



Baltic Centre for
Media Excellence

Annual Report 2017

Empowering audiences and media creators

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Committed to creating resilient, inclusive and tech-savvy media, and knowledgeable and inquisitive audiences in the Baltics and beyond.

The Baltic Centre for Media Excellence (BCME) is an independent non-profit organisation, founded in November 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia. From its birth as a grassroots initiative of the Baltic journalistic community, BCME has grown into a powerful hub for smart journalism in the Baltics and beyond. It promotes professional growth, media intelligence and critical thinking, and strives for positive change in journalism and the communities it serves.

BCME focuses on the needs of independent media outlets in the region and provides them with tools essential for sustainable development: hands-on vocational training and mentorships in journalism and media management, quality media market research and audience analysis, as well as meaningful coordination of the donor community involved in media support across the region.

We advance tech-savvy professionalism, resilience and inclusiveness among media creators, but BCME is equally focused on educating and empowering media audiences. By promoting media literacy and critical thinking, especially among those groups most vulnerable to disinformation and propaganda messages, BCME contributes to establishing knowledgeable and inquisitive audiences and a demand for quality journalism.

This report covers the main activities of the BCME in all of these core areas during 2017. The latest information about BCME projects is available on the centre's website — baltic.media



Message from the Executive Director

The first year of BCME was all about expansion: fundraising; creating numerous partnerships locally, regionally and internationally; designing new initiatives and building a distinctive brand. The second year, covered in this report, was much more focused on deepening already established partnerships, sharing our acquired expertise and strengthening the organisation itself, to ensure that BCME's accomplishments are lasting ones. We left room for experiments and innovation too, exploring a variety of genres and approaches — from media literacy comic strips to embedded editors to media start-up hackathons.

Quality media that is strong and independent, and which serves informed and demanding audiences: this is the vision that unites all the diverse initiatives of BCME. In 2017, in order to achieve this goal, BCME added another target group — donors, involved in media support across the region — to those previously defined: the journalistic community and consumers of media. We believe that promoting meaningful dialogue and coordination between donors, as well as supplying them with up-to-date data and fact-based policy recommendations, is the way to achieve informed and effective interventions on the most pressing needs and a prerequisite for introducing sustainable positive change.

The amount of analytical data and executional know-how accumulated by BCME in a period of just over two years is truly remarkable. For a young organisation is both inspiring and humbling to have developed a reputation as a high-quality provider of needs-based training ("The best seminar I have ever attended," said Olga Dragileva, one of Latvian public television's star reporters, after taking part in BCME's social media masterclass), to have become known to be a regional knowledge hub regarding audience analysis ("Your reputation stretches as far as Washington," said Peter Doran, CEO of CEPA), and to have been deemed an innovative and leading media literacy actor. Yet we know that media production and consumption is an area where it often takes years of persistent work and many small steps to transform everyday practices and mindsets.

For BCME's team, it means first and foremost one thing: we must never stop, no matter how impressive the achievements.

Rita Ruduša, Executive Director of the Baltic Centre for Media Excellence at the Idealist Quarterly discussion "Can progressive stories survive our post truth-era?". Brussels, 2017.
Photo credit: IQ



The year of fake news

The quality of media information and its role in strengthening — or indeed, weakening — democracies was the focal point in professional discussions among journalists in 2017. Elections in the US, France, Germany and other countries reminded the public that liberalism, pluralism and democracy should never be taken for granted. This explains why in 2017 many organisations — including the media, but also NGOs and government institutions — devoted unprecedented levels of attention to initiatives promoting media literacy and critical thinking among the wider public.

For BCME, creating informed and selective audiences have been one of our core goals since the establishing of the Centre in 2015. Our research has allowed us to identify those segments of media users that are most vulnerable to propaganda messages and fake news, including children and young people, as well as Russian-speakers in the Baltics and the Eastern Partnership countries, and tackle these issues with innovative — and sometimes daring and witty — methods.

Successfully combatting disinformation in the public sphere depends on media users being able to think critically and media creators being professional, modern and tech-savvy. That is why, in providing vocational training, BCME focuses on media outlets and regions that have been most deprived of possibilities to develop: independent local media, public service media and Russian-language outlets.

Our initiatives in promoting media literacy and strengthening the professionalism of journalists are based on real-life needs and perceptions of media users that we have gathered in our research projects over time. The results point to an important conclusion: long-lasting change can be achieved only with well-planned, coordinated and informed activity.



In its activities, BCME targets three main groups in the Baltics and the Eastern Partnership countries: independent media outlets, media users, and donors, who support media development in the region. BCME works to empower all of these actors: to empower media-makers by enhancing their professional skills, media audiences by providing them with media literacy basics, and donors by coordinating their efforts. This set of activities creates a holistic approach to media development, helping to maximise positive outcomes for journalists and the wider community.

Strengthening professionalism of media creators

In 2017, the focus was put on embedded mentorship programmes, which had proved to deliver more consistent and lasting results compared to short one-day seminars. BCME now only offers the latter for specific, easy-to-pick-up skills, and is transforming most of its seminars into engaging two-day workshops. Our in-depth mentoring sessions cover all aspects of media production: content planning; creative, technical and collaborative techniques; and design and photography, as well as media management, and usually last from a couple of days up to a week. In 2017, BCME further expanded and strengthened its trainer team to include mentors and lecturers with expertise in all the subjects that are in demand from independent media newsrooms. The centre has worked extensively to create trusting long-term relationships between newsrooms and mentors to ensure the best reception for their recommendations. Editors and journalists often consult their mentors long after their sessions have finished, and report receiving quality advice and feedback from them.

We have also expanded our post-mentorship evaluation programme, gathering detailed reports from both trainers and editors after each session. This helps us to create more nuanced, qualitative and up-to-date mapping of the current challenges facing independent media, as well as further tailoring of training programmes to meet these sometimes very specific needs. Our trainers constantly receive high levels of approval from the newsrooms and are able to bring about sustainable changes to their strategic decisions and professional mindsets, as well as everyday practices.

In collaboration with a BCME founding member, Riga Stradiņš University, and The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Commission, BCME created a special workshop to educate journalists from national and local media about coverage of issues relating to migration and the integration of asylum-seekers, motivating newsrooms to improve their editorial guidelines and practices. The project “Development of responsible, diverse and quality journalism in Latvian national and regional media to promote the integration of third-country nationals” included analysis of media materials on migration and asylum-seeking; development of an educational plan based on the results of the analysis; a workshop and discussion between journalists and experts on migration and integration

Lots of useful information that usually gets lost in the shuffle. I'll use it actively in my everyday work and will try to educate my colleagues as well.

A participant after the seminar on storytelling

The cooperation went great, because we already knew each other. [...] Our next issue will have three double-page spreads! It's a great achievement for us — getting beyond one-page thinking. Also, we understood that planned subjects need to be discussed in advance between the author and the designer, to make sure the result is easy to read.

Daiga Biteniece, editor-in-chief of Kurzemnieks, after the design mentorship

Boris Bergant, Former vice-president of the EBU at Public service media forum “Maximising Public Value: A Future for Public Service Media”. Riga, 2017.

Photo credit: Jānis Spigovskis

The year in numbers:

13 in-depth mentoring sessions in content production, photojournalism and design

9 seminars (including 1, 2 and 3-day workshops) on data journalism, storytelling, multimedia production and legal aspects of journalistic work

5 new mentors and trainers

32 media outlets in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia received mentoring and training; 1 new newspaper design was developed as the result of the mentorship — Russian-language newspaper “Лиепайская неделя” in Kurzeme region, Latvia

Our trainers

Dmitri Surnin,

Media consultant, principal strategic adviser for the BCME Eastern Partnership Programme, former editor-in-chief of “Moi Raion” newspaper (Russia/Lithuania)

Zoya Trunova,

Freelance media consultant and trainer, formerly head of the BBC World Service Global Video Unit (UK)

Ieva Lešinska,

Writer, editor and translator, contributor to magazine “Rīgas Laiks” (Latvia)

Casper Walbum Høst,

News editor at DR (Denmark)

Mette Rosendahl,

Head of the strategic and development department at the digital media portal Altinget (Denmark)

Nika Aleksejeva,

Data literacy trainer, School of Data fellow (Latvia)

Inga Sprinģe,

Investigative journalist and media trainer at Re:Baltica (Latvia)

Kevin Bishop,

Freelance media consultant and trainer, formerly BBC news producer (UK)

Claus Vittus,

Radio presenter and producer, DR (Denmark)

Tira Shubart,

Journalist and media trainer, formerly news producer at BBC, NBC and CBC (UK)

Jacob Fenger,

Producer at Nordisk Film (Denmark)

Ulrik Haagerup,

Head of News, DR (Denmark)

Evgeny Gladin,

Freelance photographer (Russia)

Mark Georgiou, Freelance media counsel, formerly Assistant Editor BBC News leading a masterclass for journalists of Latvian Television. Riga, 2017.
Photo credit: Signe Valtīņa





Joined in 2017

Mark Georgiou,
Freelance media consultant, formerly Assistant Editor at BBC News (UK)

Ivan Charalambous,
Freelance filmmaker and journalist (Cyprus)

Alexey Konkov,
Designer and media consultant (Russia)

Väino Koorberg,
Veteran journalist and editor (Estonia)

Ieva Azanda,
Sworn advocate (Latvia)

Kristian Strøbech,
Social media trainer and digital innovator (Denmark)

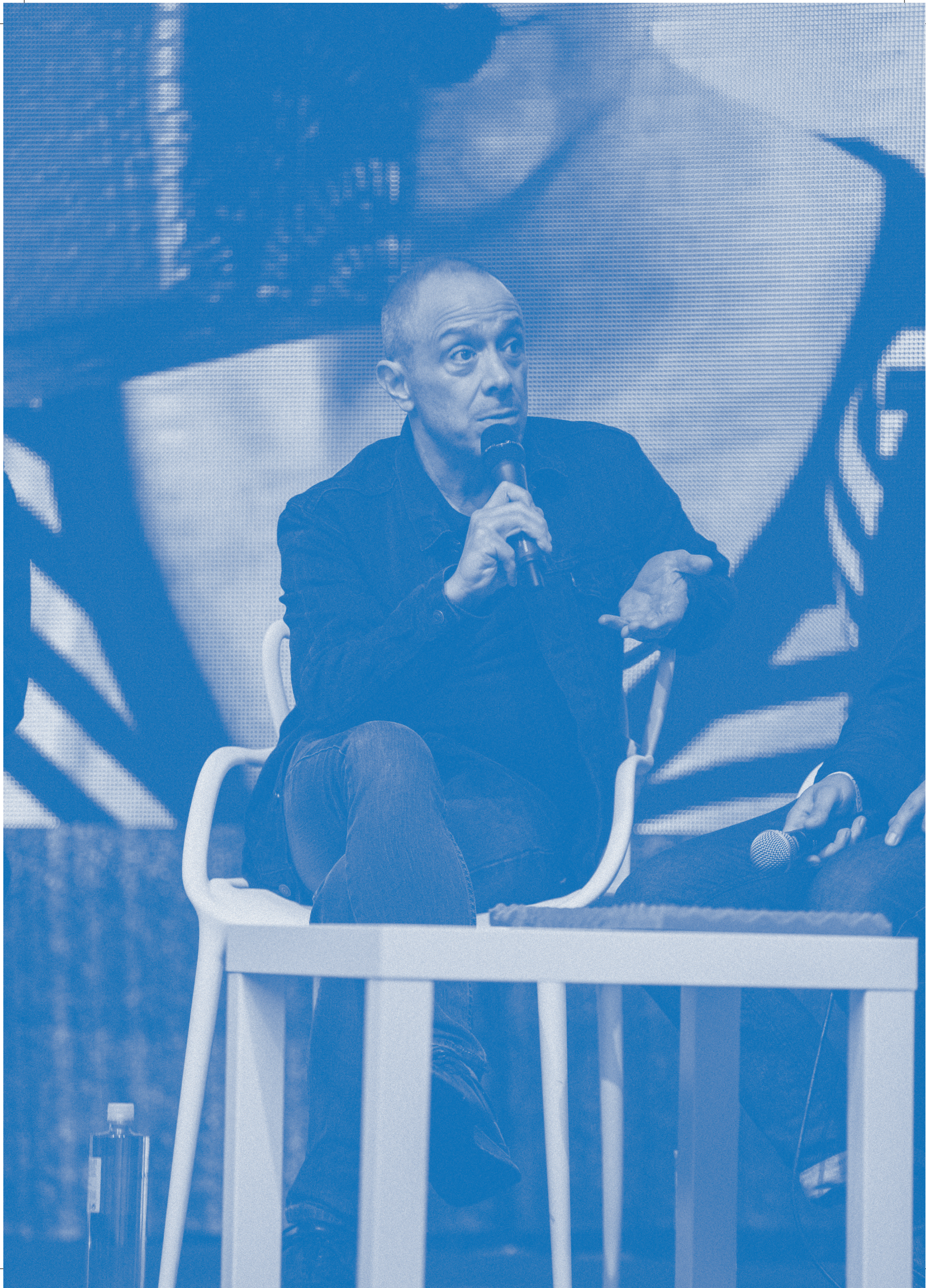
Promoting critical thinking

Quality journalism needs critical and demanding audiences to thrive — that is why BCME largely dedicates its efforts to educating media users and promoting media literacy and critical thinking, especially among those groups most vulnerable to disinformation and propaganda messages (such as young media consumers and Russian-speaking audiences in the region). For each segment of the media audience BCME practices a separate approach, developing creative techniques and a variety of styles and genres.

In just over two years BCME has become a trend-setter and a knowledge hub for media literacy issues in the Baltics. Beyond working on the centre's own initiatives, BCME is regularly invited as an experienced consultant to other projects managed by public media and government institutions.

The most extensive project in media literacy — not just that BCME is involved with, but of any kind — currently being carried out in Latvia is “Pilna doma”(Full Thought), aimed at promoting media literacy and civic-journalism skills among high-school students and their teachers. The project is based on a variety of activities, including in-depth interviews with teachers to understand current levels of media literacy and analyse ways to include the subject in school curriculums; developing methodologies to promote media literacy among students and teachers; media literacy workshops for teachers; journalism contests for students; and creating support materials for both students and teachers.

In 2017, the project's website, pilnadoma.lv, was extended to include a wider range of materials for both teachers and students: methodological notes, including webinars and online tutorials for teachers, and comprehensive tips and guidelines for creating media materials for students, such as on doing pieces to camera, video editing, interviewing and other basic advice for young media creators. Students also received training and mentoring from leading Latvian journalists at their schools (or at neighbouring schools in the region). The latest updates on the project, as well as photos, videos and stories about trainers are also available on the project's Facebook page: facebook.com/pilnadoma.



The guidelines, produced by BCME, are highly valued not only by teachers, for whom they address the existing methodological gap, but also by the education experts working for the National Centre of Education (VISC), who are going to recommend them for use in the new Latvian school curriculum. As a result of the project, teachers and students learn to recognise quality journalism and separate it from poor-quality journalism and propaganda, understand media production and — while preparing their own media stories — learn to spot important and engaging local community issues. Also, meeting leading media personalities has increased students' interest in journalism as a possible professional choice.

BCME has also addressed the wider public on issues such as fake news, propaganda and hidden advertising messages in the media. In collaboration with Latvian public media, including the youth radio channel Pieci.lv and the multilingual news portal LSM.lv, a multimedia project “Tīri fakti” (Pure facts), co-produced by BCME, introduced key media literacy topics and contemporary issues to the audience by using explanatory journalism, interviews and infographics, as well as graphic novels — a completely new format for media literacy issues in the Baltics.

While combatting fake news in online media and social networks has always been the focus of BCME's media literacy projects, in 2017 a special project, #iegūglēpirmscepies (Google before fuming!), was launched to address the viral nature of unchecked news stories on social media. In collaboration with the Latvian Journalists' Association and the Centre for Investigative Journalism “Re:Baltica” four videos were produced — in each, a made-up story was told, followed by tips for telling the difference between real and fake news. The campaign used selected ‘media literacy ambassadors’ — opinion formers and celebrities, including the Latvian minister of foreign affairs, Edgars Rinkevičs, who (with their consent) were featured in fake news stories that were posted on social media. The messages were based on real cases of fake news, and afterwards were debunked by the people featured in sharp and short video messages which include warnings about the issue.

The combined number of online views of the campaign exceeded fifteen thousand and the combined audience (unique users) of online media outlets that reported on the campaign was over a million. The videos were widely shared on Twitter and on Facebook. The hashtag #iegūglēpirmscepies, created for the project, continues to be used in social media posts well beyond the project end date, by both the project team and members of the audience, to tag news items dealing with fake news and media literacy.

BCME has also become a regular participant at the Latvian Conversation Festival Lampa, which attracted more than 10 000 visitors in 2017. During the latest festival, BCME organised and conducted a discussion “Journalist in Lie Lie Land” on challenges to quality journalism in the post-truth era, featuring prominent journalists from the Baltic region, Scandinavia and elsewhere in Europe.

In 2017, BCME also focused on gathering data about media literacy in Latvia, as well as educating politicians and other decision-makers. The public discussion “Viltus ziņas — gruzdošais drauds” (Fake News — a Smouldering Threat), held at the Riga Castle and attracting 400 participants, was organised in collaboration with the Chancery of the President of Latvia, featuring not only the President of Latvia Raimonds Vējonis, but also prominent journalists and media analysts. The results of the snapshot study of Latvians were presented by the research centre SKDS, highlighting widespread overestimation of respondents' media literacy skills and ability to detect fake news stories.

Brian Whitmore, Senior Correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty at the discussion “Journalist in the Lie Lie Land” at the Conversation Festival LAMPA. Cesis, 2017.
Photo credit: Nadežda Kraukle

Having accumulated a corpus of valuable know-hows on media literacy, BCME aims at spreading this knowledge across Eastern partnership countries. In 2017, a delegation of twelve Moldovan librarians, while on their visit to the National Library of Latvia, received media literacy training from BCME. The workshop was specifically aimed at promoting media literacy skills among the youngest media users — children aged from five to nine years old.

Year in numbers:

100 teachers participated in media literacy workshops, including 34 teachers from minority schools
6 acclaimed journalists working as lecturers and trainers
95 students and 14 teachers from 15 schools including 3 minority schools participated in the award ceremony for a journalism contest at the National Library of Latvia
8 graphic novels, 16 radio show series and 4 videos on media literacy issues produced for the general public and social media users
12 librarians from Moldova participated in a media literacy workshop
1 public event at a festival with 10,000 attending.

Coordinating dialogue

In the Baltics it's clear the main fake news recipients are the Russian residents who are mad at life in general and separated from Baltic social and cultural life. Older Russians have a definite nostalgia for Soviet times.

Russian broadcaster and writer Artemy Troitsky during the discussion "Fake News — a Smouldering Threat"

Informed and coordinated efforts have more impact — that was the simple reasoning behind putting donor dialogue on BCME's list of priorities. Currently, no other organisation provides needs-based services for donors involved in media support across the region, helping them to identify policy priorities, coordinate their interventions and intensify synergies. BCME's vast knowledge base and established reputation make it a natural leader for donor community dialogue both in the Baltics and in the countries of the Eastern Partnership.

Donor dialogue was established as a separate area of action for BCME only in 2017, responding to donors' needs which were identified in previous years of work. To help donors in creating lasting positive change, BCME provides the donor community with up-to-date data to inform knowledge-based interventions, as well as detailed feedback of grant-receivers and instruments to assess their impact. Consultations are delivered both individually and collectively through regular forums and reports.

In 2017 the first media-centred donor coordination meeting was held in Riga, Latvia. It encompassed a wide range of issues, including common challenges for donors in the Eastern Partnership countries; their information needs; possible formats for dialogue between donors, beneficiaries, experts and policy-makers; ways to improve academic curricula for independent media professionals; and many others. The forum was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia. Further efforts to establish regular donor dialogue were undertaken around the time of the 2nd Eastern Partnership Media Conference in Kiev in September, a forum where BCME participated as a member of the Advisory Group.

Concurrently, local donor coordination efforts were stepped up in Latvia, led by the Embassies of Denmark and the Netherlands. A notable event in that area was a round-table discussion in Daugavpils, attended by local journalism leaders and the Danish and Dutch ambassadors. The discussion focussed on the various challenges that local media are faced with, including reaching linguistically diverse audiences. BCME played the role of facilitator and knowledge hub for this and other events, bringing the

most pressing issues in the media sector to the attention of the donor community.

Regular regional and pan-national donor forums aim to understand the most pressing issues for independent and public media across the regions while also seeking solutions for them. An important part of the dialogue is also the community-building among the independent media themselves to intensify exchange of ideas and facilitate co-productions and cross-border cooperation. BMCE also aims to assist in building sustainable partnerships between leading academic institutions in the region, to stimulate the creating and redesigning of educational programmes on journalism in order to correspond with present-day needs and future challenges.

The seminar ended on a positive note: there is a strong interest and will to work with regional and European partners in cultivating the media landscape and to serve the interest of the general public. The Baltic Centre of Media Excellence — which organised the seminar together with the Danish and Dutch embassies — is committed to working with (international) partners in the future in support of Daugavpils' media.
Embassy of Denmark in Latvia after the discussion on local media needs in Daugavpils.

Year in numbers:

35 participants from 17 donor governments and international organisations participated in the first Working Group on Media in the Eastern Partnership Countries and Beyond.

20 journalists and donor representatives participated in the round-table discussion on local media needs in Daugavpils.

Supplying quality data

The aims of our media market and audience research are threefold: to map the needs of independent media in the region by analysing their ownership structures and levels of business sustainability, to help these media sources grow stronger by supplying them with standardised and non-biased audience and market data, and to promote informed interventions from donors by providing them with up-to-date knowledge about media consumption habits, trust in the media and vulnerability to propaganda messages of different segments of their audience.

“Baltic Media Health Check” is an overview of main players and trends in the Baltic media market. Led by the Centre for Investigative Journalism Re:Baltica in previous years and conducted by BCME in 2016, it has mapped Baltic media market features, data about media audiences and financial performance of media owners. Every year the study also singles out one pressing topic for the three countries. The latest issue of the “Baltic Media Health Check” focuses on the situation of regional and hyperlocal media, and their futures in the context of growing digital, political, financial pressures, as well as those of other kinds.

The findings of the “Baltic Media Health Check” were presented at the forum “the State of Journalism in the Baltic States” in April 2017, organised by BCME’s partner organisation the European Journalism Observatory. The event was attended by key media academics from Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Later the study report was distributed to other BCME partner organisations, and its main findings received considerable attention from Latvian electronic, print and online media.

“Gap-Asset Analysis of Independent Russian-language Media Skill Set in the Eastern Partnership Countries” is another study with a uniquely broad geographical extent, commissioned by BCME with the support of the European Endowment for Democracy. The study that aimed to map the skills of independent Russian-language media-makers, began in 2016, and its findings were presented in 2017. The data, gathered by a team of researchers from Moldova, Armenia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia, provides important points of reference to both the

journalistic community and for media development organisations and donors.

The study discovered a distressing lack of a supportive environment for the professional growth of journalists working in independent Russian-language media in these six Eastern Partnership countries. These media also face business development challenges, harassment by the authorities and financial problems while trying to provide a quality alternative to Russian propaganda narratives. The presentation of the findings in Vienna in November as a side event to the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, “The Role of the Free Media in the Comprehensive Approach to Security” particularly focused on the media landscape in Ukraine, with the participation of some of the leading media experts of the country. Six country reports, one regional report and a separate policy paper for the donor community were published electronically.

The year in numbers:

255 media outlets included in 2 regional studies;
9 countries included in the scope of studies;
Research findings presented at 2 expert conferences and forums.

Our researchers and editors

Aija Krūtaine, journalist, media researcher (Latvia)
Evita Puriņa, journalist (Latvia)
Rytas Staselis, journalist (Lithuania)
Urmas Loit, media researcher, lecturer at the University of Tartu (Estonia)
Magda Walter, media consultant (UK)
Arif Aliev, media researcher (Azerbaijan),
Pavel Bykovski, media researcher (Belarus)
Nino Danelia, media researcher (Georgia)
Victor Gotisan, media researcher (Moldova),
Boris Navasardian, media researcher (Armenia)
Roman Shutov, media researcher (Ukraine)

Laila Liepiņa, Designer for Latvian regional newspaper “Kurzemnieks” at the closing event of BCME training session for regional media. Kuldīga, 2017.

Photo credit: Aivars Vētrājs



Pielikums **Radīta ALSUNGA**
Saitu dūdeniēki - arī rokmitziņa
Meklējiet iekšlapās!

Mēdiena, 2017. gada 13. decembris

Kurzemnieks

Kuldīgas slimnīcu atkal grib apdalīt

Mūsdienīgu novērtu objektu pamešanu, kāpēc Kuldīgas slimnīca atstāta iznīcināt un ar masāžu finansējumu iekā cits līdzīgas, ir mēģinājis izskaidrot valdības amatnieki. 18. oktobrī 13. decembra tikšanās ar veselības ministru Arvīdu Caklu, laika Kuldīgas novada domes priekšsēdētāju Ingu Bērziņu.

Eiropas finansējums:

1 500 000 EUR
770 650 EUR

SKATĪTĀS VĒRTĪBAS:

- veselības aprūpe, veselības un dzīvības, veselības veselības aprūpe
- veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe
- veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe

RAJONS NEPĒTĪKS:

- veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe
- veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe
- veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe, veselības aprūpe

SKATĪTĀS VĒRTĪBAS:

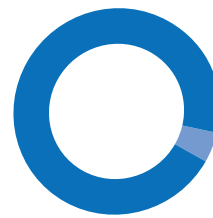
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Centā vārdi ir balti

Thanks to our generous donors, BCME has been able to carry out innovative and highly-appreciated projects in journalist education, media literacy, research, and donor dialogue promotion, as well as strengthening its organisational core to ensure sustainability of action.

Main positions of the BCME budget in 2016, in EUROS

Income 477 946



456 241 Grants

21 405 Other income

Expenses 420 643



Our donors:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
 The Nordic Council of Ministers
 The Danish Cultural Institute in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
 The European Endowment for Democracy
 The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
 The United States Embassy in Latvia
 The Ministry of Culture of Latvia
 The EEA and Norway Grants
 The Embassy of Denmark

Main Objectives for 2018

Promoting media literacy and offering sustainable embedded mentorships for independent media will be our top priorities for 2018. We aim at high-precision interventions that leave a lasting impact on audience habits and media production techniques.

We plan to extend our media literacy programme to include an even wider range of social groups, such as the youngest media users: children of pre-school and primary school age. This would imply creating and testing new forms to promote critical thinking, such as puppet shows or cartoons. The expertise already accumulated by BCME allows us to experiment with innovative methods that would help in reaching out to those segments of the audience that cannot be reached by more traditional approaches to media literacy promotion.

In strengthening the professionalism of media creators, we aim to expand our embedded mentorship programme, and focus it even more specifically on multimedia development that would help independent media meet new expectations of their users. Our mentorships programmes change and improve continuously as we expand them with always up-to-date findings about the needs of the newsrooms, the latest data about their audiences as well as expertise of our experienced trainers.

To advance informed and meaningful interventions, BCME aims to strengthen its role as a dialogue facilitator across the donor community. In 2018, BCME also plans to devote special attention to strengthening the core of the organisation, increasing its capacity, visibility and fundraising activities to ensure it grows sustainably and can fulfil its goals in the long run.

BCME administrative staff

Rita Ruduša
Executive director

Antonija Skopa-Šlāpina
Office manager

BCME project teams

Gunta Sloga
Programme director

Signe Valtīņa
Training project manager

Evita Puriņa
Project manager, “Pilna Doma”

Diāna Hoduļina
Eastern Partnership programme assistant

BCME advisers

Solvita Denisa-Liepniece
Principal adviser for media literacy projects

Roman Shutov
Principal strategic adviser for Eastern Partnership

BCME board

Jolanta Tarasavičiene
Chairperson of the board, Head of international relations, the Lithuanian Public Broadcaster LRT (Lithuania)

Andres Joesaar
Vice-rector for creative activities and cooperation, Tallinn University and head of Media Research at the Estonian Public Broadcaster ERR (Estonia)

Aiste Žilinskiene
Head of the Lithuanian Online Media Association (Lithuania)

Nika Aleksejeva
Data literacy trainer, chair of the board of School of Data (Latvia)

Riina Rõõmus
Board member of the Estonian Public Broadcaster ERR (Estonia)

Bettina Ruigies
DW Akademie, regional coordinator for Europe and Central Asia (Germany)

BCME partners

Institute for War and Peace Reporting
IREX Europe
IREX
Internews
Transitions Online
BBC Media Action
DW Akademie
Norwegian Institute of Journalism
Nordic Journalism Centre
Independent Journalism Centre of Moldova
Thompson Foundation

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