

Editorial

Agency journalism is not adequately represented in theoretical and empirical research, the related literature is insufficient, and professional discussions and conferences are rare. Because of the given reasons, we decided to publish a thematic issue of the *Media Research*. This issue is the collection of presentations from an international experts' conference held in Zagreb on October 24th 2005, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Croatian News Agency-Hina, founded by the Croatian parliament in 1990. Alongside this agency, there is an independent news agency called STINA in Split, and catholic news agency called IKA. We bring in analysis and strategies for the development of media politics towards news agencies presented by the directors of these agencies.

We also publish the presentations of international participants and their opinion on modern social trends responsible for the transition of news agencies from the present untenable state to new solutions, adjusted to requests of the market, technological prosperity and modern journalism.

Erik Nylen, the head secretary of the European Alliance of News Agencies, EANA, seated in Switzerland, which has 30 members, called attention to the importance of the legal protection of intellectual property in today's technological world with no borders.

Igor Vezovnik, director of the Slovenian news agency STA, emphasised the problem of news agencies in small countries, with a small market and a few potential users. He also pointed out that any form of state property creates a possibility for the misuse of data sources in order to preserve political interests of the present government.

Wolfgang Vyslozil analysed the connection between independent agencies and free journalism in Europe supported by the association of independent European news agencies "Group 39", emphasising the commercial advantages of independent agencies.

The thematic issue also brings articles written by prominent Croatian journalists and media experts, who, from the position of information users, analyse the importance of agency journalism for different media, radio, television, press or internet portals, as well as for civilian organizations and other public users.

Alongside the professional articles about agency journalism, this issue includes three scientific papers.

The paper written by Melita Poler Kovačič and Vesna Laban is an interesting empirical research of the news texts of the Slovenian news agency STA. Results of this linguistic-stylistic analysis showed how journalists give out the information in the purest form of definite, schematically written news, without any stylistic originality. This simplicity, compression and dismantling of the text makes the message indistinctive, with no apparent information source, which can also be seen, as the authors emphasise, in infrequent use of direct speech.

Articles written by Aleksandar Halimi and two authors, Goran Bubaš and Željko Hutinski, do not engage in agency journalism.

Aleksandar Halmi, in his article “Application of chaos and complexity theory in public opinion research during presidential campaign in Croatia in 2005”, recognizes, in the context of new approaches and methodologies used in social sciences, the limitations of traditional, deterministic models for the interpretation of social phenomena. He also created a possibility for a new approach in the analysis of social processes, using the new chaos theory on the example of presidential election in Croatia in 2005.

Goran Bubaš and Željko Hutinski, in their article “Conceptual model, potential predictors and the extent of the affinity for Internet usage”, talk about the problem of the motivation for the use of the Internet and present the results of the empirical research from a study on 435 students about potential predictors and factors influencing this problem. The data were analyzed using regression and factor analysis, and the predictors for the frequency of Internet usage, willingness to use the Internet as well as the motivation for it, are discussed.

We thank the authors and other colleagues who contributed to this issue. We invite you to collaborate with us in the future, and to send us your articles, comments and suggestions.

Editorial board