

Invitation to the programme

JOURNALISM IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

December 11- 15, 2015, at the Centre for Media Studies at SSE Riga

Journalists from Eastern Partnership countries are invited to participate in a five-day series of seminars on doing accurate, responsible and non-prejudiced reporting from areas under pressure.

There is an old saying that the first casualty of war is the truth. But the truth is often a casualty long before war starts. Propaganda is often a tool for forging a war.

In the environment of an armed conflict, a journalist requires more than the standard skill set in order to collect information and turn it into a balanced story. Violence, information blockades and intentional (and non-intentional) misinformation are just a few of the challenges they face. Altogether, this makes reporting dangerous wherever there's open hostility.

The programme is implemented in collaboration with the Baltic Centre for Media Excellence. The programme will be held in English at the Centre for Media Studies at SSE Riga.

ORGANISERS

The prestigious and well-established Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), operating all over Eastern Europe and Eurasia, and the Centre for Media Studies at SSE Riga are organizing the seminars.

Speakers will all be reporters and editors with extensive experience in covering conflict zones, wars, uprisings and coups.



FEE & LOCATION

Participation in the programme is free of charge.

Tuition, international and local travel, hotel, lunches, coffee breaks and two dinners are all covered.

Location:

The Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (SSE Riga),
Strelnieku Street 4a, Riga, Latvia

CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME

1. SAFETY AND PERSONAL SECURITY

Trainer: Paul Burton

Personal safety training, health issues and evacuation techniques in war zones and zones of social unrest. Understanding the threats, avoiding common mistakes and finding a proper vantage point to cover the war without taking needless or unreasonable risks. Basic first aid and dealing with emergencies.

2. INTRODUCTION TO WAR JOURNALISM

Trainers: Nataliya Gumenyuk, Vladysav Lavrov

Hands-on experiences of veteran war reporters, sharing experience-based tips on covering conflicts, dealing with warring parties, finding proper vantage points and maintaining a proper perspective.

3. SOURCING INFORMATION

Trainer: Nataliya Gumenyuk

Tools for identifying reliable sources in an environment of conflict and information war, fact-checking techniques. What information can be found in and out of a war zone? How to get the information. How to prevent yourself from being used as a pawn. Documenting your personal observation.

Interviewing techniques modified to fit a dangerous environment, unpredictability and intense time pressure.

4. ETHICS OF WAR

Trainers: Nataliya Gumenyuk, Vladyslav Lavrov

Best practices in avoiding excessive emotional involvement in the story of conflict, other ethical issues specific to the war zone environment. Defining the role of the journalist and their work in a war zone.

LECTURERS



Vlad Lavrov is a staff writer at the English-language publication Kyiv Post, Ukraine. He was previously business and world editor at Ukraine's weekly news magazine Korrespondent and business editor at the Ukrainian weekly Novynar. Lavrov has participated in several international investigative projects, including ICIJ's Tobacco Underground, which detailed organized crime's involvement in tobacco smuggling. The project was honoured with the Investigative Reporters' and Editors' Tom Renner Award, the Overseas Press Club of America Award, and the Online Journalism Award for best web coverage of international affairs. He investigated cigarette smuggling in the Ukraine-EU border area in Tobacco Roads with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. In the project Transnistria – Revealing Europe's Black Hole, he helped produce stories on illegal trade in the self-proclaimed Transdnister Republic in Moldova. Recently, Lavrov has written about shell companies in offshore jurisdictions and their links to organized crime and money laundering.



Paul Burton is training director for hostile environments and emergency first-aid for Global Journalist Security. Paul served as a British Army Sergeant Major in the elite 148 Commando unit, and as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst officer training school. After retiring from military service, Paul was a HEFAT or Hostile Environments and Emergency First-Aid Instructor for the U.K.-based Centurion

Risk Assessment Services. He has trained hundreds of journalists, aid workers and others. Working on behalf of relief agencies and non-governmental organizations, Paul conducted reconnaissance, training and security escort missions in numerous hostile areas including Haiti, Indonesia, Argentina, Uzbekistan, Brazil, Cambodia, Venezuela, Kenya and Mexico. He has extensive experience and training in casualty treatment and assistance, jungle, arctic and urban warfare, and civil unrest.



Nataliya Gumenyuk is a Ukrainian journalist and commentator specializing in foreign affairs. She is co-founder and currently head of Hromadske.TV – an initiative of Ukrainian journalists to create public broadcasting in Ukraine – and Hromadske International www.en.hromadske.tv. Since the start of the revolution and later conflict in Ukraine she has been reporting from the field: Maidan, Crimea, Donbas. As an independent, international correspondent, she has reported on major political and social events from nearly 50 countries. During the last few years, she has focused on post-Arab Spring developments in the Arab world. She is the author of the book "Maidan Tahrir. In Search of the Lost Revolution". Nataliya cooperates with a number of Ukrainian and international media sources.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

- Early career journalists with a strong interest in investigative journalism. Prior work in investigative journalism is not necessary, but some general journalism experience is required.
- Residents or citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova or Ukraine, between 20 and 35 years of age.

APPLICATION PROCESS

You may apply by filling out the information in the following link:
registration.sseriga.edu/journalism-in-hostile-environment

Along with the application you will be asked to submit:

1. a scanned copy of your **passport**
2. a press card or a letter from your employer
3. your CV
4. an example of a published article or a list of links to video/photo reports

The application deadline is November 15, 2015.

You will be informed of the results by November 20, 2015. In case you are selected, you will receive detailed information regarding flights and accommodation.
A maximum of 15 participants will be selected to participate in the programme free of charge.

CONTACTS

For further information, please e-mail: sabine.sile@sseriga.edu