

CEE Network report 2011

The network has organized one main event in Cracow which took place during the annual congress of the Polish, Czech and Slovak communication associations on May 5, 2011. The three chairs of the network gave presentations on different aspects of media and communications research and state of the art in Central and Eastern Europe. Other important issues were touched as well such as the growing need to give publicity to both institutional and physical actors doing research in the field of media and communication in CEE.

CEE Network's FaceBook page has grown into one of the most active information and communication channels online. Its audience is constantly growing and now represents around one hundred of followers from 20 countries, with biggest numbers (more than 10) from Turkey, Portugal and Germany. FB announcements were about new academic books and journals published on CEE, research positions for Ph.D. and graduate students, also events and conferences. Network's FB pages are most actively used by younger audiences (45% of all users are from the age group 25-34; 30% - from 35-44).

CEE Network has also created an active network of CEE Network representatives in each country (each country is represented by 2-3 active and internationally known scholars); it is expected that this model of network management will achieve tangible results in raising awareness among all types of interested audiences (young researchers, students, practitioners, scholars, policy makers, and other potential interested audience groups).

A number of events have taken place where ECREA's CEE Network was represented by one or two chairs of the network and adequate publicity to research questions and networking issues was given. In October 2011 an International Colloquium on media change and communication cultures in CEE was organized in Kaunas (Lithuania), and the issues discussed at the meeting covered both old and new questions in comparative journalism research (the theme of the colloquium was "Between Adoption and Adaptation: Contemporary Perspectives on Journalism and Media Change in Central Europe", www.mediaresearch.lt). The speakers were from Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Romania, and Poland.

Also a number of smaller scale events in 2011 have taken place in Tartu and Wroclaw, where networking among CEE researchers and Ph.D. students were highly stressed. Among those it is important to mention the annual BAMR (Baltic Association for Media Research) event this year organized in Tallinn on May 6-7, 2011.

The network chairs were also actively promoting CEE Network and its ideals among journalism and communications students. We personally believe that this practice is indeed very important and has significant results in making both the network and ECREA ideas known.

For the 2012, at least three big events with special sessions organized by the ECREA's CEE Network are planned. All these three events have the same core issue as their focus (media cultures in CEE), but each special session will also address more specialized and practical issues such as network membership and networking needs, young researchers and their

needs, giving publicity and visibility of CEE research in global associations and networks, and others.

Among those biggest events planned for the year 2012 are the conference in Prague (CEE Media and Communication Conference, www.ceecom2012prague.cz) and the international ECREA event in Istanbul 2012. At both events the CEE Network is planning to have special sessions on all current issues such as assessment of the state of the art questions in media and communication research, networking questions and others. It is planned that for the both Prague and Istanbul conferences the special session will focus on the issues of media cultures in the times of change (the working title for the Prague conference is “Central and Eastern European media and journalism in a post-transformational flux”, and for the Istanbul conference the session’s title will be “Media Cultures in Times of Uncertainty and Individualized Access”). A similar session is also planned to take place at the Gdansk (Poland) conference in September, 2012.

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