



**European Union**

## **FINAL REPORT**

# **X-Press II, Social Inclusion through Media**

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# FINAL REPORT

**Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banjaluka with partner organization Foundation CURE from Sarajevo implemented project: "X-Press II - Social inclusion through media", from, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, between 28th December 2011 – 27th June 2014.**

**Final beneficiaries:** Marginalized and vulnerable groups in BiH (e.g. ethnic minorities, women, youth, persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ persons, etc); BiH journalists and journalism students

**Target groups:** BiH journalists; Students of journalism; relevant public authorities for solving issues of marginalized and vulnerable groups; NGOs, including associations of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

**Total number of directly involved: 6807 (65% women and 35% men<sup>1</sup>)**

## Executive summary of the Action

For 30 months duration of the project, significant results were achieved - almost 7000 people were directly involved in project activities, and indirectly much much more. Our estimation is that at least 500 000 people, through media reporting, were informed and "touched" by different project activities.

An important step forward was about the sensitizing journalists and students of journalism for reporting about marginalized groups, decreasing politically incorrect language in so-called traditional media and, in general, about affirming socially responsible journalism.

"Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and Foundation Cure have done a lot on visibility of marginalized groups and affirmation of socially – responsible journalism. For the first time we can notice more affirmative stories in the media. I hope that this practice will continue not just stopping here", it is the estimation of one BiH journalist.

In the course of the project there were published more than 400 articles and TV and radio stories about problems of different marginalized groups. The Journalist Award "Srđan Aleksić" has become a recognizable and acknowledged in media community and the public of which testified constant applications for the award. Also, there are others actors interested in supporting the Award (such as companies - UniCredit bank, Hypo Alpe Adria bank and company m:tel and media sponsors - BHT, RTRS, buka.com, moj portal.ba, Media centar Sarajevo, Radio Sarajevo, etc.) Except it, the "Srđan Aleksić" Journalist Award became the permanent ownership of civil society organizations – BiH Network for Building Peace and it will be given after the completion of the project.

Particularly significant result reflects in establishing valuable contacts and cooperation between marginalized groups and the media.

"Thanks to activities of the X-Press project we made contacts with media and journalists who have helped the work and activities of the Ponos association of single parents", said representative of association "Ponos", while one of the journalists estimated: "Activities of the project helped me a lot because I established valuable contacts with representative of NGO sector and developed new cooperation and got new topics to report about. All activities I attended at were more than efficient".

12 small grants in partnership between the media and various associations were completed successfully. It resulted in publishing more than 100 articles and stories, establishing a cooperation with some institutions, strengthening capacities of some associations and engaging 27 students to work on eTrafika portal.

Instead of 4, during the project we organized 12 well-visited media events and 50 brunches with journalists through which we supported different initiatives and campaigns of civil society organizations working on democratization of BiH such as: initiative to change laws of the RS Law on Freedom of Gathering, marking of International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia – IDAHOT, action "Lets do it – Let's Clean BiH for a Day", a global campaign "16 Days of Activism", Initiative "Take Back the Tech", action of Press Council BiH against speech of hate on Internet titled "You Are Not Invisible", an initiative for bringing the Law on Torture Victims at the level of BiH, action „Park is our“, Women Citizens Initiative for Constitutional Changes, global campaign "One Billion Rising, Dancing and Protesting", and initiative for protection of Sana spring, etc.

The project itself meant a lot to Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banjaluka and for partner's organization Foundation "Cure" which, thanks to project activities, became recognizable in the public as professional and credible organizations being continuously involved in promotion and protecting the rights of different marginalized and vulnerable groups. Besides, thanks to this project, both organizations have advanced their cooperation with the media, strengthened working capacities on media policies and significantly increased the circle of civil society organizations they cooperated with.

## Activities and results

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<sup>1</sup> This is our assessment because it is not possible to indicate with certainty for some activities what was the number of women and men. For instance, in an on-line voting for selecting the best photo there were 847 people and we cannot tell what were the men and what women.

## **A) Brunches with journalists**

### ***1. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012, with 13 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Women who are survivors of abuse in war and former detainees as a marginalized group in BiH society." Introductory speakers were Munira Subašić and Kada Hotić from the Association of Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa who introduced journalists to the work of the organization and with the problems and needs of victims abused in the war. During the session they have told moving stories and experiences of certain women that have survived abuse in the war and are hard to adapt to today's life. Also, she mentioned the main stereotype with which they themselves face, because of the tradition that nurturing in BiH. Specifically, the women who have survived abuse are the one that feels embarrassed and ashamed of what they have experienced in the camps, not the person who abused them. It is a feeling that accompanies them constantly, and the reasons, among others, is the tradition in which they grew up, that everything that happens to them as individuals was have caused by themselves. The media can help clarify those stereotypes and constant emphasis and broadcasting program that will not support the stereotype that shifts responsibility to the woman for any kind of violence that was happening or happened sometime in the past.

**Results of this activity:** Journalists familiarized with problems of women abused during war; exchanged contacts of attending, to continue reporting on this subject additional interviews are agreed.

### ***2. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2012, with 11 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** „Health care for Roma women“. Introductory speaker was Nena Halilović. "Social categories are not entitled to health care system. Most of them are Roma who were almost completely excluded from the system. Reasons for their exclusion are numerous. This is partially due to a huge percentage of unemployment, but also because of the lack of personal documents. More than 45 percents of Roma women do not have health insurance. Also, very few Roma if have health insurance and use that right, 80% of them can not afford to buy medicines that are subscribed by doctors, because of discrimination or financial situation", said Halilović. She further pointed to the fact that studies show a very low level of awareness of Roma women on reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, and other areas of health. Participants of the session pointed on the importance of media in raising awareness about this problem and reducing prejudices against the Roma population.

**Results of this activity:** Present journalists are familiarized with Roma health care problems; Contacts are exchanged, and journalists were pointed at stereotypical media reporting and hate speech towards Roma people.

### ***3. Brunches with journalists, Banjaluka, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012, with 10 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Copyright on the internet". Introductory speaker was Slobodan Mičić. Talking about ACTA document which introduced measures to protect intellectual property rights, student of Faculty in Banja Luka Slobodan Mičić said that knowledge and information should be accessible to all and that "any attempt to prevent that is an attack and stifling freedom on the Internet". According to his words there are large companies, such as movie and record companies, standing behind ACTA, whose only goal is to gain profit. "There are already institutions dealing with protection of intellectual property so it is not clear why do we need ACTA now. Their only goal is to maximize profits and to control the Internet," said Mičić on the occasion World Day of Book and Copyright. Copying certain things from the Internet, according to Mičić, is not forgery, but only copy, without touching or altering the content itself. He believes that a rigorous application of the law for forgery will not make people to buy original DVD or music, "because a person simply does not have 40 EUR for a movie or for example \$ 7000 for a licensed Photoshop program. He reminded that there are free and free of charge operating systems such as Linux, which has become the fastest growing operating system in the world. According to the Communications Regulatory Agency report, Bosnia and Herzegovina had 2 million Internet users in 2010. The Institute of Intellectual Property of BiH is responsible for planning and implementation of laws concerning the protection of intellectual property, but their representatives did not appear on the "brunch with reporters."

**Results of this activity:** Present journalists introduced to ACTA and its consequences on individual use of internet content, as well as in media business, and the use of free software.

### ***4. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012, with 7 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Involvement of the public in the monitoring of the media". Introductory speaker was the Executive Director of the Press Council, Ljiljana Zurovac. Through discussion with the participants introducer talked about how the Press Council reacts in accordance with Press Code of BiH, and how the public may react when they notice an irregularity in media accounts. She also said that the Press Council in BiH, as a self-regulatory body for print and online media, provides the democratic possibility for citizens of Bosnia to fight for their human

right to the truth, and to respond to untrue and unprofessional media reporting through the appeals procedure. Citizens are increasingly becoming aware of their right and use it. Council gets on a daily basis at least one, if not more complaints. The session was partially dedicated to reporting on vulnerable, marginalized groups, which covers a wide range of target groups - persons with disabilities and persons with developmental disorders, members of LGBTIQ population, and the women and children. Introducer has assessed that there was a large number of violations of the Code when it comes to reporting on these groups. This particularly refers to children and minors, as all persons under 18 years must be protected when they appear in the media - putting initials or protection across the face. She also said that it happens very rarely in BiH. This is especially dangerous when children are involved in the reporting of criminal actions or other negative events.

**Results of this activity:** Present journalists familiarized with the work of the Press Council and the specific aspect of reporting on marginalized and vulnerable groups.

#### ***5. Brunches with journalists, Tuzla 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, with 14 participants***

**Topic /activities covered:** Consideration of the development of green economy within the framework of the EU environmental legislation “. Introductory speaker was Emina Ahmetović, project manager of the " EKOPOT" Tuzla. She said that Bosnia and Herzegovina has to do more to reinforce and strengthen green economy, for the simple reason that the focus of the green economy is one of the most important topics in the field of environmental priorities, as it can ensure the creation of new workplaces and pave the way to boost economic growth in response to the current economic crisis not only in Europe, but globally. Green economy is characterized by social, environmental and economic policies or innovations that allow the use of resources in a more sustainable way, while preserving natural systems. Examples of green jobs are related to soil conservation, implementation of projects with the aim of adapting to climate change, sustainable forestry, construction and expansion of parks for recreation, conservation of marine zone, etc. Green jobs are jobs that are characterized by reduced consumption of energy and raw materials, limit or reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, every minimizing waste and pollution. Green jobs also contribute directly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, providing conditions for poverty reduction and environmental protection.

**Results of this activity:** Contacts are exchanged between the Ekopot organization and the presence of media and media coverage of finding and clearing of illegal dumps around Tuzla is agreed.

#### ***6. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012 with 6 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "People suffering from malignant disease - marginalized groups in BiH society." Introductory speaker of session was Dr Maja Banjin, internal medicine specialist, sub- specialist in oncology. Introductory speaker said that BiH, unfortunately, still do not have Cancer Registry at the state level. According to the Institute of Public Health report from 2009 malignant diseases are among the leading group of 10 diseases with increasing tendency. Most common are malignant disease of lung, breast, digestive organs, blood and hematopoietic organs. She said “all bear the responsibility of the reason we still have a large percentage of patients with advanced stage of the disease, although this treatment is up to 100 times more expensive than treatment of early stages.” Media can help in reporting on malignant diseases prevention, to raise awareness of all people to go regularly for check-ups in order to avoid a bigger problem. Few points of media engagement when it comes to these issues were listed, such as: raising awareness about the importance of a healthy lifestyle, raising awareness on the need for regular health checks customized by age and gender of the population, regular information on activities related to early detection and treatment of malignant disease, eradication of unjustified stigma and fear associated with malignant tumors, because cancer can be treatable disease, information about the success achieved in the treatment of cancer, about the success in science and practical medicine, informing about the success oncologists in BiH, brilliant specialists and clinics that we have in all aspects of diagnosis and treatment, informing on pharmaceutical houses that are actively involved in solving of social and oncologic problems, the activities of non-governmental organizations, such as associations of patients suffering from cancer - their problems and successes; the activities of governmental organizations, in the first place, the Ministry of Health - great activities were launched, such as the strategy for the prevention, treatment and control of malignant disease in the FBiH.

**Results of this activity:** Journalists familiarized with the problems of patients with malignant diseases, and received specific instructions on how and in what way they can contribute to solving this problem with their reporting.

#### ***7. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012, with 6 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "The treatment of young people in BiH, compared with the treatment of young people in the EU." Introductory speaker was Mujić Medina, Master of Communication Science. The youth population is vulnerable group and much closer to be poor than adult. Young people who did not continue their education after primary school have the largest share in the poor population. Difficult situation deepens in young adults with

disabilities, difficulties with health, young persons with disabilities, Roma youth, young single parents, and members of other marginalized groups. Panelist noted that devastating fact is that every fourth young person works in jobs that are completely different from the direction of their own education, which causes considerable lack of knowledge and skills needed to perform the job. Young people who have completed secondary education have little perspective on the current labor market. In general, young people have the best chances for employment in the informal labor market, low quality jobs with poor working conditions, without any security. A CURE volunteer who came from Germany to volunteer in BiH said that she recognized the problem that society in BiH has towards young people. "Even when you are 30 years old and regardless your education level you are considered as child that has to listen to older, while in Germany, with 18 years you are considered as conscious, responsible person, people listen to what you have to say", she said.

**Results of this activity:** They agreed on the further co-operation between the speakers, the CURE Foundation, and present media representatives. Contacts were exchanged with the aim of taking statements related to the topic.

#### ***8. Brunches with journalists, Banjaluka 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012, with 15 participants***

**Topic/Activities covered:** "The presentation of research on the problems and needs of the citizens of Banja Luka". Research was conducted by Re:Action, an informal network of 10 non-governmental organizations from the city of Banja Luka with the help of consultants Vladimir Turjačanin and Srdjan Puhalo. Keynote speaker was Jelena Vukelić, coordinator of Re:Action. The aim of brunch with reporters was to warn people through the media on which problems to pay attention during the campaign for the local 2012 elections. At brunch with reporters we presented the basic findings of research on the problems and needs of the citizens of Banja Luka. The study was conducted between 1st May and the 1st September 2012. The sample consisted of 1068 respondents in the city, suburbs and rural areas. She highlighted several important issues that citizens recognize. First of all, people are most dissatisfied in suburban areas, and the biggest problem is unemployment, poor communication of city government and citizens, infrastructure, high cost of transportation and heating.

**Results of this activity:** Research presented and journalists familiarized with real problems and needs of the citizens of Banja Luka. Draw reporters' attention to use research during the campaign, and later in interviews with candidates and elected officials. We have sent message through media on what citizens need to pay attention in election campaigns.

#### ***9. Brunches with journalists, Banjaluka 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012, with 12 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Let's do it! - Clean the country for one day." Speakers were coordinators of the action "Let's do it - clean earth for one day," Ina Ritan and Nikola Đurić. At brunch were also the representatives of the Ministry of Urban Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology.

"More than 50 000 volunteers will participate on 9th September in the effort to clean up 700 illegal dumps across the country", coordinators of the action have announced on this brunch with journalists. They added that the utilities of Red Cross, ministries, local authorities and the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina would be included in the action. It is estimated that in BiH there are around 10,000 illegal dumps. Speaking of the activities undertaken by the Ministry of Urban Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology, Assistant Minister Svjetlana Radusin emphasized that certain regulations which should improve the system and method of waste disposal are currently in process of implementing, adding that a certain number of utility companies, despite clear legal regulations, still dispose waste improperly, polluting water and land. "We in the ministry do not have data on how many companies have so far been punished for improper disposal of waste. It is the responsibility of the republic and municipal inspections and I am sure one of them can give you that information," said Radusin adding that "low awareness is the biggest problem in terms of environmental protection."

**Results of this activity:** Journalists introduced to cleaning action, and through them the general public informed with a great opportunity to get even more people involved in this action. Journalists trained on issues related to preservation of the environment. Significant contacts between relevant ministry and the organizers of the action Lets' do it were exchanged.

#### ***10. Brunches with journalists, Tuzla 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012, with 20 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Support of Victims of Torture." The speakers were: Suzdina Bijedić, Teufika Ibrahimfendić from the organization Vive Women and Jasmin Mešković, president of the Association of Detainees TK. Brunch with journalists was organized to mark the International Day of Peace, where they talked about victims of torture in the country. Suzdina Bijedić and Teufika Ibrahimfendić, have spoken about the everyday problems of victims of torture and their family problems. Ms Ibrahimfendić emphasized that social situation that prevails in the divided country like BiH, adversely affects all of us, especially the victims of torture, because they feel unsafe and unprotected in such a society. Jasmin Mešković, president of the Association of Detainees TK, spoke about the need to adopt the law on victims of torture. He pointed out that former detainees

and torture victims are the only ones whose rights are not regulated by law. A law should be passed at the state level and would regulate pension and social insurance for the person and the family, and intangible compensation. By this Law state should avoid a lawsuit by around 200 000 former inmates, which would certainly led the country into bankruptcy.

**Results of this activity:** The press and representatives of non-governmental organizations familiarized with the problems of this population. Invited to accompany the adoption of the necessary legislation at the state level. Significant contacts with organizations and the Association Vive Women inmates TK.

### ***11. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012, with 7 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Exclusion of aging population BiH society". Keynote speaker session was Svjetlana Fabijanč Grbić, president of PJZ-PPH (PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC HEALTH), coordinator of project „Sarajevo - Healthy City“, who spoke on the topic of "Exclusion of the elderly people in the BiH society". Emphasis of October X-Press session, which was organized on the International Day of Older Persons, was on ageism, stereotyping and discrimination against individuals or groups on the basis of their age. It is a set of beliefs, attitudes, norms, and values used to justify age prejudices, discrimination and subordination. Keynote speaker was talking with the attendees about the activities of the Centre for Healthy Aging, which has 510 members and is constantly growing. In addition there is a non-governmental organization called WE CENTER FOR ASSISTANCE AND CARE, whose purpose is to ensure the long stay of elderly and other people in their home. She pointed out that in BiH should be more such centers where the elderly people could hang out and spend their time. Elderly people are mostly lonely and therefore a number of activities in which they could participate should be organized and that would improve their social life. The problem is that the media rarely report on the problems that elderly people face when it comes to health care. The media can help convicting discrimination against the elderly people as well as raising awareness that a lot more can be done on this issue.

**Results of this activity:** Journalists familiarized with the problems and needs of older people social group, which is very little represented in BiH media. It was also pointed out to reporters on discriminated position of these individuals.

### ***12. Brunches with journalists, Banja Luka, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012, with 17 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "The fight against trafficking in BiH".

Brunch with journalists was organized in BiH Journalists' Club on the occasion of the European Day against human trafficking, and with the participation of Dijana Kremenović from World Vision, Lana Jajčević from United Women Banja Luka and Chief of agency Sipa Boris Ivanović. Boris Ivanović said that the biggest problem is that law enforcement agencies in BiH are not organizationally or financially equipped to deal with new methods of recruitment, which is currently going through the Internet. He says: "The old methods of recruiting girls were replaced by new ones. Today kids are recruited via the Internet and often some of these children end up prostituting yourself and become victims of human trafficking, " The police have no devices to monitor and detect virtual recruitment, and in most cases, parents do not even know what their children are doing and what content search on the Internet, explained Ivanović. According to his words, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a house on the road for all kinds of crime - from drug and weapons smuggling to human trafficking. To 2002, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been a reception country for girls from Eastern European countries that have come here and were involved in prostitution. In the last ten years of being the receiving country, Bosnia and Herzegovina became a transit country, but also a country of origin where they recruit young girls and boys and send them to Western Europe. Many of them are taken to fraud in foreign countries, the labour and sexual exploitation, explained Ivanović, adding that 12 years ago in the Republic of Srpska existed 75 nightclubs in which worked 480 women, of whom 30% had been victims of trafficking. "Today the situation is much better, which does not mean it could not be better," said Ivanović, adding that in the last three years the number of victims of trafficking in BiH is between 30 and 35. Lana Jajčević, a legal adviser in the organization of United Women, said that since 2006 they housed 6 girls, victims of human trafficking, in Safe House for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka .

**Results of this activity:** Significant cooperation between agency Sipa, BH Journalists Association and the Associated Women and World Vision was created. Journalists informed about the problem of human trafficking.

### ***13. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012, with 8 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Veganism in the BiH society". Introductory speaker Jerkić Tea, an employee in Vegehana, had introduced journalists with basic information about veganism, what it means and to whom all persons in Bosnia can turn to when looking for correct information about veganism. Brunch is organized on the International Day of Veganism which is celebrated on the 1st of each November since 1994. Introductory speaker explained that veganism is nutrition and lifestyle in which the food, cosmetics, clothing and other products of animal origin are not used. A person who practices veganism is called vegan. They stand against cruelty to animals

and promote alternative ways that are friendly to animals, humans and the environment. From an ecological standpoint, the meat industry is responsible for pollution of air land and water; it contributes to deforestation and exploitation of large land areas for the cultivation of food crops grown for large number of animals. Vegans' diet is based on grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables. Vegans do not eat meat, fish, seafood, eggs, milk, dairy products, and honey or carry things made of fur, wool, bone, skin, coral, pearl or any other materials of animal origin. The introductory speaker also underlined importance of media reporting on choosing veganism and their way of life, on educating public about classic stereotypes connected to vegans related to surviving without eating animal meat.

**Results of this activity:** Journalists introduced to subject matter which something new in our society, about which, they said, they knew very little.

#### *14. Brunches with journalists, Tuzla, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012, with 13 participants*

**Topic/activities covered:** "Hate speech in print and online media in BiH"

"Hate speech is one of the most important characteristics of the media in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. In Bosnia and Herzegovina the language of hate did not vanished, it has evolved, changed the shape and bearers. Instead of hatred towards members of other ethnic and religious background, characteristic for public communication in the nineties, now ideological exclusivism and intolerance are dominant. It is promoted by party leaders, carried by their supporters, who are often instructed in party propaganda headquarters how to spread hate in social networks, hidden behind false profiles," said keynote speaker of the session Dr Enes Osmančević from the Faculty of Philosophy in Tuzla. With this regards, the Press Council initiated a project called "You are not invisible," which seeks to prosecute and sanction those who spread hate speech. The principle is based on self-regulation, which should be accepted, first of all, from the creators of the web portal. If the hate speech is detected, offenders could get a sentence of imprisonment. However, on the other hand, arises the question of implementation level of the Law, and also the interest of all the subjects to be included in the fight against it. Progress is possible if journalists, The Press Council, the NGO sector, the police and the competent courts get more involved with this problem, concluded Osmančević.

**Results of this activity:** Participants were introduced to topic and invited to explore the issue, which has moved from traditional media to the Internet. Acquainted with the action of the Press, "You are not invisible."

#### *15. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012, with 10 participants*

**Topic/activities covered:** "AIDS taboo in BiH society". Introductory speaker was Tijana Medvedec, Program Manager at the Association of XY. Brunch was organized on the occasion of the International Day of fighting against HIV/AIDS. "AIDS is a medical condition that occurs due to the damage caused by HIV and body's natural ability to defend itself against disease agents. Among the infected dominate male persons (79%). Heterosexual intercourse is the most common way of HIV transmission (56%), followed by homosexual / bisexual intercourse (22%) and injection drug use (11%). According to the latest data, Bosnia and Herzegovina belongs to the group of countries with a low prevalence of HIV, less than 1% in the general population and less than 5% of the population at risk", said Medvedec. In conversation with the attendees, she said that by the end of 2011 there were 196 people living with HIV and 116 with manifestations of AIDS registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among young people is of particular importance for the monitoring of HIV infection in the RS and FBiH, because the boundaries of HIV infection is increasingly moving toward this population. It is very important that the media report more about this virus and to influence and educate the public that people unnecessarily stigmatize persons who are infected with HIV. People infected with HIV are discriminated repeatedly and have difficulties to live in a country with so many prejudices against the above mentioned population. Stigmatized and discriminated, people infected with HIV, usually confide to associations that advocates for their rights.

**Results of this activity:** As a conclusion, governmental and NGO sector and media, should profile people to cooperate in a particular sector, then raise awareness of HIV, continuously go public to related topic, and find essential health care and institutions support, in order to represent this disease to broader masses.

#### *16. Brunches with journalists, Tuzla, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012, with 14 participants*

**Topic / activities covered:** "Domestic Violence - the role and importance of media".

Subject introducer was Fatima Bećirović, coordinator of the Center for Psychosocial Therapy and Rehabilitation "Vive Women". Studies worldwide show that one in every three women has experienced some form of violence, in the context of BiH probably this occurrence is more frequent, but the fact is that they turn for help less and less talk about it. Domestic violence is a criminal offense on three laws in FBiH and RS. "In Bosnia, today we deal only with the consequences of violence, there is not much said about prevention and preventive programs," said the speaker. She added that a large number of girls who grow up in violent environments later choose bully for a partner and boys who grow up in these conditions, have a great potential to become bullies themselves. Statistics

show that from the total number of women who have escaped or have reported bullies, 85% return to the very same partners. According to available data on the implementation of the Strategy for the previous period (2007-2010), in year of 2010 was recorded a total of 5087 cases of violence against children, of which neglect and combined violence represent approximately half of all reported cases of violence, while 21.3 percent of it refers to psychological violence, and 19 percent on economic neglect. Physical violence was reported in 11 percents in the overall extent of violence against children in our country. "Talking about the victim is not sufficient, it is necessary to turn to bully, because in most cases he does not see himself as such," says Bećirović. She adds that the role of the media is very important in the context of transferring information to the public continuously. Our experience tells us that every media statement within the topic of violence increases the number of people who contact us for help, especially during the 16 days of activism when the topic of violence was almost daily represented in the media, in this period, the number of applications significantly increased.

**Results of this activity:** One of the main conclusions of brunch was the importance of monitoring the topic continuously, i.e., during whole year after which, a number of the victims decided to speak out and seek help would certainly be higher and that this issue should not be approached sensationalistic because it is a very serious, delicate and complex social problem that requires full attention and adequate treatment, suggested to reporters.

#### ***17. Brunches with journalists, Sarajevo, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012, with 10 participants***

**Topic/activities:** "Violence against women through the media coverage prism". Introductory speaker Edita Pršić, PR in Local Democracy Foundation, spoke about how the media portray women who are experiencing violence, about position of women who have survived violence in our society, and how to inform the public that violence against women diminishes and undermines their basic human rights. Violence can happen to any woman, and violence is not a result of the woman's behavior but rather a consequence of the patriarchal system in which men abuse their power. 33% of women in the world are exposed to violence during their lifetime. Even though media can make victims situation much harder, they can also do a lot to raise public awareness and encourage woman to report violence. Journalists in their reporting may be in a position to threaten someone's life, because of this reporting has to be professional and considerate. She mentioned that they have formed a coordinating body in Sarajevo consisted of all the ministries that deal with violence in the family and members of the Association "BH Journalists" whose expertise help public to gain a realistic picture of domestic violence. Introductory speaker also mentioned that there is sufficient legal framework on domestic violence in FBiH, but the problem is in its use. In RS, the penalty for assault is five years in prison and in FBiH penalties are different and each case is individual and requires a separate approach. There are currently eight shelters in BiH. Violence which is commonly recorded is physical violence combined with economic, while there is the least victims of sexual violence recorded.

**Results of this activity:** Arrangements were made for further cooperation between the speakers, the CURE Foundation, and representatives of media outlets. Contacts were exchanged with the aim of taking statements related to the topic.

#### ***18. Brunches with journalists, Banja Luka 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012, with 14 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Santa works for whom!?"

"Every December when shop windows sparkle in colorful lanterns and festive advertisements' fill newspaper pages, I ask myself, for whom in fact Santa Claus works for?". That's how Milkica Milojević, introductory speaker and BH journalists' president, opened this brunch with journalists. "Santa Claus should symbolize solidarity and sharing, as it might have been at first", said Milojević adding that Christmas and New Year's holidays are time when we "should all ask ourselves how much solidarity we have, how much good we did and how many opportunities to do something good we have missed". Special discussion was kept about the media and their role during holiday time. "Like most other companies, media are also looking for ways to increase income, since the festive time income from purchased advertisements jumps drastically", said Milojević. She illustrated her attitude with an example of the International Day of Solidarity, 20<sup>th</sup> December. "While all the media talked about the newly opened shopping centre in Banja Luka, nobody mentioned this day, or even those for whom this day is celebrated." There are many obstacles when trying to professionally approach reporting on marginalized and vulnerable groups. Considering economy troubles in media, we must not forget political pressure, especially in public services. Journalists should not forget those who are the biggest part of our society, marginalized and neglected by all entries. The number of marginalized and vulnerable citizens increases every day, and somebody is responsible for that, says Milojević, and adds that the true journalism role is everyday revealing these facts and seeking those responsible for it.

**Results of this activity:** True problems of our society were brought to journalists' attention, and they were called to professional responsibility. We obtained journalists opinion on project activities and corporation with NGO through evaluation.

#### ***19. Brunch with Journalists on 13th February 2013 in Sarajevo with 18 participants***



**Topic/activities covered:** “One Billion Rising, Dancing and Protesting in BiH”. The introductory speaker was Danijela Dugandžić Živanović, director of Association for culture and art CRVENA and coordinator of ONE BILLION RISING campaign for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also at the session talked Leila Šeper from zenskaposla.ba and Dženan Karić from the Association XY.

The aim of the session was to introduce media representatives with the role of media in monitoring affirmative actions which was founded as a global V-Day, the importance of using creative actions and campaigns to increase the awareness about violence against women and girls.

The introductory speaker informed that 34 local communities and more than 130 organizations and institutions from BiH were involved into ONE BILLION RISING campaign as well as many famous persons from cultural and public life. She announced that there will be dancing on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> with official music number of the campaign called Break the Chain in cities of Sarajevo, Mostar, Banjaluka, Zenica, Doboj, Travnik etc.

The introductory speaker stressed that this event was launched as a call and to action and reply to horrifying statistic data according to which one in three women during their life are beaten up or raped. As the entire population of planet earth is about 7 billion people, it is estimated that even one billion women and girls suffer the violence.

**Results of this activity:** It was concluded that media during January and February reported more intensively about violence and forms of violence which is a positive progress if compared with the previous year. It was concluded that by means of X-Press sessions there should be promoted campaigns in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A further cooperation between the introductory speaker, Foundation “CURE” and media representatives was agreed. Contact details were exchanged to take statements related to the given topic.

## **20. Brunch with Journalists on 7th March 2013. in Banjaluka with 14 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** “Position of women in our society”. The introductory speakers at the brunch were Dijana Miljatović, spokesperson of the Association of Single Parents “Ponos”, Milena Obradović, president of the RS Alliance of Paraplegic and Dražana Lepir, president of the Association “Oštra Nula”. The brunch was organized on the occasion of marking March 8<sup>th</sup> – International Women Day to draw attention of the public to women who are deprived of many rights in our society despite law-proclaimed equality.

“Merely 15 % out of about 4000 single parents in Banjaluka region, of whom the most are single mothers, receive alimony on a regular basis. 70% of them do not get it at all, while 15% receive it but not regularly”, said Dijana Miljatovic from the Ponos - Association of single parents. According to her words, most of single mothers nowadays face many problems and alimony is just one of them. “Most of our members seek only food. It is a horrible fact that children nowadays starve and it is horrible that all our actions are always about collecting food instead of going on picnics, music celebrations or some other activities”, Miljatovic stated. Except single mothers not being recognized neither by laws of Republic of Srpska, women with disability are in difficult state in particular. “On a daily basis we face barriers starting from those architectural to not having opportunities of choosing occupations and finding jobs. Also there is a deep prejudice that women with disability should not get marry and have a family” this was said by Milena Obradović, president of RS Alliance of Paraplegic. According to Obradovic, only three primary schools in Banjaluka removed or, i.e., enabled children in wheels to approach the school. Activist of the Ostra nula association Dražana Lepir announced March 8<sup>th</sup> march under slogan “United against patriarchy” which will be marked on March 8<sup>th</sup> in a symbolic walk in Banjaluka. “Gender equality issue is not a just an issue of women but women and men who live in socially-imposed role”, Lepir sent a message.

**Results of this activity:** Media introduced with action to be held in Banjaluka on the occasion of March 8<sup>th</sup> and problems that single mothers and women with disability have.

## **21. Brunch with Journalists on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in Sarajevo with 8 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** “Persons who got hurt from mines as a marginalized group in BiH society”. The introductory speaker was Saša Obradović, senior assistant of mine alert to BH MAC.

Obradović spoke about campaigns being launched in BiH to turn attention that mine are still a great problem for BiH not just in terms of BiH citizens safety but as a great obstacle to socio economic development of this country. Talking about a general estimation of mine situation in BiH, Obradović stated that 1417 communities are endangered with mines, mine-contaminated locations directly impact safety of about 540.000 women and men citizens. He also said that the current size of mine-suspected areas is 1262,82 km<sup>2</sup> or 2,5% in proportion to total surface of BiH.

According to his words, since 1992 to this date, 8067 persons, in total, hurt from mines. The introductory speaker made an appeal to journalists to review the situation from all angles or, i.e. to “scratch under surface” when report about achievements and what was planned to achieve. They should ask a question to themselves why something was not done, was it due to neglect of persons being involved in organization or simply due to the lack of funding. Obradović stated that annual plan of reducing mine-suspected areas was completed with 53%, “which is certainly

the reflection of not having enough funding for the stated operations". The session was held on International Day for Mine Awareness which is marked *every year on April 4<sup>th</sup> at recommendation of the UN*.

**Results of this activity:** It was concluded to report more intensively about mine danger, to have special and educational shows which would help the citizens to be informed about it, current needs, etc. There were the present from these media: TVSA, REF, FENA, BHT1.

## **22. Brunch with Journalists on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 in Banjaluka with 16 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** "Freedom and Responsibility of Media". The introductory speaker was the president of BH Journalists Club from Banjaluka Siniša Vukelić and president of the Association of BH Journalists Milkica Milojević.

At this brunch, which was held on the occasion of International Day of Media Freedom, was stressed that journalists in RS and BiH must show more solidarity to tackle for their rights. Journalism is extremely difficult and underestimated profession in RS and BiH which is why crucial to consider the initiative for journalists to get additional contribution to their work, journalists from Banjaluka emphasized. "Additional contribution is needed because it is such hard job that journalists do. Many attacks and pressures on journalists and short life expectancy testify about it in RS and BiH" said president of the BH Journalists club Siniša Vukelić.

Journalists agreed that highest officials should show more respect to journalists in practice instead of insulting them on a personal basis or refuse to answer questions which is a negative pattern to others to follow. To substantiate it, there is a shocking details from research conducted by BH Journalists Association with support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation according to which every fifth citizen of BiH thinks that hitting a journalist is justified.

**Results of this activity:** Journalists from the following media: Press RS, Al Jazeera, RTV BN, Respekt, ATV, BHT, frontal.ba, istinito.com and capital.ba agreed that they should have more solidarity and made a joint appeal to officials and institutions in Banjaluka, RS and BiH to respect working hours of journalists and hold scheduled conferences, events and statements in given timing.

## **23. Brunch with Journalists on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in Sarajevo with 8 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** „Let's Do it: Let's Clean Earth for a Day". The introductory speaker was Junuz Elzar, an activist of Association of citizens "Ruke" and coordinator of the action "Let's Do It" which is dedicated to solving issues of illegal garbage sites. Its aim is to promote environment but volunteerism too.

According to Elzar, in 2012 in the action "Let's do it" participated 105 municipalities in BiH with more than 37500 volunteers. 5 500 tons of garbage was collected. He said that the aim of cleaning in 2013 was to include 100 000 volunteers from BiH, to make an inventory of all illegal garbage sites in BiH, to remove the least 20.000 tons of waste material out of nature and to raise the public awareness about environment. He also stated that every BiH inhabitant makes 389 kg of communal waste material per year. More than 80% of that material can be recycled. An average BiH citizen spends about 1000 plastic bags per year. Time to dissolve plastic material is from 100 to 1000 years. The message the introductory speaker sent via media to the public is that citizens should not throw garbage, to sort waste material, not to burn garbage, to avoid using one time products that make garbage and to give a support to ecologically accepted regulations and activities. Elzar especially thanked to the media which "recognized the value of this action and gave a media space to it". One of the journalists, however, said that media do not report about importance of BiH environment protection constantly as they should. She said that just few media are dedicated to the idea of making efforts to report professionally and constantly. The present were the following media: HAYAT TV, FENA, BH Radio 1

**Results of this activity:** What was everyone's conclusion is the necessity for media realizing how important this topic was. It can be done if there is time dedicated to their education and to wake up its own interest to find out that they can be solution to make our country a better place to be.

## **24. Brunch with Journalists on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in Tuzla with 8 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** "Freedom and Responsibility in Public Communication in BiH". We talked with communicologist Enes Osmančević, Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Tuzla, about communication in public space, the relation between freedom and responsibility, freedom of speech and public expression as fundamental human rights, arranged with international legal acts. Professor Osmancevic stressed that most of public debates in BiH speaks about low civilization standards in public communication and spreading the speech of hate that remains without adequate critic and sanctions and it is often hidden behind freedom of speech. Speech of hate has been constant for over twenty years in the ex-Yugoslavia. It just evaluated and changed the forms and carriers. It was explicit before expressing intolerance towards other ethnic and religious groups and its carriers were politicians and religious leaders. It is nowadays targeted against political opponents. It is rare that public communication, especially amongst politicians from different political parties, turns into facts-based discussion. It is never targeted to the problem but to the sole person, sometimes to family members. The media in its poltroon-

oriented policy always craving for more scandals, give too big space to this kind of communication that becomes normal and desirable to an average consumer. It is why the subject of media literacy must be as soon as possible become part of curriculum in schools.

**Results of this activity:**

There was a very important discussion for young journalists, both women and men that resulted in raising many issues and discussion. Young journalists were introduced with consequences of hate speech in public space.

**25. Brunch with Journalists on 5<sup>th</sup> June in Sarajevo with 9 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** “Peace Building and Religious Dialogue through Prism of Media Reporting”. The introductory speaker of the session was Zlatiborka Popov-Momčinović, Professor at Faculty of Philosophy in Eastern Sarajevo.

The introductory speaker announced the event “Week of Peace Building and Religious Dialogue” presenting the significance of events focusing on peace building for BiH. She spoke about media contribution to peace building. She mentioned that inter-religious dialogue is a simple concept basically: persons of different religions talk about different subjects. She said this dialogue was not a debate, people listen to each other and try to understand others in dialogue. She in particular focused on hyper production of media contents and disorientation of a modern man who does not know how to deal with all these information. She added religion trying to offer replies to disorientation. “Religious leaders become celebrities and politicians social media icons. It opens a space for various forms of use and abuse of religion and media themselves by politics and vice versa”, the introductory speaker said.

**Results of this activity:** Journalists introduced with activities to be organized within the Peace Week in Sarajevo from June 5 – 11 and invited to cover it.

**26. Brunch with Journalists on 5th June in Banjaluka with 13 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** “Think. Eat. Save.” The introductory speaker was Miodrag Dakić from NGO “Center for Environment”. “Predictions are such that life we know today and live will soon no be possible due climatic changes and irrational usage of natural resources” the introductory speaker declared. On the occasion of International Day of Environment Protection, he gave a detail that twenty thousand children in the world die every day due to hunger, “while at the same time huge quantities of food are thrown away in, primarily, economically developed countries”. This year’s slogan of International Day of Environment Protection “Think. Eat. Save.” tries to raise people awareness about what they eat and how much food they throw away. For example, every year in the USA 30% of food are spoilt away which is about 48,3 billion of US dollars. Talking about food habits in BiH, Dakic said that there is no enough attention to healthy food and its production. “This topic is not talked about in schools, unhealthy food is commercialized. By buying low quantity food, citizens impact on creating demand for such food”, Dakic declared.

Asked how to impact the citizens to spoil less food and eat healthy food, Dakic said a lot of work should be done on raising awareness of people and create groups of solidarity exchange ordering food from domestic farmers producing organic food. “Besides, “social gardens” should be promoted, land parcels given to people by local authorities to grow vegetables. It would mean a proper urban planning to leave enough green space around housing objects for these gardens. Unfortunately, we are so away from doing this”, Dakic stressed.

**Results of this activity:** Distributed small cook books with tips how to use and prepare groceries and food left from previous lunch and promote the idea of “social gardens”.

**27. Brunch with Journalists on 25th June 2013 in Sarajevo with 14 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** “Torture Victims Day – War Victims in Peace Building Processes”. The introductory speaker was Ševko Bajić, an activist of civil society who talked about activities of war victims in peace building but also about problems they face. It is about a group totally nowadays neglected and legally unrecognized. At the session participated Dragiša Andrić from Association of Camp Prisoners Višegrad and Suzdina Bijedić, “Vive žene” Tuzla – based NGO. .

According to unofficial data, Bajić said that there are about 200.000 people in BiH who have been in camps and/or detained in different ways during the last war. “20 years after the end of the war, this category is completely invisible and its status has not been regulated by laws. There is a draft of law to set the rights and ways of achieving rights, funding and other issues related to protection and rights of war torture victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although the law draft is prepared, its bringing is very questionable. Meanwhile, lots of camp prisoners decided to accomplish their rights at court. Estimates say that there will be 1,5 billion KM in Republic of Srpska as a result of claim compensations and the figure of 750 million KM in Federation of BiH related to the same issue. Law on torture victims should sort out all these issues and that is why its bringing would be a better

solution for all parties”, Bajic underlined. The present at the brunch were the following media: “Oslobodjenje”, FENA, TV SA, Federal radio and Avaz.

**Results of this activity:** At the end the present representatives of media promised to give more space to these topics. Journalists recommended that NGOs and associations need to be more aggressive when promoting these topics, invite media directly and several times if needed and as long as some topic, including this one too, is not covered by media.

#### **28. Brunch with Journalists on 25th July 2013 in Sarajevo with 8 participants**

**Topics/activities covered:** “Persons diseased with hepatitis – Marginalized Group in BiH society”. The introductory speaker was Haris Karabegović, project manager of “Partnerships in health”.

Karabegović gave a detail that every 12<sup>th</sup> inhabitant of our planet is diseased with chronic hepatitis B or C. About a million people die from consequences of these viruses a year. He said that person particular at risk from HCV infection are those who received blood transfusion and blood derivatives before 1995 since testing to hepatitis C virus is a mandatory, then intravenous addicts – persons who were taking drugs by syringe and exchange kits, persons inhaling drugs through the nose, high risk behavior persons, persons with tattoo or body piercing, medical workers in contact with blood and blood products, mutual usage of tooth brushes, razors of infected people or some other toilet kit. “The media are only capable of giving us a full report about what is going on around us. Their role is to get an information, clear it and interpret and spread”, Karabegovic emphasized. This event was covered by Radio of Federation, FENA and Radio Sarajevo.

**Results of this activity:** It was concluded that health is one of the most important topics the media should give more attention to. Shows about health are more than desirable but in language that citizens can understand, it was one of the conclusion of the session.

#### **29.. Brunch with Journalists on 25th July 2013 in Tuzla with 12 participants**

**Topics/activities covered:** “The Role of Media in Creating Negative Stances about Blind Persons”. Although the stances about persons with disability, in general, are not positive, there is a progress in how media treat these persons. This is the estimation given by executive director of the Association of citizens of impaired visions Tuzla Tifa Tučić, that journalists in Tuzla had an opportunity to talk to at the “Brunch with journalists” about the role of media in creating the negative stances about blind persons. It was stressed the evident progress in language used by journalists when report about persons with disability and approach to these topics. Unfortunately, persons with disability are little present in the media. It was estimated that organizations gathering persons with disability can significantly contribute to improvement of treating these topics in media and in general the public perception of persons with disability.

**Results of this activity:** A journalist of RTV TK praised the organizers for having organized a brunch at office of the Association of Citizens of Impaired Visions Tuzla “because it was an opportunity to see conditions this association works in and get to know better problems they have”. A story about this brunch was broadcasted on RTV TK.

#### **30. Brunch with Journalists, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013 in Banjaluka with 10 participants**

**Topics/activities covered:** On the occasion of International Day of Missing Persons we dedicated a “brunch with journalists” to persons who are still looked for. According to some estimates, there are about 9000 missing persons in our country. The guests of this brunch were representatives of organization “Pravo ljudski” Andreja Dugandžić and Kumjana Novakova, who by art tries to close some topics to young people that have rare contacts with it in their formal education or are politically abused. One of such topics is the issue of missing persons in BiH.

**Results of this activity:** Contacts between guests and journalists were exchanged and announced activities to take part in Banjaluka, Prijedor and Sarajevo on the occasion of marking the International Day of Missing Persons including a Mexican film “Looking for Aleido” about missing persons.

#### **31. Brunch with Journalists, Sarajevo 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with 8 participants**

**Topics/activities covered:** “Persons with sterility as a marginalized group in BiH society”. The introductory speaker was Lamija Zeherović, executive director of BiH Association of Citizens Djeca.

She talked about discrimination of sterile couples in BiH, what they go through by society and institutions if they wish to undergo artificial insemination and how the media can contribute to breaking the stereotypes related to the persons with sterility. According to WHO data, every fourth couple is infertile. In BiH there are just a few medical centers dealing with issue of sterility. “In BiH there is no advisory centre for sterile couples that you can contact and get an information about check-ups, procedures or psychological help. There is not one single free procedure in Federation of BiH although all other countries in the region do have it. The cost of one procedure in Federation

of BiH for infertile couple is between 4000 and 7000 KM depending on a clinic. Bringing the Law on Medically Supported Insemination would greatly ease the process of treating infertile couples”, Zaherović said adding that the “right to be a parent must not be a privilege of rich but of all citizens of FBiH”. On the other hand, she said that infertile couples have the right to two free procedures in Republic of Srpska which includes the complete preparation, procedure and hormonal therapy.

In particular, she pointed to the issue of very expensive medications used by infertile couples not being possible to get VAT return although they were treated in private clinics. “Regardless they pay medical insurance, they cannot have the right to treatment and it is one more form of discrimination they face with”, Zaherović stated. The event was covered by: FENA, TVSA, RFE/RL, Hayat.

**Results of this activity:** It was concluded that media must report more about persons with sterility at several levels. Media representatives said it was important to contact journalists in media having interest in this issue. Contacts were exchanged in the end and introductory speaker gave contact from her organization to arrange in guests of the media to talk about this topic.

### **32. Brunch with Journalists, Sarajevo 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013 with 11 participants**

**Topics/activities covered:** “Single Parents and Their Marginalized Status in BiH Society”. The introductory speaker was Muamera Činjarević. She talked about position of single parents in our society, what are the issues that single parents face with, what media attention they get and how frequent, what is the way single parents and their children cope with patriarchal tradition of our society. She explained the basic terms referring to single parents explaining this term related to parents who independently without other parent look after the child. What she stressed was that the law should recognize single parents and separated parents which are currently not the case. “In our country there is no exact number of single parents and there are legal regulations within which they accomplish their rights. The media can help to change this” Činjarević said.

**Results of this activity:** Journalists were given promotional material of the Single Parents Association. As for the media, the following ones were at the brunch: FENA, TVSA, Radio Sarajevo, Novo vrijeme and Federalni radio.

### **33. Brunch with Journalists, Banja Luka 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013 with 17 participants**

**Topics/activities covered:** “Hate Speech in BiH Media and Internet”. The introductory speaker was Professor of Faculty of Philosophy Banjaluka Miodrag Živanović.

International Day of Tackle against Fascism, Racism and Xenophobia ( 9 November) was dedicated o tackle against hate on internet which was the reason to discuss with journalists, members of BiH Press Council and Communication Regulatory Agency about the lack of legal definition of internet space, options of its regulation and conduct a verbal analysis of domestic media scene. The general conclusion of the meeting was that hate speech from “traditional media” moved to internet because printing media, radio and TV are subjected to strict legal regulations. Internet, however, like in the rest of the world is out of range of control. Opinions of journalists and regulatory bodies about whether there should be legal frame of controlling internet are divided. It was estimated at the meeting that hate speech and religious and national intolerance are the most expressed in portals – under the section “comments”. Preventing hate speech of young people is in focus of the Council of Europe General Directorate for Democracy that launched a global campaign for tackle against hate speech on internet. The campaign will be conducted in 38 member countries. At the meeting were present 17 participants, journalists m/f from printing, electronic media and on-line media as well as representatives of regulatory bodies that control the media space in BiH. At the meeting also talked senior collaborators at the RS Ministry of Family, Youth and Family Nela Sladojević who announced activities of this ministry to get involved in this action of Council of Europe against hate speech on internet.

**Results of this activity:** At the brunch with journalists dedicated to “Hate Speech in BiH Media and Internet” Communication Regulatory Agency and Press Council agreed the joint actions in solving this issue and the first step towards is arranging a meeting aimed at considering options to establish regulations in on-line space of BiH.

### **34. Brunch with journalists, Tuzla 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013 with 13 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Inter-Peer Violence in Schools”. The introductory speaker was director of the Association "Zemlja djece“ Tuzla Mirsada Bajramović.

The reason for this “brunch” was the case of inter-peer violence in Mixed High School in Tuzla when three girls students physically attacked their colleague, a girl also. At the meeting was discussed about ways the media reported about this case, reactions that this case caused and facts that three student girls are victims themselves too. Mirsada Bajramović stressed that one of the great problems is that children, parents and teachers especially, do not recognize the forms of violence and therefore they do not react timely. She said that the greatest problem is the lack of educational programs for students, parents and teachers about prompt recognition of violence. It is why, as

she stressed out, there is the rise of inter-peer violence in schools. 13 participants were at this brunch with journalists amongst whom representatives of NGOs, media and students of journalism.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** It was concluded that media reported a lot about this case but they as well as NGOs and state institutions in particular need to learn a lot from this specific case. A message was sent that all children have the right to proper protection, rehabilitation and social services provision that will contribute to children who make violence change their behavior. Education of parents and teachers is the only way of preventing inter-peer violence.

### **35. Brunch with journalists, Tuzla, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 with 8 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Participation of Women in BiH Constitution Reform Process”. The introductory speakers were Svyetlana Marković and Lana Jajčević, representatives of Women Citizens Initiative for Constitutional Changes. The aim of the brunch was to present the initiative of group titled “Women Citizens for Constitutional Changes” gathering women’s NGOs which defined five priorities for constitutional changes. “The first priority is the use of gender-responsible language in the BiH Constitution because our Constitution was written in male gender and we want all citizens m/f to be equally recognized”, it was the message of the United Women Foundation Banjaluka Lana Jajčević. She underlined that the priority of having affirmative measurements into the BiH Constitution for the sake of full gender and sexual equality and widening the existing catalogue of the rights with regulation regarding the unique health and social protection. At the meeting was stressed that the priority in the reform process of the BiH Constitution is the greater court and legal protection of human rights and freedoms, the principle of direct democracy applied to the process of constitutional reform.

**Results of this activity:** Given into account the actuality of talks about constitutional reforms, journalists were invited to include actively women and their perspective of constitutional changes into their reports.

### **36. Brunch with journalists, Sarajevo 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013 with 10 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Mapping of Violence against Women via Technology”. The introductory speaker was Valentina Pellizzer, director of organization “OneWorldSee” Sarajevo.

“It is a great delusion that violence against women happens just in real world. Violence against women is also present within virtual world and it mostly involves stalking, monitoring, jeopardizing your personal privacy, manipulation with your data and other damaging activities. Women and girls often do not know the ways to protect them or report on-line violence and to whom exactly”, Pellizzer said adding that this was the reason for launching a campaign “Take over control over technology” aimed primarily at documenting cases of violence in virtual world, provision of information and help to girls and women to protect themselves on internet. “Mapping the violence is very important because without documenting these cases, one cannot work on solving these problems”, the introductory speaker stressed.

**Results of this activity:** It was concluded that internet and technologies are not neutral and working for your favor to the extent we know it and use to promote our values.

### **37. Brunch with journalists, Banja Luka 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 with 17 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Breaking Barriers, Open Doors – Inclusive Society for All”.

We used the International Day of Persons with Disability as an opportunity to talk with representatives of persons with disability and their representatives bodies at level of BiH about education and employment of this population. President of the Association of Youth with Disability “Infopart” Ognjen Ranisavić underlined that states should create equal conditions for education of all its citizens and that only by inclusion persons with disability can be competitive at market of labor and independent. Secretary General of Alliance MENEraLi Gospova Rađen Radić said that state should give a special attention to civil persons with disability. Parents of children with hard mental difficulties are unable to work because they have to look after them 24 hours a day which additionally exhausts the families. At the meeting, inter alia, was concluded that there are no precise mechanisms to track legal persons who are obliged to employ by certain quota persons with disability or sanctions for those not doing it. At the meeting with journalists was present Ljiljana Bošnjak, Chief of Management Monitoring Affairs at the Ministry of Labour and Fighters Invalid Protection of RS.

**Results of this activity:** At the brunch organized in Banjaluka was concluded that media report little about persons with disability, i.e. journalists pay more attention to political situation on a daily basis. At the meeting was agreed that association of persons with disability in the future and regardless of cause of disability occurrence should unite in tackle to achieve their rights and to expose the authorities to additional pressure.

### **38. Brunch with Journalists, Banja Luka 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 with 9 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Decade of Roma Social Inclusion 2005-2015“. The introductory speakers were the ex-coordinator for Roma from the RS Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH Adnan Šubert and member of the Association of Roma “Veseli brijeg” Banjaluka Šaha Ahmetović .

Since 2008 when BiH joined to international project “Decade of Roma Social Inclusion 2005-2015”, significant amount of money came to the state to be invested into programs of employment, “Veseli brijeg” from Banjaluka health and social protection and education of the Roma. However, participants of the brunch with journalists estimated that “Roma in BiH six years after joining this international program are still exposed to great poverty and discrimination”. A member of the Association of Roma “Veseli brijeg” Banjaluka Šaha Ahmetović sent a message that action plans are implemented slowly at level of BiH, problem of employing the Roma population is still without concrete solutions. A detail to substantiate it is the fact that only five Roma in Banjaluka got a job while several highly educated young men and women are trying to find a job but unsuccessfully. At the meeting were nine participants amongst whom were journalists m/f of SRNA news agency, Balkan radio, Free Europe radio and portal Frontal.ba.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** The media were introduced with the fact of stopping the work of coordination body of Roma at Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH which refers that BiH this year when chairing the Decade will not have one single Roma employed at state bodies. Representatives of the Association of Roma informed in details about this problem adding that, if judged by current dynamic, BiH will not be able to improve the status of Roma by the end of the Decade, i.e. by 2015. It is therefore agreed that media and Roma should make an additional pressure to institutions to fulfill at least basic condition in action plans that BiH Council of Ministers adopted.

### **39. Brunch with Journalists, Banja Luka 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 with 16 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Sanctioning Perpetrators of Violence against Women and Girls”. The introductory speaker was Maja Ulićević, president of single parents association “Ponos”.

Representatives of Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Banjaluka, Foundation “United Women” Banjaluka and Association of Single Parents “Ponos” sent a message about unacceptability of not punishing the violence against women in BiH. This brunch with journalists was organized on the occasion of marking the global campaign “One Billion Rising for Justice”. The reason for it is not the lack of efficient laws but not implementing it and the lack of will of state institutions to seriously understand the issue of domestic violence. A representative of the United Women Foundation Aleksandra Petrić reminded of scary data of the RS Ministry of Interior according to which 68 women had been killed within the last years. “A number of reported cases of domestic violence is on the rise every year. From 2007 to 2013 there were 812 women and 1006 children situated in safe houses in Republic of Srpska. A number of calls at SOS phone line (1264) for aid to domestic violence victims from 2005 to the end of 2013 was 29.899”, Petrić stated.

According to Maja Ulićević, many single mothers in this association stepped out from marriage only because of violence they have been exposed to for years. Single mothers are legally discriminated, we do not have any support from centre of social work although they should one of the first addresses to sort out our problems. We often have the cases that police do not react to reporting by women. In cases of divorce in centers for social work women often suffer various forms of pressures in reconciliation process”, Ulićević stated.

**Results of this activity:** At the brunch, the attention of media was drawn to improper work of centers for social work and again there was raised the issue of founding RS Alimony fund.

### **40. Brunch with Journalists, Sarajevo 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 with 7 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Children with Dawn Syndrome as Marginalized Group through a Prism of Media Reporting”. The introductory speaker of the session was Haris Čaušević from Sarajevo-based NGO Altruists “Svjetlo”. “For a child with Down Syndrome to improve, except a doctor, it is important to include a logopedist, psychologist, physical therapist and other experts into expert team. The most important is to have parents or foster parents willing to learn from expert and apply the knowledge in her/his relation with the child”, Čaušević stated adding that “early intervention and systematic supervising of the child with difficulties is the most important step in life that enables the child to develop its capabilities in critical period when the brain is developed the most”. Unfortunately, we do not have a legal obligation of systematic supervision of children, Čaušević stated adding that it is of the most significance to include children with Dawn syndrome into pre-school and school programs and enable them to live on their own. The event was covered by the following media: FENA, TVSA, BHRT Radio.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** It is concluded that the media have a key role in widening the knowledge in modern society, the media are those creating its users and their knowledge and it is therefore important to have the media in service of those who are invisible and marginalized.

### **41. Brunch with journalists, Banja Luka 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014 with 12 participants**

**Topics covered:** During the brunch with journalists about this topic “Inclusion in BiH Education System”, the focus was put on conditions that children with disabilities have in BiH because in our country there is no a school completely from architectural point of view adapted to pupils with disabilities. Except architectural barriers, schools lack didactic material and speech impairs specialists to help teachers and professors in classes. Participants of the meeting were psychologist Nikolina Milutinović from primary school “Petar Kočić“ Prijedor, teacher Sanja Bajić from primary school “Vojislav Ilić“ in Krupa na Uni and teaching assistant and activist of “Djeca svjetlosti” association Jovana Jankovski.

The participants concluded that the problem of inclusion should be looked from perspective of parents but from teachers’ angle in RS as well who are not properly trained to work with children with disability. As a special problem was identified the categorization of children with disabilities. There was raised the question of how adequate was categorization of children in most of the cases conducted by a complete team of experts and the lack of need of re-categorization of children when enrolling at high schools. A representative of RS Ombudsman for Children Zlata Hadžić Bajrić stressed that architectural barriers still present a limitation of rights of children when it is about selecting a school and occupation for such children. At the session participated 12 participants, representatives of RS Ombudsman for Children and journalists m/f of portal “E-trafika”, “Glas Srpske”, portal “Srpskacafe.com” and Balkan radio.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** Participants of the brunch concluded there was a long way ahead BiH to have the full inclusion in education. Representative of RS Ombudsman for Children Zlata Hadžić Barić said that this institution would initiate changes and amendments of Law on Primary Education that should regulate the issue of teaching assistants. Current practice does not define what teaching assistant should do, what education he/she should have, what are working hours, who can educate them.

#### **42. Brunch with journalists, Sarajevo 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 with 9 participants**

**Topics covered:** “The Relation of Health and Human Rights in Media Presentation”. The introductory speaker was Amer Paripović from organization “Partnerstvo za zdravlje”.

Majority of BiH citizens do not think about their health as their basic human right. One the other hand, law makers and executive power totally neglect this relation primarily because of ignorance but from practical reasons as well. For example, in practice it is very difficult to draw a line where industrial pollution stops and where begins the right to health”, Paripović stated adding that “human rights and freedoms are the inseparable part of tackle for better health”.

Each breach of human rights has direct or indirect negative consequences for human health. For instance, discrimination increases the subjecting to numerous diseases of individuals, their families and the closest. He stated that the media should be more engaged in promotion campaigns and in particular in campaigns of promoting healthy life style and decreasing the risky behavior. Media campaigns should be planned, led, coordinated and funded by health system, in particular, by ministries in charge. But chaotic state of neglecting and the lack of care in BiH political sphere impacts the health sector which is why there are just a few campaigns. Some external circumstances also support the lack of campaigns, for instance, campaigns against smoking practically do not exist because state and entities’ budgets to great extent are filled from cigarettes excises. The event was covered by the following media: FENA, TVSA, BHT Radio, diskriminacija.ba, TV Face, Hayat TV

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** It was concluded that the media can help a lot in improving the entire health situation, but they cannot harm too. It is therefore desirable that journalists specialized in these topics write about this field.

#### **43. Brunch with journalists, Sarajevo 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014 with 7 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Women with disability: Active, Successful and (In)visible”. The introductory speaker was Šefika Skorupan, President of the Women’s Basketball wheelchair club “Bambi”.

Women with disability who play basketball in wheelchair are brave women who fight against isolation by sport and sport activities. As there are no more women’s basketball wheelchair clubs in Western Balkans, “Bambi” Women’s Basketball Wheelchair club competes in the first league of BiH in male competition. “Bambi” basketball women players are very active. The club itself was proclaimed five times as the best sport team in Canton Sarajevo. “Many persons with disability would like to get involved in social flows, to work, attend a school, be active in sport, deal with politics, but unfortunately the society does not support their rights. The state always finds the reason for not having money to provide the equal treatment of persons with disability in the society”, Skorupan said. One of the examples that persons with disability can accomplish a lot is the introductory speaker herself. Although she is a 100% disability person, she does all the work: she is the president of the club, manager of the club, coach, basketball player, runner, PIKADO player, the best sport worker in Canton Sarajevo. She completed a course for coaches, computer course, she drives a car, she does all domestic work at home. Yet, the society considers her incapable and estimates her as such by the way she looks like.



Talking of women's participation in sport, she stressed unequal treatment by institutions. "Although we play equally with men, money for clubs is not equally allocated. We did not get wheelchairs by institutions, although men's club got it", the introductory speaker said. The event was covered by: FENA, TVSA.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** It is of key importance for media to report more about women with disability and make public aware that persons with disability are not incapable, some weird people but equal citizens of this society.

#### **44. Brunch with journalist, Sarajevo 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 with 6 participants**

**Topics covered:** "Reproductive Health in Mirror of Media". The introductory speaker was Amina Kurtagić, PR of Red Cross, Sarajevo.

"Reproductive health of young people is the problem being ranked as the third. School is the most important source of information for young people and the fact is that young in BiH have no any form of formal education about reproductive health which is why this topic is still a taboo", the introductory speaker said adding that it is exactly the lack of information is one of the main causes of risky behavior and sexually transmitted diseases. According to her words, it is about time to start seriously understand the need of young to get accurate information about reproductive health and create good projects and education. "Many conducted researches showed and proved that educations about reproductive health or, as also called "sexual education" do not POTICATI sexual activity of young. Young have the right to free access to verified and exact information referring to their sexuality, reproductive health and right. The more young know, the more control they will have over their life", Kurtagić addressed.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** Contacts between the introductory speaker and present journalists were exchanged as well as opinion about the as-yet way of media reporting about this topic.

#### **45. Brunch with Journalists on 30th May 2014 in Sarajevo with 19 participants**

**Topics covered:** The introductory speaker of the session was Goran Bubalo from Catholic Relief Services who presented "Peace Event Sarajevo 2014" and the importance of this event for entire BiH.

He stated that "Peace Event Sarajevo 2014" was to be organized by more than 50 organizations from BiH, Europe and the worlds with the aim to "replace the world of wars and violence by culture of peace, non-violence and justice". Bubalo added that main topics would be: "Peace and Social Justice", "Culture of Peace and Non-Violence", "Equality of Genders, Women and Peace", "Reconciliation and Facing the Past", "Militarism and Alternatives to Militarism". Bubalo also said that the event would gather lots of participants dedicated to peace, mostly from Europe and Western Balkans who would talk together against war and violence 100 years after the start of the first world war. The event was covered by following media: FENA, TVSA, Radio M, klix.ba, FTV, FKR, BHT1.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** Journalists were in details introduced with organization of "Peace Event Sarajevo 2014" and they disseminated the information from the brunch to the public.

#### **46. Brunch with journalists, Banja Luka 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 with 15 participants**

**Topics covered:** "Importance of Coordination during Delivery of Aid to Population in Flooded Areas". The introductory speaker was Bojan Arula, president of the Association "Nova generacija".

According to data of BiH Indirect Taxing Management, 4.000 tons of humanitarian aid from abroad was imported to flooded population in the second half of May. But the aid did not arrive in every flooded household which was the reason for meeting with journalists we organized because of the floods that hit BiH. The introductory speaker Bojan Arula said there was not a good coordination in aid distribution "so it happened that some people received several packages of aid, while some got nothing". Marko Vujić from Transparency International reminded of free TI line put in function to report irregularities in humanitarian aid distribution. "In a few days only six cases of misuse were reported", Vujić said adding that domestic public in the foreseeable future should request the insight into every KM to be spent from the unique account of the Government of Republic of Srpska for flooded areas.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** *Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banjaluka* Helsinški parlament građana Banjaluka has given lists with names of persons with disability from RS whose homes were destroyed by flood to the president of the Nova generacija association Bojan Arula and present journalists. It was agreed at the brunch that Centar za životnu sredinu- Environment Centre, Transparency International and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banjaluka would send comments to draft of law on solidarity fund for renewal of Republic of Srpska to the RS National Assembly and try to improve legal text and foreseen solutions in it.

#### **47. Brunch with journalists, Tuzla 30th May 2014 with 7 participants**

**Topics covered:** "Fear of Diversity and Prejudices in Požarnica municipality".

At the brunch was presented the Association of young “Obnova” from Požarnice near Tuzla which supports the co-life of returnees and domicile population. The main activity of this association is adaptation of local community house in which the association wants to hold its activities to empower and provide a better connection of young of all nations and impact the social life which has been marginalized for years. “It is not enough that people just return, but it is necessary to provide them with job and social life. This association will try to improve the social life in Požarnica”, Željka Marjanović, President of the Association stated inviting the media to help them with it. **Assessment of the results of this activity:** It was agreed that media will not only cover but participate in “Gulaš tolerancije” which this association intends to organize on June 14<sup>th</sup> to give out meals to population hit by floods and landslides. Also, journalists themselves came up with idea to donate a book or computers to local community centre.

#### **48. Brunch with journalists, Sarajevo 9th June 2014 with 12 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Poverty in BiH – A Real Face of Bosnia and Herzegovina”. The introductory speaker was Miroslav Valenta, project manager at Caritas BK BiH.

The introductory speaker focused on roles that the media should have when reporting about poverty, unemployment, discrimination, salaries and pensions, etc.

According to his words, the media should ind details and accurately follow the people who are at positions of power. This role of the media is known as “watchdog”. On the other hand, they should give a reliable and wide range of information about current important political and social issues. “The media, of course, can not solve the issue of economic crisis, poverty, discrimination and marginalization, but they can open a public dialogue between the authorities and union, workers, unemployed and turn the attention of public to issues these groups face with”, Valenta said adding that media can only have its function in possible conditions.

“Journalism in BiH has never been in difficult economic position. Some journalists are paid less than average. Despite the highest level of education, journalists are at bottom by salary amount. Therefore, way of reporting about poverty and social inclusion is not surprising because most of th journalists themselves belong to this marginalized group”, Valenta stated. The event was followed by media: TV SA, FENA, BH Radio 1, TV Pink, Dnevni avaz, Agencija Sense, FACE TV, Hayat TV, BHT

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** It was concluded that all actors, authorities, NGOs and media should get involved into poverty and social inclusion diminishing, all those who can and must give their special contribution to efforts in poverty diminishing.

#### **49. Brunch with journalists, Tuzla 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 with 10 participants**

**Topics covered:** “Economic Analysis of Floods in BiH”. The introductory speaker was Aleksa Milojević director of Economic Institute in Bijeljina.

At the brunch we tried to answer the question of responsibility degree of BiH authorities to protect population from natural disasters, whether the authorities have mechanisms of protection from flood, fire, earthquakes but social riots too.

Milojević stressed that one of the tasks of authorities is to protect people from disasters in the long run damage protection so the authorities can be prepared when damage from fires, floods, earthquakes or social riots occur. He said that the authorities should warn citizens to protect from disaster before they happen. “However, it showed that it does not function that way in BiH. In particular, what was missing was risk planning in today’s climatic changes when everything should have been re-questioned, planning – from embankments, flood protection building up to fires, winds, earthquakes”, Milojević underlined. He stressed out that “authorities did not show capable and willing to do its job in protecting people from disasters”.

“The Government does not do its job because there are institutions receiving money to warn people to direct danger so they can protect on time. There is a total lack of care and responsibility of authorities. Now someone should be responsible for all it happened to us because if they now get away unpunished, we await greater troubles in the future”, Milojević warned.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** At the brunch with journalists, the media were offered an expert analysis of overall situation after floods in BiH so that they can objectively and realistically report about disaster that hit BiH taking into account the opinion of expert and academic public.

#### **50. Evaluation brunch with journalists on 25<sup>th</sup> June Banjaluka 2014 with 17 participants**

**Topic covered:** Aimed at summing up results of project and learnt lessons, we organized in Banjaluka an evaluation brunch to which we invited journalists m/f who have been following activities of the X-Press II project. Our wish was to hear from them whether we did well, whether they had benefits from activities we organized and whether we managed to contribute to affirmation of socially-responsible journalism concept. Besides, ideas about potential joint projects and actions were exchanged.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** At the brunch, journalists and NGOs representatives filled in evaluation forms having estimated the activities implemented in the project as useful:

"Thanks to activities of the X-Press project we made contacts with media and journalists who have helped the work and activities of the Ponos association of single parents."

"This is an excellent example how citizens can influence the conscience of people about marginalized groups. Wide population and its stances are very important segment and affirmation of marginalized groups is a key step towards creating a better society in which we all want to live. Bravo!"

"Of all project's activities I would like to stress brunches with journalists at which in an informal atmosphere it was talked about serious and actual topics. This activity gave a direct communication with journalists which was always a difficult circumstance for civil society representatives. I would like to underline the Srdjan Aleksic Journalist Award which improved and increased the visibility of marginalized groups".

"Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and Foundation "Cure" have done a lot on visibility of marginalized groups and affirmation of socially – responsible journalism. For the first time we can notice more affirmative stories in the media. I hope that this practice will continue not just stopping here."

"Starting up the Committee for Tackle against Hate Speech is the best indicator that authorities do follow activities of civil society. Helsinki Citizens' Assembly has its representative in this Committee."

"Activities of the project helped me a lot because I established valuable contacts with representative of NGO sector and developed new cooperation and got new topics to report about. All activities I attended at were more than efficient. "

"I think this project was very successful because it turned the attention of public to issues of marginalized groups which cannot be visible because of a whole "flood" of political issues. The project helped me to make contacts with NGOs dealing this issue."

"I think this project has significantly contributed to developing sensitivity of journalists towards some social groups. I personally made a contact with various associations. With some of them I even became a friend, I wrote some stories, I learnt many things about marginalized groups."

"It is about a very good project that connected civil society organizations with the media and journalists."

"X-Press helped the greater media visibility of marginalized groups because some issues have at last become visible."

"Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and the CURE contributed to writing about marginalized groups and visibility of many associations which have no any access to the media."

"I think that project impacted decisions of authorities too, especially in Banjaluka which took over some measures in terms of improving the conditions of education and housing for Roma people."

## **B) Workshops with students of journalism**

### ***1. Workshop with students, Tuzla, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012, with 25 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** At the Faculty of Philosophy in Tuzla was held a workshop entitled "Standards of reporting on marginalized groups". The workshop was held by journalist Milkica Milojević and it was attended by 25 students from Journalism department. Milojević introduced students to the most marginalized groups in our society and the ways of reporting on their problems in the media. "Besides the fact that they are far away from the processes of decision- making, these groups are also neglected in media which is marginalizing them even more and pushing them from their constitution given rights", said Milojević. A huge issue with media representation of different marginalized groups is stereotypical reporting which is, according to Milojević, a result of journalists neglecting, tabloidization, the lack of compassion and courage, and unwillingness of journalists to cope with that challenge. Regarding to what she said, special attention should be paid to terminology which is used when reporting on marginalized groups, so we could avoid use of insulting and discriminatory language which often has open resistance and hatred towards certain minority groups as a consequence. A journalist should stick to the law and code when reporting on marginalized groups. Students were mostly interested in how to make a story about these groups interesting and how to get approved for publishing by editor.

**Results of this activity:** New knowledge in reporting on marginalized groups was presented to journalism students, which is not otherwise available to them in their regular studies. Milojević shared her long year experience about socially responsible journalism with the students.

### ***2. Workshop with students, Banja Luka November 7th 2012, with 25 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** Workshop entitled "Standards of reporting on marginalized groups". The workshop was held by journalist Milkica Milojević and it was attended by 25 students from Journalism department as well as Professor Radmila Čokorilo. Milojević introduced students to the most marginalized groups in our society and the

ways of reporting on them in the media. With media representation of marginalized groups a great issue is hate speech and stereotypical reporting which are consequence of journalist neglect, yellow journalism, the lack of compassion and courage, and unwillingness of journalists to cope with that challenge. Regarding to what she said, special attention should be paid to terminology which is used when reporting on marginalized groups to avoid use of insulting and discriminatory language which often as a consequence has open resistance and hatred towards certain minority groups. A journalist should stick to the law and code when reporting on marginalized groups said Milojević. Discussion was opened after lecture. Students were interested in Milojević personal experience with the media once and now. Most questions asked were regarding editor-journalist relations and how to push through a story that editor doesn't like.

**Results of this activity:** The students acquired knowledge in the field of reporting on marginalized and vulnerable groups. Some prejudices about certain groups have been broken.

### ***3. Workshops with students, Sarajevo, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with 51 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Standards of reporting on marginalized groups". The workshop was held at the Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo by Benjamin Butković, desk editor of BHT1.

Keynote speaker said that the media are there to fight and strive for accuracy, objectivity and fairness, and that there are no independent journalists, but journalists who are professionals, journalists who are amateur and journalists who are dilettantes. Butković gave students an advice on how to report in best way about marginalized groups, noting that you should not publish images of severely injured persons located in the hospital, should not try to achieve the effect of the drama on statements of the children who are surviving the trauma; avoid statements which due to rage or sadness groundlessly accuse others and, whenever necessary, provide protection to your interlocutor (concealment of pictures, voice deformation, ...). After broadcasting reports on "human story", started a discussion with the students.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** All participants agreed that in BiH there are not enough specialized TV shows and newspaper columns that should have a role to reduce prejudice against marginalized groups, and not cause a sensation, regret or even hatred. Students got useful tips especially those about the relationship editor - journalist. Keynote speaker told them they have the right to seek a written statement of editors on why he/she doesn't want to have a text on minority groups, encouraging them to use this right in future.

### ***4. Workshop with students, Pale, December 9th 2013 with 44 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** "Standards of reporting on marginalized groups". The workshop was held at the Faculty of Philosophy on Pale by Benjamin Butković, desk editor on BHT1.

Lecturer firstly explained the term marginalized group, what correct reporting is, told participants about The Press Code and the Code of Broadcasting, and what is freedom of speech and what is hate speech. Butković showed students couple of TV several TV stories letting students analyze what is discriminatory and what is positive in the story. The attendees showed great interest in the practical exercises and participated in the discussion. For that matter- all of them recognized what is discriminatory in the story about begging, as the story showed only Roma children.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** Students were given useful tips that will help them in their future work, especially when they are reporting on a variety of vulnerable and marginalized groups in our society. Students were offered with help in selecting professional interlocutor when it comes to marginalized groups.

### ***5. i 6. Workshops with students, Mostar, December 18th 2013, with 61 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** Helsinki Citizen's Assembly Banja Luka organized two workshops for 43 communicology students of Faculty for social studies on Džemal Bijedić University in Mostar and 18 journalism students at Faculty of philosophy on University of Mostar. Lecturer was journalist Milkica Milojević. In introduction part, students got familiar with ethic standards in journalism, who and what is a marginalized group, and to what they should pay attention when reporting on this groups. Through concrete examples from practice, Mrs. Milojević stressed that students should avoid prejudices and stereotypical reporting on several groups, and that, as socially responsible journalist, they should always question whether the article they wrote on some marginalized group is stereotypical or not. In second part of workshop students analyzed newspaper texts, and through this part they were supposed to find mistakes on reporting about marginalized groups.

**Results of this activity:** Students were presented with new knowledge and approaches to reporting on marginalized groups, which have not been introduced during the regular studies. This workshop enabled them to get information on socially responsible manner of reporting and journalism students of Faculty of Philosophy wished that these workshops happen more frequently during their studies. They said that this was of the utmost importance that they were able to discuss socially responsible journalism with journalist Milkica Milojević, because they are rarely given the opportunity to discuss current professional issues with people who work in newsrooms and discuss the

pitfalls of journalistic reporting. The Secretary of the Department of Journalism Marijan Primorac expressed his desire to continue his cooperation with us.

### ***7. Workshop with students, Banja Luka, April 9th 2014, with 25 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** “Standards of reporting on marginalized groups”. The workshop was held by journalist Milkica Milojević and it was attended by 25 students from Journalism department in Banjaluka. Lecture introduced future media workers to terms of marginalized groups in BH society and ways in which local media report on these groups. Experienced journalist emphasized the importance of socially responsible journalism and drew attention to the "trend" of media neglecting these groups, which further marginalizes them and moves them away from being able to enjoy all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of BH. According to the assessment of Milojević, at a media presentation of various marginalized groups exists a problem and stereotypical reporting, which is usually a result of the negligence of journalists, tabloidization, lack of knowledge, compassion and courage, but also the unwillingness of journalists to accept the challenge. Particular attention, said Milojević, students should pay to terminology that is used when reporting on marginalized groups, in order to avoid the use of offensive and discriminatory language that often calls for open resistance and hatred toward minority groups. The pleasant two hour gathering experienced journalist answered questions from the students and gave them recommendations on how to build an objective journalistic stance. What journalist needs to insist on is professionalism, and adherence to the Code and the law when it comes to reporting on marginalized groups, said Milkica Milojević.

**Results of this activity:** Responding to numerous questions from the students, experienced journalist gave them recommendations on how to build an objective journalistic stance, stressing that journalist needs to insist on is professionalism, and adherence to the Code and the law. The workshop was yet another confirmation that we have developed good cooperation in the framework of X-Press with Department of Journalism in Banja Luka.

### ***8. Workshop with students, Sarajevo 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014 with 43 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** “Standards of reporting on marginalized groups”. The workshop was held at Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo by journalist Benjamin Butković. The keynote speaker right at the beginning said that the most important are in fact, life stories of individuals. He asked the students what they specifically want to do in life, adding that it is important to set yourself goals and to never give up on the important things because of which they decided to practice journalism. Lecturer was talking to students using examples from everyday life, and asked those present to tell whether they know someone who marginalized in their immediate environment, how they deal with him/her, whether they think about them and how to try to get closer to that person. He also asked them whether they had ever volunteered adding that it is also a way to become familiar with a variety of socially excluded groups and become more sensitive to their problems. Students were interested to hear how to report impartially, when media outlets are biased and editors make a selection of what is news and what is not.

In an era of commercialization and tabloidization of media space, it is of great importance to promote ethical and professional standards of reporting and the concept of socially responsible journalism, and not to allow political and economic centers of power decisive influence on creation of media content, said Butković.

**Assessment of the results of this activity:** They received advices and recommendations on how to report on marginalized groups in our society and expanded their knowledge in this field.

**Results of workshops with students in TOTAL:** In total, 274 students attended lectures about professional reporting about marginalized groups having evaluated the workshop as educational, interesting and useful. Here are some of the impressions of students from Tuzla, Banjaluka, Sarajevo and Mostar: “I am glad you came to our faculty, primarily because we lack such lectures. We have learnt today very useful things about reporting on marginalized groups and it is important for our future profession. I think that such presentations are useful for students and I do hope you will come again”; “Presentation was wonderful, it certainly did teach me something. What else to say except WONDERFUL”; “I found out many new things and I will surely have a different approach to marginalized groups topic”; “An interesting and thorough presentation about marginalized groups contributed indeed a lot to us, the students because the issues you talked about were just mentioned at our department”; “Wakening awareness about marginalized groups should mark the 21<sup>st</sup> century which is exactly this Organization is doing!”; “The lecture was very interesting, dynamic and full of new information. This form of a workshop is necessary and interesting way for young journalists to upgrade their knowledge. Very inspirational. I think these workshops should be organized more often”; “Honestly, a very interesting lecture. So many information I did not know by now that I adopted it. THANKS!”; “I have never spent two more useful hours. THANK YOU!”

## **C) IT trainings**

### ***1. IT-Training, Banja Luka, 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012, with 12 participants***

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**Topics/activities covered:** “Online and offline activism” - Training for NGOs and media on using new IT technologies and preparing activities together. Training was held by Valentina Pellizzer and Amila Topčagić. First of six IT trainings for NGOs and media was held in Banja Luka with 12 participants. Participants had an opportunity to learn about safety and personal data keeping, news writing and putting photographs, audio and video material on the Web, and connecting with social networks such as Facebook and Twitter. Leaders of the training showed how to use different online tools to ensure faster communication that is, faster spreading of information. Valentina Pellizzer and Amila Topčagić presented Kony 2012 campaign which shows all power of internet and social networks. Coordinator of the project Aleksandar Žolja introduced participants with possibility of applying for small grants that they acquired with attendance on this training.

**Reason for modification for the planned activity:** N/a

**Results of this activity:** Participants acquired knowledge in IT. People from different organizations and media met and exchanged contacts. Participants were introduced with possibility of applying for small grants.

## ***2. IT-Training, Sarajevo, 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012, with 15 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** The workshop was held by Valentina Pellizzer and Lejla Šeper from the organization Oneworldsee, and with support of Aleksandar Žolja from the Helsinki Citizens Assembly – Banja Luka and Denija Hidić from the CURE foundation. IT training was organized as a part of women art festival “Pitch Wise”. Training was designed for CSOs and local media in purpose of their connecting and mutual activities in future in field of promotion and protection of human rights. At training participant had an opportunity to improve skills and knowledge of applying new informational-communicational technologies. Beside that participants of IT training “Online and offline activism” have a possibility to apply for mini grants which are going to be granted by HCA and CURE foundation to participants of training who deliver project ideas for mutual activities that should result in increased visibility of marginalized groups in our society and concrete shifts in praxis. At IT training “Online and offline activism” all participants had internet access and trainers led the workshop in practical manner. Participants were firstly introduced to safe way of searching the Web. After that trainers talked about social networks and safe search on the social networks, ways of checking password strength and ways to see their IP address. It was important to participants to learn more about internet safety, reporting on events ignored by mainstream media, which tool to use for reporting, but it was also important to them to talk about where the computers are coming from, which software and email providers to support. On workshop participants learned how to use a web page where it is possible to report violence against women, which is very important as a strategy in times where thousands of women are experiencing violence.

**Results of this activity:** Participants acquired knowledge in IT. People from different organizations and media met and exchanged contacts. Participants introduced with possibility of applying for small grants.

## ***3. IT-Training, Konjic, 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013, with 24 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** A training “Online and offline activism” was held by Valentina Pellizzer and Amila Topčagić. Participants had an opportunity to introduce themselves with security on internet, how to protect passwords and data and use free operative systems (like Linux). After that, they were introduced with on-line tools and social networks usage, web sites advancing their real activities. During the two-day long workshop they learnt how to write news for web sites, how to spread the news so that it can be read by as many as possible people. The participants were presented small grants to apply for by joint journalists and NGO activists.

**Results of this activity:** Introducing representatives of the media and NGO activists. Experiences from the media, NGOs and new technologies exchanged. Also, ideas about new joint projects exchanged. Some new forms of communication and on-line tools learnt.

## ***4. IT-Training, Bihac, 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013, with 21 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** A workshop titled “Social media and Social Workshops” were led by Darko Brkan and Edin Vehabović. Participants of this training, civil society representatives and journalists had an opportunity to analyze web sites, not just their own but from other organizations in BiH, how to make them adjustable and visible. They were talked about basic rules of on-line activism, how to start with using the new technology in their work and what are advantages of using the new technologies (an easier communication, constant availability, low costs). Participants made some basic steps in creating a web site for their organization and/or the media.

**Results of this activity:** Participants acquired knowledge in IT. People from different organizations and media met and exchanged contacts. Participants introduced with possibility of applying for small grants.

## ***5. IT-Training, Tuzla, 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013, with 15 participants***

**Topic/activities covered:** A workshop titled “Usage of New Informative Communication Technologies” were led by Denim Rahmanović, editor-in-chief of [vidiportal.ba](http://vidiportal.ba) and Edin Vehabović from hCa. Participants were presented the basics of web publishing and communicating – they learnt how to start up a web portal, blog, Facebook group and aims of it. More specifically, participants were introduced with writing news, making a web site and tools increasing the visibility on social networks.

**Results of this activity:** Ideas about new joint projects were exchanged. Some new forms of communication and availability of new on-line tools learnt.

#### **6. IT-Training, Zenica, 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013, with 16 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** The workshop titled “Usage of New Informative Communication Technologies” organized in Zenica for representatives of civil society and the media from this area. Participants had an opportunity to get to know each other and plan some new joint projects. The workshop was led by Lina Hegemann, Ivana Stanković and Ognjen Radumilo. Participants were introduced with writing for web site by practical drill. They were presented on-line tools, google cloud and google drive first, enabling distance work and on-line documents storing. They were also presented the option of being volunteers via new technologies on a distance. They were also introduced with design and web site making.

**Results of this activity:** Participants were introduced with new on-line tools and web site working. They also exchanged experiences (journalists and NGOs in particular). They were told about small grant program for media and NGOs.

#### **Results of IT trainings in TOTAL:**

In total, 103 persons, representatives of NGOs and the media completed the IT trainings. According to participants’ evaluations, the trainings were more than useful. Here we pass some of the evaluations of participants:

- “The training I took part at was, in one word, unique. Trainers did their job with passion and energy of genuine activists.”
- “I discovered a lot of new sites which can be helpful to me in my further work.”
- “You presented to us a whole power of internet and how to use in the best way. You drew attention to safety which is very important in this time of global communication. Lady trainers have passed their knowledge and skills really well with truly great energy. Thank you.”
- “I think that seminar was extremely useful and regardless of our previous work on internet and in the media, we learnt so many new things. I am so glad I met so many members of other media and NGOs at this seminar which can help us a lot in our further work.”
- “We will use all new information we got here and improve the work on our portal.”
- “I was at three so-called IT trainings but I have never received more useful and practical information like at this training. I needed all these information for my further advancement in the organization. Also, I would like to share my knowledge with my colleagues. You showed to us what we can use and now it is up to us how we will use it. I know I definitely will. Thank you a lot.”
- “This two-day long seminar completely justified my expectations. Ladies lecturers did their job excellently.”
- “I personally am not some cyber maniac and my knowledge from this field is modest. However, I managed to learn some new things to help me in my work, currently both as a volunteer at NGO. During this workshop I was the most thrilled with g-mail account I did not use by now but as of now I certainly will.”

#### **D) Strategic planning**

##### **Strategic planning, Sarajevo 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012, with 38 participants**

**Topic/activities covered:** “Strategic planning for journalist award Srđan Aleksić”

Strategic planning conducted in cooperation with Network for Building Peace, which showed intent to take over journalist award Srđan Aleksić. Three-day training was held by Martina Štaznik. By Open Space method most important topics for Network for Building Peace were determined. Within that journalist award Srđan Aleksić was highlighted. Besides that Mission and vision, how we understand peace, identity of the Network, structure, criteria for membership and fee were discussed. Every working group had a task to create an optimal solution for given topic. Topic leaders from each group presented their findings to all participants. After day two, solutions for all given topics were offered. Operational plan for 2012 was done as well as for journalist award Srđan Aleksić, it was agreed that Peace Building Network will take over the organization and funding of the award. Working groups were defined and we created special working group for journalist prize, part of which is also HCA Banja Luka. That working group will have a responsibility to organize, finance and announce public contest for the award. It was decided that in the application for the membership of the Network, a new applicant state that they accept the

award. It was agreed that Peace Network awards a special award for reporting in continuity on the Day of peace 2013.

The Peace Network currently has 110 members.

**Results of this activity:** Peace Building Networks taken over organization and finance of special award Srđan Aleksić for reporting in continuity.

## **E) Conferences**

### ***1. Conferences on professional and ethical standards when reporting on marginalized groups, Banja Luka 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012, with 43 participants***

Talking about forms of discrimination in BiH, Professor Miodrag Živanović from the Faculty of Philosophy Banjaluka said that “ten years ago we had an inventory of sheep but we still do not know the number of people we live with.”

“We are all marginalized because we live on a principle of ethnic matrix and general reduction to ethnic belonging”, stressed Professor Živanović adding that amongst most important factors of marginalization are political parties “because they decide instead of the state institutions”. According to his words, such situation brings us to being excluded from all the courses of decision-making.

Asked how responsible for the situation we live in is the academia for, which is almost invisible in BiH, Živanović replied that “older generation is tired” and the opposition is “lethargic students”. According to his assessment, the BiH academia is sterile and characterized by yes-men, conformism and incidental examples of saying critical thinking.

The introductory speaker Davor Marko summed up and presented the findings and conclusions from several researches focused on presentation of national minorities in the media contents.

He said that in BiH there are 50 TV and approximately 150 radio stations of which none exclusively covers the minority topics or its’ owned by a national minority.

Of print media (9 daily newspapers and 99 magazines) only the “Jevrejski glas” (Jewish Voice) and Crno-bijeli svijet (Black and White World) could be characterized as real minority media.

“For comparison, national minorities in Vojvodina achieve their rights to information in their mother language by a special minority media or special media contents (print or programs) inside the existing media. According to data of the Regional Information Secretariat, total current minority information resource enriches 114 minority media and media products in the Region in 11 languages”, said Marko. The other part of the conference was dedicated to formal and informal education of journalist and online and offline activism. According to words of Slobodanka Dekić from Sarajevo Media Centre, it is good that some NGOs in BiH organized trainings and courses for journalism students “because it is how emptiness is filled in the curriculums”. According to Enes Osmančević in BiH there are 7 faculties with journalism department. “However, we did not fulfill the obligation of harmonizing the curriculum which would mean that the same subjects are taught at our faculties too”, said Osmančević adding that mobility of students and professors are at a low level, computer cabinets are ill-equipped, no big level of cooperation media organizations or media researches are advanced. Students who included into discussion said “they have just a few journalist specialist subjects”, that cabinets are ill-equipped and that practice being held within classes is not satisfying.

#### **1.a Journalist award**

Within the conference we organized the second “Srđan Aleksić” awarding. In total, 19 TV and radio stories, 24 web and newspapers texts and 8 proposals for special award for reporting in continuity were received. The Jury decided to give 6 awards in all categories.

A four-member jury decided to give the first award for texts in print media affirming the professional reporting on marginalized groups in BiH and resulting specific actions and progress in practice. Milkica Milojević, journalist of “Euro Blic”. In category of radio stories it was decided to give the first award to Mirsad Čamdžić, journalist of Radio Gračanica and the second to Radmila Grubiša, journalist of BH radio 1. As for category of TV stories, the second award was given to Tina Jelin Dizdar, journalist of TV Liberty for a remarkable story about a war invalid from Mostar, a story that portrays all the absurd and cruelty of war. For the first time, an award for texts on web portal was given and the second ward in this category was received by Irma Husić, journalist of [www.novinar.me](http://www.novinar.me) portal. A special award for reporting on continuity, the Jury unanimously decided to award web portal [www.manjine.ba](http://www.manjine.ba) which recognized the importance of marginalized social groups issues but the importance of promotion and defense of the rights of minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina too.

### ***2. Conferences on professional and ethical standards when reporting on marginalized groups, Sarajevo, 31 May – 1 June, 2013, with 46 participants***

The conference was opened with reviewing results of monitoring which hCa did in the period from 25th February to April 26 2013, following 12media reports on three marginalized groups. Preliminary results of monitoring were



presented by Dragana Dardić saying that the monitoring showed that the trend of ad hoc, festive, negative and humanitarian writing about marginalized groups is ongoing, and that there is no uniformed policy of gender-sensitive language use in the media, and that the marginalized groups are generally mentioned by presidents of their associations, politicians in higher percentages and international officials. According to her, the monitoring showed is the use of stereotypical and politically incorrect reporting reduced, what can be characterized as a positive trend in media reporting. Jasmina Čaušević, from Sarajevo Open Centre organization spoke about the ways in which media reports on the LGBT population. She emphasized that the number of texts on this topic has increased, as well as the number of positively "intoned" articles about this population. Saša Madacki talked about searching strategies on the Internet, warning that today's man needs new skills to get along in a sea of information which are placed in each moment. He gave a lot of helpful tips on how to easily and effectively search information on the web and the internet.

The second day of the conference began with the presentation by Haris Čaušević, from the altruistic NGO "Svjetlo" who shared the experience of working with the media with the participants. According to him NGO "Svjetlo" had 22 appearances on TV and radio stations, only in the last year. As a particularly significant progress in cooperation with the media Čaušević mentioned BHT which recorded New Year greeting with members of the "Svjetlo", mainly children with intellectual disabilities in development, on new year's eve 2013, . After that Danijela Dugančić Živanović presented a campaign "One billion rising" which, she said, was very well covered by the media. Constitutional Court judge Mladen Srdić talked about "protecting" public figures, whether they are politicians or all other public figures who voluntarily enter the public arena, exposing themselves to criticism and that, in this sense, many lawsuits for defamation rised against journalists are not justified. He cited the example of Milorad Dodik, who has sued FTV and show "60 Minutes" for libel and was rejected by court "because he did not submit evidence of the amount of spiritual pain he suffered." He explained that two things are crucial when deciding whether something is libel or not, namely: public interest and good intentions. "If a journalist wrote the text in the public interest and in good faith, we will not be tried for libel," explained Srdić. Director of the Press Council Ljiljana Zurovac spoke about the experiences of the Press Council and complaints that come to their address. She added that this is a substantial shift in the self-regulation of print and online media which are increasingly publishing denials that arrive in their newsrooms. She also stated that the Press Council began to collect data on filed lawsuits for defamation in BiH and that they got the data for the period 2008-2010 according to which 614 lawsuits for libel were filed in BiH . "Of this number, 501 were against the media, and only Fahrudin Radončić filed 140 lawsuits against media and journalists," said Zurovac.

## ***2.a Journalist award***

Third award ceremony of journalism awards "Srđan Aleksić" for professional reporting on marginalized and vulnerable groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina was organized within the Conference. Decision of the three-member jury of this year was that two first prizes for articles in print media will receive: journalist of Oslobodjenje from Bihać Fahrudin Bender for his coverage on Zdravo and Hamo, veterans, forgotten by the government and left to fend for themselves however they know and can, and journalist of magazine Slobodna Bosna, Danka Savić, for affirmative and supportive article that breaks down prejudices about persons with diminished intellectual capacity of the institute Drin in Fojnica. In the category of television coverage jury decided to award only the second prize this year to a journalist of RTV Tuzla Canton Enisa Alibalić for story about the problems of autistic people where she unequivocally points to the need for the system's institutions to take responsibility for securing professional assistance to people with autism. In the category of articles on web portals this year's awards were given to journalist on novinar.me portal, Mladen Lakić, for a realistic approach to the problems faced by LGBT population in BiH and journalist of web portal Radio-Television of Republic of Srpska, Đorđe Vujatović, for his text about children from autistic spectrum, told through confession of autistic child's mother, in which he, not only draws attention to this problem, but also offers solutions through comparison with other countries.

The awards were announced in four categories: for articles in print media, radio and TV stories and for texts on web portals. Total of 10 television and radio reports and 21 web and newspaper article competed this year.

## ***Sarajevo, 21st of September 2013***

At the ceremony organized by Peace Building Network, on the occasion of September 21st - International Day of Peace, Edina Fazlić, editor of documentary and education programs on RTV Tuzla Canton, received journalism prize "Srđan Aleksić" for continuous coverage of marginalized groups in BiH. This was also the first award ceremony organized by Peace Building Network BiH, and this practice will be continued in the coming years. A three-member jury reviewed 11 proposals of civil society organizations that nominated nine journalists and one show for winning a prize, "Srđan Aleksić" for continuous coverage of marginalized groups, decided to award this year's prize to Edina Fazlić, due to space she gives to vulnerable and socially excluded groups, for her approach to issues and professional, grounded, informative, and especially affirmative and socially engaged reporting.

## ***1. Additional Conference on professional and ethical standards when reporting on marginalized groups, Banjaluka, 13 – 15 June, 2014, with 53 participants***

Three-day conference organized in Banja Luka was attended by representatives of the media, non-governmental organizations, journalism students and professors. The aim of the conference was to summarize and present the results of X-Press II and analyzes of media coverage of the floods that have hit Bosnia and Herzegovina in May, and social protests from the beginning of the year. Editor of the Federal Television Amarildo Gutić, editor of the News of Television of the Republic of Srpska Siniša Mihailović and reporter for the Al Jazeera Balkans Ljiljana Smiljanić talked about the role of media during flood period. The second day of the conference was reserved for discussion about media spinning during February protests in Bosnia and Herzegovina, an independent journalist and reporter Aldin Arnautović has prepared an overview of the most obvious media spins that were used by individuals from a journalistic and political milieu and thus misled the public in BiH. Economic analyst Svetlana Cenić spoke about black list of undesirable organizations and individuals in the RS and about her battle to take the burden of coping with the governing structures and their media, as a public figure and a woman. She said that she had filed a lawsuit for defamation because of putting her name on the blacklist of wreckers of the constitutional order in RS. About state of media freedom in Bosnia and hate speech on the Internet talked president of the Association of BH Journalists Milkica Milojević, executive director of the Press Council Ljiljana Zurovac and media analyst Davor Marko who reminded participants and guests about difficult position of marginalized groups in the media and BH society. On the last day of the conference, participants were presented with successful examples and models of cooperation between media and associations dealing with issues of marginalized groups which were realized with the support of X-Press II, and the General Secretary of the Association of BH Journalists Borka Rudić introduced the most significant segments of the EU strategy to improve media freedom and integrity of the media in the Western Balkans and Turkey for the period of 2014-2020.

### **F) Small grant initiatives**

Announcement for the Small Grants Program was released on July 10th, 2013 and was open until September 15th. On the call for proposals on "Marginalized groups and the media," we received a total of 34 project proposals of which external committee elected 12 to be supported through small grants initiatives. All projects were implemented in the period from 1st November 2013 until April 2014. Some organizations were forced to move some activities due to social unrest, which happened in February in several cities in the Federation. The list of approved project ideas was announced in October 2013 and associations /organizations that have received small grants for their project proposals were:

#### ***1. International students association AIESEC, in cooperation with eTrafika portal*** ***Project name: "Affect and Act"***

12 one-hour long courses of journalism, journalism photography and comics were organized within the project. Certain number of works (texts, photography's and comic books) were exhibited at final activity and published on eTrafika portal, which as a partner on this project opened a special column called "Bellow border" where you could see different works connected to marginalized groups. Besides that, 27 course students who proved to be most passionate and talented got an opportunity to continue their engagement with eTrafika. This directly contributed creating new generation of socially responsible journalists willing to deal with social topics and contribute problem solving of socially excluded categories of this society. As result of joint work of foreign practitioners and course students, 12 comic books were made, around 50 photography's and 13 articles with over 30 different interlocutors who recognized and showed position and problems of different marginalized groups in our society, but also possibilities of salving this problems and improvement of marginalized and vulnerable groups position. Closing three-day long exhibition "Bellow border", on which 13 photographers and 9 comic book drawers showed their works, was very good followed by local media (Alternativna television, Radio-Television RS, Elta TV, klix.ba, banjaluka.com, EuroBlic, Nezavisne newspaper, itd). News about projects and articles from Bellow border column were broadcasted in 16 other media, and during project implementation there was 12 000 singled visits to this column.

#### ***2. Youth center "KVART" in cooperation with portal buka.com*** ***Project name: "Three post-war friends"***

On early beginning of project cooperation with portal buka.com, Volleyball club for PWD "Vrbas" and freelance journalist Barbara Matejčić was established. During XII International championship "Banja Luka open 2013", held in Banja Luka on 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2013 an open panel with topic "Reconciliation through joint experience", in order to discuss points of war veterans from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia on reconciliation, their war experience and their, until yesterday, enemies. Members of volleyball club "Vrbas" from Banja Luka,

members of Sport association of PWD "Hrabri" from Zagreb and PWD volleyball club "Zavidovići" from Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These sports teams gather and play volleyball for years, but rarely speak about war. TV story of their gatherings named "This is not unity and brotherhood" was published on buka portal, portal [www.h-alter.com](http://www.h-alter.com) and official blog of Youth center KVART (until report there were 128 visits), and radio story with same name was broadcasted on third channel of HRT radio and posted on [www.soundcloud.com](http://www.soundcloud.com) platform and is available for free listening and sharing.

### ***3. Association of parents of children with cerebral palsy of ZE-DO Canton "Dlan" in cooperation with the independent newspaper "Naša riječ"***

***Project name: "Let them hear our voice"***

Goal of this project is informing public in ZE-DO Canton on cerebral palsy and need to include children with this illness in activities of this society, as well as strengthening and education of parents in order to engage them in problem solving. Through one-day field trip organized for children and parents, members of Association and through creative workshop where jewelry and New Year's gifts for children were made-cooperation with other NGO in this Canton was established. Cooperation was also made with certain institutions, especially schools and faculties, the most important result has been achieved in the field of animation of volunteers to be significantly involved and help the Association. Naša riječ has regularly published information about Associations activities, overall 8 published texts, contributing higher rate of volunteers, as well as generally better awareness of citizens on cerebral palsy from which three to four per thousand children in BH suffers.

### ***4. Centre for Local and Regional Development Derventa, in cooperation with the regional newspaper "Posavske novosti"***

***Project name: "Socio-economic inclusion of returnees in municipalities of Derventa and Brod"***

Within the project field research on the socio-economic situation of women returnees in 8 (eight) returnee settlements in the municipality of Brod and Derventa was conducted, a survey was performed in 92 households. Research has shown that returnee households belong to the group of households with high unemployment, very poor economic position and low levels of education, and that women carry proportionately higher burden in terms of caring for the household and the household as a whole. The sentence in the statement that best illustrates the perception of returnees on their status in society is "Thank you for your interest for our lives." The research results with the recommendations were presented at a roundtable which was organized March 14 2014, and with the participation of representatives of the national and international organizations (UNHCR, OSCE - Dobož office), the Committee for Gender Equality of the municipality Derventa and Brod, the Ministry for Refugees and Displaced persons RS, LC Modran, municipality Derventa - Department of Economic and social affairs and the media. Total of 6 articles about the project was published and 4 in the regional newspaper "Posavske news" and 2 in local newspaper "Derventski list"; TV broadcast was released on RTRS and project information were placed via the internet portal Posavske news, CELOR, the Derventa Cafe and Community returnees in Bosanska Posavina.

### ***5. Association of patients with chronic virus hepatitis "B18" in cooperation with the Balkan radio***

***Project name: "INFO HEP centers in the Balkans"***

In order to inform and educate the public about viral hepatitis B and C, which are one of the leading health problems in BH, the project was initiated by Counselling Centre in which counselling services through the Hotline was provided, in the premises of Counselling center, and through on-line counselling, and eight thematic programs were recorded and broadcasted on the mode of transmission, detection, treatment and prevention of hepatitis B and C. Shows have been issued in the last two months of the project period every Monday at 16:00 am, and reruned the following Sunday at the same time. In addition, the partner of this project Balkan radio broadcasted informative commercials on the work of Counselling Centre for the duration of the project. SOS Hotline online or by direct contact provided psychological support and counselling for 114 users and about 5000 citizens of Banja Luka informed that detects and treat viral hepatitis B and C. Especially good cooperation has been established with the Clinic for Infectious Diseases, University Clinical Center of Banja Luka.

### ***6. Center for Legal Assistance for Women Zenica in cooperation with the Club of Journalists Zenica***

***Project name: "Zero tolerance for discrimination"***

Within the project two digital stories were taken - one in which a woman victim of many years of physical, psychological and economic violence speaks and the other which refers to women victims of war rape who became pregnant and decided to keep the baby. In her confession this woman talks about the stigma that she and the baby bear, and the irresponsibility and carelessness of system and authorities to provide support to survivors of rape. Digital stories were presented in two workshops that were intended for members for beneficiaries of the Centre for

Legal Aid for woman and were placed on a blog <http://nultatolerancija.wordpress.com/> which was created under the project. In addition, the stories were published on the website of BH Journalists Association, and were emitted on March 8 in the morning program of the Federation Radio and in show "Family Affairs" on Radio Federation, which was broadcast live from the studio in Zenica on March 8 2014<sup>th</sup>. Produced digital stories can be used as a tool for campaigns, lobbying and advocacy of policies and measures concerning the status and rights of women, and can be used by other non-governmental organizations and the media. In addition, the production of digital stories showed how the Internet space can and should be used in developed and engaged way.

### ***7. Association for Persons with Autism "Children of Light" in collaboration with Public Radio Television of Republic of Srpska***

***Project name: "I am speaking, be prepared to hear"***

In accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation, three articles about children with autism have been published on the website RTRS ("Nikola's magic", "Aleksa's struggle with autism: Reads, writes, adds, loves music and has a rhythm" and "A mathematical genius, the only high school student from the RS diagnosed with autism"), in addition to this, members of the Association were guests in the show "Focus", Dnevnik and morning program of RTRS, then the emissions at the Alternativna television and BHT 1. The Donators' evening "With love to brave hearts" was held on the 26th December 2013 and the RTRS has directly transmitted this event. Within the project, co-operation with 43 centers for social work in the RS was achieved, and on the basis of data obtained from the centers of persons from the autism spectrum and unique database of 158 people with autism in the RS was made. 120 educational brochures containing information about autism (characteristic symptoms and signs of autism) were presented and distributed at the press conference held on February 15, 2014 in Banja Luka, which also summarized the results of the project and pointed out the need for opening day centers for persons with autism in the entire territory of the Republic of Srpska, and the difficulties faced by the teaching assistants.

### ***8. Sarajevo Open Center in cooperation with the Portal media d.o.o. (portal Frontal.ba)***

***Project name: "LGBT stories from the neighborhood"***

Project activities have included creation of theme / story that would give a space for broad spectrum of people who acronym LGBT contains. In cooperation with the Sarajevo Open Centre \_ method and approach to issues was agreed upon, which was followed by the creation of a separate category on the site Frontal.ba with same name as the project itself, to ensure that all facilities created under the project are in one place for easier and better visibility, and future upgrades. As a result of these activities, a total of 9 stories were created:

Homophobia - the fear sown in textbooks (15.11.2013.), Personal story of Banja Luka's transsexual (30.11.2013.), When baby is neither man nor woman? (12/21/2013), They said about LGBT activism (12.30.2013.), Socializing of LGBT people - let us be seen by nobody (01.17.2014.), Change of sex with the help of medicine - procedures and steps (03.02.2014.), Media on LGBT: Ignorance supports fears (21/02/2014). Same-Sex Marriage - children do not differ love (03.06.2014.), Bisexual people - indecisive or yet "bi" (03.11.2014.)

Any content distribution was followed by sharing on accounts on social networks, as well as sharing via a web portal <http://lgbt-prava.ba> and their Facebook page. In published articles members of LGBT group were able to find useful information, and the general public was acquainted with current situation and the problems that these people face in BH without pretentious attitudes. Frontal.ba through this project became the first news portal that methodically and comprehensively gave web space a function of greater visibility and increased understanding of the lives of LGBT people.

### ***9. Association of visually impaired citizens in collaboration with Radio Television of Tuzla Canton***

***Project name: "Promotion of blind students' abilities to integration in education"***

The focus of this project was the issue of accessibility of blind and visually impaired children to full-time education, which is reflected in insufficient number of textbooks in the techniques available to the blind and lack of training of school personnel working with blind children. Within the project, meetings were held with the Minister of Education of Tuzla Canton Adem Šehidić and director of the Pedagogical Institute Tuzla Canton Nikola Čiča, documentary was recorded as well as two television spot on the topic how the blind and visually impaired children are educated, and a round table was held with the participation of representatives of relevant ministries, representatives of Special Education and Rehabilitation of University of Tuzla, as well as parents and members of the Association. In addition to the agreed programs, representatives of the Association appeared in the morning program of RTV TC and central news of this media.

The most important result, in addition to raising public awareness about the problems faced by blind and visually impaired children, represents the initiation of activities within the Ministries of Education of Tuzla Canton for textbooks in Braille.

**10. Association of paraplegics and people with polio in cooperation with Radio Studio N**  
**Project name: "We are here"**

The aim of establishing cooperation between the Association of Paraplegics of Livno and Radio Studio N was to introduce the public to the members of the coalition "Together We Can", which operates in Canton 10/Hercegbosna County consisting seven organizations of persons with disabilities, and advocacy for the implementation of the Action Plan in the field of disability that puts priority on accessibility, education and housing with support for people for disabilities. Within project six thematic blocs in which they presented the activities and objectives were filmed: Association of paraplegics and people with polio from Livno, the Association of Parents of Children with Special Needs "Nada" from Tomislavgrad, the Association of Parents of Children with Special Needs "Krijesnica" from Kupres, Association of parents of children with disabilities "Koraci" from Livno, the Association of Parents of children with disabilities "Naša djeca" from Glamoč and the Association of Parents of Children with Special Needs "Pružite nam ruku" from Drvar. In one of the shows, Deputy Minister of Labour, Health and Welfare, of Canton 10 Milan Mihaljević has appeared, and all broadcasts were released by Radio Studio N on its website in a special menu called "X-press" and on their Facebook page. All shows were recorded and distributed to all members of the coalition "Together We Can". As one of the most important results of the Association alleged continued cooperation with Radio Studio N.

Continuation of the Cooperation Agreement was signed where the broadcaster has committed that by the end of 2014 they will monitor all the activities and events related to the coalition "Together We Can" and the adoption of the Action Plan in the field of disability in Canton 10.

**11. Association of Women Victims of War of the Republic of Srpska in cooperation with Radio Gradiška**

**Project name: "Women War Victims Speak"**

Within this project, three women of Serbian nationality, war victims of abuse and rape first time publicly spoke about what they went through. Because of sensitivity of this issue, before recording the very shows, visits to these women were organized in order to explain them in detail how the show will be recorded and why is it important that they participate and speak. While women feel insecure and fearful, thanks to the journalist and her professionalism, all broadcasts were successfully recorded and broadcasted on Radio Gradiška. President of the Association of Women Victims of War RS, who herself was abused, appeared in the fourth broadcast. Authentic testimonies of women were recorded on CDs that were sent to different institutions (governments at the entity and state level, the Centre for War Crimes, Gender Centre, and non-governmental organizations that fight for women's rights) in order to influence change of policies and laws to regulate the status of abused women as civilian victims of war in the RS. Emissions have achieved a result, the public became interested in this subject, as evidenced by calls of listeners who demanded that we rebroadcast these shows, but also move of the Red Cross in Gradiška which contacted the two women and put them on its list of the user after broadcasting harrowing story.

**12. Association for prevention of drug addiction NARKO-NE in collaboration with the magazine "Dani"**  
**Project name: "Preventeen 25 - Marginalized Groups"**

The role of the media partner Dani was consulting and consisted in providing advice and suggestions for the editorial team of the magazine in order to prepare a release on the subject of marginalized groups in BH in interesting and professional manner. 36 young people who have researched and written articles on various aspects of marginalization in their communities participated in the development of the release. This achieved the goal of empowering and motivating young people to develop and adopt a politically correct terminology and reflect on concrete actions, i.e. about their personal engagement and activism in the community. In this special issue of Preventeen 20 texts which concerned various problems of various marginalized groups was published. The magazine was printed in 2,000 copies, of which institutions, the media, youth organizations, schools and colleges received 1,467 copies of the magazine, and the rest will be distributed at public events that will be organized in the coming months by Narko- NE.

**Assessment of the results in total:**

There were 890 direct beneficiaries covered by small grant initiatives, while indirect beneficiaries who were informed about specific issues, the status and problems of various marginalized groups through media partners was far bigger - about 230,000, as estimated by the grants users. Cooperation between different organizations and the media, continued even after the completion of small grants, in some cases, specific examples of government reactions have been reported, in the Tuzla canton where the ministry has initiated activities in the procurement of textbooks in Braille for blind and visually impaired children, while in Gradiška Red Cross involved in helping women, victims of civil war and included two women, victims of war

abuse and rape to list of its users. The general objective to be achieved by allocating small grants is to increase the competence of civil society organizations and the media for creating laws, policies and of measures relating the status and rights of marginalized groups and improvement of professional journalistic standards in reporting on socially excluded groups and program content related to these groups.

## **G) Methodology and Media Monitoring**

In November 2012 we engaged Dr Davor Marko, a consultant and media researcher with years-long experiences in monitoring media reporting to create a methodology. In cooperation with Dragana Dardić, he developed a methodology offering a set of indicators/variables responding to key questions regarding the presentation of marginalized groups in the media. Based on that methodology, within Feb. 25 – April 26, 2013 there was a monitoring of 12 media in BiH involving 6 persons. Monitoring included three marginalized groups- persons with disability, women and national minorities. 4 daily newsmagazines, 4 TV stations and 4 web portals were monitored.

The results of monitoring were published in publication “Analysis of Media Content – Reporting about Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina” printed in 500 copies and distributed to faculties, NGOs and the media.

**Results:** The methodology we developed within the project are already used by some other interested parties. More precisely, Sarajevo Open Centre and its researcher Jasmina Čaušević informed us that they will use our methodology in their research project related to media reporting about LGBT population.

### *Meetings with editors-in-chief*

Based on results and conclusions of the monitoring, we organized 8 meetings with editors-in-chief of media ( both commercial and public broadcasters) to introduce them with results of monitoring, initiating the bringing of internal codes that the media regulate internal relations and ways of broadcasting and distributing certain contents in the public.

The meetings were held within 31 March to 17 June 2014 with:

1. Editor-in-chief of “Nezavisne novine” Gordana Milinković (31 March 2014)
2. Director of ATV Banjaluka Programme Dragana Banjac and editor-in-chief of News Programme on ATV Vlatko Vukotić (4 April 2014)
3. Editor-in-chief of web portal diskriminacija.ba Slobodanka Dekić (14 April 2014)
4. Director of Programme Sector on RT RS Draško Ignjatić (16 April 2014)
5. Belma Kučukalić, editor-in-chief of zenskaosla.ba (16 April 2014)
6. Šimić Ljiljana, editor-in-chief of Radio Federacija BiH (29 April 2014)
7. Editor-in-chief of Interior Politics at “Oslobođenje” Jelena Milanović (6 May 2014)
8. Editor-in-chief of news portal “Etrafika” Vanja Stokić (17 June 2014).

**Results:** Most of the media whose representatives we talked to do not have an internal code that precisely regulates the relations between employees, code of rules and way of reporting about some issues. The exceptions to it are the public broadcasters of Republic of Srpska and Federation of BiH which, as they said, have internal ethical codes. Regardless of it, we have given examples of ethical codes of some of the media ( internal code of “Večernji list”, New York Times and Reuters news agency) suggesting to include the recommendations from our Analysis on how report about marginalized groups in our society if they decide to bring an internal code or change an existing one.

Some of the editors-in-chief we talked to offered more space to use in their media for reporting about some of activities of Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly and Foundation “Cure”. Accordingly, “eTrafika” invited us to send them all our announcements and notifications. “Nezavisne novine” said they would engage a journalist to be in charge of monitoring what we do. We agreed with RTRS to show up as guests in two shows dedicated to persons with disability. ATV expressed a readiness to work with us on some of future projects. “Oslobođenje” and “Federalni radio” have also said they were interested in future cooperation remaining open to report about marginalized groups in BiH society.

We used the meetings with editors-in-chief to introduce them with the EU strategy to improve media freedom and integrity of the media in the Western Balkans and Turkey for the period of 2014-2020.

## **F) Visibility Actions**

**1)** For the needs of collecting photos at topic of marginalized and vulnerable groups, there was engaged a professional photographer and photo reporter Aleksandar Golic, who set criteria and necessary documents to collect photos. An open call to submit photos was November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012 and it was opened till March 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. 15

photographers and photo reporters applied at open call with 52 photos out of which 40 were printed and displayed at exhibitions in Sarajevo and Banjaluka.

### **Exhibitions of photos**

The first exhibition of photos was held in Banjaluka at Dom omladine between June 12 – 18th, 2013 at 20.00 hours. The exhibition was seen over few hundreds of people. A solemn opening was organized on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 20.00 hours. Of received 52 photos, an expert consultant decided to print and display 40 photos. Visitors had an opportunity to vote for the best 12 photos which will be printed in calendar for 2014.

The next exhibition was organized in Sarajevo at “Boris Smoje” gallery between September 16 – 21<sup>st</sup> within the Peace Week in collaboration with Peace Building Network. A solemn opening took place at 12.00 hours at the “brunch with journalists” which was used to talk about the sole idea of having an exhibition, values of peace building in BiH as well as to announce a series of happening in over 20 towns in BiH to mark International Peace Day through various activities.

On Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> International Peace Day, the exhibition containing 40 photos was shown to wider public in front of BBI Centre, Sarajevo with other activities. In the evening of the same day the exhibition was shown in Grbavica Dom omladine within Yuventa Fest in front of 500 present people. Also, the Srdjan Aleksic Journalist Award for professional reporting about marginalized groups in continuity was given to Edina Fazlić, journalist of TVTK.

The exhibition was shown in “Udas” gallery Banjaluka on December 3<sup>rd</sup> on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disability. Also, on December 10<sup>th</sup>, International Day of Human Rights the exhibition was displayed in Banjaluka DKC in collaboration with around 10 civil society organizations from Banjaluka.

### **Calendar**

Calendar for the year 2014 included 12 out of 52 photos which were selected by the public and expert jury. The calendar was printed in 1000 copies and distributed across BiH. It was sent to addresses of different institutions, international organizations, the media and NGOs in BiH.

In total 847 people voted for photos to be printed in the calendar- via web site of hCa with displayed photos and exhibitions, putting votes in voting boxes.

### **2) Media event, Banja Luka, 10 December 2012, with more than 50 participants**

On the occasion of 10<sup>th</sup> December – International Human Rights Day we organized a series of journalists’ visits to civil society organizations in Banjaluka, in particular, those dealing with protection of marginalized and vulnerable groups’ rights in our society. Together with journalists we visited “Home for Disabled Persons” where three alliances ( Alliance of Blind Persons, Alliance of Civil War Victims and Alliance of Mentally Disabled Persons) held a press conference at which the journalists presented problems and needs of their users face with every day. The focus was put on discrimination between civil and war military disabled persons. We visited the United Women where we were introduced with gender and sex discrimination but presented the problems of the work of the Shelter for women and children violated with violence. The users of the Shelter gave the gifts they made on their own to the journalists. After it, we went with journalists to Krajina square where the Ostra Nula and Initiative of Youth for Human Rights marked the Human Rights Day. The Ostra Nula activists signed the petition for freedom of gathering while the Initiative of Youth made a performance within which the human rights were symbolically buried showing the situation of the human rights in BiH. At the end we visited the Udas – Organization of Amputees where there was an exhibition of photos of disabled persons. This is where we organized a snack for journalists and civil society organizations.

### **3) Media Event, Sarajevo 31 May 2013, with around 60 participants**

Within a two-day conference was organized the solemn awarding of the Srdjan Aleksic Journalist Award in Sarajevo. The awards were given to journalists: Fahrudin Bender, Danka Savić, Enisa Alibalić, Mladen Lakić and Đorđe Vujatović.

During the solemn awarding the winners addressed to the present people, over 60 and the whole event was covered by approximately 10 most significant media (RTRS, BHT, FTV, Oslobođenje, Dani, Fena, ...).

In the end of the ceremony, a hope was expressed that the Award “Srdjan Aleksic” would affirm a concept of socially- responsible journalism and motivate journalists in BiH to approach with their reporting the problems and needs of marginalized groups to wider public and, more important, to impact the responsible institutions at all levels to continuously sort out problems of marginalized groups and to be held accountable for what they do not do.

At open calls in total 10 TV and radio stories, 21 web and newspaper articles were received. The winners were decided by a jury composed of Milkica Milojević, who is a journalist of “Euroblic” Banjaluka and the last year’s awarded of the Srdjan Aleksic Award for articles in printing media, Jasmina Čaušević, Gender Studies MA and Dragana Dardić, executive director of Helsinki Citizens- Assembly Banjaluka.

#### **4) Media event, Banja Luka, December 10, 2013 with more than 100 participants**

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banjaluka marked December 10<sup>th</sup>, International Day of Human Rights with partner organizations. In ex-industrial gigantic company "Incel" a series of activities pointed to continuous breach of human rights in BiH. Participants of debate "Human Rights in Balkans' Way" reminded the others of the lack of political will to implement Sejdic Finci verdict. They also pointed to other issues illustrating the degree of protection and affirmation of human rights in BiH. In the course of the whole day program, visitors have seen the exhibition of photos, posters, notices, caricatures. Displayed photos about strikers who "fought" for their rights in "Mladen Stojanovic" park reminded the citizens of the most frequent breaches of human rights in BiH. Members of the Zdravo da ste organization presented themselves with drawing graphites and comic books. The present were thrilled with exhibition of solar-engine toys. At stands for free legal aid of Transparency International Confederation of RS Union and RS Ombudsman Children citizens were offered brochures and promotion material. Representatives of Transparency International responded to questions that citizens asked. Citizens could report a case of corruption in a special box. In collaboration with Banjaluka "Kratkofil" several short documentaries films were shown telling the stories about human rights in BiH which was, at the same time, an introduction into a discussion about "Human Rights in Balkans Way". Gordana Katana, a journalist of "Oslobodjenje" who was a moderator, Drazen Crnomat, activist of UNSA "Geto", Goran Zoric, activist of Centar za mlade "Kvart" Prijedor, Ivana Korajlic, spokesperson from International Transparency. Marking of December 10<sup>th</sup> continued to late night hours with DJ MaRie CheRie and DJ Joma Maja. Entry was free. Visitors, women and men brought candies which will be used for New Year's Eve packages for children at Orphanage "Rada Vranjesevic" and safe house for children and women victims of violence in Banjaluka.

#### **5) Media Event, Banjaluka, 27 December 2013 with around 50 participants**

Every year before New Year's Eve, we organize a reception for media and NGOs representatives that we cooperated with during the year. This year we organized an even in "KAB" café in Banjaluka. The goal of this year's reception was to express our thankfulness to media and organizations for cooperation, to introduce journalists and editors-in-chief with civil society organizations representatives, to present plans for next year and invite them to be part of activities not just as participants but as creators too. This year too we prepared promotional material we gave to the present.

#### **6) Media event, Banjaluka March 7-8, 2014 with around 100 participants**

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in cooperation with NGOs such as B.U.K.A., "Oštra nula" and Women's Alternative Government BiH marked the International Women's Day with series of the following activities:

- On March 7<sup>th</sup> in Music pavilion "Petar Kocic" we spent time with exceptional women who from perspective of our traditionally patriarchal society do some "men's" jobs - Slađana Koljančić, a bodyguard, Sanja Šučur, a taxi driver, Sanja Bajić, a teacher with unusual working hours and tasks, Biljana Nedić, a multi talented artist and the only woman in men's basketball club of persons with disability, Svjetlana Ponjević, a welder, Željka Gajić, extreme sports athlete and Slađana Mičić, the captain of women's football club.

- On March 7<sup>th</sup> we organized a lecture "Feminism per tu" and a projection of film the "Whistleblower" about Kathryn Bolkovac who got fired, after openly talking about involvement of UN forces members into women trafficking and prostitution while she was a member of UN forces in post-war Bosnia.

- On March 8<sup>th</sup> we walked to Square of Krajina carrying transparent saying "Women will no longer pay your crisis", "Neither for state nor tycoons nor nations we will not give ovulation", "Gender equality on paper, gender inequality in life", "State, back off my breast" etc.

-On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we organized a promotion of book "Turbo folk stars" by author Zlatan Delic who from feministic perspective talked about constructing women's subject in songs and video clips of Lepa Brena, Ceca Ražnatović, Severina Vučković and Jelena Karleuša.

#### **7) Media event, Sarajevo 7 March 2014 with 37 participants**

At a media event was promoted the Women's Map of Sarajevo City" edited by activists of Foundation "CURE". The sole map at this public event was presented by Merima Omeragić, PhD Candidate at Faculty of Philosophy, Literature MA and collaborator at Sarajevo University. The intention of the map was point out to constant "erasing" of women from our history, philosophy, science, literature and other fields and the lack of affirmation of those who dedicated their lives to build a democratic and better Bosnia and Herzegovina. Out of 1037 streets in modern Sarajevo, merely 15 have been named after women. Sixteen former streets with women's names changed the names and were mainly replaced with men's names and general names.



Talking about changing names which depended on political situation in Sarajevo, Merima Omeragić said that after the last war mainly in Sarajevo were expelled names of women politicians and activists as well as women people's heroines from the people liberation war. "Even 19 names of deserving women and heroines did not survive the test of time and change of social system which testified the changing of Sarajevo streets' names" Omeragić stated. During the promotion she in particular stressed the fact that Sarajevo can say with proud that Theatre Square has the name of Susan Sontag who spent a great part of her life to human rights tackle in Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Only one bridge was named after women, it is the bridge of Suada Dilberović and Olga Sušić, who were killed while passing the bridge Vrbanja. That is how they entered the history as first persons killed in siege of Sarajevo. The event was covered by: Radio Sarajevo, manjine.ba, zenskaosla.ba, FTV. Journalists who were at the event were given copies of the Women's Map of Sarajevo City.

#### **8) Media event, Ugljevik, Tuzla, Stanari, 22 April 2014, with 20 participants**

In cooperation with Banjaluka Centar za zivotnu sredinu we organized an action in front of thermal power plants in Ugljevik, Tuzla and Stanari, on Planet Earth Day to draw the attention of sulphur dioxide danger which is uncontrollably emitted by thermal power plants in BiH. Media representatives were presented the publication titled "Expensive, Dirty, Poisonous Energy from Coal and Its Dark Secrets" that talks about dangers of producing coal energy which is expanding more and more and of whose harm nobody is allowed to speak publicly.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89zx03BfxR4>

#### **9) Media event; Banjaluka 29 May 2014 - "Peace with Women's Face" with 32 participants**

In Banjaluka Students' Theatre in cooperation with "Lara" Bijeljina and "Horizonti" Tuzla we organized an exhibition to present biographies of 11 women from 11 towns of BiH who got specialized by their kindness, courage and solidarity. The guests at the exhibition were Professor Biljana Babić who spoke to us about famous women from Banjaluka and Srđan Šušnica who presented the gender-based analysis of streets' names in Banjaluka. Only 33 streets in Banjaluka have been named after some women out of total of 470 streets in this city. At the exhibition was presented the initiative to increase the number of streets with women's names and initiative to establish Remembrance Day to Women Victims of War at state level. Almost all present at the exhibition signed the petition that will be delivered to local authorities in Banjaluka with request to increase the number of streets with women's names. Signatures to establish Remembrance Day to Women Victims of War were being collected in 12 towns of BiH and will be sent to the Parliament of BiH. Women's experiences and contribution during and after the war must be integrated into common culture of remembrance, it is the message from the exhibition in Banjaluka.

#### **10) Media event, Sarajevo 5 – 9 June 2014, with more than 900 participants**

Within the marking of 100 years of the beginning of the First world war and promotion of peace and non-violence, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banjaluka and Foundation "CURE" got involved in organizing the Peace Event Sarajevo 2014 which brought together more than 2000 people from 32 countries of the world. Several peace organizations from Germany, Italy, France, Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in organizing this event. Our contribution to this great Peace Event reflected in the following:

-Organization of Peace Caravan from Italy on June 5<sup>th</sup> in space of Social and Cultural centre of Incel when we hosted a group of 50 Italians, peace activists that we introduced our organization, projects as well as history and culture of Banjaluka city. We exchanged experience in field of peace and culture of dialogue with guests from Italy and they expressed the wish to come again for visit: (<http://veritaevisioni.info/la-carovana-per-la-pace-italiana-fa-sosta-a-banja-luka-sulla-via-per-il-sarajevo-peace-event/?lang=en>)

- Within Youth Camp in Ilidža which gathered more than 150 young people from BiH and the world, we organized music workshops and graphites workshops. Banjaluka music band "Aurora" together with participants of the Camp worked on making lyrics for the song The Change which was performed at closing ceremony of Peace Event on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Sarajevo. Except it, the band "Aurora" took part at humanitarian concert which was held in club "Sloga" on June 7<sup>th</sup>. All the money collected at this concert was designed for people in flooded areas in BiH. Graphites workshop was attended by approximately 10 participants of the Camp who designed and drew graphites which remained there as a decoration on the walls of "Spajalica" education centre of the Kult Association from Sarajevo.

- Participation at Peace Fair that gathered peace organizations from different parts of the world. We promoted the X-Press II project which, in cooperation with the media and civil society organizations made efforts to contribute to the protection of rights of different marginalized groups and tackle against hate speech. Considering that policies of violence and conflicts and the lack of dialogue and culture of peace essentially devalue the concept of promotion and protection of human rights, we got involved in "Peace Event Sarajevo 2014" wishing to share experiences with others and draw lessons for our local engagement for peace and respect of human rights.

### **11) Media event, Banjaluka 14 June IDAHO with more than 80 participants**

In cooperation with Banjaluka Association of Queer Activists – B.U.K.A. we organized the marking of International Day against Homophobia and Trans –phobia- IDAHOT in space of DKC Incel. This was the first public event of this kind in Banjaluka that talked about the rights of LGBT population.

Program of marking IDAHOT Banja Luka 2014 contained of a whole day program including creative workshops of banners, film projections, a round table about trans-gender and trans-sexuality, an evening of poetry and exhibition of several LGBT women and men artists. The goal of the event was to make a mutual connection and strengthening of LGBT persons and promotion of their talents.

At the marking of this event were Mary Ann Hennessy from Council of Europe to BiH, Andy McGuffie from EU Delegation to BiH, Predrag Raosavljević on behalf of BiH Ombudsman for Human Rights, Dragan Kesić and Maria Stavropoulos from Banjaluka office of the USA Embassy, representatives of local civil society organizations.

At the marking of IDAHOT Banja Luka participated more than 80 persons from Banja Luka, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Mostar, Prijedor, Bijeljina, Brčko, Dobož, Novi Grad and Belgrade.

### **12) Media event, Spring of Sana river 22. Jun, with more than 300**

In cooperation with Sana Coalition, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banjaluka successfully organized one more picnic on Sana spring. The aim was to prevent the building of small hydro power plant on this river and raising the awareness about environment protection and more active participation of citizens into its protection. More than two hundreds of citizens of Banjaluka, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Ključ, Mrkonjić Grad, Čelinac and Kotor Varoš had a chance to enjoy the untouched beauties of Sana spring and we certainly hope it will remain so.

At the river spring was filled a baton that Tihomir Dakic took on a bike to Ključ, Sanski Most, Prijedor and Novi Grad where will be spilt in its delta to Una river symbolizing the purity of this river during its entire flow. Building a small hydro power plant could entirely change flora and fauna in this area. Although spatial plan of Republic of Srpska till 2015 foresaw to proclaim the upper flow of Sana river as natural park and despite the fact that water of Sana was proclaimed the first category and is one of the four rivers in BiH with that water quality, the RS Government gave a concession for building a hydro power plant "Medna" on this river.

<http://www.slobodnaevropa.org/content/stafeta-sa-izvora-sane-gradjani-protiv-gradnje-hidroelektrane/25432345.html>

**What is your assessment of the results of the Action? Include observations on the performance and the achievement of outputs, outcomes, impact and risks in relation to specific and overall objectives, and whether the Action has had any unforeseen positive or negative results. (Please quantify where possible; refer to Logframe Indicators).**

*The action has generally proved to be very successful, both in terms of fulfilling the overall (To support improvement of position of marginalized and vulnerable groups in BiH society and combating discrimination through joint advocacy actions of nongovernmental organizations and media, affirming concept of socially responsible journalism) and specific objective (To improve effects of media reporting about marginalized and vulnerable groups in the BiH society, by affirming professional and ethical standards, civil activism and accountability of public authorities).*

12 actions of NGOs and the media showing that there was both willingness and readiness to work on affirming and promoting the rights of marginalized groups were successfully completed. As a result of these actions there were more than 100 stories and articles published in the media; a unique data basis about autistic persons in Republic of Srpska was made; established cooperation with some of the authorities (Ministry of education of Tuzla Canton, RS Ministry of Health, 43 centers for social work in RS); 27 students had an opportunities to work on portal eTrafika and some of the media and NGOs continued their cooperation after the completion of the project (Radio Studio N and Association of Paraplegics and diseased from children palsy made the Agreement on cooperation till the end of 2014). 890 persons were directly involved in joint actions, while there were far more indirect beneficiaries who were informed through the media about some issues and position of marginalized groups – approximately 23000 according to grant's beneficiaries assessment.

Besides joint actions of media and NGO, significant contribution to the concept of socially responsible journalism was given by the Srdjan Aleksic Journalist Award, which is acknowledged and recognized in the media community and the public. The evidence for this is continuous applications for the Award and interest of others to support the Award ( like companies UniCredit bank, Hypo Alpe Adria bank and m:tel company and media sponsors like BHT, RTRS, byka.com, Media center Sarajevo, Radio Sarajevo, etc).

Three years in a row we successfully organized journalist awarding. Since 2013 the Award became the ownership of civil society organizations – BiH Network for Building Peace which continued awarding after the completion of the project. Since establishing the Award till project completion, in total 17 awards were given promoting the professional media coverage of marginalized groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina and result in concrete actions and movements in practice.

Thanks to our continuous engagement and project activities, both quantity and quality of reporting about marginalized and vulnerable groups in our society has been largely improved.

“Yes, there is an improvement, there is more sensibility in approaching marginalized groups. To tell the truth, we deal with it in “appropriate situations” but marginalized people are not visible any more as they have been for a long time”, it was estimated by one journalist whilst the other colleague of his concluded: "Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and Foundation Cure have done a lot on visibility of marginalized groups and affirmation of socially – responsible journalism. For the first time we can notice more affirmative stories in the media. I hope that this practice will continue not just stopping here.” "The mere fact that media space was given to groups and stories from the margins of media discourse speaks about progress in approaching these topics”, said a member of the jury for the Srdjan Aleksic Awarding Dragan Bursac.

According to press clipping we have been collecting over the last two and a half years, during the entire length of the project, there were more than 400 stories and articles in the media about project activities which we consider as remarkable result.

Our estimation is that we to a greater extent contributed to sensitizing for reporting about marginalized groups not just current but future journalists, students of journalism. In continuity we organized workshops for students of journalism in Banjaluka, Sarajevo, Tuzla and Mostar who said it would help them a lot in their future work.

“I am glad you came to our faculty, primarily because we lack such lectures. We have learnt today very useful things about reporting on marginalized groups and it is important for our future profession. I think that such presentations are useful for students and I do hope you will come again”, it is one student’s estimation.

The significant of this topic was recognized by faculties. They willingly gave us terms for holding workshop and invited us to come again and organize lectures. They already included publications resulting from the project into their libraries.

Except it, we recorded the trend of decreasing the use of stereotype and politically incorrect reporting about marginalized groups in so-called traditional media. Our two-month long monitoring of 12 media

in BiH as well as monitoring conducted by BH Journalists Association showed it too. According to monitoring results which were published in publication “Analysis of Media Contents” out of 228 coded announcements, the use of politically incorrect speech was recorded in 16. The use of terminology in 212 announcements was in accordance with recommendations and international and domestic standards. A research conducted by BH Journalists Association (2013) on a sample of 46000 press articles and stories, it showed that hate speech was present in merely 1,03% media announcements. But on the other side, we noticed that hate speech and politically incorrect terminology “moved” to on-line media in reader comments section. This is the area that needs to be regulated under laws. Through X-Press II activities we supported actions and initiatives targeted at regulating this field – we supported the initiative of BiH Press Council called "You are not invisible," which seeks to prosecute and sanction those who spread hate speech, as well as the Council of Europe General Directorate for Democracy that launched a global campaign for tackle against hate speech on internet.

As a proof that our advocating activities are recognized by institutions there is a detail that the RS Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport invited us to nominate our member for RS Committee for Tackle against Hate Speech on internet. The Ministry has chosen Aleksandar Zolja, a representative of hCA for a member of the Committee in November 2013.

Except it, representative of hCa Dragana Dardić was a member of ad hoc commission for CRA Council members selection which was nominated by the BiH Council of Ministry at suggestion of the BiH Ministry of Communication and Traffic. She was actively involved in creating a proposal of EU Strategy for Improvement Media Freedom and Integrity of the Media in the Western Balkans and Turkey for the period of 2014-2020. Her engagement in ad hoc commission and working group for creating the EU Strategy we, inter alia, bring to direct link to activities and visibility of the X-Press project.

What we are especially pleased with and we consider as an extremely positive result refers to making contacts and cooperation between association of different marginalized and vulnerable groups and the media. "Thanks to activities of the X-Press project we made contacts with media and journalists who have helped the work and activities of the Ponos association of single parents”, a representative of the Ponos said. "Activities of the project helped me a lot because I established valuable contacts with representative of NGO sector and developed new cooperation and got new topics to report about. All activities I attended at were more than efficient “, was a statement given by a journalist of the Oslobođenje newspaper. Her colleague from Radio Free Europe said: “I think this project has significantly contributed to developing sensitivity of journalists towards some social groups. I personally made a contact with various associations. With some of them I even became a friend, I wrote some stories, I learnt many things about marginalized groups.”

At conference about professional standards in reporting we organized in Sarajevo 2013, a journalist of TV Tuzla canton and organization "Mala sirena" from Zavidovići agreed on making a show which was done after the conference. "A crew from TVTK visited us in Zavidovići having shot a wonderful story which was broadcasted on TV. It was the first time we had somebody coming to us and make a story about what our organization does" a representative of the Mala sirena said.

Also, thanks to "brunches with journalists", a local association "Obnova" from Požarnice near Tuzla established contacts with journalists who supported their action and participated in "Gulaš tolerancije" which was held in June 2014. Significant contacts between Ministry of Urban Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology RS and the organizers of the action "Let's do it! - Clean the country for one day" were exchange. And thanks to "brunch with journalists" at which talked Šefika Skorupan, president of the Women's Basketball wheelchair club "Bambi", the issue of women's participation in sport was listed to Alternative Report on BiH Progress on European Integration Path.

What we are not satisfied with are the reactions of authorities, i.e. the lack of appropriate and desirable reaction of authorities to issues being actual in the project activities. To some extent external circumstances we could not have had an influence on impacted on this and it is about social unrests and protest in Tuzla, Sarajevo, Zenica and other towns in Federation of BiH, disastrous floods in May 2014 in BiH. The work of some institutions was blocked and hits conditioned redirecting the attention and budget to repair consequences of the floods.

After hCa organized a symbolical protesting walk as a sign of solidarity with citizens men and women of Tuzla who sought their rights, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly was put, along with other media and CSOs to so-called the "Black list". In one of texts in the book "Theory and Technique of Upheaval in RS" which was published by leading Alliance of Independent Social Democrats, there was a list of organizations and individuals that allegedly demolish the constitutional order of Republic of Srpska. It somewhat made difficult for our reputation and credibility in the public.

**Please list potential risks that may have jeopardized the realization of some activities and explain how they have been tackled. Refer to log frame indicators.**

One of the predictions was that the political situation would not affect project implementation and that the support of local companies to finance and contribute to the Journalists Award would be provided.

We provided financial support of companies. But political situation escalated in February 2014 when social protests burst out across BiH manifesting in mass gatherings of citizens, requests replace governments, burning some institutions etc. It all impacted the project itself in terms of postponing some activities or to make thematic changes to be adapted to new situation.

Soon after the protests, BiH was hit by disastrous floods that have also impacted the project activities. Some introductory speakers gave up from receiving their fees in favor of citizens who were damaged in floods. We too have adjusted some of our activities to the new situation – we organized two brunches with journalists which were dedicated to situation after floods, questions of responsibility and ways of collecting money to repair damage. A conference we organized in June was largely dedicated to the role and ways of media reporting in conditions of natural disasters.

**What has been the outcome on both the final beneficiaries &/or target group (if different) and the situation in the target country or target region which the Action addressed?**

### ***1. Advanced ethical and professional norms in reporting on marginalized groups and media regulation in BiH:***

- Methodology developed through this project offers set of indicators and variables which answer the key questions about presentation of marginalized groups in media and raises the possibility of continuous monitoring and comparing the results of media monitoring in BiH. Publication "Analysis of media content" that we did on the basis of this methodology was distributed in faculties in Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Mostar and Tuzla, and will be used as data base in students' research and monitoring of media content. In addition, the methodology is already being used in practice. Specifically, the Association of Women for Women in Sarajevo informed us that based on our methodology they applied on one large project whose objective is to conduct comprehensive monitoring of media coverage of women and a researcher at the Sarajevo Open Centre Jasmina Čaušević used our methodology in her research initiative concerning media reporting on LGBT population<sup>2</sup>.

By June 2014, we have also recorded 757 visits and downloading of our "Analysis of media content" from the web site of the organization.

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<sup>2</sup> Kristina Ljevak, Jasmina Čaušević i Lejla Huremović (2014). ČEKAJUĆI RAVNOPRAVNOST 2 -Analiza izvještavanja štampanih medija o LGBT temama u Bosni i Hercegovini u 2013. godini. Publikacija je dostupna na: [http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/soros\\_medijska-analiza24\\_02.pdf](http://soc.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/soros_medijska-analiza24_02.pdf)

- From the eight media editors with whom we spoke, only editor of internal policy for the newspaper "Oslobođenje" Jelena Milanović said that "they do not have the internal code of ethics and are not planning to make it, because they function well without it." Editors of other media (Nezavisne newspaper, television Alternativna Banjaluka, portals diskriminacija.ba, RTRS, portal zenskaposla.ba, the Federal Radio and eTrafika) with whom we spoke were willing to consider the possibility of making or changing internal codex that would precisely regulate relations between employees, the rules of behavior and ways of reporting on marginalized and vulnerable groups in our society.

- In favor of the advancement of ethical and professional norms in reporting on marginalized groups and media regulation in BiH stand examples of continuous reporting. Within the joint actions of the media and civil society organizations initiated through X-press II project, portal Frontal.ba published a series of articles on the status and rights of LGBT persons in BiH, thus becoming the first news portal that gave planned and comprehensive space in function greater visibility and increasing understanding of LGBT life; eTrafika portal has introduced a special section "Under the border" which published 12 comics, 50 photos and 13 articles in which they presented position and problems of various marginalized groups in our society; Radio Free Europe has continuously reported on topics that concerned marginalized groups, and Radio Studio N Livno "committed" that by the end of 2014 they will regularly report on all activities of the Association of Persons with Disabilities concerning the improvement of the status and rights of these persons in the area Canton 10.

Introduction of continuous monitoring and reporting on marginalized groups contributed to the special award Srđan Aleksic for reporting continuously which is being awarded since 2011 and which will continue being awarded even after the completion of the project.

- The journalists themselves, as well as representatives of CSOs, think that activities such as the "Brunch with journalists" and Journalist Award that the hCa holds gave some results in context of improving standards in reporting.

"Of all project's activities I would like to stress brunches with journalists at which in an informal atmosphere it was talked about serious and actual topics. This activity gave a direct communication with journalists which was always a difficult circumstance for civil society representatives. I would like to underline the Srđan Aleksic Journalist Award which improved and increased the visibility of marginalized groups", said one of representative of NGO while one journalist concluded: "Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and the CURE contributed to writing about marginalized groups and visibility of many associations which have no any access to the media."

- Number of stories and texts received at the Open Announcement for the Srđan Aleksic Award increased from 42 (in 2011) to 51 (in 2012) although we limited the number of stories to 3 per journalist which was not the case with the first announcement. According to Ljiljana Zurovac, the Jury president, stories for the second announcement had more quality than the first one. "It tells that the Award became famous and recognizable amongst journalists and the public", said Zurovac.

Then, in 2013 on competition arrived a total of 10 radio and television stories and 21 web and newspaper texts, and 10 proposals for a special award for reporting continuously which has been awarded on 21st of September 2013, and for the first time organized by the Network for Peace building BiH.

Members of the jury for the selection of awards in 2013 rated submitted articles and reports as good and professional. "I analyzed the submitted papers carefully and with interest. All are good, professional, and above all, they promote what journalism prize Srđan Aleksić stands for," said one of the jury members Fahrudin Bender.

"Many of the submitted proposals were truly professional, are read (or listen to) in one breath and push you to get in the same spot with the actors of the story. There is a shift in approach to the subject - already the mere fact that a significant media coverage is devoted to groups and stories that are at the margins of media discourse, says that there has been a shift in the approach to these issues", said jury member Dragan Bursać.

A special credibility/value of this award is reflected by the fact that number of NOGs (Media Plan Institute, Association of Amputees Istočno Sarajevo, National Minorities' Alliance of RS, Zdravo da ste, Association of Families with 4+ Children "Poletarac", Jewish Community of Dobož Municipality, Roma Association "Zlatni točak", ToPeeR, Transparensy International, Sarajevski otvoreni centar, Foundation Publika, NGO Most, NGO Altruista Svjetlo, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Društvo Crvenog križa TK, etc.) submitted their suggestions for the special award for continuous reporting. By doing that, they send a clear message that they monitor the contents and ways of media reporting, but also they legitimized themselves as active social subjects.

- At 8 workshops we held there were 274 students who were passed the knowledge from reporting on marginalized groups as well as the concept of socially responsible journalism. Students attended lectures about professional reporting about marginalized groups having evaluated the workshop as educational and useful. Here are some of the impressions of students from Tuzla, Banjaluka, Sarajevo and Mostar:

"I found out many new things and I will surely have a different approach to marginalized groups topic."

“Presentation was wonderful, it certainly did teach me something. What else to say except WONDERFUL.”

“An interesting and thorough presentation about marginalized groups contributed indeed a lot to us, the students, because the issues you talked about were just mentioned at our department.”

“I have never spent two more useful hours. THANK YOU!”

## ***2. Built capacities of associations of marginalized and vulnerable groups and journalists how to use web technologies to present problems and solutions and mobilize public for concrete social actions:***

● In total, 103 persons, representatives of NGOs and the media completed the IT training and adopted the knowledge on advantages and abilities of IT tools use in everyday work. According to participants' evaluations, the trainings were more than useful. Here we pass some of the evaluations of participants:

✓ “The training I took part at was, in one word, unique. Trainers did their job with passion and energy of genuine activists.”

✓ “I discovered a lot of new sites which can be helpful to me in my further work.”

✓ “You presented to us a whole power of internet and how to use in the best way. You drew attention to safety which is very important in this time of global communication. Lady trainers have passed their knowledge and skills really well with truly great energy. Thank you.”

✓ “I think that seminar was extremely useful and regardless of our previous work on internet and in the media, we learnt so many new things. I am so glad I met so many members of other media and NGOs at this seminar which can help us a lot in our further work.” “We will use all new information we got here and improve the work on our portal.”

✓ “I was at three so-called IT trainings but I have never received more useful and practical information like at this training. I needed all these information for my further advancement in the organization. Also, I would like to share my knowledge with my colleagues. You showed to us what we can use and now it is up to us how we will use it. I know I definitely will. Thank you a lot.”

✓ “This two-day long seminar completely justified my expectations. Ladies lecturers did their job excellently.”

✓ “I personally am not some cyber maniac and my knowledge from this field is modest. However, I managed to learn some new things to help me in my work, currently both as a volunteer at NGO. During this workshop I was the most thrilled with g-mail account I did not use by now but as of now I certainly will.”

● Some of the training participants immediately began to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in their work. “After the training, we began to regularly update the information on our Facebook page and set up “events” and invite people to come and visit. We have also registered that media takes the content from our site, so for us the training was more than helpful”, said in the Association “Volunteers and friends of Konjic region”.

“After the training which we passed, we have become more active and more likely to publish information, especially pictures on facebook page, as well as examples of success stories from our beneficiaries. We have achieved even greater cooperation with our current and former beneficiaries via facebook pages, and we are pleased that the application of information technology is recognized by farmers as a necessity in today's era. In addition, journalists from different media outlets often contact us in relation to certain activities seeking additional information which indicates that they are following our work and information”, said in the organization Bosper from Tuzla.

“The training helped me to build on the work of our site and to look into the security page for repeatedly falling due to a server that was not protected in the right way. Since then we have no problem of falling the page, and we did a new design of the site, it is regularly updated, we set up a youtube channel where we publish all that is connected with the organization and town of Priboj. From the moment of publishing a new design, until today (22nd of June 2014 ) page had more than 5,000 unique views, and youtube channel over 2,300 views”, said one of the participants of the IT training, a representative of the NGO “Eco Leonardo Youth Club ”from Lopare.

## ***3. Focused media and decisions makers' attention on specific issues and problems related to marginalized and vulnerable groups and initiatives for their solution push forward:***

● Of the 34 accepted project proposals for joint actions of NGOs and the media, through a small grant initiatives we supported 12 proposals. Grants for the implementation of joint actions have been given to organizations and media from Banja Luka, Prijedor, Zenica, Derвента, Tuzla, Livno, Sarajevo, Gradiška. Joint projects were aimed at upholding and promoting the rights of various marginalized and vulnerable groups in our society and have produced impressive results, such as:

- Project "Affect and Act", which was implemented by the International Association of AIESEC and portal eTrafika during which they launched a special section "Under the border" in which 12 comics, 50 photos and 13 articles on the status and problems of various marginalized groups in our society were published. The texts of this section were transferred on 16 other media during the implementation of activities 12,000 visits of this section were recorded. In addition, 27 participants of courses organized within the project, were given the opportunity to continue their journalistic engagement on the portal eTrafika creating a new generation of socially responsible journalists who want to deal with social issues and contribute to solving the problems of socially excluded population groups;

- Project: "I speak, be ready to hear" which was realized by Association for assistance to persons with autism "Children of Light" in collaboration with PS Radio Television of Republic of Srpska within which the first unified database on 158 persons with autism throughout the territory of RS was made, cooperation with 43 centers for social work was established and the opening of day centers for persons autistic spectrum in RS and solving of teaching assistants problem was initiated;

- Project "Promoting capabilities of blind students to integration in education," of Association of visually impaired citizens of Tuzla and Radio and TV Tuzla Canton, which, in addition to raising public awareness about the problems faced by blind and visually impaired children, resulted with initiating activities within the Ministry of Education of Tuzla Canton for the purchase of textbooks in Braille;

- project "Women War Victims Speak", by Association of Women Victims of War of Republic of Srpska and Radio Gradiska, under which four broad-casts were streamed, where woman spoke about war victims of abuse and rape, after which, apart from listeners who demanded that they rebroadcast the show, Red Cross in Gradiska reacted and contacted two women, victims of war and put them on its list of the user.

- About activities of the 12 projects funded through small grants initiatives more than 100 articles and TV and radio contributions were published (see attached report Press clippings). Also, through brunches with journalists attention was drawn to different actual topics such as trafficking that has been relocated to internet (news from this brunch has been announced on 15 portals, 4 daily newspapers and 3 TV stations), hate speech, Roma Decade, the position and rights of persons with disabilities, inclusion of children with disabilities in educational system (the article about this topic was published on cover page of daily newspaper Glas Srpske 26. 04. 2014), peer violence, protection of river Sana, and help to households affected by the floods. According to a press clipping and number of media reports -more than 400, we can say that the project focused media and decisions makers' attention on specific issues and problems related to marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Also, through "brunches with journalists" a support was given to various initiatives such was the initiative "Let's Clean Earth for A Day", initiative for bringing the Law on Torture Victims at the level of BiH, then initiative to change laws of the RS Law on Freedom of Gathering.

#### ***4. Affirmed concept of socially responsible journalism and NGO activism, through Antidiscrimination award and Fund Srdjan Aleksic established by civil society organizations:***

Journalism Award "Srđan Aleksić" for professional reporting on marginalized groups is recognized and accepted in journalistic community and among civil society organizations, as evidenced by the continuing journalistic applications on for allocation of journalism awards, and the fact that The network for peace building consisted of 90 NGOs took ownership of the award and continued with awarding upon completion of the project. The first award, organized by the Network for Peacebuilding was on September 21, 2013 in Sarajevo, and the second one award organized by Network is scheduled for 22 septemar 2014. Also, the number of companies that sponsored award speaks in the favor of its importance and visibility. Since the establishment of award from the company m:tel and banks UniCredit Bank and Hypo Alpe Adira banks we received total of 10 500.00 KM of donation for the payment of journalism awards "Srđan Aleksić". In 2011 we received 1,500, and for the next two years 9000 KM.

Also, in 2012 and 2013 we had more media supporters of the Awarding – two public broadcasting systems (RTRS and BHT) and nine web portals, while during the first year we had a support from Radio TV of Republic Srpska.

We expanded the concept of socially responsible journalism on photography, as one of the forms of journalistic expression. In the competition for the most striking photographs that testify the position of marginalized groups in the country 15 photographers and photo journalists have signed up with 52 photographs, of which 40 were printed and displayed at exhibitions in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and 12 were selected for calendar 2014, for which 847 people voted. Calendars have been distributed throughout the country, including institutions at entity and state level. Federation Parliament asked us to send out ten extra calendars on the Parliament adress.

Thanks to Strategic planning we organized in March 2012, “ownership“ on “Srđan Aleksić” award was given to the BiH Network for Building Peace gathering 100 civil society organizations members and the award itself is recognized as one of the values of the Network. It was agreed to award the special category for reporting in continuity on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 on International Peace Day. Except it, a working group was made within the Network that took responsibility for organization, opening call and funding the award. Part of that group is Banjaluka Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly. Also, when about funding the award, it was agreed that part of membership fees in the Network will be given for the award.

Within the project we organized 50 brunches with journalists in which we talked about various topics and problems of marginalized and vulnerable groups, which were, on average, followed by three media.

**Describe if the Action will continue after the support from the European Union has ended. Are there any follow up activities envisaged? What will ensure the sustainability of the Action?**

Some of the activities started –up within the project will continue to “live” after completion of the project. The Journalist Award "Srđan Aleksić" for reporting in continuity has become the ownership of the BiH Peace Building Network and it will be given in years to come. The second in a row Awarding organized by BiH Peace Building Network is scheduled for 22 September 2014.

Current students of journalism will apply the knowledge gained at our workshops in the future during their professional careers and in that manner contribute to anti-discriminatory and inclusive reporting in BiH. Most of them who attended the workshops stated in evaluation lists that the knowledge they gained would be a significant help in their future work (“An educational lecture, interesting interpretation and lots of useful information for us, future journalists. Bravo!”; “A very interesting and educational lecture. We do not have an opportunity to meet such topics. This lecture will definitely stay somewhere in our minds so when we become part of the media, we will be able to dedicate more to this topic “).

27 students have already through the project received an opportunity to apply what they learnt in practice. They had a chance to work on portal eTrafika with which was founded the first generation of socially responsible journalists willing to write about social issues and contribute to solving socially excluded categories’ issues.

Also, journalists who became sensible towards and familiarized with ways and different perspectives of reporting on marginalized groups, remain as a long-lasting resource in their editorial offices (“I think this project has significantly contributed to developing sensitivity of journalists towards some social groups. I personally made a contact with various associations. With some of them I even became a friend, I wrote some stories, I learnt many things about marginalized groups”, said journalist of Radio Free Europe, while his colleague concluded: “Progress is not great but there are more stories about this groups in which journalists, men and women, are on the side of the marginalized groups”).

Associations and NGOs, through the IT trainings, innovated and improved their web sites or Face book pages and learned techniques on using the web applications, which also remain as their permanent possession and which provide sustainability at institutional level in terms of capacities of involved stakeholders (“After trainings we began updating information on our Face book page and format “events” on a regular basis and invite people to visit them. Also, we registered that media took over some of the contents from our page so that training for us was more than useful” it was said in the Association Volunteers and Friends of Equestrian Region”; “We did a new design of the page, it is updated on a regular basis, we placed YouTube channel to upload everything we do with organization and place “Priboj”, was a statement of one IT training participant, a representative of NGO “EKO Leonardo Youth Club“ Lopare.

The methodology we developed inside the project is already in practice and we believe that students will use it in their research and scientific papers.

Also, the faculties we worked with are interested in continuing our lectures to students about marginalized groups reporting.

Besides, we think about cooperating with other civil society organizations on developing a new project which would rely on experiences and results of the X-Press II project. This time it would be targeted at media literacy, i.e. “literacy of public” how to read and understand media content and be actively involved in creating media contents and policies.

**How and by whom have the activities been monitored /evaluated? Please summarize the results of the feedback received, including from the beneficiaries.**

The activities have been monitored by the applicant and partner's programme staff through the following methods:  
° Meetings of project staff (internal meetings in hCa, meetings with partner organization) at which was analyzed the progress in accomplishing results, agreed dynamic and way of completion of some activities



- Analysis of comments of target groups, beneficiaries and stakeholders involved in the action that were collected at the project activities through evaluation questionnaires and interviews;
- Press clipping and media monitoring by project coordinators,
- Collecting data on other activities of interest to the action (such as e.g. participation in conferences on similar topics, other presentations, correspondence with other organizations and institutions related to the project),
- Analysis of policy documents produced during the project implementation and their congruence with project activities and objectives.

Through evaluation questionnaires and interviews we received feedback from different target groups:

- From the journalists and representatives of civil society organizations which were involved in project activities ("Thanks to activities of the X-Press project we made contacts with media and journalists who have helped the work and activities of the Ponos association of single parents"; "This is an excellent example how citizens can influence the conscience of people about marginalized groups. Wide population and its stances are very important segments and affirmation of marginalized groups is a key step towards creating a better society in which we all want to live. Bravo!"; "It is about a very good project that connected civil society organizations with the media and journalists"; "Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and Foundation "Cure" have done a lot on visibility of marginalized groups and affirmation of socially – responsible journalism. For the first time we can notice more affirmative stories in the media. I hope that this practice will continue not just stopping here"; "I think this project was very successful because it turned the attention of public to issues of marginalized groups which cannot be visible because of an entire "flood" of political issues. The project helped me to make contacts with NGOs dealing this issue").

- From the students who attended workshops ("I am glad you came to our faculty, primarily because we lack such lectures. We have learnt today very useful things about reporting on marginalized groups and it is important for our future profession. I think that such presentations are useful for students and I do hope you will come again"; "Presentation was wonderful, it certainly did teach me something. What else to say except WONDERFUL"; "I found out many new things and I will surely have a different approach to marginalized groups topic"; "An interesting and thorough presentation about marginalized groups contributed indeed a lot to us, the students because the issues you talked about were just mentioned at our department").

- From IT training participants ("The training I took part at was, in one word, unique. Trainers did their job with passion and energy of genuine activists"; "I discovered a lot of new sites which can be helpful to me in my further work"; "You presented to us a whole power of internet and how to use in the best way. You drew attention to safety which is very important in this time of global communication. Lady trainers have passed their knowledge and skills really well with truly great energy. Thank you"; "I think that seminar was extremely useful and regardless of our previous work on internet and in the media, we learnt so many new things. I am so glad I met so many members of other media and NGOs at this seminar which can help us a lot in our further work "; "We will use all new information we got here and improve the work on our portal").

- From participants of conferences ("The topic –Professional and Ethical Standards in Reporting on Marginalized Groups" is very important for our society. More conferences should be organized on these topics to raise the awareness of citizens and explain to them the importance of such topics. Therefore, I can conclude that this conference has fulfilled my professional expectations in an excellent manner", was written by the conference's participant; "Srđan Aleksić" Award is something that made my day in such Bosnia and Herzegovina, where its leader just spread the hate and it also inspired me to make further steps in building a civil BiH", was estimated by one of the conference's participant).

**Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organizations involved in implementing the Action:**

### **Final Beneficiaries and Target groups**

We have been recognized by several organizations of disabled persons as an organization that helps in promotion and protection of their rights and therefore they invited us to apply jointly for two project calls. These are the organizations: UDAS- Organization of Amputees, Association of Sarajevo Canton Blind Persons, Alliance of Paraplegic of FBiH, Alliance of mentally disabled persons of Republic of Srpska who we have applied at EIDHR call titled "Enabling access to social services for vulnerable and socially disadvantaged groups", and at USAID's call which was also designed to improve the position of disabled persons in BiH.

Except it, we actively cooperated with the Oštra Nula organization that joined us to mark the International Human Rights Day when we sent a message of support to organizations of civil war victims in Prijedor who were banned by Prijedor local authorities to gather on that day. We helped the Association of Single Parents PONOS to send an initiative to establish Alimony Fund in Republic of Srpska. Also, we have established very good cooperation with

the Association of Banja Luka queer activists B.U.K.A. with whom we have organized several actions, including the celebration of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia - IDAHOT. With our support this association has successfully marked IDAHOT for the first time in the RS, with many representatives of foreign embassies and delegations. With the Centre for environment and Transparency International we send comments to draft of law on solidarity fund for renewal of Republic of Srpska to the RS National Assembly and tried to improve legal text and solutions foreseen in it.

We regularly inform some organizations of marginalized groups about possibilities to gain some funds.

**• Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.)**

In this period we achieved the cooperation with M-tel Company and UniCredit and Hypo Alpe Adria bank as sponsors, seven portals and two public broadcasting systems – RTRS and BHRT as the media sponsor.

**Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.**

- Through brunches with journalist we were included and promoted a series of actions such as “Let’s do it – Let’s Clean BiH for a Day”, we also were a part of a global campaign “16 Days of Activism” and gave our support to “Take Back the Tech”; we promoted the action of Press Council against speech of hate on Internet titled “You Are Not Invisible”; we supported the initiative of petition of the Ostra Nula organization for change of the Law on Freedom of Gathering in front of public institutions in RS, as well as initiative for bringing the Law on Torture Victims at the level of BiH.

We have also supported the action of Council of Europe General Directorate for Democracy that launched a global campaign for tackle against hate speech on internet.

- As one of the members of “Re:Action – Civil Initiative For Banjaluka”, Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly was involved in protest walks due to destroying of green surface in narrow city zone, more known as Picin park. Re: action, due to the start of construction works on location of Picin park, has asked from the entity authorities to give written explanation and deliver documentation which would show whether these works are done in accordance with the laws and procedure.

- We joined a coalition of organizations to write Alternative Report on BiH’s progress towards European integration and contributed to the writing section of the report on the rights and status of women, with special emphasis on women in sports. The situation of women with disabilities in sport was one of the themes of breakfast with journalists that was organized in Sarajevo. The initiative for the monitoring of European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina is an informal coalition of 10 civil society organizations that monitor and oversee the implementation of reform policies, law and standards of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- We supported the Women Citizens Initiative for Constitutional Changes that insists on the inclusion of women in the Constitution Reform Process, as well as the initiative of the PONOS Association of Single Parents to fund Alimony Fund. We were involved in marking of International V-Day, which was organized on 14 February 2013 in more than 30 cities in BiH under the slogan "One Billion Rising, Dancing and Protesting in BiH".

- Organizing a media event, we supported the activities of a coalition for Sana which has been fighting to protect the Sana River and prevent the construction of mini hydro power plant at its source  
- Through active participation in the organization of Peace Event Sarajevo in 2014, we became part of an informal network of international peacekeeping organizations that promotes a culture of peace, non-violence and dialogue.

- On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism campaign against gender based violence, hCa joined the action “Let’s Regain Control over Technology” whose focus is violence happening by using information communication technologies. The Action was initiated by platform OneWorldSEE and except hCa, other organizations joined it too. The aim of campaign was to include civil society, girls and women especially to report, i.e. to map their stories about online violence. Within this global action we held two brunches with journalists in Tuzla and Sarajevo.

- Executive director of the hCa Dragana Dardić presented the activities of the organization targeted at improvement of media reporting on marginalized groups and affirmation of socially responsible journalism at a conference in Mostar. In this context she talked about third open announcement for the Srdjan Aleksic journalist award which are trying to promote socially engaged texts and stories about marginalized groups and affirm professional and ethical standards in reporting, about “Brunches with journalists” and workshops with students of journalism which contribute to raising awareness about issues and needs of marginalized groups in the media discourse. The title of the conference “Mutual Understanding and Tolerance – Let’s Be Critical towards Accusations, Speech of Hate and Prejudices” was jointly organized by the Council of Europe and Press Council on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Mostar.

- Executive director of the hCa Dragana Dardić was actively involved in creating a proposal of EU Strategy for Improvement Media Freedom and Integrity of the Media in the Western Balkans and Turkey for the period of 2014-2020 (which was agreed on SPEAK UP Conference in Brussels, at June, 2013).

- The journalist of EuroBlic Milkica Milojević promoted the Journalist Award "Srdjan Aleksić" and models of cooperation with the media that has been developed within the project "X-press" at a conference in November 2013 in Jahorina organized by UNICEF on the occasion of the awards for journalistic contribution to the protection and promotion of the children's' rights.

**If your organization has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).**

X-Press II Project is the sequel of the previous project X-Press which was implemented in period 2008-2011. Most of the activities from the previous project we continued to realize in this period as well for a simple reason: activities such as brunches with journalists, workshops with students, conferences and, in particular, the Srdjan Aleksić award showed to be good models of advancing media reporting on marginalized groups as well as good ways of drawing attention of the entire public to some social groups and their activities. We learned this from evaluations of journalists, students, professors, organizations of marginalized and vulnerable groups and regular media monitoring.

We upgraded the project with IT trainings to strengthen capacities of NGOs and media regarding the use of new IT technologies and in accordance with recommendations from previous conferences where suggestions were made to use online media due to easier and cheaper approach as much as possible. Besides the Srđan Aleksić award, we also opened a call for photos about marginalized groups. The news is activity of small grants allocation for joint actions of media and NGOs.

**How do you evaluate co-operation with the services of the Contracting Authority?**

For many years we cooperate with the European Commission in BiH and we must say that cooperation is very good. For any outstanding issues, Ms. Gordana Makić, and later Renato Radić and Vladimir Pandurević were available, and all of them were a perfect contact point who further assisted us in case any clarification or information was needed from any other department inside the EU.

#### **4. Visibility**

**How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?**

All invitations to the media, and press releases contained the EU logo, and the invitation letters stated that the project was implemented with the assistance of the European Union. At every media appearance it was mentioned that the project was realized with the assistance from the European Union. At each X-Press session, workshop and meeting, the moderator stated that the project was funded by the European Union. Promotional materials were printed in accordance with EU recommendations, the EU flag is placed next to the project description on our web site, and every news on our web site related to the project states that the project is funded EU.

**Name of the contact person for the Action:** Dragana Dardić  
Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **27. 09. 2014**