Support for Radio Študent in the advocacy of the 3rd media sector in Slovenia

Radio Študent, one of the oldest independent non-profit community radio stations in Europe (established in Ljubljana in 1969) has again launched a campaign addressing the draft proposal of the new media law to achieve appropriate regulations for the third media sector.

Radio Študent (RŠ) is the only media platform of its kind in Slovenia, providing media space for minorities, various other social and interest groups, and communities. It has been a staunch defender of its mission to give voice to students and under-represented social groups for 54 years. Striving to promote the values and importance of independent professional journalism for new generations has resulted in a community of over 200 program contributors and journalists in the fields of politics, music, culture, science, and education, fostering a culture of critique, in-depth research and reporting, journalistic integrity, credibility and pluralism of opinions.

Maintaining a non-profit community media outlet in Slovenia has always been a challenge for Radio Študent since the Third Media Sector has never been fully recognized on a legislative level in Slovenia, leaving the radio with no appropriate systemic funding.

Since the adoption of the European Parliament resolution on Community Media in Europe (A6-0263/2008), the Slovenian Government has failed to implement the recommendations of the EP to its Member States to recognize the existence of non-profit community media at the legislative level and to provide them with legal, material and other essential conditions needed for their smooth functioning.

In December 2023, The Slovenian Ministry of Culture published a draft proposal of the new media law which contains no mention or particular regulation of the Third Media Sector. Radio Študent launched a campaign advocating for the needs of the third media sector through various radio broadcasts and public events to inform the professional and general public about its crucial role in the media landscape, and to emphasize the sector’s need for the appropriate regulation of the conditions under which it functions. CMFE fully supports Radio Študent in its advocacy activities and in its efforts to ensure that the legislator recognizes the third media sector as an important pillar of a pluralistic media space and provides it with the basic and necessary conditions for its functioning.

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