

IJC experts address Transnistrian Media Needs

7.06.2013 / Media and civil society in the Transnistrian region need a long-term support program, which should rely on principles of professional journalism, focus on development of online journalism and support setting up of some NGOs to promote freedom of expression in the region. These are some of the findings of a recent Transnistrian media needs assessment launched by the Independent Journalism Center on June 6, 2013.

The authors of the survey, experts Petko Georgiev, Ruslan Mihalevschi and Natalia Scurtul have X-rayed problems faced by the journalists and media in the region by analyzing media legislation, observance of journalist ethics and available statistical data on a number of media organizations. Petko Georgiev mentioned that media in the region need to improve their professional level, given the fact that Transnistrian journalists have a different idea about ethics, pluralism and work with sources. The other two authors of the survey have emphasized how important it is for the journalists to receive support from the relevant organizations, which should offer them such services as legal advice and programs aimed to develop civil society capacities. Also, it was recommended to develop online journalism by training civil reporters, who should offer access to alternative sources of information to the public in the region. The event was attended by over 40 journalists from both banks of the Nistru River, representatives of nongovernmental media organizations, United National Development Program (UNDP) in Moldova and other international organizations and diplomatic missions. While implementing this study, the authors had to interview many journalists, NGO representatives and experts from both banks of the Nistru River. This study is part of the "Enhancing Media Capacity in Moldova with a Focus on the Transnistrian Region and Promoting Civic Participation among Young Journalists" Project implemented by the IJC with the assistance of the Programme "Support to Confidence Building Measures" funded by the European Union, co-funded and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to confidence building between both banks of the Nistru River by involving local authorities, civil society organisations, business community and other stakeholders, as well as through ensuring economic and social development of local communities. The study is co-financed by the Free Press Unlimited (The Netherlands).