



**Media & discrimination:  
When young journalists investigate!**

**SPEAK OUT  
AGAINST  
DISCRIMINATION**

**Council of Europe  
campaign**



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When young journalists  
investigate!

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## Media & discrimination: When young journalists investigate!

### An initiative of the Speak out against discrimination campaign

Hosted in 2010 by the Council of Europe, “the Assises internationales du Journalisme et de l’information” (International Symposium on Journalism and Information) were covered by a novel editorial team – 15 young journalists from the “European Youth Press” network and their publication *Orange Magazine*.

As a forum for current and future journalism, the Assises should reflect this trend but does it, in fact? This publication, comprising a selection of articles written during the event, provides a number of answers to this question in which the 15 young journalists suggest what might constitute genuine intercultural and inclusive news and information tomorrow.

This publication also introduces the 15 *Orange Magazine* journalists and provides details of the main workshops and debates held during the event. It concludes with various comments gathered afterwards from these young journalists – comments they were asked to make not as journalists but as citizens.



The “4th Assises Internationales du Journalisme et de l’Information” took place on 16, 17, and 18 November 2010 for the second year running at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The 3-day programme consisted of meetings, debates, professional workshops and social activities. This year’s Assises coincided with the 60th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights.





## **Editorial**

### **Media & Diversity – Yes to genuinely inclusive information and media fully involved in ensuring social cohesion**

The diversity of cultures is a fact, and it is becoming increasingly visible in our contemporary European societies. However, while it provides undeniable benefits it does raise a number of questions. What can be done, without being naive or engaging in wishful thinking, to reduce social divisions and ensure more harmonious co-existence, which is a guarantee of stronger social cohesion? How, while remaining independent, can the media change their approach to ensure genuine inclusion and the expression of this diversity in what they provide us to read, see or hear?

After hosting the “Assises internationales du Journalisme et de l’Information” as part of its activities in 2009, the “Speak out against discrimination” Campaign again participated in the event in various ways in 2010, firstly by organising a debate on “Sport, media & discrimination” and, secondly, by inviting 15 young journalists from the “European Youth Press” network to provide coverage of the 4th Assises from the point of view of diversity and discrimination. The aim of these various initiatives of the campaign is to conduct a permanent dialogue in different forms with the media and media professionals to ensure greater focus on intercultural matters, discrimination and diversity in media productions.

For the 15 young journalists, their task was both simple and complex. Like investigative journalists, their role was to observe and analyse the debates, workshops and other activities in order to highlight how the issues of discrimination and diversity are (or are not) dealt with by the profession. They were quick to draw their colleagues’ attention to the need to give greater coverage to the intercultural dimension, diversity and discrimination in their professional work, pointing out for example that at an event like the Assises, which boasts about its diversity, too many groups were still under-represented or indeed absent. In performing their task, these 15 young journalists from various European countries wanted their articles to reflect both the hesitant

attitude of the profession regarding the issues of diversity and discrimination and the dynamic processes underway aimed at making tomorrow's media an open window on European societies that attach greater importance to their pluralistic and diverse composition.

## The “European Youth Press” team at the Assises

**Tamar Boissou.** Strasbourg, France

A literature student, Tamar presents a weekly programme for students on *Radio Bienvenue Strasbourg*.

**Franziska Broich.** Aix-en-Provence, France

A German studying in the Netherlands and living temporarily in the south of France, Franziska writes for three different media, including the Bundestag website.

**Alexis Sarini.** Paris, France

Alexis founded *l'Interview.fr* in 2007 and currently produces web documentaries for *webdocu.fr*.

**Thomas Seymat.** Villeurbanne, France

A freelance journalist for *Mediapart.fr*, the only French news site financed exclusively by its subscribers, Thomas won the European Commission's special “Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion” award in 2009.

**Adrián Ramos.** Seville, Spain

Adrián is a video publisher and worked for two years for a programme for immigrants in Andalusia. He is currently producing a documentary on the artistic activities of the Roma.

**Dobriyana Tropankeva.** Århus, Denmark

A Bulgarian student of journalism, the media and globalisation, Dobriyana contributes to various different media both in her native country (Bulgarian national radio, *Café Babel* Sofia) and Denmark (such as *Illustrated Bunker*).

**Victoria Graul.** Chemnitz, Germany

An MA student of European integration in Italy, Victoria works on *Tuchfühlung*, the independent campus magazine of the University of Chemnitz, Germany.

**Vincenzo Sassu.** Mores, Italy

A freelance journalist for two Italian daily newspapers and one magazine, Vincenzo did part of his training in Paris, where he looked into the influence of the media on the November 2005 riots in France.

**Licia Caglioni.** Nantes, France

A student of international communication in Denmark, Licia is currently a trainee at *Eur@dioNantes*, a local radio station with a European approach.

**Heikki Pölönen.** Tampere, Finland

Photographer at the Assises, Heikki is in the fourth year of his photojournalism course at the University of Tampere. He has worked as a freelance journalist for two Finnish daily newspapers, *Ilta-Sanomat* and *Keskisuomalainen*.

**Dimitru Iovu.** Chisinau, Moldova

Dimitru is responsible for the layout of the three issues of *Orange Magazine* published during the Assises and regularly works with the “European Youth Press” network.

**Eléonore Payró.** Anières, Switzerland

A student of sociology, Russian and French in Geneva, Eléonore also writes for *tink.ch*, a trilingual (French, Italian and German) webzine by and for young Swiss people.

**Romain Mielcarek.** Strasbourg, France

Romain specialises in defence issues and international relations and runs his own website, *actudefence.fr*.

**Louis Villiers.** Paris, France

Louis co-founded *l'Interview.fr* and worked on *TV des Entrepreneurs* before launching the website *Webdocu.fr*.

**Sebastian Olenyi.** The Hague, Netherlands

A German, Sebastian was editor-in-Chief of *Orange Magazine* during the Assises. He is one of the most active members of the “European Youth Press” network and combines his journalistic work with studying for a doctorate in scientific communication.



The “European Youth Press” is an association that groups together 48,000 journalists throughout the whole of Europe. Its members include 17 “youth press” organisations and two international media organisations: *Indigo Magazine* and *Journal Europa*. Its aim is to promote the role of young people in the media and freedom of expression.



The mouthpiece of the “European Youth Press” network, *Orangelog.eu* is a multimedia platform that enables the association’s journalists to cover various events and subjects relating to European issues. The three complete issues of *Orange Magazine* published during the Assises can be found at [www.orangelog.eu](http://www.orangelog.eu).

## Editorial

**Sebastian Olényi, *Orange Express*, 17.11.10**

The former German chancellor Helmut Schmidt said: "Anyone who has visions should see a doctor". In spite of everything, we, 15 young journalists from all over Europe, and contrary to all the speakers who have painted a bleak picture of the future, have the vision and the motivation to contribute to improving the journalism of tomorrow. As part of the Council of Europe's "Speak out against discrimination" Campaign, we will cover the Assises from a multicultural perspective with *Orange Magazine*, a publication of the "European Youth Press" (EYP), which groups together 48,000 young journalists from all over Europe. Its aim is to involve us, young journalists, in debates, ideas and joint projects to strengthen our optimism and our visions for a promising future for journalism.



## ***ProPublica*, a new model of investigative journalism**

**Thomas Seymat, *Orange Express*, 17.11.10**



It is the unavoidably tragic story of a city left to its own devices in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It is September 2005, and in a burnt-out car near the Mississippi River the body of Henry Glover, or rather what is left of its charred remains, is found. After the chaos and destruction inflicted on the region at the end of summer, the Henry Glover case could have remained an anonymous drama, but then the second part of the story began, with more than 20 months of investigations and twists and turns – in-depth journalism. For nearly two years, the editors of *ProPublica*, which specialises in investigative journalism, looked into the dramatic event to find out what really happened.

Their investigation showed that Glover was shot by a New Orleans Police officer when he and a friend, William Tanner, both African Americans, were about to take goods away from an abandoned shopping mall. Other details gradually emerged: shootings and incidents that illustrate the tensions, sometimes racial, between the police and the population. Today, following an FBI investigation, the judicial authorities have taken charge of the case and

the trial is underway. The police officers Scheuermann and McRae are accused of hitting and handcuffing William Tanner, putting Glover's body in the car and setting it on fire. They face up to 60 years in prison. Their superiors, lieutenants Italiano and McCabe, are accused of writing a false report on the case.

A third police officer, David Warren, who is accused of firing the fatal shot, faces life imprisonment. It is this type of long-term investigation that has established the reputation of the organisation headed by Paul Steiger, former managing editor of the *Wall Street Journal*. Leading a 32-person team that has won a string of awards, including a recent Pulitzer Prize, Steiger presents himself as the heir to an American tradition that has been updated to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Thanks to sponsors who provide funding of \$10 million a year, *ProPublica* is able to maintain its non-profit nature and produce articles that, according to Steiger, the news market cannot finance in the traditional way. The editors turn their attention away from the here and now, preferring to sharpen their eyes and focus on stories with "moral force". Although this focus is to be found in the story of the New Orleans' shooting, it co-exists with more highly specialised journalistic techniques, such as data journalism. For example, *ProPublica* investigated the contracts signed by the US Department of Transportation in connection with the economic recovery policy and then compiled a detailed map. Other media have used these data and shown that the vast majority of the federal funds were benefiting rural areas which were far from the most severely affected by the present crisis. At the end of the day, whatever the means, what counts for *ProPublica* is to put the spotlight on unjust situations, abuses of power and discrimination.

## What image do the media convey of minorities? Participants at the Assises from Germany and Kehl reply...

*Orange Express, 17.11.10*



**Udo Seiwert-Fauti**, Strasbourg

Roma, for example, are a minority but in Germany and France people from a third country are also a minority. The problem is how to speak about minorities while at the same time respecting their origins. I would like the media to draw attention to the context in all cases and not only when a conflict occurs.



**Gisela Muser**, Kehl

For me, a minority is a group of people made to suffer because of their race, a disease or something else. I have no television because I think the media manipulate us, so I look for very specific information. That's why I have my own view on minorities.



**Hering Lena**, Kehl

A minority refers to people who are not represented in society. The media sometimes show them from a strange angle. When they speak about them, the reason is to discuss particular problems, which is not a positive approach. The integration debate is pointless as it only provides bad examples of immigrants.



**Philipp Batz**, Strasbourg

They're a group of people that's smaller than the majority. The press mention some minorities more often than others. The "Ossies", for example, are also a minority in Germany. The media foster the biased representation of minorities and strengthen their negative image.



**Alexandra Friedmann**, Strasbourg

The term "minority" has more to do with stereotypes, taking an outside view, and language. At the moment, Muslims are the minority. The portrait painted of minorities, immigrants and, in particular, Muslims in the media is biased. For example, a Muslims woman will always be shown wearing a burqa.

## Editorial

**Sebastian Olényi, *Orange Express*, 18.11.10**

Are the Assises international?

- Number of organisations participating in the Assises: 69
- Number of these organisations with their Head Quarters outside France: 2

Do the “Assises” have gender parity?

- Number of speakers at the Assises: 150 men, 40 women

Are the “Assises” egalitarian?

- Number of photographs of individuals in the programme: 16
- Number of photographs of white men between 40 and 60: 13

Respecting minorities, interculturality and parity is extremely difficult. Having had our awareness raised by the workshops of the “Speak out against discrimination” Campaign, been stimulated by our discussions on a journalist’s responsibility and galvanised by the replies of our interviewees, who see considerable discrimination in the media, we have opened our eyes. What about you? What do you need to open your own eyes?



## City neighbourhoods discriminated against: When stereotypes distort reality.

Eléonore Payró, *Orange Express*, 18.11.10



“The media realm has taken the place of the physical public realm: if you do not exist in the media, you do not exist full stop and have no social identity.” According to Nordine Nabili, Director of the Bondy branch of the Lille College of Journalism (Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme – ESJ) and president of the *Bondy Blog*, city neighbourhoods are under-represented in the media and too often stigmatised. With problems of violence, drugs, rape, unemployment, polygamy or poverty, the peri-urban neighbourhoods of French cities are generally portrayed in a bleak and simplistic way if not just left out of the media altogether. As a subject which is not particularly highly regarded, it is often neglected by journalists. Edouard Zambeaux notes that unless there are “hot” events, such as the riots in 2005, journalists are only interested in these areas in order to confirm their own or their editors’ assumptions. Clichés and stereotypes concerning the inhabitants of the neighbourhoods discriminated against are therefore frequent and these individuals feel sidelined by French journalists, who ignore their existence. Some journalists who focus on the most violent aspects of life in these areas increase the paranoia on the subject, and the inhabitants, shocked by this image, feel betrayed and highlight the bias and distortion of such reporting.

One example is the Bintou case, which backed up on Jean-Michel Décugis, reporting on polygamy for *Le Point*. Merely conducting a telephone interview with a woman living in this situation, the journalist did not verify his sources. His intermediary, Abdel El-Otmani, was supposed to put him through to "Bintou", disguised his own voice and completely fabricated the replies. Once the story was published, the young "xer" who had filmed the call distributed the video in order to warn about the abuses of unprofessional journalism. Cathy Sanchez's recent and controversial documentary "La Cité du mâle", which was rescheduled by *Arte* last September, goes further: the statements by the inhabitants questioned, placed out of context and relating to other issues, together with the caricature images displayed, were designed to show an apparent war of the sexes and extreme violence in city neighbourhoods. Nabila Laïb, who had worked on the documentary and took part in the subsequent debate, criticised the "faking" by the production which, as the report based solely on stereotypes, discriminated against these areas even more. Yet, obtaining news and information costs a great deal and editors have neither the money nor the time to send a specialist to cover an issue relating to these areas, especially if it is a matter of showing the real situation, of interest to no-one, rather than a minor, but much more lucrative, aspect. However, in order to show the real picture of those neighbourhoods that are discriminated against, it is essential to be really interested in them: life in those areas cannot be boiled down to violence and poverty as there are many more and complex aspects. It is accordingly necessary to train young journalists to deal with these issues properly, and there is also a need to foster the journalism training of young people in those neighbourhoods, as called for by Sabrina Kassa (Dawa workshop) Philippe Merlant (Reporter Citoyen) and Norbine Nabili (ESJ Bondy). By providing the citizens with a voice and giving them back a place in society, the journalist has the power to bring about a change in a tense situation. Are riots (or "social revolts" as Abdel El-Otmani prefers to call them) not ultimately an illustration of the division between a minority "elite" and the majority population?

## **The press agencies of the future: focusing on “innovative quality”.**

**Vincenzo Sassu, *Orange Express*, 18.11.10**



“The model that the press agencies have always followed has finally come to the end of its shelf-life. The new economic model, the development of the new technologies and competition from the social networking sites have changed the roles of the press agencies, which are no longer either the primary or the only source of news. Journalists will consequently be confronted with a major digital revolution in the next five years”. That was the opening statement at the conference on “Press agencies in the light of the economic model crisis” moderated by Jean-Marie Charon, a media specialist and researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). In a hall that was almost full, there was a mixed audience made up of journalists, students and media fans, all of whom participated in a thought-provoking thought-provoking debate on the future of journalism and the role that information will play in the cultural education of the new generations. The participants included Michael Palmer, Professor of Information and

Communications Sciences at the University of Paris III, Patrick Eveno, lecturer at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Claude Sergeant, Emeritus Professor at the University of Paris III, Christophe Beaudufe, President of the *AFP* Society of Journalists, and Eric Lagneau, an *AFP* journalist and author of a thesis on the work of agency journalists. Having lost their monopoly on the transmission of the very latest news, the press agencies are in an increasingly weaker position. Once the nerve centre of news distribution, they are forced to respond to the successes of the new players in this sector. From websites and social networking sites to 24-hour news channels, the rules of the market have changed and innovations have brought about a big drop in the costs of providing news. *AFP* therefore recently decided to create a new editorial post: a journalist specialising in social networks who can select, prioritise and disseminate the news that emerges from them: "While journalists thought until yesterday that they could change the world, now it is the world that is changing us, so it is very important to use the social networks to improve our coverage and acquire further knowledge. I am convinced that we are in the process of arriving at the notion of collective intelligence", said François Bougon, an *AFP* journalist and expert on the new media. The other speakers endorsed the view that in order to address the impact of such a change in the production of news the international agencies must adopt a new professional philosophy, a model that makes use of the new technologies and multimedia to return to quality news inspired more by values than by the rules of the market – a form of journalism capable of facilitating intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and integration, thus giving a voice to those without one.

## Journalism comes (back) to the neighbourhoods.

**Tamar Bouissou, *Orange Express*, 18.11.10**

*On 31 august 2010, Arte removed from its schedule "la cité du mâle", a documentary by Cathy Sanchez to be transmitted that day in Arte Thema TV Show "Women; why so much hatred". There then began a media drama punctuated by announcements by the "Doc en Stock" team, the production company, Arte and Nabila Laïb, the journalist opposed to its transmission. She accused the final documentary of a lack of ethics and of the sensationalist treatment of the "city neighbourhoods discriminated against", in the words of Sabrina Kassa; who runs the Dawa journalism workshop in Bobigny.*

In response to this documentary, "Yes we can Prod", which works on integrating young people through culture, wanted to conduct its own investigation. Ladjji Réal, a graduate of the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations and the Free Conservatory of French Cinema, produced this "counter-documentary" in Vitry.

**Before speaking about this counter-investigation, could you please introduce your association. How did it come about and what is its target group?** It all begun with the idea of using cinema to express a form of art that requires the participation of all the different trades involved, from the screenplay writer to the costume designer and lighting specialist. We also wanted to involve the various cultural and social facilities frequented by young people in a project since the association's focus is on them. Anyone who wants to do so can join us, but we admittedly mainly work with young people from city neighbourhoods.

**What is the association's objective?** Our aim is to provide young people with educational tools and offer the best among them traineeships or placements on film teams. We also organise film showings combined with debates in order to teach them how to decipher the images they see. Today, young people are inundated with images but lack the keys to analyse them.

**Why dissect this documentary “La Cité du mâle”?** When I looked at it, I discovered some inconsistencies. It is an example of what a lack of understanding can lead to in our experience of the media. The young people in “La Cité du mâle” thought they had been able to freely express their views without being aware of the future use of their words. The documentary illustrates why our maxim “A population that does not control its image and its communication is a population that does not control its own destiny” is more relevant than ever before.

**What conclusions do you draw from these months of investigation?** The aim of a documentary is to inform, but this one seems to defend an ideology and confirm a pre-existing argument. This is proof that some people stop at nothing, thinking that the peri-urban areas do not have the intellectual tools to defend themselves. Here, we see an example of skewed journalism in which these neighbourhoods are, as always, a scapegoat for what is wrong in France.



## Editorial

**Sebastian Olényi, *Orange Magazine*, 18.11.10**

What are the values, conditions and innovations that journalism needs in order to survive and prosper in these challenging times? Will our colleague Tamar on the magazine cover have the same opportunities to become Editor-in-Chief as her male and white colleagues? What will the journalism she will be engaging in look like? Quality journalism needs time, funding, freedom to operate, diversity, vision, knowledge and a great deal of passion. With our coverage of the “Assises internationales du journalisme et de l’information”, we have found much of this among the speakers and participants. They are setting the course for the future of journalism, and more importantly, we, young journalists, are the ones who will be experiencing the developments discussed during these inspiring three days. If this improvement in journalism is to come about, while everyone must demonstrate the courage required it is also necessary to turn our thoughts to a more international perspective, cross-media approaches, the coverage of minority issues, new financing models and investments in journalism, so that we, journalists, can do our job as the real incarnation of the fourth pillar of democracy.



## The European Court of Human Rights – a source of hope.

Franziska Broich, *Orange Magazine*, 18.11.10



*The European Court of Human Rights was set up in 1959 by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Any citizen may bring a case before it. Vincent Berger is a legal advisor at the Court and has ensured the consistency of its case law for 30 years. He verifies compliance with the principle of equality between States and between parties subject to the Court's jurisdiction with the aim of safeguarding legal certainty.*

**What case has had the biggest impact on you in the course of your career?**

The first *Sunday Times* case. It was a question of striking a balance between the freedom of expression of the media and defending the victims of Thalidomide, a drug that resulted in the birth of deformed children. There was a need to respect the impartiality and integrity of the judiciary in England. I was young at the time, and that was my first major case involving freedom of expression. I found it extremely interesting, both at the human and the legal level.

**Has the work changed during your time here, i.e. in the last 30 years?**

Yes, a lot. Before 1998, I worked at the old Court. What has made a big impression on me is the Court's substantial geographical enlargement (from 20 to 47 states). At the same time, many aspects – legal issues, bioethical issues, data protection, armed conflicts, respect for minorities – have changed a great deal. Another thing that has had a real impact on me is Article 9 of the Convention, which protects freedom of religion, thought and conscience. This article has existed for more than 40 years but has been applied only in the last ten or so.

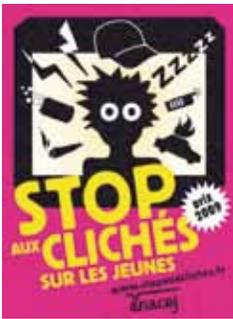
**How do you see the future of the European Court of Human Rights?**

That's a very difficult question as I'm not a fortune-teller. In Europe, people are

placing more and more trust and hope in the Court. At the same time, there is resistance among many governments, which are apprehensive. That trust is due to the events of 9/11 and the economic and social crisis that many European countries have been experiencing since 2008. Today, without human rights and a system of protection like the one provided by the Court, governments would not manage to reach agreement with one another. In 1949, the authors of the European Convention on Human Rights naturally did not foresee the development that Europe is currently undergoing. I think that at that time no one imagined the huge rise in the number of individual applications to the Court.

## Changing the image of young people in the media.

Louis Villers, Dobriyana Tropankeva, *orange magazine*, 18.11.10



*49% of french people have a negative image of the young (Audirep survey). This sad fact is unquestionably bound up with the way the media portray this population group. Violence, unemployment, despondency and insecurity are the main issues associated with the young. That is what the leaders of "Stop The Clichés", a campaign aimed at combating the clichés and stereotypes about young people, have established and condemned.*

The association that initiated the campaign, "jets d'encre", national network of junior associations and Anacej, began the conference with the publication of the results of their survey on the media treatment of young people. Taking the whole of 2009, they analysed reporting on this subject on radio and television, in the press and on the web. The result is telling: out of 54 television news reports (on terrestrial channels), 21 were about violence and 17 about unemployment. This survey condemns both the angle adopted, focusing mainly on the negative aspects, and the way in which they were dealt with. Many did not allow young people to voice their views while others created distance between the reader and young people, as in the following sentence published in *Le Point*: "This money is burning a hole in your pocket and you're going to buy new threads [clothes], kicks [trainers] and Armani and go skiing". By translating the vocabulary used by the young, the journalist equates them to foreigners, i.e. people we cannot understand. A question then quickly arose during the conference: what for these associations are the criteria for good reporting that avoids clichés and stereotypes? The main criterion seemed to be to allow young people to express their views. Too many reports (on unemployment or violence, for instance)

only let the experts speak and disregard those principally involved. The associations also deplore the lack of media coverage of positive initiatives instigated by young people.

These negative comments did not prevent the participants from exploring new avenues aimed at putting a stop to this dissemination of clichés in the media. Meetings are for example organised between young people and journalists with the aim of suggesting constructive measures and exchanging views on the current situation. Unfortunately, few journalists actually reply to the invitations. This time, there were only four attending the debate, to the great regret of Marie Camier, a member of the campaign jury: "It remains our primary aim to discuss with journalists their social responsibility when they present a negative image of young people, although we're aware that their statements are to some extent representative." Yesterday evening, the jury awarded the "Stop Clichés 2010" prize to four journalists from different media who have adopted a positive approach in dealing with the subject of young people. This is a concrete initiative that should encourage journalists not to focus solely on "things going wrong in society", although this is so much more profitable in terms of sales.

For more information, visit <http://www.stopauxcliches.fr/>



**The street is unrecognisable in the media.**  
**Tamar Bouissou, *Orange Magazine*, 18.11.10**



*A vox pop carried out in the transfrontier Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict revealed that French and German men and women in the street agree on one thing: "the media do not represent all minorities and when they mention them they have little positive to say". The Conclusions of the debates at the Assises endorse this statement.*

By taking refuge behind the principle of the equality of the citizens, France has contributed to the establishment of a "counter-movement reflected in the propensity of the media to highlight some minorities in order to accuse them of all evils". This tendency exists only to a lesser degree in Germany as that country is "more flexible about the question of visible minorities". Stephan Seidendorf, a researcher at the Franco-German Institute, also stresses that these differences become less pronounced in the media's portrayal of minorities: in both France and Germany, the press, following the crowd, focuses on a minority at a given moment, forgets the context and merely reproduces stereotypes. In fact, much to the regret of the freelance journalist Romy

Strassenburg “nothing sells better than a cliché”. One of the weaknesses of the media in every country is the tendency to think only in terms of the spectacular. If media coverage remains national in scope, nothing will change, so bi-national training courses are necessary. There is a need for journalists who can communicate with different audiences and are thus able to initiate a process of transformation in the way other people are perceived. According to the French speakers in the debate, the training of future journalists is a key requirement. 80% of journalists in France come from the upper middle class. The training system leaves little opportunity for social diversity and therefore for people from those city neighbourhoods that are discriminated against, most of whom have come from different cultural backgrounds than the “typical journalist”. Sabrina Kassa, who educates young people at the Dawa workshops in Bobigny, believes these types of initiative make it possible to enhance and diversify France’s journalistic landscape. They are therefore indispensable and should be further developed. Nordine Nabili, Director of the Lille-Bondy College of Journalism, shares this view and goes even further. For him, the entire urban education of the media needs to be looked at and overhauled as they are often unaware of the new problems facing towns and cities. Another somewhat surprising issue that was raised was the ranking of minorities. “When people speak about a minority, you have to ask what minority they mean since some are more in the spotlight than others.” This remark by Sybille Müller, head of the *ARD* bureau in Strasbourg, echoed the words of 19-year-old Florian, who thought that some minorities were given more coverage than others. By way of comparison, he mentioned black people and homosexuals, even though he conceded that the former were too often presented in a negative light. It is surprising that all the journalists present at the Assises agreed that the media’s presentation of the so-called “visible minorities” was incomplete and biased. Cultural diversity and interest in one’s neighbours or foreign nationals are not on the agenda. Journalists often lay the blame at the door of their editors, who give priority to “what will sell” in France and to “what the traditional audience will like” in Germany. However, should journalists not consider how to arouse the interest of their public? Should editors not consider these minorities as a potential audience that they are excluding? As long as each minority promotes its own cause, “policy-makers” and “opinion leaders” will continue to step into the breach of inequality, which it is difficult to II. Sabrina Kassa summarised the journalist’s duty by calling for “a little respect”: respect for the subjects dealt with, for the ethics of one’s profession and for the recipient of the information.

## Sport as a means of integration? Not so certain...

Eléonore Payró, *Orange Magazine* 18.11.10



*1995. The South African Springboks win the rugby world cup in front of the first black president of a country racked by institutionalised racism. Having overcome their differences and apartheid, the people support the national team and prove to themselves that it is possible to find common ground.*

The sporting values of fair play, equality and respect call for the acceptance of other people and may be regarded as a universal language. However, there is a great deal of discrimination in this area. Only recently have coloured athletes been fully accepted in the stadiums. Although the public and sports professionals have realised for some time, thanks to anti-racist campaigns, changes in mentality and changes in the law, that skin colour has no adverse effect on the quality of a sportsperson, other categories of peo-

ple are still discriminated against. Women, homosexuals or, indeed, people with disabilities feel sidelined by an area of activity in which hyper-masculinity and a cult of alleged perfection are commonplace. As the performances of men in the peak of health are taken as the benchmark, "marginal" athletes are always compared with the incomparable. While gender difference is accepted as a construct of society, there are nonetheless biological differences that explain this range of abilities, and it is clear that a wheelchair-bound athlete will not perform as well as a runner. Sport used to be on the back page of newspapers but is now the subject most spoken about by the public. During the world cups, the Olympic Games and other major competitions, all the world's media concentrate on sport again for a specific period but their focus is mainly on sports engaged in by men in good health. Women's teams are relegated to a short intermezzo, while the Paralympics are only briefly commented on. Prisca Bruno Massao, a researcher at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, says: "the stereotypical view that sport is for men and based on men is very firmly entrenched. The media coverage of women's sport is just 5%. The female audience is not considered important by the media". Could the public be responsible for this discrepancy? Apparently not, if we are to believe the audiences who watch Michel Royer's documentary "Sport et homosexualité, c'est quoi le problème?" and "Inside Incredible Athletes", a film about disabled athletes broadcast on *Channel 4* in the United Kingdom. According to Fiona Chesterton, former *BBC* journalist and author of the report "Sport journalism, discrimination & racism", that film "had a large audience and the feedback was extremely positive". Michel Royer added that *Canal +*, the channel that broadcast his film, had had the highest audience figures for a documentary in its history. The public accordingly seem to be concerned about issues relating to minorities in sport. However, in an excerpt from Michel Royer's documentary





shown during the conference, a journalist on *L'Equipe* claims that homosexuality in sport is not a problem, that it belongs to the athletes' private sphere and that it is not the media's role to deal with these matters and rumours. Yoann Lemaire then rose to speak. An amateur in a French football club, he was the first to come out and had his playing licence withdrawn for his honesty, which is surprising in a nation supposed to support liberty, equality and fraternity. The first journalists interested in the case did not specialise in sport but in social issues. Yoann Lemaire then filed a complaint and was able to draw justified attention to a problem of serious homophobia.

He informed us that, thanks to the intervention of Rama Yade, former French minister for sport, he was quickly able to obtain a new licence at a more tolerant club. He commented on Michel Royer's film on the basis of his own personal experience: "If the sports newspapers think homosexuality in sport is not a problem, that's because there's a real taboo in operation. It's necessary to tackle these matters, and people must be made aware of them in order to deal with this problem". Although it is not necessarily the journalists' job to ensure things are changed, it is their role to address these issues. By avoiding the subjects of sexism, racism, homophobia and discrimination in general, these problems remain invisible and cannot disappear. When homophobic insults are commonplace, when it is traditional to define national athletes as being of foreign origin when they lose, when sportswomen are only there "to save the honour" (the widely used headline of articles reporting on the victory of the French women's fencing team) and when athletes are forced to conceal their sexual orientation, then sport has not finished dealing with its discrimination problems. However, what about racism and ethnic minorities? Has this problem been dealt with? Prisca Bruno Massao informed us that although there are many coloured athletes in almost every area of sport they are still very much a minority on the sports governing bodies.



## Do you consider that your national media discriminate against certain groups of society? Young European journalists reply...

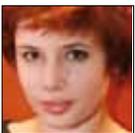
*Orange Magazine, 18.11.10*



GERMANY – For me, the German media are not neutral at all. Discrimination is an everyday reality since people love scandals and blame things on minorities, as is happening in the case of Muslim immigrants at the moment. A good example of this is the current integration debate in the German media. Franziska



FINLAND – I think that Finnish journalists are actively trying to do their best to give the minorities a voice and a face. One recent example is a video in which celebrities encourage homosexuals to keep up the fight, as part of an international “It Will Get Better” Campaign. There’s still a long way to go, but one step at a time. Finland is becoming a better place for different ethnic and sexual minorities. Heikki



SWITZERLAND – Being quadrilingual and multicultural, the Swiss media cannot be brought under one umbrella: a Swiss German newspaper will not deal with a news item in the same way as an Italian-language television channel. Moreover, in a neutral country, the media have a duty to represent all points of view, thus leaving no room for discrimination. Eléonore



FRANCE – The French media definitely discriminate against certain social groups. They are supposed to report about the state of society, and some even claim to be a mouthpiece for those without a voice but in reality their description of the world passes on their own prejudices. Tamar



BULGARIA – Investigative journalism on Roma in Bulgaria is extremely difficult because they live in closed communities and don't readily let strangers in. They live in their own areas (often ghettos in poor living conditions) and according to their own rules (the famous Roma court). I believe that a good journalistic approach could reveal many of the hidden problems and differences between the two worlds. Dobriyana



SPAIN – In Spain, we have a very wide range of points of view and ideologies. For any given subject, there is a media channel to cover it and one that will criticise what the first one says or does, mostly on such subjects as nationalism and migration. Adrián



ITALY- Since the eighties, the most powerful medium has been television. For thirty years, women have been shown half-naked and portrayed as devoid of any skills. At the moment, Italian television is male-dominated and discriminates against women in two ways: both as members of the audience and as the subject of programmes. Licia



## Comments by the “European Youth Press” team at the Assises

Vincenzo Sassu: “It was important to meet young colleagues from other European countries and discuss the role of journalism in our democracies. Journalism – the great passion we all have in common – has enabled us to work well as a group and to share this experience at the Council of Europe in the best way possible.”

Heikki Polonen: “Discrimination issues have constantly arisen in our discussions, especially as journalists continue to portray matters concerning ethnic minorities, sexuality, etc from the point of view of the “majorities”. The majorities should remember that there are population groups that should be leading better lives. Since I have been working as a photographer, the first thing I have borne in mind is the need to go beyond the most obvious prejudices in my pictures. I keep reminding myself that anyone whose photograph I take remains above all a human being rather than a representative of a particular sexuality, race or gender.”

Eleonore Payro – “I’ve learned a great deal and think I’m now more aware of what the real problems are and where they lie, even in short articles and innocent phrases, and how it’s possible to avoid discrimination and promote intercultural dialogue in journalism.”

Dobryana – “This has made me realise that the male-dominated control of the media with its emphasis on heterosexual values is still extremely strong, even in a multicultural Europe.”