

# THE MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY MONITOR 2021

## HOW LEADING NEWS MEDIA SURVIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

**SAVE THE DATE: 15 APRIL 2021 | 3:00-4:15 PM CEST (BRUSSELS)**

### **Register online [here](#)**

The webinar will take place online via Zoom.

### **Description:**

Freedom, equality and control are core values of democracy. In the Media for Democracy Monitor (MDM), we translate these values into communication functions. The media's information function is derived from freedom; the forum function allowing for public discussion of diverse ideas responds to equality, and the function to act as a watchdog over the use and abuse of all types of power echoes with the control value.

These three media functions turned into MDM dimensions are then measured on 30 indicators. By way of example: company rules against external influence in the newsroom are an indicator of freedom; low ownership concentration at the national, regional and local levels is an indicator of equality; and journalism job security as an indicator of the control value/watchdog function.

In this webinar we will present the methodology of the Media for Democracy Monitor 2021, and briefly provide some of the core findings on how the leading news media and journalistic infrastructure in 18 mature democracies around the globe are performing with regard to these core values. This webinar will also mark the full release of the 2021 findings of the Media for Democracy Monitor.

Since its first edition in 2011, the MDM methodology was revised to reflect the changing conditions of the news media in a decade characterised by digital transformation, with affordances and challenges for journalists. Some new indicators were added concerning gender equality, misinformation campaigns and threat and harassment of journalists. We will illustrate our methods and findings as applied to the overall performance of leading news media in one country: the Netherlands. Furthermore, three areas of concern that are highly characteristic for journalistic practices nowadays will be discussed: the precarisation of the journalistic profession, coping with misinformation, and with growing (online) intimidation and harassment. Five researchers from the Media for Democracy Monitor team will present these topics.

The Media for Democracy Monitor 2021 (MDM) is a research project conducted under the umbrella of the Euromedia Research Group in the first half of 2020.

This webinar is organised by The Euromedia Research Group, the Dutch Journalism Fund and the Institute for Media Studies (KU Leuven), as part of the Media for Democracy Monitor Project.

Follow us on social media: [@EuromediaRG](#), [@SVDJnieuws](#), [@JosefTrappel](#), [@LeendHaenens](#)

**Find out more at [euromediagroup.org/MDM](https://euromediagroup.org/MDM)**

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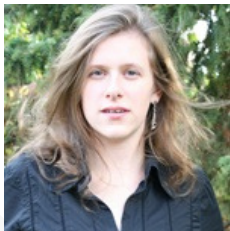
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### Our Speakers



#### Josef Trappel

Josef Trappel is Professor for media policy and media economics and the head of the department for communication studies at the University of Salzburg, Austria. His research work concentrates on media and democracy, changes in media structures and their implications on mass communication, digitisation and innovation, national and international media policy and media economics. He is the convener of the Euromedia Research Group and Director of the EU Erasmus+ Joint Master Programme "Digital Communication Leadership".



#### Hanne Vandenberghe

Hanne Vandenberghe is a Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer at the Institute for Media Studies at the University of Leuven (Belgium). She finished her PhD at the Institute for Media Studies in December 2017, with a dissertation titled 'News diversity: a Longitudinal and Comparative Perspective'. Her research interests include media and communication policy, gender and ethnic diversity, implications of (news) diversity on democracy, and the relationship between journalists' social responsibility diverse news reporting. She was co-responsible for the data collection on the Netherlands within the research project MDM-Media for Democracy Monitor (edition 2020).



#### Alice Lima Baroni

Alice Baroni is currently a MSCA Seal of Excellence @ UNIPD research fellow at the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies (SPGI) at University of Padova, exploring online/ offline harassment and abuse of women (photo-) journalists in a comparative context. Her research interests lie in (visual) ethnographic and participatory research in contexts of urban/ digital violence; policies on media and gender equality. E-mail: [alice.limabaroni@unipd.it](mailto:alice.limabaroni@unipd.it)



#### Christian Ruggiero

Christian Ruggiero is Associate Professor in Sociology of Cultural and Communicative Processes at the Department of Communication and Social Research, Sapienza University of Rome. His main research interests concern political communication, with particular attention to the role of the media in electoral campaigns, and sociology of journalism, with particular reference to the evolution of the journalists' profession and the interplay between legacy and social media.



#### Jón Gunnar Ólafsson

Jón Gunnar Ólafsson is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Iceland. He completed his PhD in Media and Communications in 2019 from Goldsmiths, University of London. His research interests include political communication in small states, misinformation and the impact social media has had on political news coverage. Recently he has been conducting mixed methods research on information dissemination related to COVID-19 in Iceland.

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