**Macedonia:**

**Mr. Ivan Mirchevski** is the General Manager of the national TV – Kanal 5 since 2010. Kanal 5 is a national broadcaster, owned by a company whose owner is a right wing VMRO Minister of Finance. The TV station was very much biased towards the previous government; it has recently very quickly reoriented towards the new government and increased the number of its political and debate programs. The TV’s main audience has been the electorate of the former ruling party which also includes more radical and critical viewers especially on NATO. Mr. Mirchevski, who was also known to be very close to the previous Government, is now interested to promote EU and NATO values far more prominently through his TV.

**Ms. Slavica Arsovska – Spasovski**, is an Deputy editor-in-chief at TV Sitel. Sitel is the most watched TV; owned by a Kratovo based private businessmen, who is also the president of the Socialist Party and was a long-standing Member of Parliament; it was part of the former ruling coalition, therefore, strong socialist party bias; program consists of news, but also there are plenty (light) entertaining programs. The TV station was considered to be the main megaphone of the previous government and would sometimes incorporate anti-western propaganda as well; after the new Government took office in June 2017, the TV has changed its tone and is far more neutral. As the TV with the highest viewership nationwide, it is an important tool for countering any anti-Western propaganda. Ms. Arsova-Spasovski has expressed interest to promote this upon her return from the trip to NL and Brussels.

**Mr. Vladimir Bozinovski** is a professor at the Faculty of Law but as well a researcher for the Institute for Political Research IPIS. IPIS carries out opinion polls mainly measuring the ratings of the political parties but also policies and processes such as EU and NATO integration. The Institute has been perceived to be rather lenient to the previous Government. Mr. Bozinovski who is a supporter of right-wing policies has also come out very frequently in the past in support of the previous ruling party and Government as the face of IPIS. He remains critical of the new Government but believes that Macedonia’s only way forward is EU and NATO integration. As he has credibility amongst more right-wing oriented supporters, his further activism in promoting NATO and EU through participation in debates and events could add value to the overall efforts in this respect.

**Serbia:**

**FoNet News Agency**

FoNet is the independent, private news agency founded in Serbia in 1994 by the Belgrade journalist Zoran Sekulic.

FoNet reports in accordance with the facts and in an unbiased manner, serves the public interest and protects its sources. FoNet is a member of respected local and international media organisations (International Federation of Journalists, Southeast Europe Media Organisation, Independent Association of Journalists of Serbia, Association Media). FoNet has a multimedia agency production of news and prepares and distributes written, audio, video, photo and TV services on daily basis. FoNet launched the first public TV news online platform in Serbia (FoNetweb.tv - www.fonetweb.tv), and the first multimedia platform of civic journalism (website Moja vest -www.mojavest.com).

FoNet cooperates with the most influential media in Serbia and the associations and networks of the local electronic and print media, as well as with number of regional media and the prestigious world media and agencies (e.g. AP, Reuters, AFP, ANSA, EFE, DPA and Voice of America).

**Beta News Agency**

Beta was founded by a group of Belgrade based journalists in 1992 and it officially began operating in May 1994 with the aim of reporting comprehensively and objectively. Beta employs over 200 journalists, interpreters and technical personnel.

Beta received the prestigious Jug Grizelj Award in 1997 for its contribution to investigative and independent journalism. Beta is founder of the Radio 100+ in Novi Pazar, one of the few independent media in Serbia, and it organises an annual contest for best journalist photo.

The Beta Media Center is the non-profit part of the Beta News Agency and, as such, is carrying out non-commercial media projects designed to foster democracy, promote regional reconciliation, and strengthen independent media in South East-Europe through education of journalists.

**RTS**

Radio Television of Serbia is the national broadcaster with the national frequency and the big outreach. RTS has television, radio, internet, teletext, satellite program for diaspora, music production, record/CD production, publishing and wide network of correspondents. RTS is a member of the European Broadcasting Union. Its political programs are sometimes favouring the authorities, but this is due to its dependence on financing by the state.

Journalist chosen to attend the program in The Hague and Brussels was recommended by the NATO Military Liaison Office Belgrade as the one who reports about NATO and is informed about the topic of security.

**Kosovo:**

**BIRN KOSOVO**

An independent, non-governmental organisation, BIRN Kosovo exists to provide momentum to the democratic transition process, promoting accountability, rule of law and policy reform. BIRN Kosovo in particular aims to serve as a watchdog of public institutions, monitoring the work of governing and public institutions and supporting their reform and their path towards meeting the criteria and standards of the European Union. In addition, through the production of quality and impartial TV debates and training of youth on argumentation and debating skills, BIRN aims to promote and encourage a culture of debate in Kosovo. BIRN’s vision is to secure its position as the premier Kosovo investigative and analytical journalism organisation, addressing the need for objective, quality, sustainable reporting on the country’s many challenges in the arena of politics, economics and EU integration.

After starting with fewer than five staff, BIRN Kosovo has since evolved into a comprehensive media organisation, employing journalists and editorial, administrative and technical staff in the production of high-quality investigative and analytical reporting. BIRN Kosovo now fields a team of 39 fulltime professionals that work in the development and implementation of on-going programmes.

**Jeta Xharra**

**Country Director**

**Editor-in-Chief**

Jeta Xharra is a renowned journalist in Kosovo and Balkans, hosting the award-winning current-affairs TV programme, Life in Kosovo. Since 2005, Xharra is the Country Director of BIRN office in Kosovo and the editor-in-chief of Kosovo’s most-watched current affairs TV programme, Life in Kosovo.

Xharra got into journalism working as a fixer/local producer for BBC News and Channel 4 in 1998 and later became the Manager of the BBC Kosovo Bureau. In 1999 Jeta worked for BBC News in Albania and Macedonia.

She graduated with an MA in War Studies from King’s College London (2000) and an MA with Distinction in Screenwriting from the London College of Printing (2002).

She has published a front-page article in ‘The Independent’ and other texts in The Economist, Sunday Telegraph and Jane’s Intelligence Review. While in the UK, Xharra worked for the Foreign News Planning Desk at the BBC World Service.

In 2003 Xharra became the project director for IWPR Kosovo office, where she made most impact with vigilant and challenging moderation of popular current affairs programmes broadcast on the main Kosovo TV channels, RTK and KTV. Under Xharra’s supervision, Kosovo was the first office in the IWPR.

Balkan project to develop a three-month journalism training programme, which attracted over 200 people for 20 places.

‘Warless’, a play that Xharra wrote in English, was chosen as one of the 10 best plays among 550 that competed in the Young Writers Festival in Royal Court Theatre in London where it had a public reading on December 10 2004.

**Bosnia and** Herzegovina:

**News Agency of Republika Srpska - SRNA (Bernard Milosevic)**

Republika Srpska's News Agency "SRNA" was founded on April 7, 1992 as the Serb News Agency "SRNA", and by the decision of the Government of the Republika Srpska on March 27, 2008 received its current title.
SRNA is a traditional news agency which provides its service to customers (all media subscribed).
 "SRNA" has 12 information services to monitor developments in Republika Srpska (BiH), the Federation of BiH, Serbia, Montenegro and other countries of the region, the EU, Russia and the world. It has a special service dealing with author texts as well as service in English.
Apart from the written, "SRNA" has photo service and phono-service.
SRNA has the strongest correspondence network in Republika Srpska (BIH), the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as correspondents in Serbia, Montenegro and the region and in important European centers.

**Federation of BIH TV – FTV (Duska Jurisic)**

Radio-Television of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was created as a segment of the PBS in the transformation of former Radio-Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first TV news of the official FTV, was broadcasted on 27.10.2001.
The federal television program took place on two television channels (FTV1 and FTV2). Since April 2003, the television program has been reduced to one.
In 2004, FTV has the largest viewwes pool and coverage in the country – country wide 28.2% and in the territory of the entity  Federation of BIH 43%. (Mareco Index Bosnia)

Duška Jurišić graduated from the Faculty of Law in 1989. From 1986 to 1992 she worked on Radio Sarajevo 202 as a reporter, head of the news program and editor of information programs. In the 1992 war she was a reporter for Radio Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the beginning of 1993, she independently edited and presented the news on the radio. She soon moved to BiH Television, where she worked as a reporter, and head of the central news program. 1996/97 she spent in journalistic specialization in the United States, as a USIS and VoA scholarship. From 1998 to 2000 she worked as editor and director of informative broadcasts on OBN TV. 2000 to 2002 she spent at the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina as the coordinator of the Public Relations Department at the Governor's Office. In 2002 she starts at the Public Broadcasting Service of BiH, where she worked for the head of the desk, editor and head of the program "Fair talk". Since, 2007, she has been an employee of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina TV, where she works as editor and head of the central news program and edits and conducts the weekly "Fair talk" talk show.

**Dnevni Avaz  - Sead Numanovic**

*Dnevni Avaz* evolved from a monthly publication *Bošnjački Avaz* which was first published in September 1993. In 1994 it became known as *Avaz* and was published weekly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany. In 1995 it was reestablished by Fahrudin Radončić as a daily newspaper. It competes with *Oslobođenje* daily.

*Dnevni Avaz* is part of the Avaz publishing house, the biggest news house in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The paper is based in Sarajevo and has a pro-Bosniak stance.

As of 2006, the Avaz publishing house was expanded with the start of the construction of the Avaz Twist Tower a 176 m skyscraper in Sarajevo’s city center. The company's former headquarters, the Avaz Business Center (Former Oslobođenje Building), has been converted into a hotel, Radon Plaza Hotel (based on the owner's last name Radončić).

Sead Numanovic was the editor-in-chief and editor of Dnevni avaz. He spent 15 years working at the newspaper, from reporter to editor-in-chief. He was awarded three times as the reporter of the year by Dnevni avaz. He reported from the battlefield in the region - from Dubrovnik, across Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Presevo Valley, but also from Iraq and Afghanistan. He attended a journalistic specialisation at the Columbia School of Journalism MU in the United States. Still working at Dnevni Avaz, he also works in the production planning department of  Al Jazeera Balkans.