

ECREA CEE NETWORK report for 2019

1. 12th CEECOM conference, June 19th – 21st (Sofia, Bulgaria)

The local organiser of the conference was the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Over 160 scholars from 28 countries took part in the conference. The program of CEECOM 2019 was divided into 30 theme panels, which were focused on different areas of media and communication.

The topic of the conference in 2019 was “Communication Management: Theory and Practice in the 21 st Century”.

Due to the considerable interest in the conference and a large number of applications, some of the initially suggested panels had to be divided into two parts. Among them were the panels ‘Contemporary Media Practices: Ethical Dimensions’, ‘The Digital Impact on the Communication Landscape’, ‘The Role of Context in Communication’, ‘Social Media Anthropology’ and others. Four panels were dedicated to the connection between media and politics with an emphasis on regional research in the field, election races, journalism and a government perspective.

A large number of scholars from Eastern and Central Europe took part in the event. However, it also proved an excellent opportunity for early-career researchers. Over 40% of the participants in CEECOM 2019 were PhD candidates or young scholars.

Keynote lectures during the event were presented by Prof. Elena Vartanova (Dean of the Faculty of Journalism at the Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia), Andreas Schwarz (Chair of the Department of Public Relations & Communication of Technology at Ilmenau University of Technology, Germany) and Prof. Gevisa La Rocca (Kore University of Enna, Italy). The event was supported by the Bulgarian Science Fund with contract No.KII-06-MHΦ/14.

More detailed information regarding the conference can be found on its web page: <https://ceecom2019.eu>

2. 8th Graduate Spring School & Research conference on Comparative Media Systems: 100 Years of Media Systems in Southeast Europe – the legacy of Yugoslavia (Dubrovnik, Croatia)

For the first time, CEE Network was co-organiser of the Graduate Spring School between 15–20 April 2019. Keynotes were Paolo Mancini, University of Perugia, Zrinjka Peruško, University of Zagreb, Antonija Čuvalo, University of Zagreb, Dina Vozab, University of

Zagreb, Snježana Milivojević, University of Belgrade, Tarik Jusić, Analitika, Sarajevo, Marko Zubak, Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, Vlatko Ilić, Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Belgrade, Carmen Ciller, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Aleksandra Dragojlov, Cardiff University.

The venue was the Inter-University Center in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

3. Preparations for 8th ECC (Braga, Portugal)

The CEE Network management proposed a workshop for the ECC, which was not accepted by the ECREA management since the goal was to have an open call for every panel. According to the rules, CEE Network could have one panel, and its call was open beyond the conference's main topic (Communication and Trust). The abstract proposals will undergo the peer-review process.

4. CEE Network patronage for 2020

As the CEECOM conference has become a bi-annual conference, the CEE Network would like to take support over the events that will take place in Central and Eastern Europe in 2020. The Network made a call for applications, and it offers assistance with the dissemination of information about events via its communication channels.

5. Meeting of the CEE Network management, plans

The management team of CEE Network had a meeting in Poznan on 12th September, 2019. The group discussed the results of the questionnaire distributed among the members of the Network. Although a small number of responses came in, it was visible that the membership would like to see a more active Facebook channel of the Network. Moreover, the members are in favour to change CEECOM conference from annual to biannual frequency. It was decided that the next, 13th Central and Eastern European Communication and Media Conference will take place in Brno (Czech Republic) in 2021. The management team was able to have a meeting with the local organisers, as well. According to the meeting, the CEECOM will implement a rigorous blind review of incoming proposals.

6. Dissemination activities

The Facebook page of the CEE Network grew in prominence during 2018, accounting for over 600 'likes' by the end of 2019.

7. Membership

As of January 2020, there have been 201 active members of the CEE Network.

Report prepared by CEE Network team (2018–2020):

Chair: Norbert Merkovity (Department of Political Science, University of Szeged, Hungary)

Vice-chair: Lenka Vochocová (Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)

Vice-chair: Malgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska (Faculty of Management and Social Communication, Jagiellonian University, Poland)

21st January, 2020