

VII CONCLUSION

The beginning of the year was marked by the resurgence of hate speech on the Serbian media scene. It remains to be seen if the reaction of the state and the general public has been sufficient for suppressing such incidents and free the media scene for communication rife with hate, stereotypes and prejudice. Moreover, the concern that such incidents are threatening to escalate beyond verbal violence is further evidenced by the increasing number of journalists, editors and civil society representatives – like in the case of Aida Corovic – who were put under police protection because of the Ministry of Interior’s belief that their security was threatened over their activities and positions voiced in the media. At the same time, the processes that should result, at least on the mid-term, in finding sustainable solutions of the problems faced by Serbian media, remain halted, without any breakthrough in sight. The government remains deaf to proposals and requests coming from the media sector, as evidenced by the unwillingness of the Ministry of Culture and Local Self-Government to instruct the municipalities – at least in the form of a binding order – to entrust the allocation of the funds for the co-financing of media projects to genuinely independent commissions. The already difficult situation is further marred by rows in the ruling coalition and the long-awaited government reshuffle that took place in March, due to which media and journalists’ associations were left without an interlocutor on the side of the state.