The Anne-Marie and Gustaf Ander Centre for Media Studies at SSE Riga

Activity Report 2018/2019

# Overview

The Anne-Marie and Gustaf Ander Centre for Media Studies continues to develop its activities around following three focus areas:

* **Training in investigative reporting with a focus on corruption and organised crime.** This area has been the core of the Centre's activities – there is a high and increasing need for investigative reporting in the world. The training sessions are organised in Riga with cross-border journalism forming the basis for each programme. The training programmes are in most cases carried out in cooperation with the OCCRP (Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project). Furthermore, this year the Centre, in cooperation with Meduza and OCCRP, organized a conference on investigation of organized crime in Russia.
* **Networking and capacity building.** The focus being on the Baltic countries, the Eastern Partnership Countries, Russia and the Central Asian republics. The network has now grown to include more than 55 media outlets. The Media Centre acts as coordinator with Meduza and OCCRP as partners. The main funding of the networking activities comes from the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office mainly fund networking activities. The plays a crucial role when it comes to the development of investigative journalism in the region.
* **Sustainability and Media Management.**The aim of this focus area is to raise the business and management knowledge among the media outlets – something that is essential for financial sustainability and hence long-term survival. During the year several new programmes have been launched. The flagship programme being the four-week mini-MBA. During the year two rounds of the programme have been run – one in English and one in Russian language. Thanks to the extended support from the Foundation, this area will be further developed and taken to a new involving traditional media as well. This is an important step. Traditional media as well as the network’s new media outlets will benefit from meeting and engaging in sharing of knowledge and experiences. The mini-MBA programme will also be open to paying participants from some of the media organizations, thereby creating financial resources for other activities within the Centre. During the year the centre has prepared and planned for the first International Ander Forum: Reinventing Media Business. The Forum will take place in autumn 2019 and be a unique conference with several well-known international speakers. The idea is to create an arena where traditional and new media outlets can meet.

In addition to these three focus areas, the Centre has increased activities that address security of journalists. This development should be seen in the light of the fact that the number of journalists who have been killed has increased. During the last year, three journalists with connection to the Centre and its partners were murdered: Daphne Caruana Galizia, Jan Kuciak and Victoria Marinova. In June the investigative reporter at Meduza Ivan Golunov was arrested based on fabricated evidence fabricated by the Moscow police. His case engaged several members of the network. He was later released. The Centre has gained international recognition for its work on security related issues and its ability to act quickly when there is a need to rescue journalists. Furthermore, several programmes have been launched to train journalists in anti-surveillance and protection.

In the light of the murder of several journalists, the Centre together with OCCRP were invited by the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström, to brief her and her team on the security for journalists active in Europe. Following the meeting, the Centre and OCCRP submitted a letter to the Swedish MFA with recommendations on how to protect journalists. This letter will be followed up with a meeting with representatives of the European Parliament in October 2019.

Asked by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Centre in July organized a panel at the Global Conference for Media Freedom in London about protection of journalists and freedom of speech.

# Activities 2018/2019

## Overall comment

The support from “Anne-Marie och Gustaf Anders Stiftelse för Mediaforskning” (the Anne-Marie and Gustaf Ander Foundation) is pivotal. It provides core funding for the Centre, which in turn gives the Centre the ability to co-fund projects – something that most donors request

This year the Centre has received grants from and/or cooperated with the Swedish Institute, the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the US State Department (DRL), the Swedish Embassies in Estonia and Latvia, USAID, the Australian Embassy in Sweden, the Nordic Council of Ministers in Latvia and Lithuania, FOJO Media Institute, Freedom House in Lithuania, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), IREX Europe, British Council in Latvia, Journalism Development Network, Re:Baltica and the US Russia Foundation.

During the year a strategic choice was made to go for longer programmes. Consequntly, the number of programs has decreased whereas the number of program days has increased. This change in strategy allows for a further enhancement in programme quality while at the same time broadening the recruitment base to involve more senior participants. However, it is still essential to do some shorter programs to reach young journalists and students of journalism.

## Partnerships

The development and expansion of the Centre’s activities have been made possible by developing SSE Riga as hub for media activities in the region. With the core funding from the Foundation, the Media Centre has been able to built alliances and partnerships with donors that support journalism and media as well as their benefactors. Through this strategy the Centre has been able to increase its activities and to get new and increased grants.

The main partnerships include:

* The partnership with the OCCRP (Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project) has developed further. The number of training programmes in investigative reporting and protection of journalists has continued to increase. Two journalists from OCCRP are provided office space at SSE Riga. The cooperation with OCCRP is central for the development of the Centre.
* The independent media outlet Meduza is another important partner. The Centre delivers several training programmes for journalists and management. Meduza journalists and management are regular lecturers in the Centre’s program.
* The leading investigative reporting team in the Baltics, Re:Baltica, is a local partner. The Centre hosts a newsroom in the SSE Riga building for Re:Baltica and OCCRP journalists. It has given Re:Baltica stability and improved working conditions. In cooperation with Re:Baltica the Centre has received grants to deliver three week-long leadership programmes, one in each of the Baltic countries.
* Swedish FOJO is a partner with support from Swedish SIDA. The cooperation has with FOJO has increased. Currently the Centre provides several programmes for FOJO – the target group being mainly journalists from Russia and Eastern Europe.
* Global Investigative Journalism Network is one of the leading organisations for investigative reporting. The Centre is a member of the Network, which provides excellent opportunities to reach out with invitations to the various programmes offered by the Centre.
* Press Club Belarus is still a partner. However, for cost reasons training for its members has moved from Minsk to Riga. Their members have regularly been invited to the Centre’s training programmes.

In order to further develop the focus area Sustainability and Media Management, the Centre has joined two international networks as member:

* EMMA, The European Media Management Association. In June Sabine Sile and Jana Altenberga represented the Centre at EMMA’s annual conference in Cyprus, where they marketed and presented the upcoming International Ander Forum "Reinvent Media Business".
* Wan-IFRA, World Association of News Publishers. This organization allows the Centre to reach out with innovations to the conferences and programmes offered by the Centre.

## Highlights during 2018/2019:

* **The seventh Summer School on Investigative Journalism** took place in August, 2018. As in previous years, the content focused on corruption and organised crime. The programme was developed in in cooperation with the OCCRP. More than 136 participants from 22 different countries participated. The Keynote speaker was Bernt Olufsen from Norway. He elaborated on how supporting freedom of press through quality journalism, journalistic ethics and self-regulating. Furthermore, he discussed media as the founding element in a democracy.
* **Journalism for Future Challenges** is a three-week programme of intensive investigative journalism training. The programme is carried out in cooperation with OCCRP. The target group is young talent journalists. The programme is partially supported by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Swedish Institute.

* **Boot Camp for local independent Russian language media in the Narva region**.  The aim was to educate, motivate and boost the confidence of local Russian language media in region. And help them be sustainable, stay alive, develop the business and continue making good independent journalism. The Swedish Embassy in Estonia supported the programme.

* **FOJO Media Management Programme** was a three week programme in media management) for middle management in Russian media outlets.

* **Peter Greste Baltic Freedom of Speech Award 2018**. The Aim of the Greste Baltic Freedom of Speech Award is to recognize and reward people who have made substantial contributions with respect to defending and enhancing freedom of speech in the three Baltic countries. The Award rewards good journalism as well active engagement for the defence and enhancement of freedom of speech and expression in the Baltic countries.
* **General Data Protection Regulation Brochure** for journalists that will help with an understanding of the implications of GDPR for the media industry. The brochure was prepared in Latvian.
* **Legal Guide for Journalists** was developed for journalists in Estonia, Latvia and by the beginning of 2018, During the spring it was also launched in Lithuania. In total it has been issues in four different languages. The Guides are published online and have been distributed to journalists and media outlets as well.
* **Latvia Media Ethics Council** was established in December of 2018. The Centre is a member and has provided meeting space at SSE Riga.
* **Future Media Management in English.**The second mini-MBA programme for Media Manageress started during the autumn with support from the Swedish Institute. The programme was delivered in English. In comparison to the previous round, the format and content have been further developed. The most significant change is that investors are invited to the last module. The idea is that the participants will prepare the presentations of the business ideas more careful. Some of them could also get investments if they present a sustainable business plan.
* **Future Media Management in Russian.**Thanks to a grant from the US Russia Foundation, the mini-MBA programme Future Media Management Program in the Russian language could start during the autumn. The content and the format are the same as for the English programme.
* **Future Leaders Academy**. A new round of the was launched in cooperation with the Swedish Embassy in Latvia. It is a leadership programme for young people interested in politics. Twenty participants from all over Latvia meet during eight weekends to discuss political ideas and values and get training on topics like the EU, political science and democracy.
* **Summer School Lasnamäe.** The third Summer School on for secondary school students in the Russian-speaking district Lasnamäe in Tallinn was made possible through continued cooperation with the Swedish Embassy in Tallinn. The project, which continues through autumn 2019 is undertaken in cooperation with Delfi and Meduza. The cooperation with the newsportal Delfi provides participants with an opportunity to publish their stories on the portal. The programme, which has received international attention, focuses on media literacy and critical thinking.

* **The fourth edition of Baltic Media Health Check** was launched during the autumn. It is an annual journalistic snapshot study aimed at measuring the current ‘temperature’ of the media markets in the Baltic countries, identifying the present trends, leaders and threats, as well as examining the most significant common issues.

* **Security training in counter-surveillance for OCCRP reporters.** This one-week programme has been developed in cooperation with British experts in surveillance, anti-surveillance and contra surveillance. The programme consists of both theoretical and practical training. Two programmes were implemented during the spring**.**
* **Networking and capacity building**. In cooperation with the OCCRP, the Centre received a new grant from the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office to continue and strengthen the Independent Russian-Language Media Outlet Network. The Network has expanded and now involves more than 55 independent Russian-language media outlets. The grant supports networking training and content development and meets three to four times a year in Riga.
* **LAMPA.** For the third time, the Centre participated with a tent (the so-called Swedish tent) at the Latvian democracy festival LAMPA. Several partners were invited to take part in the programme, such as the think tank Providus, the Latvian Journalist Association and Latvian Debate Association Quo tu doma? The Swedish Embassy partly supported the participation with a grant.
* **Study trip to New York and Washington DC.**During the autumn the Centre got the opportunity to organise a study trip for the management of Nya Wermlands-Tidningen, NWT. It was done in collaboration with Re:Baltica. The trip was also provided the Centre with opportunities to further strengthen its network and to develop partnerships in the focus area of Sustainability and Media Management.

## Organization

The Centre has a slim organisation with only a few staff employed. Sabine Sile-Eglite is director and overall responsible. Lasma Antonevica is programme manager responsible for the production of programmes. She is also handling the participants from countries outside the EU and providing visas, insurance, plane tickets and travel documents, which involves a lot of bureaucracy and requires dedicated assistance. However, the costs are mostly covered by grants.

During the autumn Jana Altenberga was recruited to develop the sustainability and media management area including the International Ander Forum.

Several persons are employed on project basis, and grants cover their salary. Liene Sandalane is running events and is responsible for the participation in the democracy festival LAMPA. Julia Rodina is running the Estonian activities on a project basis. Hans Månson is programme director for several programmes in investigative reporting and responsible for the content in the Summer School on Investigative Journalism. Mark Lee Hunter, a journalist and professor at INSEAD, is involved in the media management programmes.

Within the SSE Riga management, Anders Alexanderson has the overall responsibility for the Media Centre and oversees its activities.

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## List of Activities

### Autumn 2018, August 1 – December 31:

* Summer School on Investigative Reporting 2018
* Independent Russian Language Media Network Meeting (August- meeting)
* OCCRP Annual Conference 2018
* Journalism for Future Challenges Module 1 and module 2

## Launching General Data Protection Regulation brochure

* Future Media Management Mini-MBA in English, module 1
* Future Media Management Mini-MBA in Russian module. 1

## Launching Legal Guide for Journalists

* Boot Camp “Sustainability for Local Independent Russian language Media” in the Narva region.
* The Annual Baltic Freedom of Speech Peter Greste Award Ceremony
* Independent Russian Language Media Network Meeting (November meeting)
* Funding of Latvian Media Ethics council – the first meeting

## Evening school in macroeconomics for journalists in Latvia (5 classes)

## Debate Leaders School

* FOJO Media Management module 1
* Launching the Baltic Media Health Check
* Meduza editorial conference

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* Open lecture Mårten Palme
* Study trip to New York and Washington with the management of Nya Wermlands-Tidningen

### Spring 2019, January 1 – July 31:

* Elective course in Investigative reporting and media literacy for B.Sc. students at SSE Riga in cooperation with Re:Baltica.
* Future Media Management Mini-MBA in English, modules 2 and 3
* Future Media Management Mini-MBA in Russian modules 2, 3 and 4
* Security training for OCCRP reporter surveillance and contra surveillance (two groups and two weeks)
* FOJO Media Management for middle managers, modules 2 and 3.
* Latvian Journalists Association Annual Award Ceremony
* Journalism for Future Challenges module 3.
* Independent Russian Language Media Network (two meetings during spring)
* Summer school in Lasnamäe, Tallinn.
* Meduza summer school
* Future Leaders Academy, modules 1-5
* Media Management Bootcamp in Estonia
* Media Management Bootcamp in Latvia
* Media Management Bootcamp in Lithuania
* Democracy festival LAMPA
* Organizing a panel at the Global Conference for Media Freedom in London.