Biographies

Andreas K. Bittner (Germany), political economist, freelance journalist and author, former Board member of Deutscher Journalisten-Verband (DJV), Steering Committee member (and Honorary Treasurer) of the European Federation of Journalists – focussing on digitization, digital media, crowdfunding and larger financial issues in the „real“ and virtual world, interested in European topics, trying to promote accessibility, supports Borussia Dortmund. Author of the Studies: „Managing Change – Innovation and Trade Unions in the News Industry“ (2011/12) and „Confronting Austerity: Financial and Employment Models in Journalism“ (2014)

Anton Filic is a staff journalists working at the daily paper Vecernji list since 1987, first as a freelance collaborator and since May 1st 1990 as a full time staff journalist. As a reporter, editor and investigative journalist he covers various topics, ranging from sports (primarily tennis, waterpolo and swimming), politics, culture to ecological topics. He is very active in defending labor and professional rights of journalists in Croatia, first as a shop steward in his media company Vecernji list. On May 7th 2011, he was elected President of the Trade Union of Croatian Journalists. He graduated political sciences at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Zagreb. He speaks English and Russian. He was born on February 9th 1963 in Janjevo, Kosovo and lives in Zagreb, Croatia since 1982. For his professional work he was awarded several awards by the Croatian Journalists’ Association

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1969, he lives and works in the city and is the director general of the Journalists’ Union of Macedonia and Thrace Daily Newspapers. Having worked as a journalist in both newspapers and radio, he has also edited numerous books and collaborated with various magazines, either as a contributing editor or as an editor-at-large, or as both. He is presently member of the Steering Committee of European Federation of Journalists
Mustafa KULELI (born in 1985 in Izmir, Turkey) is a broadcast journalist, presenter and producer. In 2013, he became a union member, recruit his workplace IMC TV and joined the board of Union’s Istanbul branch. At the end of the year he was elected as General Secretary of the Journalists Union of Turkey (TGS) becoming the youngest person to take this position. He successfully launched a communication campaign to change the image of TGS and to make the trade union attractive among young journalists. Under his leadership, the TGS managed to secure new collective agreements in several media outlets. Kuleli has been physically attacked and also fired in 2014 because of his trade union activities and journalism. Still he works for TGS voluntarily.

Dragan is dynamic and experienced professional, with a considerable track record and experience in Project Management which he gained through work for a variety of non-govermental, governmental and private actors, most of whom are involved in the process of development. He has broad work experience in the donor and non-governmental environment in Macedonia. Lately he is involved in managing strategically important projects of the Association of Journalists, supported by different international donors supporting the freedom of media and democratization processes in the country.

Nowadays, Luis Menéndez Villalva is president of the Journalists Association of Santiago de Compostela (APSC) and member of Steering Committee of Spanish Federations of Journalists (FAPE) and representative for Exterior Relations. In 2012, Dublin, he was elected as member of IFJ (International Federation of Journalists) ExCom on behalf of Spanish journalists. In 2000/02 he was Director of the programs “Terras de Merlin” (Merlin’s Lands), a series of ethnographic documentaries (13 chapters) on the realities and legends of past and present of Celts countries and in 2002/04 Director of the program “Terras do Leste” (Lands of the East), an approximation to the ten new members from Eastern Europe that joined on 1/5/04 in the European Union. Luis Menendez Villalva been awarded several times for his work.

Marijana Camović is president of Trade Union of Media of Montenegro. Also, I am a journalist and a lawyer interested in labour law, social issues and unionism.

Xenia Tourki is a journalist the last 15 years. She studied Mass Media and Communications at University of Athens (BA) and at University of Leeds (MA). She works for Phileleftheros Newspaper and she covers International News.
Eva Werner holds university degrees in history and literature from the University of London and the University of Augsburg. After having worked as a journalist at the Munich based newspaper Muenchner Merkur and concurrently at the Munich based Bayerischer Rundfunk (Bavarian Broadcasting), the public broadcasting authority for the German Freistaat of Bavaria, Eva Werner wrote the speeches for one of the vice presidents of the German Bundestag. Since 2008 she is education officer and deputy spokesperson for one of Europe's largest journalists' unions, the German Federation of Journalists (DJV). Member recruitment is part of her job. Till now, about 36,000 journalists are members of the DJV.

Helle Tiikmaa is a lifelong journalist. She worked 19 years in Estonian Television (Estonian Public Broadcaster) as reporter, EBU contact, foreign news editor, analyst and presentee. From 2009 she has been freelance journalist and published a book on Estonians in Tchernobyl catastrophe in 1986. From 2011 she has been member of the board of Estonian Association of Journalists (Estonian Union of Journalists, EAL). From 2012 she has also worked as managing director of EAL and dealt with everyday reforming tasks. She is most active in building a freelance journalists department in EAL.

Stephen Spence is based in London as the Assistant General Secretary, Industrial & Organising, for Equity, the UK Union for actors, entertainers, stage management and creative team. He has also worked for Prospect, the UK Union for professionals and in Australia for the Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance, the Australian Theatrical & Amusement Employees Association and Actors Equity of Australia. His specialities are industrial negotiation and organising. He has been President of the South Australian Unions, an elected City Councillor, a delegate to the World Congress of Trade Unions and on Boards such as the South Australian Film Corporation and the British Equity Collecting Society. He holds a Bachelor of Labour Studies from the University of Adelaide and a Master of Arts in Labour and Trade Union Studies from London Metropolitan University.

Zbigniew Rytel is a historian, journalists and editor. He is a senior professional in TV production and management and Producer/Director of many shows and Documentaries. Mr. Rytel is also a Media consultant and advisor for international institutions. He worked for CNN and as an author for scientific reports published in USA. In 2009, 2011 and 2013, he participated in several International Film Festivals in Uganda, Czech Republic and Poland and awarded for his documentaries “PKOI - 90 years on the Olympic Trail” (Uganda 2009), “The Idol” (Czech Republic 2011) and “Sport on TVP – pictures from an exhibition” (Poland, 2013).
Jussi Salokangas is a lawyer and works for the Union of Journalists in Finland. His tasks are to promote interests of the press freelancer and collective bargaining freelancers' employers. He is also responsible for the freedom of expression in the union.

Dragana Caparkapa is president of Journalists Union of Serbia (JUS) since 2002. She is journalist, employee in daily newspaper "Vecernje novosti", one of two most important Serbian print media. Our trade union has about 1,300 members from about 30 media in Serbia.

President of the Swedish union of journalists since 2011. Previously, he worked at the magazine Vår bostad and as Chairman at SVT News. From November 2008 he is Director of Journalists.

Špela Stare studied journalism in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana. Špela worked as a project manager of the Ljubljana Digital Media Lab. Since 2002, Špela is the Secretary General of Slovene Association of Journalists; co-editor of the Association's website and the website of Journalists’ Ethics Council; organizer of public debates, campaigns, protests, round tables, workshops, researcher, author and adviser.

Mark Spilsbury is a self-employed Economic Researcher, specialising in the operation of labour markets, employment, education and training, working on projects for a variety of Government and private sector clients. Previously to this Mark was the Chief Economist and Head of LMI for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, where he was responsible for (i) advice and briefings on all economic matters and (ii) the programme of work relating to LMI. This includes the overarching analytical work (including the UKCES’s flagship publication ‘Ambition 2020’), the underpinning LMI products (the Employer Perspective Survey, the UK Employer Skills Survey, Working Futures) and for the co-ordination of LMI activity. Mark has
completed two innovative projects relating specifically to journalism, both commissioned by the National Council for the Training of Journalists: Journalism at Work, 2012, which provides the baseline of information on employment and skills issues in journalism and Emerging Skills for Journalists, 2014, which explores the changes that are affecting journalism and the impacts that these changes are having. Mark has worked with the UK’s Department of Culture, Media and Sport in defining the creative industries and is a member of Creative Skillset’s Research and Evaluation Committee.

Renate Schroeder is the Director of the European Federation of Journalists. The EFJ is the regional organisation of the International Federation. She has been working for the IFJ since September 1993. She is in charge of European affairs: relations with EU Institutions and Council of Europe (lobbying and projects); presentation of EFJ at European and national meetings and seminars. She is also responsible for the coordination of activities of EFJ members and EFJ Steering Committee on professional and social issues including press freedom issues, quality, freelances, and photojournalism. Renate Schroeder studied International Relations and Political Science at Boston University (Bachelor’s Degree in 1988, Magna Cum Laude) and in Berlin at the Free University (Masters in 1992). She worked at the United Nations, New York, the research institute FAST in Berlin and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation in Brussels before she joined the IFJ team.

Stijntje A. Hallink started her career at Elsevier Science in 1985 working for 20 years as a General and Operations Manager. After attending some courses in Finance, she became a Finance Manager. Recently, in 2014, Stijntje A. Hallink joined the NVJ. For Stijntje A. Hallink, the NVJ is a new challenge and a good opportunity to combine the knowledge from her previous working experience at Elsevier as a manager with her current tasks. The added value is that the NVJ is a non-profit organization which is closer to her heart. Stijntje A. Hallink started to work for the NVJ in November 2014, so she is really new in the world of journalism.

Yusuf Alkım is an independent journalist and graphic designer of daily newspaper “Kıbrıs Postası”. He was coordinator and columnist of weekly “Socialist Truth” paper between 2005 and 2010, and another weekly “Gelecek” paper between 2010 and 2014. Yusuf Alkım graduated from International Relations Department of Eastern Mediterranean University in 2003. Yusuf was active in bi-communal workshops for peace development process between two communities in Cyprus during 1998 to 2003. He had been member of central committee of Socialist Party of Cyprus until 2010. He has been representative of Revolutionary Communist Union since 2011. He lives in north side of Nicosia, which is the last divided city of Europe, Cyprus.

Søren Buhl is the digital consultant at Danish Red Cross. He is also a fundraising specialist currently working with data driven fundraising at the moment. He has been working with cool three letter acronyms like SEO, SEM, RTB, CTR to help people hit by disasters - from wars over earthquakes to severe personal problems. Also project manager - but it’s not as cool. He previously worked as fundraiser for DanChurchAid and as a freelance communication advisor.
Mogens Blicher Bjerregård, President of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) since May 2013, Member of the Council and Bureau of The International Programme for the, Development of Communication (IPDC), UNESCO since November 2014, Vicepresident of the International Media Support (IMS), board-member since April 2001, President of the Danish Union of Journalists (DJ) 1999-2015. Having been the President for the DJ, Blicher Bjerregård successfully led the DJ to a strong union with yearly growth in its membership. To date, the DJ has around 17000 members.

Yuk Lan Wong is the project and policy officer of the European Federation of Journalists. She joined the Federation since August 2009 after she obtained her Joint Honours’ degree in Social Policy and Journalism, Films and Media Studies at Cardiff University in the UK. She has been involved in various European projects in promoting ethical journalism, media diversity and trade union rights. She coordinates the EFJ expert groups on labour rights and broadcasting. She also works on the federation’s communications and campaigns.

Antoine Chuzeville is working in journalism for 15 years now, mainly as a TV reporter. I've been a freelance before 2005, the year France Télévisions hired me as a "sports magazine" reporter. Antoine joined the SNJ (Syndicat National des Journalistes, France) in 2005, and he is a representative for the union since 2007. In 2012, Antoine was elected general secretary of the SNJ section at France Télévisions, which means he is working part-time for the union and part-time as a reporter.

Project manager and team leader for DJ recruitment of members since August 2014. Previously employed by DJ's communications department since 2010. Trained Danish and communications in 2001 at Roskilde University. (Photo Credit: Jakob Carlsen)

Since 1.5 years Janine Teissl works for impressum, the biggest organisation for journalists in Switzerland. As a lawyer she can thereby combine the juristic work with her big interest in journalism. She helps the journalists in every juristic question, advocates good working conditions and good terms of termination. She is amongst other things also engaged with campaigns for a collective agreement, the observation of both the education of journalists and union activities and is responsible for gender equality. In addition she follows organisation-specific tasks like membership.
campaigns or improvements of membership services and internal processes.

Mads Løkke Rasmussen is the Career Consultant at Danish Union of Journalists and he is coaching members of the union on how to develop their careers and teaching career development and how to get a job in media and communication. He is also developing mentor programme for the members of the union, developing and facilitating physical network groups for members of the union. Mads joined the Danish Journalists Union in 2007, while previously he was working as a Career Advisor at Danish Union of Librarians (2005-2007) and as a Head of Student Guidance at Roskilde University (2000-2005). (Photo credit: Thomas Tolstrup)

Isabel Nery works for VISÃO newsmagazine and directs an investigative group on Literary Journalism at Faculdade de Letras. In 2012 she published her first report book, The Prisoners – Mothers Behind Bars, now being adapted for a short film. Her work has already been distinguished with several reporting awards. She was part of the team that created VISÃO Júnior as its editor. Trainer at Cenjor, graduate in International Relations and Master in Communication, she has published investigation and essay works within the journalism area. She was a FCT and FLAD scholar.

Mehmet Koksal, 37, is the expert in charge for the production of the EFJ handbook compiling best practices examples and containing results of the four thematic workshops organized in the framework of EFJ Rights and Jobs projects. Mehmet has been working as freelance journalist and fixer in Brussels since 2000 and has been sharing his investigative work with local media and online blogs for many years. He grew up in French-speaking Brussels, both of his parents came from Turkey, played football with his Dutch speaking Flemish friends, studied Russian language at St Petersburg (Russia) and has regularly worked as fixer with English speaking international press correspondents. He is well involved in the national and international journalistic community in Brussels and his main topics of interests are press freedom, data and security journalism, trade union management and international campaigns.

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