



Media Regression in Slovenia

Part of the presentation by Brankica Petkovic,
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Slovenia?

- Former republic in Yugoslav Federation
- Independence since June 1991
- Population: 2 million
- GDP per capita: 14.811 EUR/18.577 USD (2006)
- EU member since May 2004
- NATO member since March 2004
- Euro Zone member since January 2007



Context of Media Regression

- New government since December 2004 (replaced liberal and social democrats after 12 years in power)
- The government consists from political parties which claim that majority of the media has been favorizing liberal and social democrats and demonizing conservative parties, therefore they see need **to enforce “balance”**



Context of Media Regression

- Media ownership situation made possible “**take-over**” and changes of managements and editors after the change of the government

(Significant state ownership shares in the media have been established through para-state funds, state (co)owned banks and companies as a result of privatisation model in 90s.)



What's the problem?

- New government has adopted changes of media sector regulation without proper debate and consensus (in PSB case even through referendum: 51% for, 49% against the law)



What's the problem?

- Instead of market-driven media sector with strong policy measures to protect public interest we have strong state role in the media sector used for political instrumentalisation of both media economy and public interest
- New media regulation established governing structure of PSB (RTVS) dominantly through the parliament and the government



What's the problem?

- New media regulation: State subsidies aimed at media pluralism are distributed by the Ministry of Culture and are based on the main criteria “how balanced they report on politics, especially on ruling parties and opposition” (irony: in last turn one of the biggest subsidy is given to the weekly established by the ruling party)
- New media regulation: Stricter rules on right to reply: right to reply is used mostly by politicians, state bodies and state companies



What's the problem?

- Editors and managers of most of national and regional news media have been replaced by those politically affiliated to the parties in the Government
- Media critical to the Government don't receive advertisements from state owned companies
- Journalists are under threat to lose jobs if speak publicly about censorship and pressure