

COUNTRY REPORT for the 11th Meeting of BRAF

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I. Regulation

- **Methodology on the detection and evaluation of cases of disinformation in audiovisual content;**
- **Regulation on the broadcasting license;**
- **Methodology for monitoring and evaluation of internal audiovisual pluralism;**
- **Methodology for monitoring and evaluation of external audiovisual pluralism;**
- **Methodology for evaluation of the risks linked to the occurrence of a domination situation in shaping the public opinion;**
- **Regulation on the audiovisual contents;**
- **Methodology on monitoring audiovisual contents with electoral character.**

II. Monitoring of contents

- **AI-driven monitoring platform** - capable of processing video content and converting it into text, in both Romanian and Russian languages, and also identifies key entities and keywords;
- **Fines for disinformation** - „TV-Găgăuzia” with 60 000 lei (3 090 EUR) and „ATV” with 40 000 lei (2 060 EUR);
- **Control concerning compliance with norms that regulate the access to audiovisual contents for people with sight and hearing deficiencies** - among TV media service providers, which assumed to ensure coverage of elections.

III. Licensing and ownership transparency

- ▶ The AC refused to **give or to prolong broadcasting licenses** for several TV channels.
- ▶ The AC dismantled a **concentration of 16 most important radio frequencies** all in the hands of Ruskoye Liubimoye Radio that was rebroadcasting Russian contents.
- ▶ The AC organised a **transparent bidding process for the procurement of TV ratings measurement system**, in order to address the concerns related to the current measurement over admitting un-loyal competition practices.
- ▶ The AC launched a **new, restructured, and improved version of the Media Service Providers and Distributors Registry** to allow for greater access and transparency on data concerning media providers.
- ▶ The AC contributed to the launch of the **Media Ownership Monitor for Moldova**, a free database of the beneficiaries of the most important media institutions in Moldova; it contains information about their past and political affiliations, as well as their sources of financing.

V. Control of distributors

- ❑ Control regarding the compliance with art. 17 from the Audiovisual Media Services Code (AMSC) - Protection of national audiovisual space - by five largest media service distributors;
- ❑ Fines for infringing legal provisions regarding the protection of the national audiovisual space for distributors from the autonomous region Gagauzia - "Oguzsatlink" SRL and "ILK HALK TELEVISIONU" SRL were fined with 20 000 lei (10 170 EUR); „Orvitmedia” SRL and „Ilk Halk Televizionu” SRL - were fined with a total amount of 120 000 lei (6 175 EUR);
- ❑ Fines for the retransmission of prohibited news and military programmes from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus TV stations („Первый канал”, „Россия 1”, „Россия 24”, „Беларусь 24”, „МИР 24”, „РБК” and „Победа”) - the distributors "Oguzsatlink" SRL and "ILK HALK TELEVISIONU" SRL from the Gagauz region were sanctioned with a total amount of 290 000 lei (14 920 EUR)

VI. Foreign relations and cooperation

- ✓ The AC became an **observer member of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services - ERGA**.
- ✓ **Peer-support program with Ofcom** (Office of Communications from the United Kingdom), facilitated by the Council of Europe.
- ✓ In cooperation with the Council of Europe Office in Chişinău, the AC organised the **regional conference "Aligning regulatory practices for a robust media ecosystem"**. The event gathered representatives from 10 NRAs (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Ukraine and United Kingdom).
- ✓ The AC presented its ***Strategy on media literacy***, developed by Martina Chapman, associate expert at the Council of Europe in the field of media and information literacy.

2024 Presidential Elections and Constitutional Referendum

- The AC monitored the coverage of **19 TV channels**, from 20th of September to 1st of November.
- The Council issued **six weekly reports**, **two reports** for each period of silence day and **two final reports** for the presidential elections and for the referendum. Also, the AC examined **seven appeals** from presidential candidates and referendum participants.
- The AC applied **5 public warnings** and **53 fines** in an amount of 301 000 lei in total (approx. 15 300 EUR).

AC`s activity in the Assessments of International Election Observation Missions

- ❖ **ENEMO** - the work of the AC provided a solid foundation for balancing the audiovisual media scene and helped maintain a relatively even playing field in audiovisual media during the electoral campaign.
- ❖ **OSCE/ODIHR** - The AC enforced campaign regulations effectively. Candidates and referendum participants were granted free airtime as per law and complaints were dealt with in a timely manner.
- ❖ **PACE** - During the campaign, radio and television political coverage was tightly regulated to ensure fairness, accuracy and impartiality. In line with electoral media laws, candidates were granted sufficient free airtime.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



4th of September 2024,

Regional conference "Aligning regulatory practices for a robust media ecosystem", Moldova