



NEWS EXCHANGE COMMISSION (online meeting)

13 March 2024 via Zoom

Summary of the works

INTRODUCTION

The President of the News Exchange Commission, Asún Gómez Bueno (RTVE/Spain), opened the works and welcomed the participants. Paola Parri (COPEAM) thanked the attendees, for being so faithful to their commitment, underlining the absence - perhaps due to disinterest in this activity - of all the other Mediterranean broadcasters and news coordinators.

ERNM EXCHANGE REPORT

2023-2024 statistics and general assessment of the exchange: Hocine Abes (EBU) provided the latest statistics for the period March 2023 - March 2024 (316 exchanged items), showing, in particular, the progressive and great decrease in the last 4 years, compared to the previous ones.

Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
EDIT	1,101	1,070	1,160	882	717	286	323	474	375
ERNM	1,101	1,070	1,160	882	717	286	323	474	375
Total	1,101	1,070	1,160	882	717	286	323	474	375

He also displayed some samples relating to the exchanged cultural content (festivals, art, craftsmanship, etc.).

It is clear to everyone that in recent years there has been a general decline in interest among broadcaster members in contributing to the ERN-Med, and therefore their less affection for the Mediterranean.

A common reflection was made on how to re-motivate the BCs who were more active in the past and attract those with constant lower or completely absent participation (see below).

ERNM COORDINATION

Updates: Adel Yacef (ERN-Med central coordinator) informed about EPTV's current position - fundamental for the regular resumption of the activity - regarding the EBU and announced that the issue, currently at Algerian government level, could be resolved in the next months. In the meanwhile, he committed to dedicate some of his team's resources to coordinating the exchange, so to ensure its gradual rehabilitation. Ms. Parri added that the return to the EPTV of the Commission's presidency this will facilitate this task.

ERN-MED PRIZE

The 2023 edition of the Prize - "*The digital revolution in making news: new languages, new narratives and new techniques*" - saw the participation of a single item by RTVE, which - although relevant to the topic - is inevitably this year's winner.

A reflection on the initiative's preservation has become necessary, both in terms of its objective - which was originally to improve both quality and quantity of the contributions to the exchange - and of the work of the dedicated resources (writing and translation of the call for application, dissemination, reminders, etc.).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDING THE EXCHANGE

Several proposals were made regarding members' mobilization and motivation and the improvement of the exchange volume:

- promoting and advocating the ERNM within the News Committee and the Mediterranean Group of the EBU (Asún Gómez Bueno);
- approaching national and Mediterranean institutions (Ministries of Culture and of Education, national Institutes of Culture attachés to the Embassies, etc.) for sharing images of activities and events in line with the ERNM through their communication departments, so to feed the exchange (all members);
- setting up a real collaboration with the Balkans area's exchange ERNO (HRT and EBU);



- creating contacts and establishing a regular relationship between the Algerian coordination centre and political and cultural bodies of the region - Union for the Mediterranean and Anna Lindh Foundation - and their communication officers (Paola Parri);
- reactivating the ERNM WhatsApp chat and collecting the numbers of the news coordinators (central coordination and ASBU);
- searching for funding to upgrade the ERNM coordinators' skills by submitting a small-scale ERASMUS+ project (COPEAM would lead).

Ms Parri concluded this point stating that - despite being aware of the lack of staff dedicated to ERN-Med - it would be enough for each broadcaster to inject one item per week, or even 3 per month, which would ensure a good trend in terms of volume and continuity.

NEW PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMISSION

The election of the new President of the News Exchanges Commission is planned to take place during COPEAM General Assembly in Naples (19/04/2024).

Adel Yacef announced the candidacy of Mr. Azzedine Aït El Hara from the EPTV and Ms Parri warmly thanked Ms Gómez Bueno for her kind availability to take on this responsibility in the last two years.

OTHERS

Mr Abes reiterated EBU's full support to the Mediterranean News Exchange, hoping to see the situation with the Algerian TV resolved as soon as possible, so that the coordination of the ERNM goes back on track with the help of DZEPTV's news coordinators. It was also agreed upon the necessity to explore new news' sources from NGOs to enrich the ERNM's content.

Farida Mahdani from ASBU showed the figures of ASBU contributions to the ERN-Med, as well as a video with examples of cultural news from Tunisia, Libya and other Arab ASBU member countries.

Mr Thierry Pardi from France Télévisions declared that to have a person in charge of the ERNM at FTV, it is necessary to speak with the international relations Dpt. in Paris, and he agreed with Ms Parri that the forthcoming COPEAM conference in Naples would be a good circumstance to meet and discuss with them.

Finally, upon request to also return to in-person meetings, it was suggested to bring together the ERN-Med coordinators and the COPEAM News Exchange Commission on the occasion of the next ASBU News Committee.
