



CONCEPT NOTE

De-polarizing migration narratives: the role of journalism

Workshop

FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Thursday 1 December 2022 6.00 p.m - 7.30 p.m (CET)

Via della Palla, 1 - 20123 Milano, Italy

Despite experts' reports and widespread economic evidence, the issue of migration continues to polarize opinions. Especially in recent years, concerns and fears about migrants' presence in hosting communities have been increasingly amplified in the public discourse, often resorting to oversimplified messages, while the socioeconomic benefits stemming from their presence are often overlooked. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the debate.

As increasing numbers of persons move to other countries to live, study and work, it is vital to create a social and economic environment where everyone feels valued and welcome. Yet, the increasingly polarized discourse about migrants gradually undermines efforts towards effective policy-making that could better harness their economic potential.

Hosted by the Foreign Press Association in Milan and co-organized with the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the framework of the E-MINDFUL project (www.e-mindful.eu), the workshop will discuss the role of the press in promoting a balanced narrative

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about migrants that, while acknowledging the inherent challenges in the coexistence of people from different cultural, social and religious backgrounds, also acknowledges the opportunities that stem from that coexistence. The intention is to go beyond the ‘*us versus them*’ narrative towards societies where everyone feels like they belong.

The workshop will offer the opportunity to incorporate the viewpoint of press experts into the E-MINDFUL project activities. The event will also provide the chance to share the experience of the Human Rights Communicators Network and promote the toolkit developed by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union.

The working language will be Italian.

Agenda

Moderator: **Ms. Tatjana Đorđević**, journalist Al Jazeera Balkans

Introduction: **Mr. Andrew Spannaus**, Chairman, Foreign Press Association, Milan

Speakers: **Ms. Teresa Albano**, Economic Affairs Officer, Senior Project Manager of the E-MINDFUL project, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Mr. Elvio Pasca, journalist and expert on communication, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Anpals Servizi, Italy, *Which dilemmas when communicating migration in Italy?*

Ms. Blanca Tapia, Information & Communication Officer, Communications and Events Unit, Fundamental Rights Agency, European Union (TBC), *Media communicating migration: eMediaToolkit by journalists for journalists*

Debate

The E-MINDFUL project is aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals

