally after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine - which began less than three months after the conclusion of the 2021 Media Dialogue Project in Kyiv - represents a watershed for the future security and peace order in Europe and its neighboring regions.

Efforts to stabilize a democratic-pluralistic transformation in the former Soviet republics of the Eastern Partnership are currently characterized by the need to prevent the military success of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in the long term. This also corresponds to the security interests of Georgia and Moldova. At the same time, Armenia's security interests vis-à-vis the autocracies in Turkey and Azerbaijan must be taken into full account. Political developments in Belarus will also depend to a large extent on how far the imperialist-aggressive efforts of the Kremlin are not given a chance. This will only succeed if democratic media systems enable free and independent reporting beyond propaganda and fake news in the longer term.

On this note, the further development of the "Media Dialogue" from 2015 - 2022 represents a great success. The Media Dialogue network currently includes universities and journalists' associations, an art academy, and other non-governmental organizations from Ukraine, Belarus (Exile), Moldova, Georgia, and Armenia.

The "Media Dialogue" project offers all participants the opportunity to gain direct insights into the (media) development of the participating



countries, to create and publish their own media products within this framework, and to reach an interested public in all countries participating in the project. Many former participants are now working in journalism, publishing, and politics in their home countries. This makes it clear that democratic and peaceful development, not only in the countries of Eastern Europe, can by no means be taken for granted in the years to come.

The central motto of the Media Dialogue - "Don't feed the flame - tell the truth" - is more topical than ever. This also applies to the active inclusion of film and video, performances, and visual art, which are also important transmission belts and instruments in this context.

Practical solidarity and support from our journalistic partner organizations in Ukraine and the Belarusian Independent Journalists' Association (BAJ), now working in exile, add weight to the work of the Media Dialogue.

September 2022



DR. KAKHA SHENGELIA

WORDS HURT MORE THAN SWORDS

The Project “Media Dialogue” represents one of the foremost platforms for Georgia, in which Caucasus University participates as the only Georgian partner Higher Educational Institution of the project since 2019. This platform with its international surroundings undeniably provides an opportunity for Georgian academics from various fields to unite and discuss active social issues in present-day society. So as to discuss sensitive media issues such as propaganda, hate speech and fake news in regard with the conflict situations. Indeed, consider them with professional journalists, experts and students, which in turn have an impact on democracy, social cohesion and stability in the country.

It should be definitely noted that divisive public discourses about the armed and cold conflicts in Georgia since the collapse of the Soviet Union have already hurt broader peace-building prospects. The critical analysis of the radicalized narratives has shown that hate speech and fake news in the Media have a high impact. The same handwriting is revealed in the conflict occurring in Neighboring Countries, which, along with the escalation of conflicts, poses a threat to many other social problems, including the main course of the

country’s development eventually.

The great value of the project is to establish near interaction and solidarity between the academics, professionals and the students (as future actors) from Germany and Eastern partnership countries in the format of Media dialogue and discussion to acknowledge the complexity of the social issues, including in armed and cold conflict resolution, and identify different perspectives to overcome the obstacles. Georgian proverb, “ზევრი სიტყვა ხმაღზედ მეტად სჭრიხო” - Many words cut (hurt) more than swords, best describes that word can be a powerful weapon both to cause, and deal with many problems in which centralised role of Media should be taken into account.

We are deeply convinced that our passion for this project will inspire more professionals and students in Georgia to get involved as active citizens who strive to strengthen the understanding of many social problems in society.





ANDREI BASTUNETS

**Chairman of the Belarusian
Association of Journalists**

BELARUS IN EXILE

Dialogue is what we lack today. Not only to the media, but to everyone. Media Dialogue helps to stay together.

Individuals and organizations participating in it faced big problems not only in their countries, but also in the world in general. Especially after the beginning of the “hot” stage of the war, which the Kremlin unleashed against Ukraine.

Many Belarusian journalists were forced to leave their country in 2021 under the threat of persecution. And then those who chose Ukraine as a refuge changed their place of residence again because of the war... Those who remained in Belarus face repression to this day. More than 60 journalists were prosecuted, about 30 of them are currently behind bars. <https://baj.by/en/analytics/repressions-against-journalists-belarus-2022-list-colleagues-prison>. Even in the worst dreams, I could not imagine how many good and close friends would end up in prisons, would be deprived of liberty for expressing their opinion, for fulfilling professional duties...

The Belarusian Association of Journalists was also repressed. After numerous searches in the office of BAJ and the apartments of its employees, the organization was liquidated

in August 2021 by a decision of the Supreme Court of Belarus. The BAJ office in Minsk remains blocked today. Most of the employees went abroad to avoid persecution. Many Belarusian media organizations were also forced to relocate abroad and take out their journalists. But we were able to resume our work. Because BAJ is not just an entry in the register of legal entities maintained by the authorities. This is a community of media workers who are united by the realization of their mission - to help the distribution of objective and accurate information, free expression of opinion. Contacts with foreign colleagues are very important for us in order to feel part of the international journalistic community and not to isolate ourselves only in our own problems.

BAJ is grateful for the attention paid to the situation in the Belarusian media sector during the program. And the solidarity that we have always felt and still feel.

And we express it ourselves, today primarily to Ukrainian colleagues. But contacts with Georgian, Armenian, Moldovan, German colleagues and friends from other countries

are very important for us.

Common exchange of experience, common help, common education, common solidarity... I will repeat the same words as a year ago: it is very significant that most of the participants of the Dialogue are young journalists who will be able to work further, having gained not only their own experience, but also the experience of completely different events and decisions.





**YEVHEN
TSYMBALENKO**
(Taras Shevchenko
National University of
Kyiv)



**SERHII
TOMILENKO**
(National Union of
Journalists of Ukraine)



**LINA
KUSHCH**
(National Union of
Journalists of Ukraine)



**VOLODYMYR
DANYLIUK**
(Forum of Ukrainian
Journalists, “Volyn
Newspaper”)



**YURIY
ZALIZNIAK**
(Ivan Franko National
University of Lviv)

CONTINUOUS FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

On February 23, 2022, Ukrainians went to bed, hoping to wake up the next day ready to continue their work, build new plans, brainstorm ideas, and implement projects. Yet, they were woken up by the Russian missiles. On February 24, 2022, we understood how important “Media Dialogue 2021” was for all of us. During the project weeks we lived through the conflicts in three countries, Ukraine, Georgia, and Armenia. There were so many places we visited and so many wonderful people we met. Who knew that we would need to apply obtained knowledge so soon.

We learned how to spell Russia with a lower-case letter. We learned how to love more. We learned what real hate means. We stayed strong and we are still standing. “Media Dialogue” is still one of our best networks for sharing truth and finding people who are professionals of different industries.

Russia aims at ruining basic human values such as freedom of speech and democracy, so this year’s project is extremely important. Kremlin’s missiles are not able to stop “Media

Dialogue”, which fights fake news, hate speech, and evil propaganda.

Ukrainian team truly appreciated the first messages they got when the full-scale invasion started. The participants of “Media Dialogue” wrote letters and messages of support. That was the best recipe for staying positive. We felt support on the most difficult days, when thousands of journalists continued their hard work despite the lack of experience in war zones, shelling, destruction, and evacuation. The large-scale war in Ukraine clearly demonstrated the importance of journalistic solidarity, which we always had in “Media Dialogue” projects.

Our joint project became a common ground for proving once again that there has to be a different way of handling conflicts, not just bombing other countries. Our participants showed their ability to be thoughtful and careful in the decision-making process.

Last year, just two months before Russia attacked Ukraine, the Ukrainian stage was finally conducted offline for the first time after two years of the pandemic. We held splendid meetings with military journalists, journalists in exile, and internally displaced media workers. Students and young journalists worked on their own projects, debunked misinformation and methods of aggressive Russian propaganda.

When Ukraine wins the war, we hope to meet our “Media Dialogue” network members many times more in free Ukraine as well as in any part of the world.





MKRTICH TONOYAN

GYUMRI FRESCOES

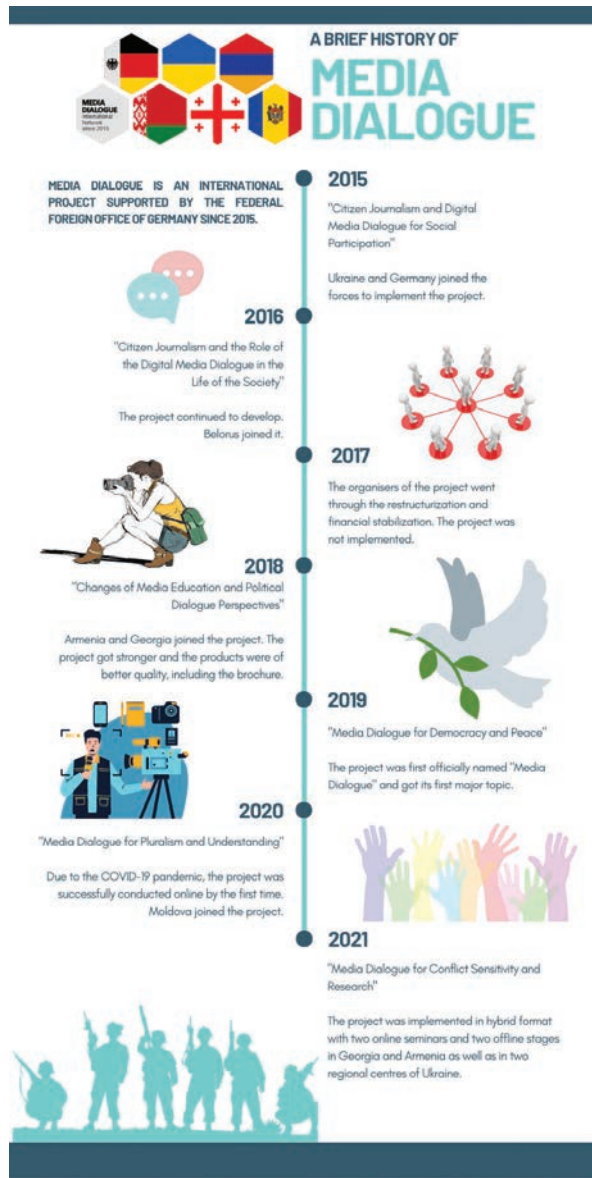
Although Media Dialogue 2021 was launched on Zoom platform as last year, it became even more significant for all the network members for several reasons, including

- an ability to switch from online to live meetings again as well as to include offline trips back in the project;
- involvement of a representative from the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), which was especially important for the Armenian side after the war in the Republic of Armenia in 2020;
- in-person meeting with the journalists in exile from Belarus and having them engaged in our activities as well as our new partners from Moldova in Ukraine.

During Media Dialogue 2021, we held a series of activities (production workshops, meetings, interviews, and the final conference) in Armenia, Gyumri city, the cultural capital of Armenia, involving new partners from Gyumri. Gyumri wasn't chosen by accident as it is an old settlement right on the border with Turkey with a long lasting history of conflicts, and currently one of the largest military bases of the Russian army outside of



the Russian Federation. This time we focused more on a rather new term that has been widely used recently throughout media, the so-called Hybrid war. We tried to understand its exact meaning, to clarify definitions and to unveil currently running hybrid wars around the world. In my opinion, the Hybrid war includes elements of “information war”, but meanwhile it is an inseparable part of real war with military actions, and it is aimed at misleading the world from the actual plan of aggression. It's hard to detect who the enemy is and where they are as the military actions from all sides of conflicts are preceded by media preparations that remain active during the war and continue after it as well. All processes depend on the tools as well as on media industry development and fakes production. Many media companies can become victims of this mechanism and unwillingly support disseminating “aggression info / intervention” as an innocent part of the huge hybrid mechanism of the lie industry, the main task of which is again in misleading the world imaginations from what actually happens. Given this, we all must seriously think about mentioned above wars, including those media professionals, who continue imputing lies due to rapid growth of social media. We should find a way of ending the dissemination of lies as it changes the reality making it a quasi-reality / true, where we won't be able to find any radical solution against growing global problems. A well-known proverb says, “A lie, told once, remains a lie, but a lie, told thousand times, becomes truth”. An Armenian proverb says, “Մտի ոտքը կարճ է”. It means “the lie has a short leg” which is a metaphor meaning that with a lie one can't go a long way, as one day it will be discovered. We will keep developing our network via involving more countries and partners. We will be able both to raise issues connected with ecology of words, speech, and news and to fight against that evil growing parallelly with media and news industry that poses a serious threat and may totally gulp our reality if not tackled.



PROJECT TIMELINE AND 2021 TOPIC SELECTION

2015

Media Dialogue 2015: Citizens Media for Intercultural and Political Dialogue Ukraine / Germany started shortly after the Maidan Revolution at the „Institute of Journalism, Taras-Schewtschenko-University, Kyiv“ to support lectures and students in practical media work. In addition the idea of civil and public access-media was promoted in a number of TV-Talks with ukrainian broadcasters.

Further training-courses took place in Germany at Münster (North-Rhine Westfalia) and Ludwigshafen / Rhine. The participants learnt to produce TV-reports and studio-discussions to specific self-choose themes.

2016

Media Dialogue 2016: Citizen Journalism and Digital Mediadiologue for Social Participation based on the experiences of the project. In 2016 journalists and students from Belarus – selected by the new project



partner „Belarussian Association of Journalists (BAJ)“ started in Kyiv. One of the most impressive results was a TV-report about excursion to Tschernobyl, the location of the nuclear disaster in 1986.

In addition training courses in Germany took place, again at OK-TV Ludwigshafen and Bennohaus in Münster with German media trainers.

2018

Media Dialogue 2018: Changes of Media Education and Political Dialogue Perspectives made a big step forward – Georgian and Armenian partners where integrated in the project.

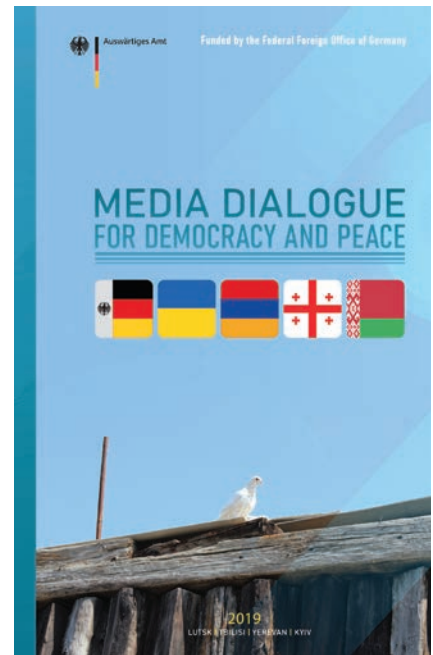
So it was possible that all participants got the chance to combine practical mediaknowledge with intercultural learning about effects of fakenews and (Russian) propaganda to destabilize the democratic development.

The project took place in Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia. The participants – students, lectures and journalists could gain a wide experience about the different development in the postsoviet republics and the influence of the Russian Federation.

2019

Media Dialogue for Democracy and Peace 2019 worked different conflict situations in the participating countries. Especially the war in the Donbass region of Ukraine, the occupied territories Abrasia and South Ossetia in Georgia and the Berg-Karabach-conflict between Aserbaidshan and Armenia.

Fort he first time one project stage took place in the city of Lutsk in the West of Ukraine in combination with Kyiv in Ukraine and Tblisi (Georgia) and Yerevan (Armenia).





2020

Media Dialogue for Pluralism and Understanding 2020 was - caused by the corona pandemic - completely transformed to an online event. The partners of the Media Dialogue project in Germany, Armenia and Ukraine were responsible for the organisation of the online parts. In Gjumri (Armenia) the stage was organized as a hybrid-format at the Academy of fine arts. So even a live-performance of the participants could be integrated. During the project two challenges had been to overcome, first the protest in Belarus against the stolen elections and the war of Aserbaidzhan / Turkey against Armenia in Berg Karabach. Both events were covered with original videomaterial, expert keynotes to deliver background information.

2021

Media Dialogue for conflict sensitivity and research 2021 was realized during a Caucasian and Ukrainian stage. One part of the project took place at the Caucasus University in Tbilisi, Georgia, the other part in Gjumri, Armenia. Originally the second stage of the project was planned in Chisinau, Moldova and Kyiv. Caused by corona restrictions a rescheduling to Lviv (Ukraine) at the Ivano Franko National University was necessary and worked very well. Both stages took place under the influence of the situation after the Berg-Karabach war, the brutal suppression of the protests against the stolen elections in Belarus and the Russian deployment of troops at the Ukrainian border.

2022

Media Dialogue Covering the war in Ukraine 2022

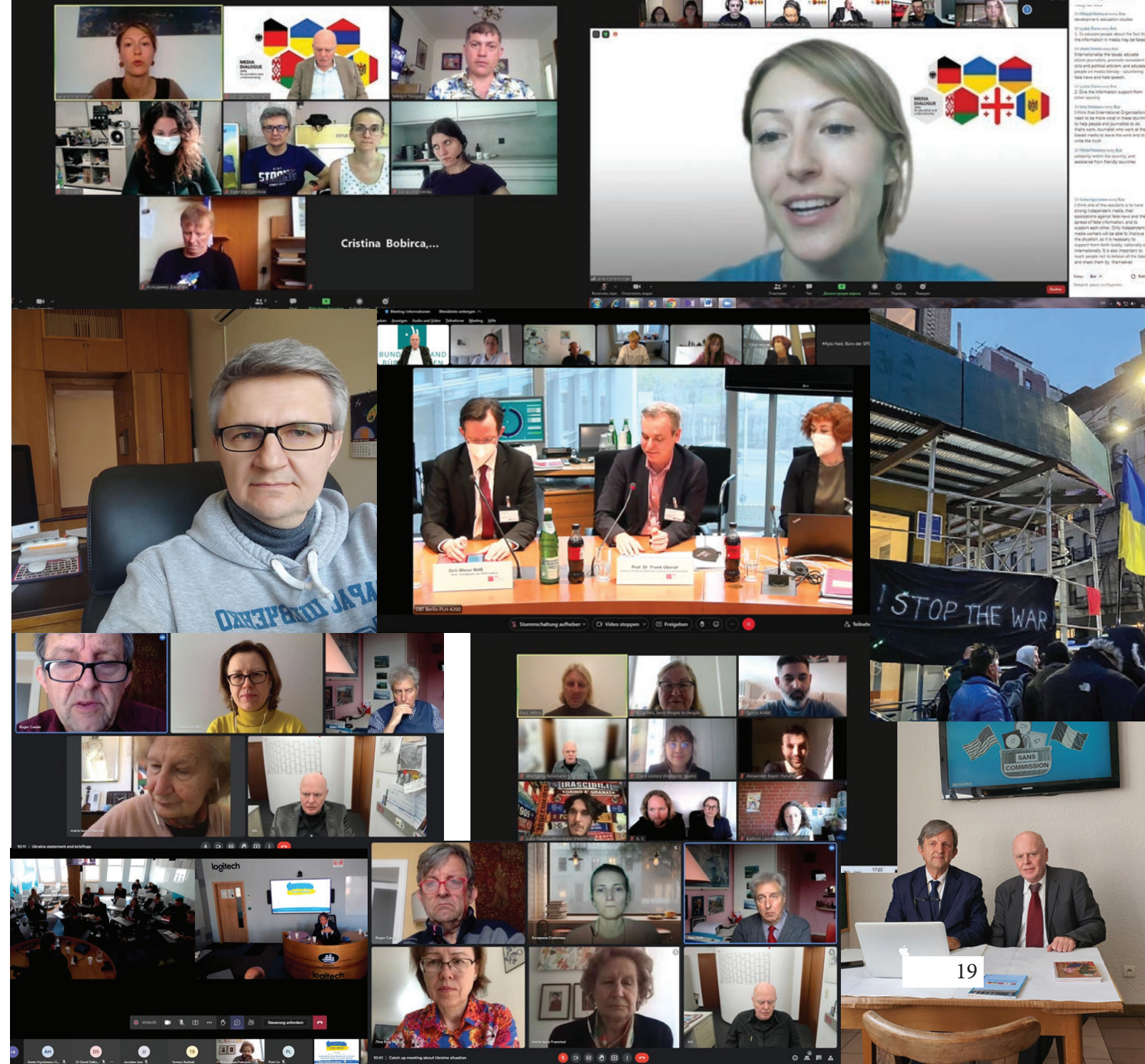
The Media Dialogue Network is covering the aggression of Ukraine with TV-Talks, video-conferences and discussions based on the project motto: „Tell the truth – don’t feed the flame“ - #standing with Ukraine.



2021 was a special year for the Media Dialogue. It was the first time that the project, which aims at strengthen democracy and freedom of speech in Eastern European countries, tried out a new way of communicating with its partners, participants, and experts: in a hybrid way. Both online and offline. What an adventure! Fortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic prepared us well, and interactive online seminars became one of our strengths. The idea was to use the online seminars as preparation for the work on the ground in Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine. In breakout rooms, participants had the opportunity to meet and discuss with each other. In the online „conference room“, experts provided the theoretical and also practical input we needed to better and more deeply understand the conflicts in all countries involved in the project.

The first online seminar or rather the three-hour participant-centered virtual conference was dedicated to Georgia, Armenia and a „German perspective“ on the situation in the Caucasus region. It took place on July 20, 2021. The conference was attended by renowned experts, such as Eva Akobia, Dean of the Caucasus School of Governance in Tbilisi, Georgia, and expert for international relations, and Tegan Poghosyan, President of the International Center for Human Development in Armenia. The most critical actions that need to be taken to strengthen democracy and the media systems in Georgia and Armenia were lively discussed. The second online seminar took place in October 2021 and revolved around the issue of the current (media) situation in Moldova and Ukraine. A total of four experts spoke at this conference. Among them, for example, Mihai Mogildea, Team Leader, Institute for European Policies and Reforms, Chişinău, Moldova, who gave a presentation on the post-election developments in Moldova and whether this was a window of opportunity for a reform-oriented agenda. Keynote speaker Lina Kushch, First Secretary of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine devoted her speech to the question „Can Ukrainian media be independent of politicians and oligarchs in 2021?“.

Both online seminars were very well received by all of us, provided access to many familiar and unfamiliar faces, and became a great stimulus for discussions on the ground in Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine.





MARI RUADZE
International Projects Manager of Caucasus University

Media Dialogue 2021 for conflict sensitivity and research which is already the third Media Dialogue project for Georgia on behalf of Caucasus University always allows us to assess the role of the media in addressing important and actual social issues. So as, the conflict situations in Caucasus region and in this regard, fake-news, propaganda and hate speech. It is always an opportunity, especially for the students, to get the news from professionals in the format of dialogue and discussion.

It should be definitely noted that worldwide challenge – the covid-19 pandemic caused many difficulties in terms of project implementation, however “Media Dialogue” continued achieving its objectives in a variety of formats which is highly appreciated. Despite the strong desire for Media Dialogue 2021 to be conducted on-site at Caucasus University, the pandemic was still quite challenging. Despite the risk of changing the format of the stage, in the end, the existing regulations allowed us to host the project in the beginning of sunny autumn at CU, which was also the first workshop and conference conducted offline at the University since the first appearance of Covid-19.

The main part of the program was conducted between the 20th - 23th September in which 12 contributors from project member countries: Germany, Belarus, Ukraine and Armenia,

and 11 more local Georgian students participated. The students from Caucasus School of Media and Caucasus School of Governance were selected on the ground of their motivation and academic performance.

Suggested Topics that Media trainers with other participants were able to build research and activities during the workshop and final conference were linked to:

- Political Situation in Georgia (Occupied territories)
- Propaganda, Fake News and Hate speech in Georgian media
- Journalists under pressure
- Violence against Journalists

In accordance with Media trainers and Organisers, each working day of the stage was finalized by Media Dialogue TV broadcasting on several channels to ensure other interested parties’ active engagement around the world. Moreover, alongside the workshops and practical works as well as for establishing active cooperation with different stakeholders, we conducted several meetings. Among them are visiting the Embassy of Ukraine in Georgia, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Georgia, the Independent Association of Georgian Journalists and non-governmental organization „Rights Georgia “. In some of the above-mentioned meetings, students were able to participate to enrich and later on produce media products (in Video / Blog groups) with the assistance of experienced media trainers. Parallel to our arranged study and working activities we also planned a cultural excursion in the capital of Georgia. In 1500-year-old Tbilisi where could be explored: the city’s narrow, pedestrian streets to learn more about the mystery of local churches, a mosque, a synagogue and Medieval bazaars. Also, discover thermal baths of Abanotubani and see impressive landmarks of the 18-19th century Tbilisi.

Overall, the project was welcomed with great excitement by the participants and students



who needed to direct their energy and time into something essential and productive. The project inspired them to be more self-aware, more responsible and more active members of society, expand their knowledge and take an active stance on current issues even during a time of isolation.

“Media Dialogue” has great value for the students as future actors as it prepares them to identify, plan and carry out solutions to problems within their community and beyond. The goal to strengthen active citizenship through thoughtful, cooperative, critically engaging, and responsible action is undoubtedly important to deal with current and future challenges.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Caucasus University is a leading higher education institution with a multidisciplinary profile in Georgia. CU offers students a high level of education, international programs, and practice-oriented teaching. The training of highly qualified specialists is provided by lecturers with international qualifications. Moreover, our lecturers, with their strong third mission, are distinguished by high social engagement alongside the teaching and research, and have an impact on a number of current socio-political events. Therefore, based on the topics of the project, we selected the speakers based on their credentials and subject matter expertise from CU.

Dr. Eka Akobia - Dean of Caucasus School of Governance and expert of International Relations discussed “Political Situation in Georgia”. And, Prof. Salome Ugulava - Journalist and lecturer of Caucasus School of Media made a speech about “Propaganda, Fake-News and Hate Speech in Georgian media”.



FINAL CONFERENCES

GEORGIA

On 23 September, the project stage in Georgia finished with a final conference opened by the president of Caucasus University, Kakha Shengelia and project coordinator Wolfgang Ressmann.

Eka Akobaia, dean of Caucasus School of Governance and expert of international relations, and lecturer of Caucasus School of Media, journalist, Salome Ugulava delivered speeches at the conference. In addition, the speakers from Eastern Partnership countries discussed ongoing armed and frozen conflicts and media systems, in particular, delivered speeches about: “Journalist under pressure of state”(Belarus), “Violence against Journalists”(Ukraine), “Journalistic and Media Activities in N. Karabakh During the War in 2020” (Armenia). It is noteworthy that the final part of the conference was interactive and all the guests were actively involved.

At the conference, Caucasus University students presented their products in the fields of media, politics and conflict (blogs and videos), which they worked on during three days with project partners and media trainers. In the final part of the conference, students were awarded certificates.

The next working meetings within the framework of the project were scheduled for September 24-27, in Armenia, where three Georgian students traveled with the board after the final Conference of Tbilisi.



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MKRTICH TONOYAN

**MD co-organizer and program developer and coordinator in Armenia
President of the Akos Cultural NGO**

ARMENIAN STAGE

On September 23, 2021, our we started our road trip from Tbilisi, Georgia to Gyumri city, Armenia, with 13 participants on board. It was a long ride, full of interesting experience for the fellows: crossing boarder between 2 neighbouring countries as well as some sightseeing spots on the way such as famous monasteries and towns. Gyumri participants were waiting for us. They cooked traditional, typical for the region, Armenian dishes for dinner upon our arrival. We checked in the hotel and had a welcoming dinner there.

The program started next day, on September 24, 2021. 8 more participants from 4 institutions in Gyumri and Yerevan joined us. Gyumri Technological Centre, Journalism Faculty of the Northern University, Art Academy of Gyumri and Yerevan state Academy of Architecture and construction were involved in the project. The participants were mainly selected via an open call. The most motivated individuals were chosen.

Project days in Gyumri

The series of activities such as meetings, workshops, interviews, joint production, and research took place between on September 23-26, according to the agenda. Armenian stage ended with a final conference at the Gyumri Technology Center (TechnoPark), which was

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one of our partners this time. They provided us with well-equipped working rooms and platforms for workshops as well as constant assistance and support. The opening of the project week was held at the Art Academy of Gyumri. We met our partners and planned our future cooperation during workshops and practice.

At the same time, we had cultural and research excursions in the city and nearby such as contemporary art exhibition in Aslamazyan Sisters Museum, which was funded by EU, local experimental Chamber Theatre, and some media initiatives in Gyumri.

We were also invited by one of the local media organizations Dialogue Media to have an online open discussion and interview about our network and plans in Gyumri. It was a good start for continuous cooperation.

Media Dialogue TV had several interesting meeting and interviews, especially with honorary consul of Germany in Gyumri Alex Ter-Minasyan.

September 27 was the last day in Gyumri. After the conference, we headed to Yerevan for departure. In Yerevan, we had some time to visit ACOSS artist in residence space, take some rest there and summarize our project week in Gyumri and Tbilisi. One of the most important results we got while working in Gyumri was networking with local institutions and getting new partners. We continue collaborating and exchanging information even after the project ended.



FINAL CONFERENCE IN GYUMRI

During the final conference we had speakers and discussion panel concerning the main topics that we had chosen for 2021. All participants had a chance to reflect on the results of the project week.

We had the following speeches:

- One year after the war in Artsakh: changes in the region, Artsakh and Armenia
- Actual State of Karabakh conflict, Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- Other conflicts in post-Soviet countries (Transnistria in Moldova, Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia, Crimea and Donbas in Ukraine)
- Role of the European Union and Russia in the regional conflict resolution
- War journalism and role of media in peace building
- Traditional Journalism and new technologies
- Infographics lecture (foreseen)

We also watched the documentary about the war during Covid-19 pandemic restrictions that was made within Media Dialogue 2020. Each group trainer presented their group work and the group members had a chance to explain their vision and express their thoughts, impressions and ideas.

Participants from Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova arrived in Lviv on November 20. On November 21, journalists, artists and students from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Moldova, and Ukraine came to Lviv, Ukraine for the last project week of “Media Dialogue for Conflict Sensitivity and Research”.

After an extensive city tour of the historic university city, the participants arrived at the Faculty of Journalism at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, where the workshops took place. Andrii Yatsenko, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Journalism, welcomed everyone. Participants had both fruitful working hours and some visits to famous media and interesting sights. It was the first time the project went to Lviv. Yuriy Zalizniak coordinated the project week in Lviv well.

Among the organizations the participants visited in Lviv, it's necessary to mention Перший Західний (First Western), a TV channel and radio station as well as the online media Zaxid.net. This national channel was founded by the Lviv Regional Council. The participants met Oleg Onysko, an editor-in-chief, and talked about the specific work of regional media and outlined the current situation in the media area in Ukraine.

After finishing group work and long walks in cheerful Lviv at night, our participants got on the train to Kyiv on November 24. They arrived late at night. It has been the second journey which Media Dialogue participants spend in the train together since 2015.

Kyiv

The Kyiv stage was thoroughly planned by Yevhen Tsymbalenko and Kateryna Sokolova. Kateryna dealt with picking up the most interesting events and places to include them in the program and give a chance to find the best options for each working group. The stage was planned so vigorously that even the restaurants were booked in advance and represented



different cuisines and styles.

On November 25, one of the working groups met Volodymyr Bugrov, the rector of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. After that, they visited a science exhibition “Simple Science”.

The next day started with the event, dedicated to the victims of Holodomor. In the evening the participants supported the campaign “Light the Candle” which commemorates the victims.

We held meetings at the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine as well as visited TV and radio stations of the Ministry of Defense where the patriotic content was created during the horrible russian invasion.

On November 27, the participants took the most famous tram of Podil to go to Pushcha-Vodytsya. It was a beautiful excursion. The day ended with the III International Science-in-Practice Conference of the “Media Dialogue” Project:

“Conflict Sensitivity and Research” (ONLINE) for PhD students and young scholars

On Sunday, November 28, international group went to Walking through the National Park “Mezhyhirya” to the starting point of the annual run “Escape Mezhyhirya” (the run is a joke based on the escape of Viktor Yanykovych to Russia - participants usually dress as prisoners).

After that, we came back to Kyiv city center and walked along Mariyinsky Park.

On November 29, we visited the Charity Fund “Revived Soldiers Ukraine” as well as the TV channel “DOM”.

The project week ended on November 30, 2021 with an amazing final conference in hybrid format. The participants departed from Kyiv on December 1.



The final conference in Kyiv was conducted in hybrid format. Officially nominated participants were gathered at the Institute of Journalism. Other participants could join the conference online. The conference was broadcast on YouTube and Facebook.

Yevhen Tsymbalenko and Kateryna Sokolova welcomed everyone, explained the programme and moderated the conference.

It has been the longest and the most fruitful final conference since 2015. Keynote speakers of different industries gave their speeches which left the audience delighted.

Dr Wolfgang Ressmann opened the conference, described how the project works and passed the word to the keynote speakers. Yevhen Tsymbalenko talked about the importance of projects like Media Dialogue for the students of Ukrainian educational institutions. After that, Mkrtich Tonoyan told everyone how important it is to involve the artists in Media Dialogue as art can really help to raise awareness about conflicts and social problems in the world.

Special guest, Roger Casale from the New Europeans, shared his thoughts about democracy and its development as well as the importance of handling conflict situations for finding right solutions.

The citizen journalism platform “Global Voices” gave a speech and presentation about the

basics of platform functioning.

Oleksandra Panova and Yelyzaveta Basay explained how murals can help in problem-solving.

Olena Hrozna told everyone how she worked in the university project “Simple Science” where art was used to present the best inventions and researches of Ukrainian scientists. The final conference ended with the award ceremony for cartoon contest participants as well as with the presentation of group works. Art, blog, podcast, and video groups presented their research.

Finally, every participant got a certificate of attendance. Research papers were published in the materials of the III International Online Science-in-Practice Conference of the “Media Dialogue”: http://journ.univ.kiev.ua/nauka1/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/zbirnyk_mediadialog-1.pdf





LENA KRONENBÜRGER

A good interview is a good conversation. At least that's what I thought when I came to Lviv, Ukraine, to give a workshop on podcasting and conducting interviews with professional as well as aspiring journalists. In the first session of the workshop I would hold in both Lviv and Kyiv during the Ukrainian stage of the Media Dialogue project, I wanted to talk not only about how to start a podcast, but also about a topic close to my heart: how to conduct a really good interview. Some of the participants were first-year journalism students, others were young professionals, and one participant was a renowned television journalist - all of them came from different Eastern European countries such as Moldova, Belarus, and Ukraine. We had a long and passionate debate about how to tell if the prepared question is really the right question and when to just to "shut up" in order



drawing to a close, the television journalist made a comment that has stuck with me to this day. He said: That's all well and good, but how do you deal with an oligarch as an interview partner? I was taken aback, I didn't know what to say. All the interviews I've conducted so far were with interviewees who wanted to share their expert knowledge or their personal story. He was right: all the methods we've discussed are not applicable when you're talking to someone who just doesn't want to talk to you - at least not if you really want to hear

to get more information from the interviewee. The document I had prepared for this first workshop session filled up with more and more notes as I tried to keep up with all the ideas and experiences of the participants. The atmosphere of the group was very friendly and we understood: we can and we want to work together. As the first session of the workshop was



the truth. What do you do when the sign flashes „On Air“ but the person you're talking to won't say a word? How prepared do you need to be when everything that is said could be a lie? The other participants also shook their heads. Then



the journalist put on a smile that sparkled with sarcasm. The debate did not end there. We were all too curious how he handled such situations when he conducted live interviews with oligarchs. How grateful I felt on that first day of the workshop that I could not only teach as a media trainer but also learn and be confronted with issues I have never thought about before.

The workshop continued in this direction, in Lviv, and then with some new participants also in Kyiv - full of discovery and curiosity about the experiences of the other participants. It didn't take long for the initial ideas to turn into concepts, written scripts, vividly recorded interviews and roundtable discussions - and finally edited podcast episodes. The results are impressive. Especially considering that some had never spoken into a microphone before. We learned with and from each other. From the different approaches, our different cultures, the different ideas in our heads. The participants did not choose easy paths. They chose topics that matter. Conspiracy theories and fake news and how they differ in Eastern European countries. The question of whether drawing can promote change. The hunt for Belarusian journalists and the issue of the unprecedented wave of repression against media representatives and peaceful protesters by the Lukashenko regime. The problems with freedom of expression in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine, with the urgent question: Is the press being oppressed? It is worth listening to these podcast episodes by the talented and wonderful individuals of the Podcast/Interview workshop. There is not much to do, just listen and learn.



FELIX MICHAELIS
media trainer

I was the trainer of the video group for the Ukrainian stage in Lviv and Kyiv. Together with my group, I produced the material for Media Dialogue TV which was later used for the final episodes. I recorded different videos and also the moderation by Lena together with my group, sent the material over to Samuel who then cut the material and produced the final episodes. Together with my trainees, I produced different kinds of videos such as interviews or vox pops which were later used for Media Dialogue TV or for practice.

MEDIA PRODUCTS

I was the trainer for the video group during the Ukrainian stage in Lviv and Kyiv. My group consisted of Ukrainian and Georgian students.

My group was responsible for producing the material that was later used for Media Dialogue TV or for practice and to be shown at the final conference. In Lviv we got to know each other and I taught my group the basics of video and audio production and practiced with them. The group was really interested and motivated from the beginning and most of the trainees already knew many of the basics of video and audio production which helped in the way that we could start production very early.

When we recorded the moderation and two interviews for the first episode of Media Dia-

logue TV, every trainee had the opportunity to try different roles of a classic production team, such as camera operator or audio recording. The communication within the group was really good and the products turned out very professional.

For the second episode of Media Dialogue TV, we planned our main video for the Lviv stage, which was the interview with Glafira Zhuk, an exiled belarussian journalist. As preparation for the interview, I taught the trainees about the basics of interviews in video production, such as the positioning of the person in the image.

At the final conference in Lviv, my group helped recording the whole conference by operating cameras and sound recording devices.

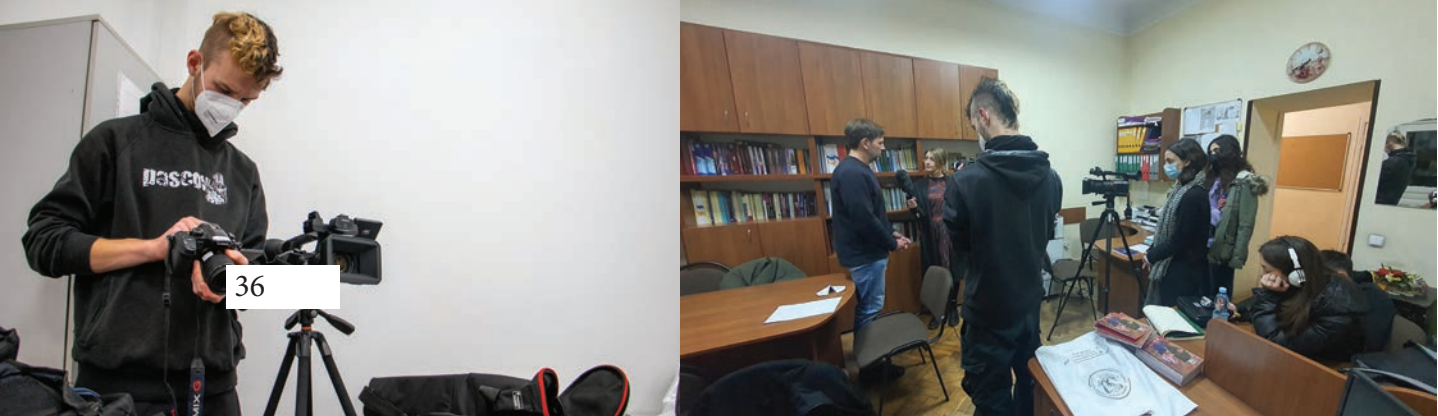
In Kyiv, no new members joined our group so we could start production from the very first day. While we were in Kyiv, we produced two more episodes of Media Dialogue TV and the trainees had many opportunities to film different interviews, events, or learn about post production. In Kyiv, the trainees were able to operate very independently and produced many good video and audio recordings whilst also being interested in learning new things or enhancing the quality of things they learned before.

In general, the work in groups was an enriching experience for me and the trainees and while I was able to teach them the technical aspects of video and audio production, I was able to learn many interesting things about the journalistic aspects of the work and of course about the cultural aspects of many different countries.



CAROLIN WART
media trainer

The products created during the station in Georgia and Armenia can all be found on YouTube. In 2021, the organizers of the project, together with the media trainers, thought that a media dialogue TV format could be an innovative idea for both the project and the participants. This was tried out in the Georgia station and also successfully confirmed. The participants proved themselves behind the camera, as a sound engineer or as a cutter. In addition to the daily production of the TV format, the participants also created their own products, such as a black and white silent film they produced independently, reports on the individual events or their own interviews, which were then broadcast on Media Dialogue TV. In Armenia, the concept of Media Dialogue TV has also proven itself and the participants have also worked on their own projector installation. This included sound and image recordings at locations such as “Ghost City” in Armenia or printing our own t-shirts. The participants accompanied their recordings with music by the Armenian artist “Tigran Hamasyan” and proudly presented them on the last day.



The work in the respective groups in Georgia and Armenia inspired me and amazed me. Starting in Georgia: At the beginning of the project, there were of course some reservations about the technology, but before the participants from Caucasus University knew it, they were already behind the camera for recordings of the Opening Conference and dealt directly with the technology and immediately felt comfortable. True to the motto: Learning by doing! Thus, the first experiences left a positive mark and the participants were very enthusiastic and threw themselves into production. As part of the workshops, for example, they designed, shot and edited a black and white silent film about freedom of the press in Georgia. The work on the first episodes of Media Dialogue TV ran in parallel and the participants took over the sound, camera and editing. Willingness to help and active participation have been important cornerstones for working together, which has also continued in Armenia. Together with the students of the Gyumri Technological Center and the Academy of Fine Arts, the participants designed a digital projector exhibition from the materials collected from the project. The motto was: “United we stand,



divided we fall.” Media Dialogue forms the interface and at the same time has become a place of encounter and exchange, where people from civil society and artists and cultural workers exchange information about the media in the respective partner countries. This was the guiding principle when creating the projector installation. Of course, the Media Dialogue TV episodes were also produced very diligently at the same time.



SAMUEL DEBUS

I am the trainee for picture and sound at OK-TV Ludwigshafen and it is already the second time that I got to work for the Media Dialogue project. After I was responsible for the technical organization and documentation of some of the online seminars from the Media Dialogue in 2020, this year I had the task to start a new video format reporting about the events of the Media Dialogue 2021 together with Lena

Kronenbürger.

Our work started back in August, where Lena and I planned the setting and the content that would lead us through the chapters. We also talked about the possibility to stream live, but due to the unknown availability of a stable internet connection, we decided to take our time for the post production of each Chapter and to publish the program with only one day of delay. After we knew the topics (program, pictures, video, interview and cartoon of the day) and how they would look later on, I started working on the design with my colleague Robin Novotny. After some quick checks by Lena and Mr. Ressmann, we thought it would be a great idea to test it all with a pilot episode.

The fact that Lena was in Munich and Cologne and we were in Ludwigshafen for the whole conception stage and the first chapter as well, made it realistic and similar to the





later on situation where Media Dialogue TV would take place in the participating countries.

We wanted to record, cut and publish the chapter all in one day to see if it is possible and which steps or improvements would be necessary. So on the 9th of september we recorded the Media Dialogue TV Chapter 1 from Ludwigshafen and cologne

and cut and published it the same day. We were successful and ready for Georgia!

The communication between Lena and me has been via WhatsApp, mail or telephone for the whole process and it would stay the same for all the following Chapters as I would stay in Ludwigshafen for cutting. That's why we were used to it and didn't have to change the way of communication when the project in Georgia started.

As Lena was responsible for the content and I had to cut, a third person to shoot and send over the material to Germany was Caro (in Georgia and Armenia) and Felix (in Ukraine). Every day after the shooting they sent me over the material, which I could cut the following day. So almost all of the Chapters were produced within two days. Sometimes we had problems with the internet connection wich retarded the arrival of new footage in Ludwigshafen, but mostly we managed to finish the Chapters the next day. Over this time I was in constant exchange with Lena, who every now and then sent me beautiful pictures of the cities that let me dive in these wonderful locations as well. I also talked or wrote to both of the media trainers and Mr. Ressmann as well. We exchanged feedback every day to improve the quality of each Chapter and it all went smoothly.



Besides the Media Dialogue TV Chapters we also published some extra, extended or other interesting material on our YouTube channel that went along the project wonderfully. For example one of the most catching, emotional and interesting topics of the Media Dialogue was the rehabilitation center from "Next Step Ukraine".

Looking back on the project and the documentation via Media Dialogue TV I am very proud of what we have done. I think it is a nice possibility to look back on the project and remember the many interesting moments of it. I hope that we could make a contribution to the strength of journalism and the democracy in these countries and I am very thankful to having been a part of the Media Dialogue 2021.





The “Media Dialog” podcast group enabled young, aspiring journalists in Lviv and Kyiv in Ukraine to step behind the microphone. Writing a concept, researching, conducting interviews, and editing the collected audio tracks were all part of creating Media Dialog podcast episodes. The workshop was led by journalist and podcaster Lena Kronenbürger.

1) Media Dialogue Podcast Episode

The press oppressed? - Problems with freedom of speech in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

It’s been 30 years since Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine regained their independence. But have the media become independent as well? In this episode of the Media Dialogue podcast,



Glafira Zhuk (Belarus), Constantin Uzdris (Moldova) and Kateryna Shcherbak (Ukraine) draw a comparison between the problems surrounding the media landscape in their respective countries.

– A podcast episode by Glafira Zhuk, Kateryna Shcherbak and Constantin Uzdriz–Post production: Lena Kronenbürger, Samuel Debus

–Published on November 26, 2021

– listen here: <https://bit.ly/3nqzctZ>

2) Media Dialogue Podcast Episode 2

The Hunt for Belarusian Journalists

The rigged presidential elections in Belarus in 2020 were followed by an unprecedented wave of repression against media representatives and peaceful demonstrators. Security forces arrested more than 500 journalists, Lukashenko wiped out the





country's leading independent media, and many journalists were forced to leave the country. Glafira Zhuk, journalist and participant of the Media Dialogue 2021, spoke with Belarusian journalist Natalya Lubnevskaya about how she worked during the protests and how the media sector functions now.

–A podcast episode by Glafira Zhuk and Natalya Lubnevskaya

–Post production: Lena Kronenbürger, Samuel Debus

–Published on November 27, 2021

– listen here: <https://bit.ly/3OrAj8y>

3) Media Dialogue Podcast Episode 3

Fake News and Conspiracy Theories surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic: A comparison between Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine

Microchips, Bill Gates, infertility... Do these terms sound familiar to you, too? In this epi-



By Mykola Voloshin



sode of the Media Dialogue podcast, we discuss fakes and conspiracy theories associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as possible solutions to the issue.

–A podcast episode by Mary Tonoyan (Armenia), Ana Tateshvili (Georgia), and Irina Odobescu (Moldova). The roundtable is moderated by Ioalanta Trots and Kateryna Shcherbak from Ukraine.

–Post production: Samuel Debus

–Published in December, 2021

– listen here: <https://bit.ly/3znSXHV>

3) Media Dialogue Podcast Episode 4

Drawing for change: Interview with the cartoonist Mykola Voloshin

From the front page of a newspaper to internet memes, cartoons are known for portraying political and social issues in a humorous way. But are they still effective these days? In this episode of the Media Dialogue Podcast, we talk to Mykola Voloshin, an Ukrainian cartoonist and professional illustrator. He has been a participant, finalist and winner of numerous international caricature competitions and will explain the current situation of his art genre.

–A podcast episode by Kateryna Shcherbak

–Post production: Samuel Debus

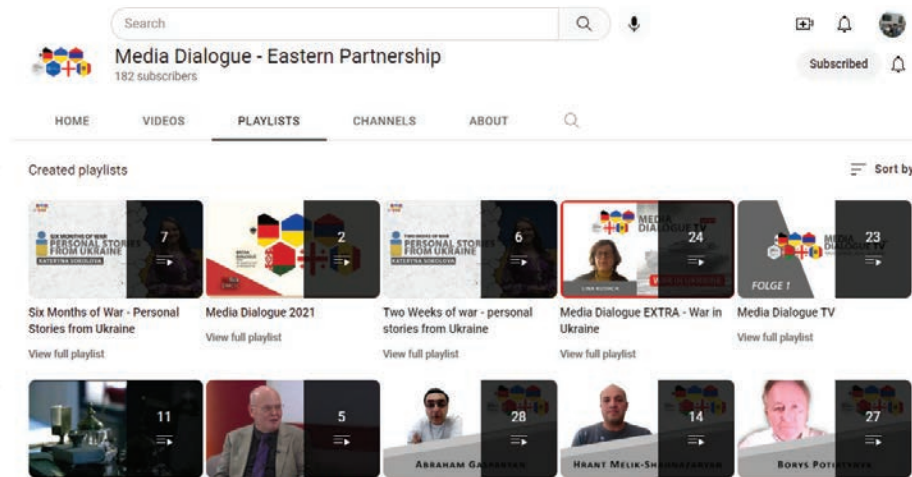
–Published in December, 2021

– listen here: <https://bit.ly/3HZ03qw>

MEDIA DIALOGUE ON YouTube

The Youtube-Channel of the „Media Dialogue“ was created in the context of the 2019th project for „Democracy an peace“. The Youtube-platform has several different containment:

a) Reports of TV-Stations in participating countries since the start of the project in 2015



- b) Media-Dialogue-TV (startet in 2021)
- c) Video reports produced by the video-groups of the project since 2015
- d) documentation of the online-parts of the project 2020 and 2021

Some statistics:

- a) In total 139 different videos are published on the channel (June 2022).
- b) 186 subscribers
- c) more than 7000 views

The Youtube-Channel is also a window showing the development of the project since 2015, the videos are also

reflecting the development and the professionalizing of the Media Dialogue.

The keynote-documentation of the online-parts 2020 and 2021 are an archive of background informations about the situation in Ukraine, Moldava, Georgia, Belarus and Armenia. Especially the keynotes about the demonstrations of the civil society in Belarus against the fake results of the presidential elections may become contemporary important. The same applies to the keynotes during the Berg-Karabach war in 2020.

A number of videos, especially „Media-Dialogue-TV“ were broadcasted by German public access channels by cable, satellite and IP-TV.

“PEOPLE INTERESTED IN EASTERN EUROPE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO KNOW GEORGIA, ARMENIA, MOLDOVA, UKRAINE, AND BELARUS BETTER”

Lena Kronenbürger

Working with young, aspiring journalists together with professional journalists, artists and academics is an experience that changes everyone being involved. The cultural exchange, the work in groups, and the long conversations with people from different Eastern European countries are enriching.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Media Dialogue focused on online seminars and online workshops only. In summer 2021, the organizers of the Media Dialogue decided to work in a hybrid way - not only online seminars but also face-to-face workshops should follow in fall 2021. In September, we met in Georgia, then in Armenia, and in November, we worked together in Ukraine. However, there is a disadvantage when it comes to in-person workshops compared to online work: only a limited number of people can participate. The idea for Media Dialogue TV was born! We wanted to bring Georgia - our first destination in 2021 - closer to all the people who could not participate on site. The goal was to make the Media Dialogue project and our journalistic and cultural trips to Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine more accessible to a wider audience.

Media Dialogue TV follows a specific structure with each episode. For this purpose, the participants and media trainers of the Media Dialogue project worked hand in hand with OK TV Ludwigshafen in Germany. Interviews were conducted on the ground - in Tbilisi

MEDIA DIALOGUE TV

in Georgia, in Gyumri and Yerevan in Armenia, and in Lviv and Kyiv in Ukraine - with project participants, the organizers and local experts and journalists. The results of the work in groups such as videos, podcast episodes and blog articles, were shared. Impressions from the journeys were shown through photos and videos.

In Georgia and Armenia, Media Dialogue TV was produced by the participants of the video group led by Caroline Wart; in Ukraine it was mentored by Felix Michaelis. Lena Kronenbürger conducted the interviews and moderated the Media Dialogue TV episodes. Samuel Debus from OK TV Ludwigshafen in Germany was responsible for editing and postproduction.

Shortly after the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the Media Dialogue TV format helped the partners and organizers of the media dialogue project to hold conversations with experts and the young generation to shed light on their personal stories and war experiences and to better convey the background of the war to viewers. Media Dialogue TV can be seen on YouTube and is distributed through citizen media in Germany. The original idea of Media Dialogue TV has remained the same to this day: People interested in Eastern Europe should be able to get to know Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Belarus better - through personal stories, scientific findings, and by making the work of journalists visible.



MINOAS ANDRIOTIS
media trainer

During the ten days of the project’s first stage we have not only traveled from Tbilisi to Gyumri, but we also went on a learning journey together. We learned by working on the media products, we learned through the experiences we made and we learned from each other.

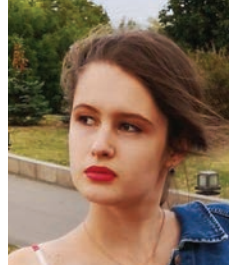
In the year 2020 the project was held online – because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It worked well and we had important learnings, but in 2021 we could finally come together in person again. This made the whole project an even more intense experience. The meetings and discussions with representatives of organizations and with project partners had very different dynamics. That was interesting especially for the blog group, because its main task was to report about the project and its discussions. And of course the group was finally able to take photos again to also give the blog’s readers a visual impression from the whole project.

The participants of the blog group did not only chose the group because they wanted to focus on journalistic writing, but also because they wanted to research and write about topics connected to the project that they could choose themselves. This was easier possible in the blog group than in the video group, for example, where the participants worked on one product all together. In the blog group in comparison we worked on

BLOG GROUP



several different articles and topics like the role of media and NGOs in Georgia and Armenia, cartoons in information wars, the region's history and others. Although writing articles is rather something solitary, we really worked together as a group. We discussed our work together and we talked about which topics to pick for the blog. Some participants even wrote articles together. And of course during the writing process and after finishing an article the participants of the group supported each other and gave each other feedback. The same was the case for photography where some participants were more experienced than others and could thus give them advice. Apart from the work for the blog, something special to me were conversations with young participants from Georgia and Armenia who talked about the situation in their countries: about the political system, gender norms, job perspectives and much more. They told me that they were unsatisfied with many things, but at the same time I saw that they still believed that things can change to the better. For me this belief was expressed by the young participants' interest in social and political topics, in their choice to study and work in journalism and connected fields and also in the way they try to deal with unsatisfying conditions in their everyday life. I wish the participants all the best on their further learning journeys and hope they will keep their idealism!



MARIIA SABADASH

Art is not only beautiful, but it carries a deep meaning. Art helps to draw attention to important social issues, to focus attention sometimes even more effectively than text. It was in the study of art objects as tools to attract attention that the work of the Art group consisted.

There were students from Ukraine and Moldova in my group. These were junior students, who are still just beginning to develop in the field of journalism, and senior students who are already quite successfully working in professional media. This allowed them to share their experience, and junior students could present original solutions and ideas.

First of all, I prepared a presentation with examples of using art objects as tools to promote social problems.

The group saw that street art not only brightens gray buildings and makes cities more colorful, but also helps to draw attention to such serious issues as the environment, violence, health, education, and conflict.

First of all, I spoke about the main theses that reveal why street art can act as a communication tool for popularizing social problems. The opinions of various world researchers were considered, with the help of Lasswell's model of communication, the art object-au-

dience communication system was schematically studied, the group was introduced to social murals, and a discussion was held on the role of street art in drawing attention to various problems.

But my speech quickly turned into a discussion, during which the participants shared their thoughts on this topic, gave examples from their cities and countries, said that they themselves repeatedly noticed how certain art objects raised difficult topics and attracted media attention.

I decided that the best way to understand the effectiveness of this tool is firsthand. To do this, I arranged in advance to meet with the authors of two murals that draw attention to social problems.

The members of the group got acquainted in more detail with two projects that, with the help of street art, touch on important issues. To better understand how these projects allow art to popularize social problems, the

group members carefully studied the art objects, talked with the authors of the idea and creators of these art objects, and also recorded interviews with them.

In order for the conversation with the authors of the murals to be informative, I told about the main ideas of the projects, their history and development, and helped the participants to come up with questions for the interview. In addition, the interviews were taken right next to the art objects, which helped the participants to better imagine the situation. Both projects were very deep in meaning. The first dedicated to the problem of Crimean political prisoners who are forced to serve a contrived sentence for 10, 15 or 20 years; according to its goal, the project should remind the Ukrainian society that Russia is still holding hostage almost a hundred Crimean political prisoners, as well as raise the level of public knowledge about each prisoner. Second project touches upon the problem



of domestic violence, this is a series of murals about strong women who have managed to break the cycle of violence in their lives.

Both projects impressed the participants. In addition to the interview questions, the participants communicated with the authors not on camera, but by discussing various issues on the topic in a private conversation.

After the interviews were filmed, we began editing them. There were some technical problems, but we quickly solved them and the participants managed to make two quality and informative videos about murals as a tool to draw attention to social problems.

In general, for me the work as a trainer was a new experience and a positive impression, as well as the exchange of knowledge and valuable thoughts on the research topic with the group members. We still communicate with the participants and they periodically send me examples of art objects from their cities.





T-SHIRT PRINTING IN GYUMRI

In Aslamasyan Sisters' Museum, we had a workshop of screen printmaking technologies, demonstrated right on the yard of the museum by a director Karen Barseghyan. Every participant got a T-shirt with a specially created print, which symbolized our meeting in Gyumri. This souvenir will always remind us of our stay in Gyumri.



CARTOON CONTEST

For the first time in many years, students of Ukrainian universities from Kyiv, Lviv and Lutsk took part in a workshop on cartoonism. The participants showed their creativity in the contest, which was organized after the workshop. The Educational and Scientific Institute of Journalism of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, together with its partners OK TV Ludwigshafen (Germany) and the NGO “Forum of Ukrainian Journalists” (Lutsk, Ukraine) determined the winners of the cartoon contest held in October 2021 as part of the international project “Media Dialogue for Conflict Sensitivity and Research”. An award-winning Ukrainian cartoonist Mykola Voloshyn helped the participants to focus on interesting topics, and gave advice on how to find and highlight signature traits of any person. This was the first time art and design was officially represented in the “Media Dialogue” project. The 2-year student of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Journalism Kateryna Shcherbak won the contest with her artwork “Deceptive Appearance”. The artwork presented the girl wearing a russian national costume with the flag of russia. She is holding a missile. The sign of the nuclear danger is on the missile, the tank is one of the toys and the border of Ukraine is broken by the girl. It symbolizes the lies of russian dictatorship, hidden under the mask of the savior. After the contest, the participants got their certificates and prizes. The prizes included different tools for artists to make future masterpieces even better.



What goes through your mind when the air sirens go off?
What is it like to seek protection in a shelter?
Or even such a simple question, yet a darn difficult one to answer in times of war:

How are you?

The answers to these questions form the core of the video series “Personal stories from Ukraine”. They come from young Ukrainians who are participants and organizers of the “Media Dialogue” project. Kateryna Sokolova, Iolanta Trots, Yana Shekeriak, Kateryna Sherback, Anna Kaplinska and Pavlo Stelmakh live in Kyiv, Lviv, and Odessa. They all have stories to tell, about the moment they knew the war had started, about humor and anger, and about what it is like to be afraid of death.

Each of them has their own point of view, their own way of dealing with the Russian war of aggression on their country - but they are all united by something: the hope that they will be able to rebuild their country and that the war will end with a Ukrainian victory.

Through the power of stories, we have the opportunity to get closer to everyday life in Kiev, Lviv and Odessa - the everyday life of six Ukrainians six months after the war began.

YouTube: Media Dialogue - Eastern Partnership

Series Part I: Two weeks after the beginning of the war

Series Part II: Six months after the beginning of the war

Concept & Moderation: Lena Kronenbürger

Editing & Design: Samuel Debus

NO ONE GIVES UP

By YANA SHEKERIAK



Thank you again for listening to my personal story. It is really very valuable now. Because what scares and angers me the most, is oblivion. Indifference. When I spread information about the killing of Ukrainian prisoners of war in Olenivka, Facebook and Instagram delete or hide it as “sensitive content”. This is unfair. We talk about the responsibility of all Russians for the war, because it is not Putin alone who fires missiles at our cities, kills civilians and prisoners, and tortures and rapes Ukrainians. But when we say that, the world doesn’t hear us and talks about peace for everyone and “war is bad for everyone”. Yes, war is bad for everyone, but we didn’t start this war. We defend ourselves. We can’t just lay down our arms because then the Ukrainians will simply be exterminated as a nation. This angers and saddens me the most - the fact that for many in the world we are “sensitive content” Many people are more interested in oil, gas, grain, business, and not the price of this business with Russia, the price that we Ukrainians pay, the price of millions of crippled lives. However, I feel hope. I hope for my people, for the armed forces of Ukraine. I understand that this war can last not for months, but for years. And with each new month, the state of our economy will deteriorate, and even now it is more difficult for us to donate to the army, for civilians, because people are running out of money. But at the same time, we continue to do it. Those who are not military service men now are preparing and training, because they understand that they will also need to be a part of our army. Volunteers collect and provide for people ammunition and medicines despite the economic troubles. We bear losses, terrible losses. We have many victims both among the military and among civilians. But no one gives up. Everyone realizes that there is no option for us to give up, we will continue to fight and live until we win, or until the last Ukrainian is murdered.



**KATERYNA
SHCHERBAK**

Kateryna Shcherbak is a 2-year student of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her major is “Journalism and Social Communication”. She is an artist. She won the main prize in the Media Dialogue cartoon contest.

Looking back at it now, I would call the main topic of the Media Dialogue 2021 project painfully relevant. Comparison of the Eastern European countries’ traumatic experiences made me more literate about these topics, critical, and empathetic. I have learnt how crucial it is to show the true colours of my country in the face of Russian propaganda. Additionally, I have sharpened my journalistic skills under the guidance of professional mentors.



ANA TATESHVILI

Participating in the Media Dialogue 2021 definitely was a highlight of last year’s project. Not only did I get a chance to deepen my knowledge of important media topics in the context of conflicts, but I also attained a new skill set connected with cameras and video editing (special thanks to my media trainers Caro and Felix). I am beyond grateful for having a chance to work with an incredible international team and creating memories. I will never forget this project.



**ALINA
ARUSTAMIAN**

Alina Arustamyan is a 3-year student of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her major is “Advertising and Public Relations”.



**VOLODYMYR
DANYLIUK**

Volodymyr Danyliuk is the Head of the “Forum of Ukrainian Journalists” as well the member and a regional secretary of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine.

Anastasiia Soshalska is a 2-year student of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her major is “Media Production”.



**ANASTASIIA
SOSHALSKA**

Serhii Tomilenko is the Head of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine.



**SERHII
TOMILENKO**



ELENE TVAURI

Participating in the Media Dialogue project 2021 was the best decision I have ever made. At first, working in Tbilisi, then, in Kyiv and Lviv, helped me develop my knowledge about major media topics throughout the world. I was able to work in video and blog groups, which deepened my skills in writing and filming. On top of that, visiting unique historical places made this experience even more interesting.



MARIAM BEKAIA

Media Dialogue creates an outstanding unity of various cultures. It gives communities hope and opens the door to a better world. The project has helped us to realize that we should always take into consideration our past and analyze the present to create a better future. It was an honor to be a member of the team, which gave me unforgettable memories and an experience of a lifetime.



**YEVHEN
TSYMBALENKO**

Yevhen Tsymbalenko is a Deputy Director and an Associate Professor of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

Kateryna Sokolova is an Assistant Professor of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.



**KATERYNA
SOKOLOVA**



**VLADIMIR
HARUTYUNYAN**

Military journalist, military expert, representing N. Karabakh

During the project, I had an opportunity to make presentations on the topics “History and causes of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”, “The role and activities of journalists in covering the war in Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020”, “Post-war situation and possible developments in the zone of the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict”. I was lucky to make many new friends from the post-Soviet countries and Europe. I learned a lot of new things and discovered a lot of interesting facts. We are now united in one big family, which we can always come back to.



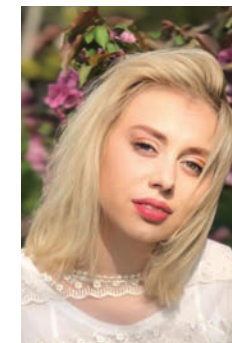
**ANNA
KOCHARYAN**

Lecturer, Art Academy of Gyumri



**CONSTANTIN
UZDRIS**

Journalist, TVR Moldova



**OLGA
SOROCEANU**

Works at Vocea Basarabiei Radio / TV



**ANNA
KAPLINSKA**

Anna Kaplinska is a student of the National University “Odesa Law Academy”.



**ARTUSH
PETROSYAN**

Student of Theater and Cinema Academy



**HASMIK
MKHITARYAN**

President at «Progress of Gyumri» NGO - Civil Society Development Center and Project Director at Dialogue Media Center - DMC



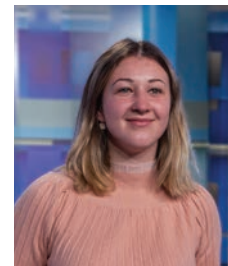
**LILYA
TONOYAN**

Lilya is a student of fine art in Art Academy, she is a painter. She works in different styles of contemporary art like sculpture, painting, graphic art.



**KAREN
BARSEGHYAN**

Director of Aslamazyan Sisters Museum (Gyumri)



**IRINA OBOBESCU
MOLDOVA**

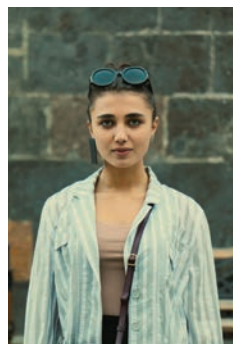
Communication / External Relation Associate at UNHCR-Moldova

When you want to do something better, you can't do it without supportive people who are ready to teach you. Media Dialogue is an open door to finding out more information and having more friends. Spending time with professionals and learning, enjoying our time together and being surrounded by friendly people – this is what Media Dialogue means. I am grateful for kindness and eagerness to share information.

Iolanta Trots is a 2-year student of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her major is “Journalism and Social Communication”.



**IOLANTA
TROTS**



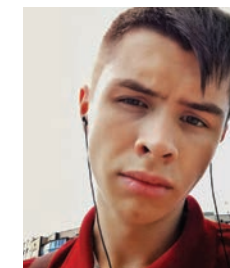
**ANNE
GRIGORYAN**

Innovations officer & graphic designer at GTC

We ended up building a strong bond, gaining tons of knowledge about other cultures, nations and their preferences. Working with so many people may seem challenging at first. In fact, the skills gained thanks to that connection are irreplaceable. Media Dialogue gave me a chance to stay in touch with people and appreciate our achievements.

PAUL SHTELMAKH

Student of the Institute of Journalism at the National University of Kyiv.



Media Dialogue is a wonderful project, which brings together people from different countries and cultures as well as creates the ties between them. I absolutely enjoyed the journalistic work that we did in teams. Our results were great. Such projects are the must for students, teachers, and journalists. I am looking forward to the next MD 2022 in Ukraine after we win the war.



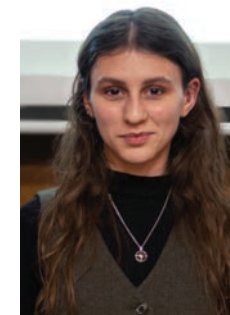
**GLAFIRA ZHUK,
FROM BELARUS IN
EXILE**

Media Dialogue gave me an opportunity to meet colleagues from other countries, discuss and find out which problems they have with media freedom as well as exchange experiences. I also found out how the media function in their countries, which problems they face and how they try to solve them. I also got a chance to talk about the events in Belarus, mass repressions, and journalists in exile.



**POLINA
ZABOLOTNA**

Polina Zabolotna is a student of the Lesia Ukrainka East European National University. She is also an artist. She won one of the prizes in the Media Dialogue cartoon contest.



**VERONIKA
SKRYPKINA**

Veronika Skrypkina is a 4-year student of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her major is “Advertising and Public Relations”.



**LIUBOV
SLAUTYNSKA**

Liubov Slautynska is a 2-year student of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her major is “Journalism and Social Communication”.

Olesia Podvorniak is a 2-year student of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her major is “Media Production”.



**OLESIA
PODVORNIAC**



**TIRUHI
TONOYAN**

Student, graphic design faculty of Yerevan State University.



**YANA
KHARYTONENKOVA**

Yana Kharytonenkova is a 2-year student of the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her major is “Journalism and Social Communication”.





**YURII
ZALIZNIAK**

Yurii Zalizniak is an Associate Professor at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

Yana Shekeriak is a student of the Faculty of Journalism (New Media Department) at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.



**YANA
SHEKERIAK**



**BELA
HARUTYUNYAN**

Business Development Manager of GTC

Media Dialogue project became a platform where young designers, artists, communication specialists and researchers came together to create meaningful cross-disciplinary content, portraying the pressure of informing about the conflicts across the globe. As for the Technology Center, it was important for our team and students to learn about co-creation and voicing their opinion through visual language as well as getting acquainted with professionals from different countries to express themselves.



**LALA
TOROSIAN**
Media & communications intern at GTC

I was in a blog group, which is directly related to the work I enjoy the most. I love content creation (story making, posting, and writing) which allowed me to contribute to the project by taking responsibility for raising awareness on social platforms. Overall, I was able to expand my network by collaborating with professionals, getting experience and developing new skills in SMM. I acquired valuable knowledge as well as improved critical thinking regarding an essential issue of conflict sensitivity.



**GAYANE
MOVSISYAN**
Student, graphic design intern at GTC

The project gave me an opportunity to experiment with my creativity, push myself to explore my technical capacity and create a graphical visual, which portrays my understanding of conflict resolution.



**AREGNAZ
TONOYAN**

Student of theater and film directing department, Cultural College of Yerevan



**HRACH
VARDANYAN**
artist, founder of Galique Arts Space, director of Gyumri Branch of Akos Cultural NGO



MEDIA DIALOGUE FUTURE GOALS OF THE PROJECT

On February 24, 2022 – shortly after the end of the „Media Dialogue 2021 for conflict sensitivity and research“ – the Russian aggression against Ukraine began. Russian rockets hit several civilian facilities in the city of Kyiv.

In November 2021, the participants of the Kyiv stage produced a TV report about a rehabilitation center for wounded Ukrainian soldiers from the former front in the Donbas region. Meanwhile, the ruins of Irpin became one of the important symbols of Putin-Russian war crimes, but also of Ukraine’s resistance to the new Kremlin imperialism.

Propaganda, hate speech, and the spread of Fake News by Putin-Russia’s propaganda machine paved the way for the first invasion of a peaceful country since Hitler-Germans attacked Poland in 1939.

Ukraine’s resistance to the Putin-Russia war is also a fight for democratic values. One of the most important rights is the freedom of speech and expression. This is the field of work of the Media Dialogue project.

The basis of the Media Dialogue Project is the support democratic ideas in the former Soviet republics - Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, and Belarus - as an instrument for peaceful development in Europe.

The plan of the aggression against Ukraine is based on the 2008 Putin-Russia war against Georgia, the Kremlin’s involvement in Syria, and 2020 in the suppression of protests against stolen elections in Belarus. The reserved role of Putin-Russia during the war between Turkey and Azerbaijan against Armenia can be also seen as a part of preparations for the war against Ukraine. Keeping Turkey calm after February 24, 2022, punishing Armenia for the silent (democratic) revolution and allowing Putin-Russia to deploy troops in the Caucasus region. A final event before the aggression against Kyiv started was the suppression of the protest movement in Kazakhstan in January 2022. Freedom of Speech and democratic values are the main enemies of the kleptocratic dictators. War inflicts wounds, to the soldiers, to the people, to the countries, and often in between the nations involved.

Media Dialogue must include all these impacts against a democratic development in the post-soviet countries. Rebuilding structures of security and trust, and rebuilding destroyed infrastructure without corruption can only succeed in combination with a media system that informs the audience about facts and background information.

During the war in Ukraine, the Media Dialogue Network held together, even as different points of view emerged about the background to the events of the war since 2020.

Media Dialogue will continue to work to „tell the truth and not feed the flame“ together with our participating professional journalists, universities, and their lecturers and most importantly for future development: students.

I am certain that the Media Dialogue Network is making a valuable and effective contribution to healing the wounds of war and oppression.

Dr. Wolfgang Ressmann

October 2022

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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