**ECREA’s CEE Network Report**

**Activities of 2014**

In 2014 CEE Network organized two major events – CEECOM 2014 conference in Wroclaw and special events within the ECREA 2014 biannual conference activities in Lisbon, Portugal. Within each country numerous events and activities took place as well, but this report summarizes most inclusive and academically weighty actions.

**1. Annual CEECOM conference (**[**http://ceecom2014wroclaw.pl**](http://ceecom2014wroclaw.pl)**), June 12-16, 2014**

The main theme of the conference was chosen on the basis of two major historical dates and periods – the 25th anniversary of the collapse of communism in many Central and East European countries and the 10th anniversary of the first CEE countries accession to the EU. By addressing issues related to histories of democratization in the CEE, the theme aimed at focusing on opportunities generated by social change and new technologies which might improve the level of media freedom and public sphere, and might further result with the discussion on and development of new approaches and models for media and democracy analysis in the fast-changing information society. A number of critical questions were addressed at the conference: Why it is important to study the media and politics in Central and Eastern Europe? Why have democracy and media freedom consolidated in certain CEE countries, whereas other states from the same region have not progressed to their anticipated visions of greater institutional legitimacy, public empowerment and media freedom? Which factors have most significantly contributed to the manifestation of the registered outcomes? What is so Central East European about the social and cultural condition of today’s Europe?

More than 200 scholars from around 30 countries (and nearly every continent) responded to the conference call. The papers were presented in 6 plenary and 30 parallel sessions during the 3 days of intensive discussions and debates. Keynote speeches were delivered by Andrzej Antoszewski (University of Wrocław, Poland), Elena Vartanova (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia), Peter Gross (University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA), David Weaver (Indiana University, USA), Susanne Fengler (University of Dortmund, Germany), Aukse Balčytiene (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Wolfgang Donsbach (Technical University in Dresden, Germany) as well as Jane Curry (University of Santa Clara, USA) who was awarded the Honorary Membership of the Polish Communication Association. Apart of the main conference activities, the participants had a chance to join the benefis of Polish media scholar Walery Pisarek (Jagiellonian University, Poland), discussion on media freedom in Central and Eastern Europe with Andrei Richter (Director, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media) as well as the session dedicated to dr. Karol Jakubowicz. In addition to this, round table on media freedom in Poland was organized in collaboration with policy-makers and media practitioners: Jan Dworak (The National Broadcasting Council), Stanisław Jędrzejewski (Supervisory Board of the Polish Radio), Kamil Dąbrowa (Director, Polish Radio 1) and Hanna Wieczorek (“Gazeta Wrocławska”). A special session aimed at strengthening cooperation and exchanging links between publishers of CEE Journals in Central Europe and beyond. Editors and/or members of Editorial boards from journals published in Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine further presented aims, objectives and other essential information about their journals.

CEE Network strongly promotes and invests in the making of CEE research widely available to international scholarship. For this purpose it maps journals and publications related to journalism, media and communication changes in the region.

**2. CEE Network panel events organized within ECREA conference activities in Lisbon, November 12-16, 2014**

Two major events took place at the biannual ECREA conference: CEE Network panel which was dedicated to the theme of media transformations and changes in post-authoritarian societies entitled as ‘Shock of Democracy’, and CEE Network business meeting which addressed question of changes in the management team, networking activities and future collaboration and academic plans.

Each of the two events has generated informed attention of over 30 participants in each session.

Main results from the CEE Network business meeting:

1. New Management Team (2014-2016) was announced on November 14, 2014: Vaclav Stetka (chair), Irena Reifova (vide chair), Zrinjka Perusko (vice-chair)
2. Three upcoming CEECOM conferences were announced: Zagreb (June 2015, ‘The Digital Media Challenge’, [www.ceecom.org](http://www.ceecom.org)), Tartu (2016), Ljubljana (2017)

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