

Editorial

The first part of this issue of *Media Research* carries two research papers, while the second part contains the conference papers and presentations from the international seminar entitled Ten Years After – The Media in Transition: Lessons in Central and Eastern Europe. The specific topic was A New Strategy for Independent and Pluralistic Media in Croatia. The seminar was organized jointly by the UNESCO Programme for Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace in Paris and the Institute for International Relations in Zagreb. It was held in the Croatian Journalists' Association auditorium in Zagreb, 10 – 11 November 2000.

In his "Paradoxes of the Internet", Goran Bubaš explores various controversial phenomena that accompany the spread of the Internet in the technological, informational, economic and social domains. Some of these phenomena go counter to the usual expectations and stereotypes and are therefore called paradoxes. The author looks into the roots of such controversies and seeks to identify their causes, mutual relationships and possible consequences for the future of the Internet.

In her paper "The Web Sites of Croatian Radio Stations", Marina Mučalo analyzes the number and contents of the web pages on which Croatian radio stations presented themselves. At that time, there were 126 radio stations in Croatia (excluding Croatian Radio), of which 50 had their own web sites. The research reported in this paper is a rare attempt to show radio's search for a new form of expression, which, however, has not yet found its proper multimedia profile.

The seminar on the media in transition in Central and Eastern Europe and a new strategy for independent and pluralistic media in Croatia dominates this issue of our journal. It brought together those responsible for the media policy in Croatia, representatives of the legislative and executive authorities, owners and managers of media houses, and domestic and international media experts and professionals. Their contributions were intended to improve the mutual understanding between the authorities and media specialists in the domain of media policies in Europe. The specific purpose was to contribute to Croatian efforts designed to develop a democratic and market-sustainable media policy and an independent and pluralistic media network in Croatia.

The presentations published here deal with a variety of open issues on the fluctuating media scene. They concern media freedom and legislation, media policies, professional self-regulation and ethics, and the effects of market laws on media practices.

The seminar succeeded in deepening the dialogue within the profession, focusing in particular on issues that remain unsolved. It enabled the Croatian government to reiterate its commitment to secure an independent role for the media in the country, free of political interference in their editorial policies, in accordance with the democratic standards and recommendations of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as the Media Charter in the Stability Pact.

We shall look forward to our continued cooperation. Your further contributions, comments and suggestions are welcome.

The Editors