

„Strengthening Quality News and Independent Journalism in the Western Balkans and Turkey II“

Workshop: Developing an accreditation roadmap for MA program(s) in Investigative Journalism in the Western Balkans and Türkiye

November 16-17, 2023

Budapest, Hungary

Plans for developing a new

Master in investigative journalism: needs, goals, plan of action and expected results.

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### **Needs**

The primary objective of preparing the MA program in Investigative journalism is to produce qualified journalists engaged in investigative journalism who will contribute to the development of transparency, rule of law, and democracy in society.

The specific goal of the program is for students to learn the fundamental and proper methods of research, methods of analyzing investigative stories, case comparisons, research in office and on-field, enabling them to investigate in the right direction and create quality stories.

Additionally, the program will offer several specific current topics related to global issues and societal problems within the country.

### **Goals**

The target group of the MA program in Investigative journalism includes journalism students, young journalists, and senior journalists.

Given the small number of investigative journalists producing in-depth and qualitative programs, the program aims to address this gap by offering an appropriate program that combines good theoretical foundations with practice, primarily encouraging the development of this branch of journalism.

Besides benefiting future journalism students, media houses of future journalists and the public will also benefit from this program.

### **Expected Results**

This program is expected to provide multiple outcomes.

Considering the absence of a study program on this subject in the country, it is expected that the program will attract enrollments not only from regular students but also young journalists at the start of their careers and journalists looking to complement their practical knowledge.

The ultimate users are expected to gain in-depth knowledge regarding basic concepts and directions of investigative journalism, research methodology, analysis, story selection, comparison, and more. Completing the program is expected to apply theoretical knowledge to practice, creating new research topics relevant to society.

It is expected to have a certain impact on increasing transparency, facilitating certain processes, contributing to rule of law, raising public awareness, restoring trust, and contributing to the democratic process.

### **Plan of action**

For this purpose, an analysis of existing study programs at reputable universities needs to be conducted. This includes:

analyzing existing study programs;

analyzing existing literature (national and foreign literature);

additional literature required for implementing the program;

analyzing existing research on the lacking aspects of investigative journalism;

contacting and meeting with practical experts from the country and abroad (conducting interviews with experts);

preparing the curriculum content (subjects, content, description, literature);

preparing textbooks.

### **The action plan includes several preparatory activities**

Preparation Activity 1: Analysis of existing study programs at reputable universities, aiming to select subjects fundamental for all studies in investigative journalism (1 month).

Preparation Activity 2: Research on current topics abroad and topics affecting the society of the specific country will be conducted for specific subjects (1 month).

Preparation Activity 3: Analysis of existing national and foreign literature and research for additional literature necessary for the implementation of the program (2 months).

Preparation Activity 4: Analysis of existing research concerning the lacking aspects of investigative journalism (1 month).

Preparation Activity 5: Networking and conducting interviews and meetings with practitioners and experts, both domestically and internationally (1 month)

Preparation Activity 6: Preparation of the curriculum content (subjects, content, description, literature). (2 months).

Preparation Activity 7: Preparation of teaching materials (4 months).