



I expose crime figures

I tell the people what is going on

I mentor journalists

I fight organized crime

I research offshore companies

I shine a light into dark corners

I scrape databases to track criminals

I track down assets of corrupt politicians

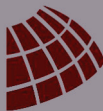
I expose crime figures

I track down assets of corrupt politicians

I shine a light into dark corners

I monitor crime networks

I fight organized crime



OCCRP

ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION REPORTING PROJECT



Sarajevo, Bucharest and Washington



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Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

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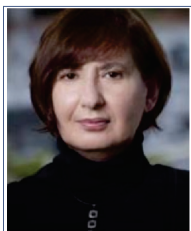
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Press Release

OCCRP BOARD



Marina Gorbis (President)

is also the Executive Director of the Institute for the Future (ITF). Gorbis also created the Global Innovation Forum, a project comparing innovation strategies in different regions, and founded the Global Ethnographic Network (GEN), and led ITF's Technology Horizons Program, focusing on interaction between technology and social organizations. She has authored publications on international business and economics, with an emphasis on regional innovation.



David Boardman (Treasurer)

is Executive Editor to The Seattle Times and has served as its Senior Vice President since May 2010. He is also vice president of the American Society of News Editors. He sits on several boards in addition to that of OCCRP, including the Center for Investigative Reporting, and the Reporters' Committee for Freedom of the Press. He is a former two-time president of Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. Under his leadership, The Times won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news

Drew Sullivan

is the executive editor and co-founder of OCCRP and served as the first director. He founded the Journalism Development Network, an innovative media development organization with programs worldwide. He has served on the board of directors of Investigative Reporters and Editors and the National Institute for Computer Assisted Reporting. Before becoming a journalist, he was an aerospace engineer on the Space Shuttle Project for Rockwell International Space Systems. He worked on stories with OCCRP that have been awarded the Daniel Pearl Award, the Online Journalism Award for investigative reporting, the Global Shining Light Award for reporting under duress, the Tom Renner award for Crime Reporting and many other international awards.

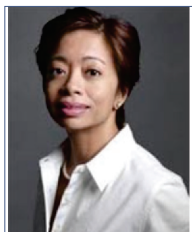


Paul Radu

is the executive director and co-founder of OCCRP and a co-creator of the Investigative Dashboard concept www.investigativedashboard.org. He is the recipient of numerous awards including in 2004, the Knight International Journalism Award and the Investigative Reporters and Editors Award, in 2007, the Global Shining Light Award, the Tom Renner Investigative Reporters and Editors Award and in 2011 the Daniel Pearl Award for Outstanding International Investigative Reporting.



OF DIRECTORS



Sheila Coronel

is the Professor of Professional Practice, Columbia University, New York, as well as director of the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism. In 1989, she co-founded the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) to promote investigative reporting. She has received numerous awards including the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts in 2003, which further promoted the widespread recognition of her work.



Lowell Bergman

is the Reva and David Logan Distinguished Professor of Investigative Reporting at the U.C. Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. He has received the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, awarded to The New York Times in 2004. The recipient of numerous Emmys, Mr. Bergman has also received five Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University silver and golden Baton awards, three Peabodys, a Polk Award, a Sidney Hillman award for labor reporting, the Bart Richards Award for Media Criticism and the James Madison Freedom of Information Award for Career Achievement from The Society of Professional Journalists.

David E. Kaplan

is director of the Global Investigative Journalism Network, an association of more than 70 organizations worldwide dedicated to the expansion and support of investigative reporting. Kaplan has reported from two dozen countries and his stories have won or shared more than 20 awards. He is a four-time winner of the coveted Investigative Reporters and Editors Award, including three medals, IRE's highest honor.



OCCRP Member Representative Khadija Ismayilova

hosts a weekly program on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Azerbaijani service, where she reports on corruption and malfeasance in the country's government. She received widespread international attention when she was blackmailed and publicly defamed in the spring of 2012. In 2012 she received both the Zeit Foundation Award and the International Women's Media Federation's Courage Award.



“In the era of globalisation, heroic feats are evolving into team efforts. These teams are transnational, their physical locations connected by information technology, their sources of funding independent. OCCRP is a model of such teams.”

UNESCO 2012

Organized crime is the first truly globalized business. It imperils world stability, subverts democracy, violates human rights and causes untold misery. OCCRP evolved in response to the unique challenges posed by reporting on organized crime. We are a peer-to-peer investigative network extending from the Balkans to Central Asia, working with reporters round the world. We strive to be flexible and virtual; needs-driven, not corporate. We report; we shape new young investigative reporters and editors; we build capacity at reporting centres; we develop research tools; and we network others who have the same goals. Above all, we help journalists report to the highest international standards while staying alive. OCCRP is a trade name of the Journalism Development Network, Inc., a Maryland 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. JDN Europe has its headquarters in Bucharest, Romania. The OCCRP administrative offices are located in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Paul Radu,
OCCRP

"It's so easy for criminals from Ukraine and Romania, or Moldova and Russia to arrange a scam, while local journalists will hardly interact with each other in the same way. The power of reporting without borders is in the sharing of information among those who know all about the situation in their home countries..."



A cryptoparty in Romania:
teaching journalists
how to protect
themselves via encryption.

Nanka Naskidashvili,
Studio Monitor,
Georgia

"I have been seriously frightened twice. Once was when I investigated the only goldmine in Georgia. The former director organized a tour for journalists, and used it to publicly accuse me of lying... The other time was when I tried to follow the elections in a rural area. Two men dragged me out of the polling station. It was dark outside, and I started calling out, 'Let me go! Let me go!'... When you are in danger, it means everything to know that you have the support of other people, who are journalists like you. You aren't alone – so you don't give up."

Dave Bloss,
OCCRP,
Tbilisi

"Working with OCCRP in the Caucasus allows me to edit amazing stories in one of the most amazing regions on earth. So many journalists know the stories they want to do. Our job is to make those stories happen."

HOW WE STARTED:

Drew Sullivan and Paul Radu, Co-Founders of OCCRP

Drew: OCCRP wasn't really planned - it was born of necessity. We were all working on the same intractable problems in our own countries. But a couple of us realized this and communicated. Then more. Then even more. We found each other.

Paul: It was our joint idea. We met by accident and realized that we were working on the same thing. We managed to investigate important deals involving politicians and criminal groups from all over the world. Our real collaboration is based on the common goal.

Drew: Later, it became an umbrella organization that allowed us to do together what none of us could easily do alone. But we are first and foremost a manifestation of cooperative journalism.

OCCRP is a consortium of 17 investigative journalism organizations in 17 countries stretching from the European Union to Central Asia. It is maybe the largest investigative reporting organization in the world outside of the United States with more than \$1.1 million in revenues, 50 investigative projects per year and 90 reporters, editors and support persons working together. We have ongoing projects in Mexico and Tunisia and work with partner organizations in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and North America.

OCCRP is supported by:



National Endowment for Democracy
Supporting freedom around the world



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS



International
Press
Institute



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Our partner centers are:



Centar za
istraživačko
novinarstvo



ziarul de gardă

re:baltica



BULGARIAN
Investigative
JOURNALISM CENTER



CIJ MACEDONIA





OCCRP

Drew Sullivan,
OCCRP

"Where we have succeeded is in bringing together a number of like-minded journalists who have the desire to expose corruption and reveal the activities of organized crime figures - all in an effort to inform the public."

Tamas Bodoky,
Atlaszo.hu,
Hungary

"Being part of OCCRP is very important to me. It gives me a wider perspective on things. I can ask for help from colleagues from other countries, and I can gain international attention. OCCRP has helped me to solve problems with investigating offshore companies, and has helped me to get records which made my story a huge success."

Vasja Jager,
Bumerang,
Slovenia

"Being a member of OCCRP is the best thing that could happen to a Slovenian journalist. Just being around such great journalists and picking their brains."

WHAT WE DO:

- ::: We do investigative reporting.
- ::: We track organized crime and corruption.
- ::: We build investigative capacity.
- ::: We train reporters and editors to stay safe.
- ::: We develop investigative tools for working journalists.
- ::: We network.





We do investigative reporting.

OCCRP is an award-winning news organization reporting groundbreaking investigative stories, which are published in regional and international media including the BBC, The Guardian, The Financial Times, Le Soir, Die Zeit, The Wall Street Journal and many others. We have won the Global Shining Light, the Daniel Pearl Award, The Tom Renner Award, the Robert F. Kennedy Social Media Award and numerous others for our hard-hitting work. Our reporters have been recognized with the International Women's Media Foundation Courage Award, the Transparency International Integrity Award, the Knight International Award, and more.

“Journalistic investigations into entire criminal systems are rare.

For one thing, they involve physical danger and the threat of libel prosecution.

For another, they require deep resources, especially time.”



The Hunt for Egypt's Money: Mubarak's Man Moves Money



We investigated the close confidant of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak: Hussein Salam and his family and their assets in Eastern Europe. With the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) we showed he held assets in Romania and Azerbaijan. He acquired these with the help of Ali Evsen, a Turkish national, who hid his assets in a string of offshore companies...

Published 6 February, 2012

Impact

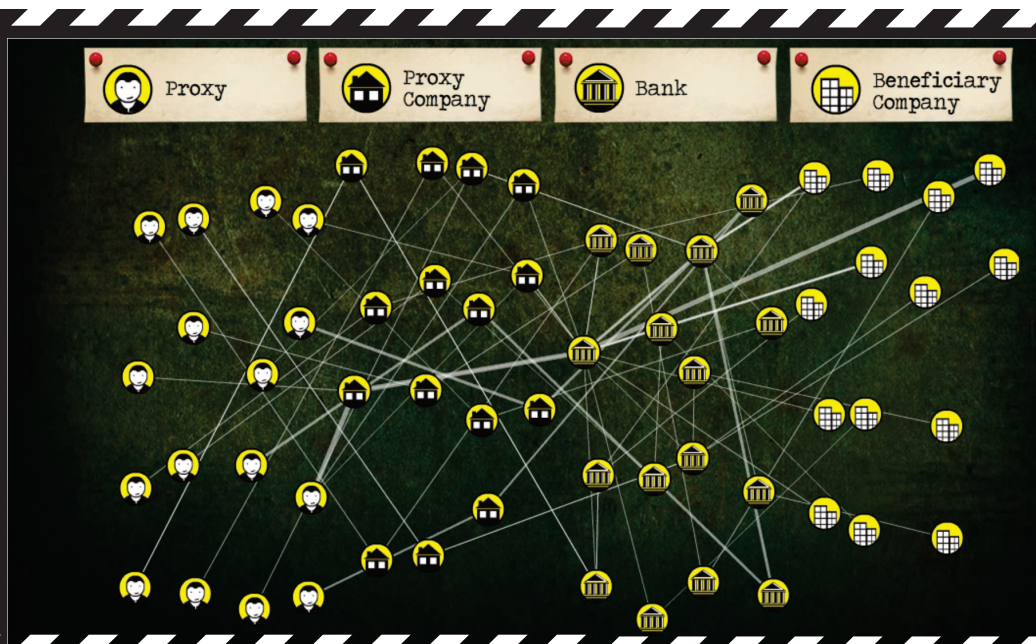
Egypt indicted Hussein Salam for fraud. Ali Evsen, who also holds Albanian and Azerbaijani citizenship, has been placed on Interpol's most wanted list. Egypt accused him of fraud after we ran this story. ARIJ and OCCRP have become partner centres, collaborating on training, and working on stories together.



'The Proxy Platform'
Shortlisted for the European Press Prize
(January 2013)

"Proxies are people registered as company owners to hide the real owners. There are several types of proxies in our region. Some of the so-called executives have no idea that their names are on the documents – their passports were stolen. Others sold their identities for a few hundred bucks or a bottle of vodka, allowing someone to make copies of their IDs. We are mostly interested in people who earn money in this business, working on the market and pretending to own dozens of companies all over the world..."

Paul Radu, OCCRP





The Proxy Platform Project

While governments and citizens of Eastern Europe were struggling with the recent financial crisis, billions of euros circulated in the region in an illegal, parallel system that enriched organized crime figures and corrupt politicians.

The system is built on hundreds, maybe thousands, of ever-morphing phantom companies. They exist on paper only and appear to be run by scores of common people, who are, in fact, simply proxies. Crime lords and corrupt government bureaucrats use these paper companies run by proxies to launder illegal billions into usable wealth.

Tormex Ltd, one phantom company with bank accounts in Latvia tracked by OCCRP, was opened in New Zealand in 2007. Fifteen months later, it had logged more than US\$680 million in transactions.

Impact in 2012

Latvian officials complained to the European Union about New Zealand and Russia's lax laws on money laundering, after our investigation detailed the laundering of US\$ 680 million. Both countries were subsequently stricken from the EU's banking and corporate 'white list' because of their weak anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism frameworks.

OCCRP and the Banking Sector

The Mišković Millions



Serbia's first billionaire made his fortune in the darkest days of war, corruption and political unrest. Good times were just as good to Miroslav Mišković, who has combined political connections and aggressive business practices to get richer. But OCCRP found dozens of mysterious offshore companies, many based out of his Belgrade offices or run by his

employees, that demonstrate he controlled a major share of Belgrade's Universal Bank. In each case the companies, based in Cyprus or the Caribbean Islands, bought the bank's shares just below the 5-percent threshold that would trigger the need to disclose true ownership.

Impact

An investigation began, and in 2012 Mišković was forced to relinquish his shares in the bank. In addition the National Bank of Serbia fined Univerzal Bank an undisclosed amount. The government of Serbia began the process of revoking the bank's license. Miskovic was arrested in April 2013, for privatization fraud.



First Family, First Bank



OCCRP and BBC's Newsnight showed how the family of long time Montenegrin President and Prime Minister Milo Djukanović bailed out their failing family-owned 'First Bank' with taxpayers' money. During May OCCRP and Newsnight published multiple stories revealing how the family funded extravaganzas including a Madonna concert, while bank customers tried in vain to make withdrawals. The stories came from a thousand pages of internal bank documents obtained during six months of investigation by OCCRP.

Published May 2012

Impact

Influenced by these findings, among others, Sweden's delegates to the European Commission required that Montenegro pass a review of its organized crime and corruption efforts, to be conducted by EUROPOL in 2012 and completed before the start of EU membership negotiations.



Our First Bank reporter, Miranda Patrucic, giving a presentation to journalists.

The Azerbaijan Investigations

Khadija Ismayilova,
Radio Free Europe/
OCCRP

On 31 December 2012 we nominated Azeri President Ilham Aliyev OCCRP Crime and Corruption Person of the Year...

“People think I have a grudge against the president’s family. It’s not intentional. It’s just that whatever I begin to investigate, I always find the president’s family at the back of it.”

Azerbaijan’s President Awarded Family Stake in Gold Fields

The Azeri Ministry of Environment believes there are 44 tons of gold and 164 tons of silver under Chovdar in rural Azerbaijan, worth more than US\$ 2.5 billion at current prices. We analysed records and showed how the President awarded gold fields to companies whose directors include the daughters of the President.

Published 3 May, 2012

President’s Family Benefits from Eurovision Hall

Azerbaijan won hosting rights to the popular extravaganza last year when the Azerbaijani pop duo Ell and Nikki sang their way to victory in Eurovision 2011. The Azerbaijan government responded proudly with plans for a new \$134 million concert showplace, the Crystal Hall, capable of seating 23,000 people. OCCRP and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty discovered that the first family is personally profiting from this massive construction project through its hidden ownership of the AZENCO construction company. AZENCO is owned through a series of front companies that mask the real owners including the President’s daughter.

Published 7 May, 2012

Interview with Valeh Aleskerov,
chair of the Natural Resources Committee
of the Azerbaijani parliament.

R: Did you know that these companies belong to the president's family?

A: Lady! Shame on you!

R: You said...

A: Shame on you! достаточно! ("Enough!" in Russian)
That is it!

Statement on Facebook

"For a long time my journalistic activity has been the source of concern for the government. I have been the subject of attacks and slander in pro-government newspapers. I have been absurdly accused of having Armenian relatives and working for foreign intelligence. Many of my colleagues have been subject to blackmail. I am determined that I can withstand any blackmail campaign against me. I will continue my professional activity and work. Because any journalist who respects her profession cannot act otherwise."

A photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a black top and a green patterned scarf. She is holding a black microphone and appears to be speaking. The background is blurred, showing some greenery and a building.

OCCRP member Khadija Ismayilova,
announcing she was being
blackmailed in March 2012.
Khadija is OCCRP's regional editor
and has the only independent radio
show in Azerbaijan:
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

We alert citizens and authorities to “pre-crime”

Controversial Businessmen Move into Moldova



Romanian businessmen accused of major fraud and other crimes are exporting similar-looking business strategies across the Prut River into Moldova – often with connections to high-level Moldovan officials. Last March three well-known Romanian businessmen boarded the daily flight from Chisinau, the Moldovan capital, to Bucharest. Three well-dressed first class passengers, who could have been any successful entrepreneurs doing business between Romania and its poorer neighbor. But these passengers were not typical. All have been convicted repeatedly for criminal activities, fraud or corruption. They have played a role in some of the biggest scandals in Romania. Now they are working in Moldova.

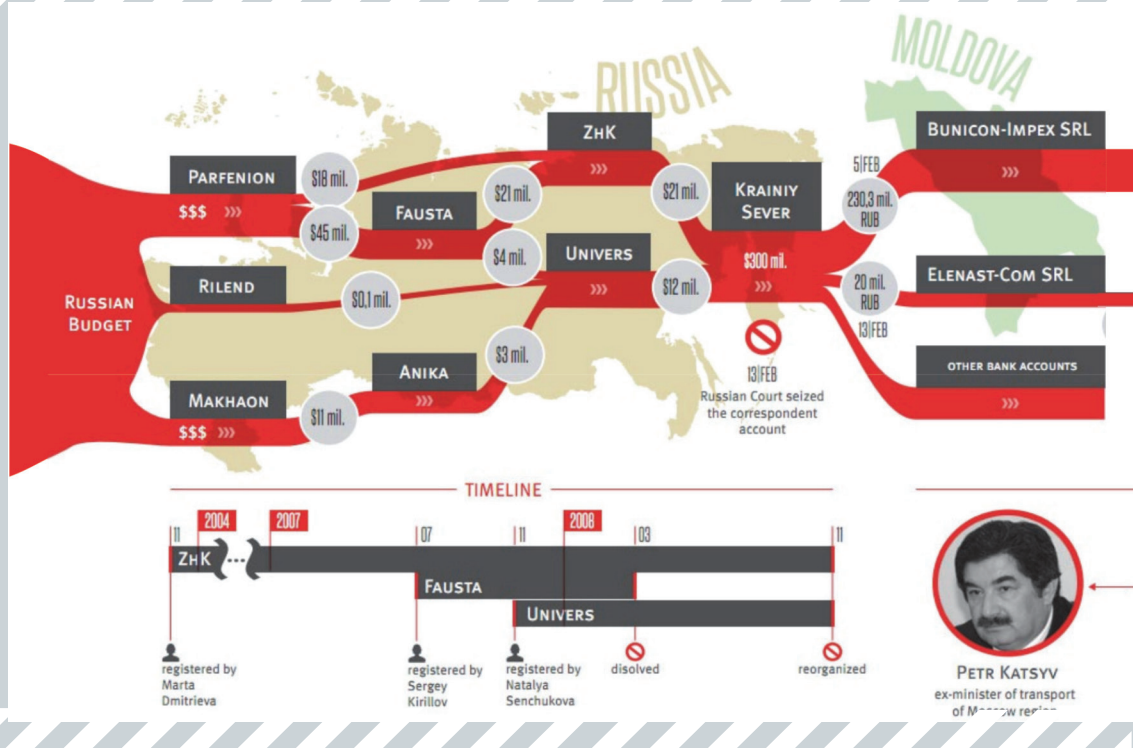
Published 15 June, 2012

The Sergei Magnitsky Case

Following the Magnitsky Money

While Russian tax lawyer Sergei Magnitsky was dying in a Russian prison from abuse and neglect, US\$ 230 million (5.4 billion Russian Rubles) in taxes stolen from his client, the Hermitage Capital Management investment fund, vanished from sight. Magnitsky – the whistleblower who reported the largest tax scam in Russian state history, only to find himself the accused – knew who carried out the theft, but not the identity of the powerful people behind it. Reporters from OCCRP, Barron's and Novaya Gazeta, spent months tracking banking records and offshore companies, and identified two beneficiaries of the deal: the businesses of a Russian state transportation official's son and the ex-husband of a tax official who granted the refunds.

Published 12 August, 2012



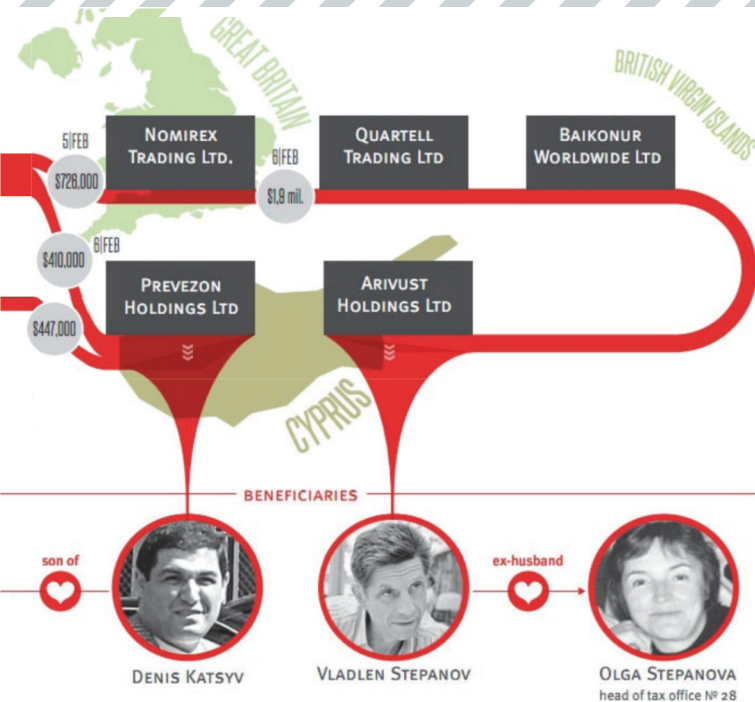
Impact

Investigations are being conducted by the authorities of Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Cyprus, Switzerland and the European Union. Hermitage Capital has filed a court case in New York regarding the luxury apartments OCCRP discovered, which were purchased shortly after the Magnitsky money disappeared.

Multi-Million Dollar Tax-Fraud by Russian Organized Crime Group

"Reporters with Novaya Gazeta and OCCRP followed the money trail and were able to establish that at least \$134 million in assets were funnelled through banks in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Cyprus using shell companies that were registered in the United Kingdom, the British Virgin Isles and Belize."

The Independent,
21 January, 2013



Under a headline consisting of our own graphic, the Moldovan government announces its investigation: <http://m.adevarul.ro/moldova/conomie/cazul-spalarea-bani-mafiei-rusesti-intermediu-bancii-economii-ajuns-sfarsit-vizorul-premierului-vlad-filat-1.51189454462ed5875fb3e7b/index.html>

Drug Brothers and Drug Lords

Vlad Lavrov,
Kyiv Post,
Ukraine

"People who used to be organized crime figures are now very respectable businessmen, meeting celebrities, trying to look civilized...they have simply merged with the government. Corruption is endemic. They started supporting the arts, sport... Foreign consultants were involved in building up the image... and a great number of journalists accept gifts, e.g. sponsorship from private businesses...and are willing to show their stories before publication, for approval... no controversies."



OCCRP

S T O R Y

Mystery Businessman Linked to Šarić Gang Leadership

A shadowy Balkan businessman is a leader and partner in fugitive Darko Šarić's international drug ring, according to court records and investigative files from agencies in five countries. Rodoljub Radulović, 63, is among the leadership of Šarić's criminal enterprise, controlling shipping routes in South America and Europe and running transactions through proxies and shell companies in the Cayman Islands, Serbia, and the Americas.

Published 7 June, 2012

Impact

Indictment of Montenegrin Businessman Details Drug Trafficking

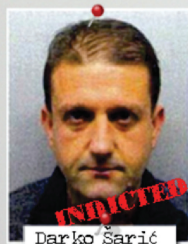
A Montenegrin businessman was charged last month in Serbia for his involvement in smuggling nearly two tons of cocaine. Prosecutors say Radulović owned ships that were used to smuggle drugs from South America to Europe in food and other shipments including soybeans.

Published 26 December, 2012

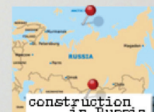
Radulović's prosecutors revealed to OCCRP that his major assets were disclosed to them thanks to evidence we provided.

Drug Cartel's Mystery Man

Drugs



Money





We track organized crime and corruption.

In the old days, journalists named and shamed criminals and corrupt politicians. With a globalized crime industry, something more robust is needed. So OCCRP invented “hack and track”. We are the world’s only global organized crime tracking organization. We leverage legal civic hacking technology to scrape and analyze data on a global scale, and to deploy a virtual spotlight that tracks organized crime through the darkest corners of the globe. We pierce the veil of offshore businesses, point the finger at illegal cross-border activities, reveal where laundered assets are hidden. We alert citizens and authorities to “pre-crime”, when criminals shift their infrastructure to new territory, and we identify their nascent schemes. And we make all of this available online.

Vasja Jager,
Bumerang,
Slovenia

“Thanks to OCCRP we have a chance to follow the money. The mobsters went global and now we are able to go global with them.”

Alina Radu,
ZDG,
Moldova

“We need more people to explain how things work...to explain the hidden things...It is our job to show people how companies are held by offshores and the politicians who appear on the media may be connected to these same offshores...”

Paul Radu,
OCCRP

“Without our transnational network we could not have carried out a single investigation about offshore companies. Doing the research without reliable people who can analyse all of the complicated documentation of local companies in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Serbia or Hungary would be totally impossible.”



We train reporters and editors to stay safe.

“Don’t fire till you see the heights of their lies.”

Drew Sullivan

More than 70 percent of all reporters who are killed worldwide die because of their work. There are no safety programs that teach journalists how to report safely at the nexus where criminal networks meet corrupt government.

Vlad Lavrov,
Kyiv Post,
Ukraine

“You don’t know what is worse – the threats from politicians or the threats from dealers – people who deal in human trafficking or cigarette smuggling or drugs...”

Alina Radu,
ZDG,
Moldova

“We found out that threats we were receiving on our home phone or email or our mobiles came from the offices of politicians... they don’t like it when you write about them.”

Dejan Milovac,
MANS,
Montenegro

“It’s fair to say that there is a thin line between organized crime and the government...for twenty-five years there has been no completed court case for corruption against any ministry... But we get plenty of threats...”

PRESS

OCCRP has a near-decade of experience protecting journalists, including its partner organizations, and has developed several unique approaches to journalist and newsroom security. Our innovative cyber-research tools assist risk-free research, while 2012 saw us develop our own security manual. Above all, we insist on round-the-clock tracking of those we know are in danger.

Vlad Lavrov,
Kyiv Post,
Ukraine

"Pressure is worst when it comes through people you know, who ask you, 'Did you hear what so-and-so says he is going to do to you?'"

Vasja Jager,
Bumerang,
Slovenia

"I have received several death threats...not to mention the countless lawsuits that people have attempted to file against me...but real pressure comes from the media...journalists practice self-censorship...they don't care any more. There are no big investigative stories...instead we cover the press conferences and the pseudo-events...I've had colleagues on the verge of suicide...we have a whole wall of articles that nobody dared to publish...we pin them on the wall and we call it 'the bunker'."



photo: vjesti.me

Tamas Bodoky,
Atlaszo.hu,
Hungary

“Organized crime is very close to politics...We get a lot of legal threats but I don't mind being sued...going to court is part of our lives...but threatening calls to your home are something else. I've learned not to walk in the street at night, and to take precautions.”

Drew Sullivan,
OCCRP

“It is obviously very dangerous to report on organized crime. We have been forced to develop sophisticated ways to protect our reporters. Such reporting can be done safely, but sticking by the ground rules is essential.”

Our mission is to keep reporters not only alive but feeling sufficiently safe to continue their work. We have developed our own unique safety program. At its heart is the importance of professional standards of research, writing and editing as a means of increasing accuracy and safety. We work with newsroom leaders as well as reporters on a story by story basis, to determine the risks and to design procedures that are sometimes unique to a story. Our training is continuous and holistic – it has become a daily part of all of our lives.



We build
investigative capacity.

The Global Investigative Journalism Casebook, 2012

“There are fewer good investigative editors than investigative reporters; but the function is even more vital when working with reporters of different nationalities.

Not enough has been done, to date, to codify and transmit this skill set, which only a handful of organisations in the world fully possess.”

UNESCO 2012

All investigative reporting begins and ends with standards – standards of accuracy, clarity, fairness, and depth. We work in more than two dozen countries where history and tradition have given media dozens of differing standards. We work with all our members and partners to develop a consistent set of conservative standards that meet the highest international levels.

Paul Radu,
OCCRP

“We work under strict fact check rules. At first, our reporters were annoyed about the amount of time the editing takes. All the material we get from reporters should come with references to documents, quotes from interviews, audio or video files accompanying every single fact mentioned. Sometimes, even I got annoyed by how scrupulous our fact checkers were. But it won't work any other way. That's what makes our materials so unique and valuable.”

Dejan Milovac,
MANS,
Montenegro

“When you are talking about the interests of very important people in a very small country you cannot expect to be left alone. But everything we do is made available to the widest audience and the public are our protectors.”

We know that when you are reporting on organized crime, you must be fair and accurate or the repercussions can be deadly. We also know that investigative reporting is a lifelong pursuit where reporters must continuously improve and learn. That's why so many international media organizations, ranging from The Economist to Swedish TV, use our reporters for their stories.

Oleksandr
Akimenko,
Forbes,
Ukraine

We try to do everything professionally. We check everything five times and that is the best protection we have ever had.... Editing as well, the connecting service OCCRP provides, plus getting public procurement data...For example, we made a special search related to the names of beneficiaries of public procurement...and we found the number one rating for the richest person was the son of the president."

Stevan Dojcinovic,
CINS,
Serbia

"I'm paranoid, and I feel all the time that I'm in some kind of danger...I believe in taking all the steps: that we research deeply, that we always get the other side's response, that we always have documents – I believe that this is keeping us safe."

Drew Sullivan,
OCCRP

"When I became editor and had to work with journalists reporting real stories, my real training began. For one thing, communication was an issue. Understanding someone's words did not mean that I understood the importance they held. It took years before reporters really understood what I was trying to say and, in turn, before I could see things through their eyes."

But just training a reporter to be skilled at investigative reporting isn't enough. Most of our members are non-profit media. They must also be skilled at management, fundraising, sustainability and accounting. OCCRP works with its member organizations to develop capacity in all aspects of operating an investigative reporting centric news organization in a difficult environment.

Tamas Bodoky,
Atlaszo.hu,
Hungary

"If, as a journalist, you touch sensitive issues, they pressure your employer, try to get you fired. That's why we don't accept state grants. Nobody can put pressure on us by threatening to revoke them."



Alexenia Dimitrova, 24 Hours, Bulgaria
working with children in Sofia.

International capacity building

Vlad Lavrov,
Kyiv Post,
Ukraine

"We wrote about two prosecutors who were taking bribes...and they decided to sue. In a very short time the judge decided that we should pay...we made international calls...we asked for international documentation – and we won."

"Although several countries have their own investigative journalism centres, OCCRP is the only international project focusing on the discovery of corruption and international crimes."

The Ukrainian Week,
1 November, 2012



Paul Radu, OCCRP, delivers a
training on following the money.

OCCRP works with international non-profit partners like the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ), and ANCIR: an African network of Centers for Investigative Reporting modeled after OCCRP. We regularly train at conferences, trainings and workshops. Our members are collaborating extensively with their journalists on individual stories, enabling them to access the information which our research tools can reach. This year we have worked with reporters in Africa, the Middle East, South America, Central America, the Pacific, and North America as well as dozens of media in Europe through to Central Asia.

OCCRP reporters and editors are in high demand as international speakers and trainers. We were asked to participate in more than 50 events in 2012, in locations ranging from Iceland to Brazil. This international influence comes solely from the practice of core journalism skills. Other organizations in developing countries, recognizing OCCRP's achievements, are seeking advice, training and relationships with OCCRP. This, in turn, helps to build the relationships between member centers far beyond their borders and allows them to more effectively leverage their international reporting. Some of the organizations who invited us this year include SKUP in Norway, the OSCE, UNODC, the World Economic Forum, Investigative Reporters and Editors and many more.



We develop investigative tools for working journalists.

Vlad Lavrov,
Kyiv Post,
Ukraine

"Often, on a time-sensitive story, we need to get a document promptly. If too much time passes after we have made the official request, we won't be able to use it. They know this, and they make us wait..."

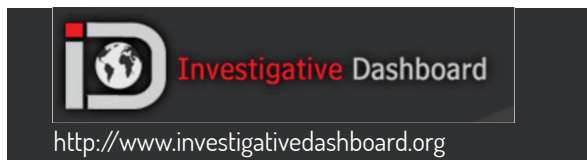
Nanka Naskidashvili,
Studio Monitor,
Georgia

"If you see from records that plots of land changed ownership for a dollar, you know that something is going on..."

Paul Radu,
OCCRP

"Google is our greatest help. When we publish materials on the website, we always give the right index of names, trial protocols and the documents for the search system to offer the right records. That is how we can limit opportunities for crooks. Scandalous revelations are fine, but we appreciate the long-term effect most of all."

The changing globalized world of crime compounded by the declining fortunes of the media industry has forced us to be efficient and inexpensive. At the same time, the world is well along on a decades long information revolution. We seek to leverage the latest technologies to gather news and to build tools to make those technologies available to all reporters. OCCRP is working with leading organizations like Google Ideas, Tech Soup, Tactical Tech, to build the latest and most effective tools.



Oleksandr Akimenko,
Forbes,
Ukraine

“Being part of OCCRP is very important. When I show people that there is data – when I tell them about the Investigative Dashboard and show them that there are a lot of places where you can get records – it’s a mystery to them. It never happened before in the Ukraine.”

The Investigative Dashboard is a tool that helps reporters quickly find the owners of companies and the assets of people or companies. It uses a self-serve search to allow reporters to find data themselves, or to search the hundreds of gigabytes of scraped databases that we have collected. It allows reporters in developing countries to access the best international commercial databases and get in touch with the world’s best researchers through its crowd-sourcing component. With a major upgrade thanks to Google Ideas, the Investigative Dashboard will be relaunched in 2013, more powerful than ever.

The Investigative Dashboard in 2012 helped reporters find companies linked with close associates of Hosni Mubarak, the former Egyptian president; Gulnara Karimova, daughter of Islam Karimov, the president of Uzbekistan; Ilham Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan; Milo Đukanović, former PM of Montenegro; Vladimir Putin, the Russian President; and representatives of the Muslim Brotherhood among many, many others.



OCCRP

S T O R Y

Thanks to the Investigative Dashboard,

OCCRP discovered the following, together with TT News Agency and Swedish TV:

Swedish Telecom Took a Shortcut in Central Asia



When Swedish telecom giant TeliaSonera announced its expansion into Uzbekistan in 2007, the company seemed poised for massive success. Large and undeveloped, Uzbekistan promised years of lucrative growth. But, five years later, TeliaSonera is mired in scandal, and facing criminal investigation. Swiss authorities are separately investigating related money laundering charges against their partners. Takilant Ltd, TeliaSonera's partner in Uzbekistan, took a payment of \$320 million in return for issuing TeliaSonera a 3G license to operate in Uzbekistan. Takilant is an offshore shell corporation run by a close friend of the Uzbek dictator's daughter, Gulnara Karimova.

Published 29 December, 2012

Impact

Data supplied via the Investigative Dashboard led to the resignation of TeliaSonera's director, together with most of the management; to criminal investigations in Switzerland and Sweden, and close scrutiny of a Russian firm that may also result in prosecutions.

As of January 13, 2013 the Swedish investigation had already produced convictions in the case of Takilant: its 'representatives' (a category that could ultimately include Gulnara Karimova) are indicted for arrest, and its assets in Sweden are frozen.

OCCRP is also developing other tools:

- **The People of Interest Project (POI)** is the world's first database of organized crime figures and their networks. It lists their participants and business structures for the world to see.

Drew Sullivan,
OCCRP

"This is the first ever database of organised crime figures, and it keeps on expanding. It gets used not only by journalists and researchers, but by due diligence, law enforcement and the public generally."

<http://www.reportingproject.net/PeopleOfInterest>

OCCRP PEOPLE OF INTEREST

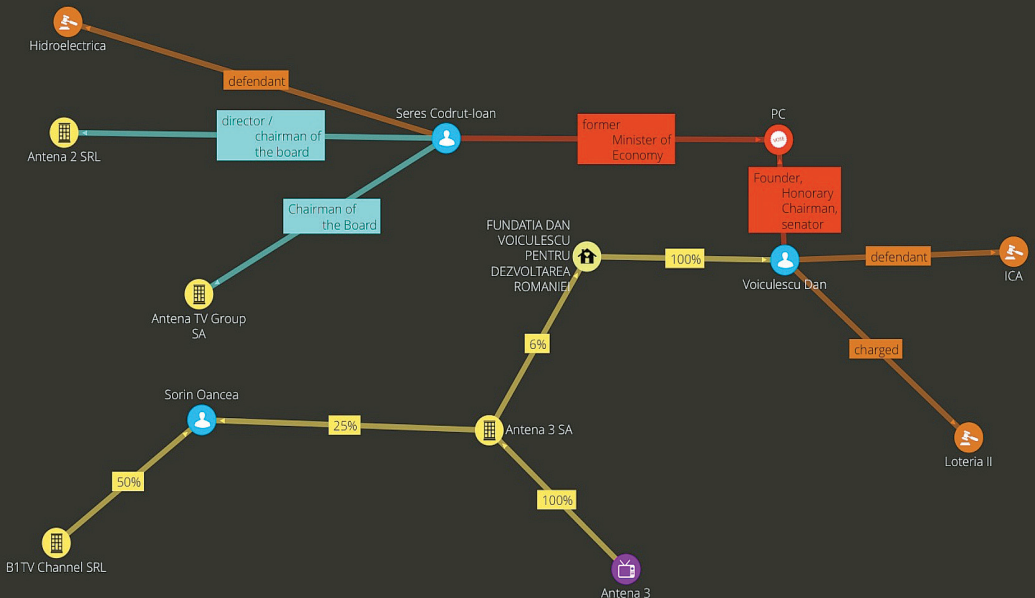


The OCCRP has compiled a list of people of interest in its coverage area. Some of these people are criminals, some are politicians and some are businessmen. Some are all three. All of these figures are well known and figure regularly in stories about organized crime and corruption. OCCRP, in the interests of better public understanding and accuracy in stories, is providing background information on these people. By inclusion on this list, we do not wish to imply any of these figures are corrupt or involved in organized crime unless specifically noted.

- **Visual Investigative Scenarios (VIS)** software provides easy to use visualizations for complex criminal and business structures. We delivered our first visualizations this year.

Khadija Ismayilova,
Radio Free Europe/
OCCRP,
Azerbaijan

“We have to have ways to make a complex story easier to understand. It’s not easy to explain to villagers in rural Azerbaijan who’ve been told their land was taken for goldmining by an English firm, how the president’s family is really at the back of it. With the right visuals, they can see for themselves.”

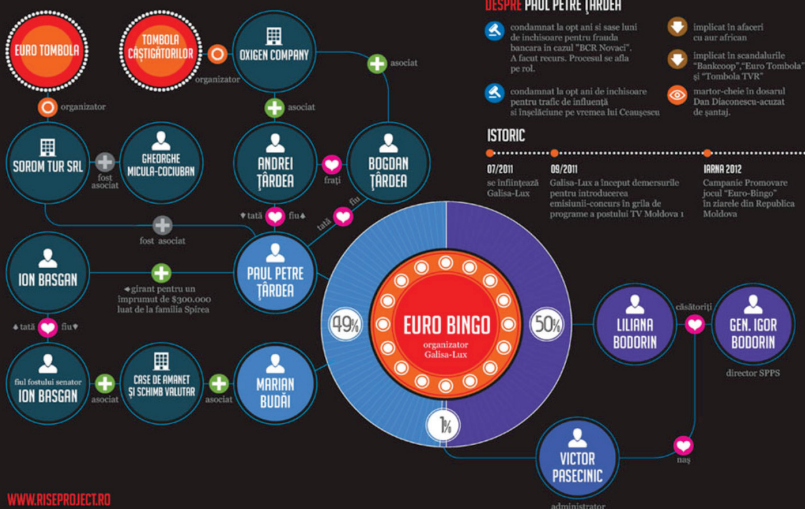


- **The Collaborative Platform** - This virtual newsroom enables the secure sharing of data between network members.
- **The UnderWorld App** - This mobile mapping app allows you to check the street you are walking down and see what businesses are owned by organized crime or corrupt politicians. This enables the public to act against crime by choosing where to buy goods and services - thus depriving crime groups of vital resources. (In development.)

CONDAMNAȚI ÎN ROMÂNIA, AFACERIȘTI ÎN MOLDOVA

EPISODUL 1:

REȚEAUA BINGO





We Network.

Paul Radu,
OCCRP

"If a journalist from say, the Ukraine, needs help finding some information about a firm registered in Cyprus, we simply ask people from our network."

Stevan Dojcinovic,
CINS,
Serbia

"In Serbia you cannot just talk about Serbia...all the countries in the region are involved... You have people from the whole network coming together, so that we can share different experiences on writing stories, and we can also work on getting information exchanged..."

Dejan Milovac,
MANS,
Montenegro

"OCCRP is a great name for an organization linked to many countries, linking up with contacts and resources. Organized crime is cross-border – we are trying to do the same thing as the criminals, but for the benefit of the people in the region."

Nanka Naskidashvili,
Studio Monitor,
Georgia

"It was when our office was robbed that I found out how much it helps when you are part of an international network. When people are around you who know what you are going through and are ready to help you, that means so much."

Vlad Lavrov,
Kyiv Post,
Ukraine

"I cannot stop stories because I am tired or busy or afraid...but sometimes I ask myself if I really am doing the right thing. But when you meet colleagues doing the same job, facing the same dangers, sometimes succeeding, sometimes not, but just going forward... it's so good."

Renata Radic, CIN Sarajevo,
receives the Robert F. Kennedy Award
for Excellence in Journalism, 2012,
for international social media.





Khadija Ismayilova in 2012

"Ismayilova is one of the only investigative reporters in the oil-rich former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan. For years she's reported on corruption within the country's autocratic ruling family. But this past March her investigation got personal..."

...writes The Atlantic, in its Brave Thinkers of 2012
(Khadija ranked number 2)

In February, Khadija was honored by the German ZEIT Foundation, which awarded her the Gerd Bucerius Prize for Free Press in Eastern Europe. In October, she was awarded the International Women's Media Foundation's 2012 "Courage in Journalism" award for her work in Azerbaijan with OCCRP.

"If they want to kill me, they can kill me."

Khadija, speaking to KPFK Radio Pacifica,
just after receiving the IWMF award.

"One woman in particular, Khadija Ismayilova, an Azerbaijani journalist, is under immense pressure to stop investigating Presidential corruption in Azerbaijan. We have interviewed countless women with the help of IWMF - women whose dogs have been slain on their front step, whose children have been threatened, who have lost body parts to car bombs - but never have we sat in the studio with a woman whose willingness to defy the power that would destroy her so impressed us."

KPFK Interviewers Barbara Osborn and Howard Blume,
18 November, 2012



Paul Radu in 2012

Investigations Without Borders

Paul Radu: “Once we get rid of offshore companies, we can break most of the world’s corruption scams.”

Paul Radu is the executive director of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP). It has been investigating organized crime, corruption and money laundering in Eastern Europe for five years. One of its offices in Bucharest looks like that of Millennium from the *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, while the reporters bring Stieg Larsson’s dream to life by investigating the world’s most serious cases...

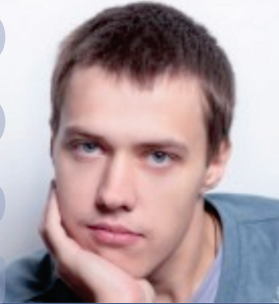
UW: How much effect does your work have?

Important investigations tackle people in power. They control law enforcement authorities that decide whether they should open a criminal case or not. Therefore, it’s not easy to have an impact on public opinion in Eastern Europe. Once the publication goes international, such as with the offshore network in Eastern Europe, it is harder to hush it up...

What have you discovered in your native country of Romania?

The most important thing in the work of a reporter is to note the links between politics and big business, especially at the regional and international levels. We expect machinations between Russia and Ukraine. When we started to work on the proxy database, it turned out that they spread to Serbia, Romania, Moldova, and up to Switzerland. It’s huge money, and it goes right to the people who rule these countries.

The Ukrainian Week,
1 November, 2012

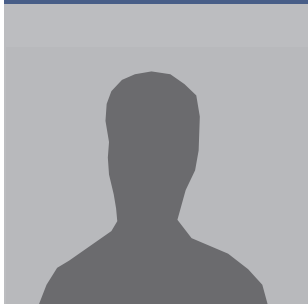


Roman Anin in 2012

"We united our efforts because this is an international case," says Anin of Moscow's *Novaya Gazeta*. "Every single dollar stolen from the Russian budget was laundered in other countries." Journalists investigating money laundering in Eastern Europe got files from a prosecutor showing that much of the tax refund had been funneled through Moldova. In a report published in *Novaya Gazeta*, the journalists said they located a dilapidated, unmarked building in the Moldovan capital of Chisinau that was listed as the headquarters of a company that received \$26 million of the stolen money and then transferred it to bank accounts in other countries. The journalists' investigation was coordinated by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a nonprofit group based in Bucharest. The group turned over records of bank transactions to Hermitage, which made copies available to *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

Bloomberg Businessweek,
17 January, 2013

Roman Anin is the winner of the 2013 Knight International Journalism Award.



Mihai Munteanu in 2012

"While governments and citizens of Eastern Europe were struggling with the recent financial crisis, billions of euros circulated in an illegal, parallel system that enriched organized crime figures and corrupt politicians. The system is built on hundreds, maybe thousands, of ever-morphing phantom companies. Led by reporter Mihai Munteanu, more than ten reporters and editors of OCCRP worked many months to identify some of the companies involved in this laundering scheme. To their astonishment they found that many of these companies were fronts for The Sinaloa drug cartel in Mexico, Vietnamese, Russian and Moldovan organized crime groups, corrupt Ukrainian politicians, Russian officials involved in the Magnitsky affair and others."

European Press Prize press release,
21 January, 2013



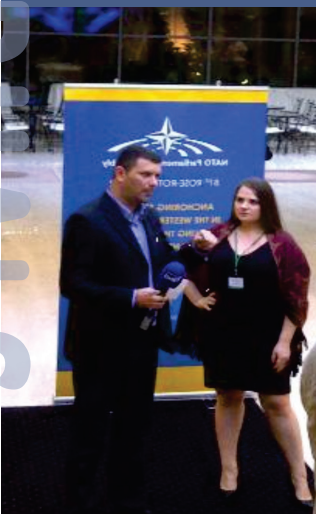
Miranda Patrucic in 2012

“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”

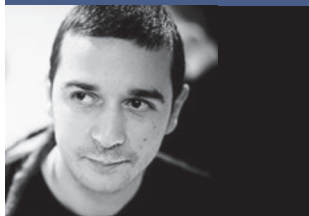
31-year-old Miranda Patrucic sits in Sarajevo helping investigative reporters worldwide via computer. Like Lisbeth Salander, she has become an expert at identifying businesses and people...

SCOOP,
26 September, 2012

Miranda was highlighted by SCOOP Magazine (Sweden) on 26 September in a print and online piece that underlined her achievements in investigative journalism. The story received top play, and within a week she was announced as the headliner at the Swedish Investigative Conference and invited to speak at the Norwegian Investigative Conference. She has since gone on to work with numerous Scandinavian reporters who have contacted her for help.



Miranda, speaking at the
NATO Parliamentary Assembly
in Montenegro



Stevan Dojcinovic in 2012

Against the Mafia

Serbia's law on the confiscation of property deriving from crime, outlined in collaboration with the Italian anti-mafia Department and in force for about a year, has started to produce some results. But what does the term "organized crime" mean in Serbia? Here's what the experts say:

"The most important thing in mafia investigations is to follow the money and the property," Dojčinović emphasizes. "In the same way, the prosecutor must prove that, in the income statements of the accused, there are no records of revenue sufficient for the procurement of the goods in question."

Osservatorio Balcano e Caucaso,
12 September, 2012

In March 2013 Stevan received Serbia's top journalism prize: the Jurg Grizelj award.

AWARDS IN 2012



Khadija (centre) receives the IWMF award.

"**Khadija Ismayilova**, 35, is a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Azerbaijani service. She investigates corruption and power abuse among her country's elite. In May of 2012, Ismayilova became the target of a massive smear campaign threatening to defame her and put her life at risk unless she stopped reporting. This included an anonymous letter with photos from surveillance cameras planted in Ismayilova's apartment, depicting her in an intimate situation with her boyfriend. It was made clear that she would stop her reporting, or risk having the photos made public. In the largely Muslim country of Azerbaijan, "honor killings" still occur. This is not the first time Ismayilova has been the subject of attempts to silence her. She is the victim of regular slander campaigns in pro-government media. The Azerbaijani president has personally tried to have her fired. During the many attempts to discredit her, Ismayilova has refused to stop working and has publicly denounced her accusers..."

The International Women's Media Foundation, which selected Khadija as one of the three winners of this year's Courage in Journalism Award.

OCCRP Journalists Win Serbia's Best Investigative Story of the Year

A series by OCCRP reporters from Serbia and Bosnia has been named best investigative story of the year. This is the second year in a row the reporters have won the distinction, given by Serbia's Organization of Independent Journalists in conjunction with the US Embassy to Serbia.

The Center for Investigative Reporting in Serbia (CINS) and Bosnia's Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN) won the award for a five part series on convicted money launderer Zoran Copic, who holds both Serbian and Bosnian citizenship.

Stevan Dojcinovic and Bojana Jovanovic of CINS and Mahir Sahinovic of CIN reported on Copic's role as a money launderer for Montenegrin narco boss Darko Saric by taking advantage of the privatizations of at least 15 companies between 2005 and 2008.

AWARDS IN 2012



AWARDS IN 2012

Nana Biganishvili of Studio Monitor received the GIPA-Friedman Prize for an investigative report revealing Tbilisi City Hall's non-transparent spending and money laundering. Salome Tsetskhladze of Studio Monitor won the European Union Prize for Journalism in Georgia for her investigation regarding homeless children and insufficient state programs.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a light blue cardigan over a dark shirt, is sitting at a desk and typing on a laptop. The desk is cluttered with papers, a blue folder, and a blue desk lamp. In the background, there are shelves filled with binders and files. The image is framed by a black and white diagonal striped border at the top and bottom.

Nanka Naskidashvili,
Studio Monitor,
Georgia.

AUDIT REPORT

JOURNALISM DEVELOPMENT NETWORK, INC. FINANCIAL AND FEDERAL AWARD COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

OCCRP is a trade name of the Journalism Development Network, Inc.,
a Maryland 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.

OCCRP is a trade name of the Journalism Development Network, Inc., a Maryland 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

	2012	2011
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 156,946	\$ 110,399
Accounts receivable	16,708	5,000
Grants receivable (Notes 2 and 6)	330,163	197,553
Prepaid expenses	6,450	1,966
Total current assets	510,267	314,918

FIXED ASSETS

Furniture	841	-
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(14)	-
Net fixed assets	827	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 511,094	\$ 314,918



LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2012	2011
Accounts payable and accrued expenses (Note 5)	\$ 64,194	\$ 61,807
Refundable advance (Note 6)	76,901	-
Total liabilities	141,095	61,807

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	(155)	3,380
Temporarily restricted (Note 3)	370,154	249,731
Total net assets	369,999	253,111
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 511,094	\$ 314,918



COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE			
Grants and contributions	\$ 765,542	\$ 337,724	\$ 1,103,266
Consulting and other revenue	13,237	-	13,237
Net assets released from donor restrictions (Note 3)	217,301	(217,301)	-
Total revenue	996,080	120,423	1,116,503
EXPENSES			
Program Services	925,463	-	925,463
Management and General	74,152	-	74,152
Total expenses	999,615	-	999,615
Change in net assets	(3,535)	120,423	116,888
Net assets at beginning of year	3,380	249,731	253,111
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ (155)	\$ 370,154	\$ 369,999

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012		
	Program Services	Management and General	Total Expenses
Personnel costs	\$ 562,887	\$ 12,543	\$ 575,430
Contract services	82,410	36,653	119,063
Facilities and equipment	48,788	3,778	52,566
Travel and meetings	146,646	12,694	159,340
Operations	51,820	2,577	54,397
Insurance expense	32,912	5,907	38,819
Program expenses and subgrants	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 925,463	\$ 74,152	\$ 999,615

2011

Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
\$ 403,780	\$ 175,057	\$ 578,837
7,041	-	7,041
195,995	(195,995)	-
606,816	(20,938)	585,878
567,056	-	567,056
37,199	-	37,199
604,255	-	604,255
2,561	(20,938)	(18,377)
819	270,669	126,800
\$ 3,380	\$ 249,731	\$ 253,111

2011

Program Services	Management and General	Total Expenses
\$ 305,767	\$ 575.00	\$ 306,342
36,516	28,214	64,730
15,791	-	15,791
138,844	4,327	143,171
36,899	1,183	38,082
32,840	2,900	35,740
399	-	399
\$ 567,056	\$ 37,199	\$ 604,255

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012	2011
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Changes in net assets	\$ 116,888	\$ (18,377)
Adjustments to reconcile changes in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	14	-
(Increase) decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	(11,708)	(5,000)
Grants receivable	(132,610)	21,049
Prepaid expenses	(4,484)	(1,966)
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,387	19,556
Refundable advance	76,901	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	47,388	15,262
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of fixed assets	(841)	-
Net cash used by investing activities	(841)	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	46,547	15,262
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	110,399	95,137
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 156,946	\$ 110,399

NOTES TO COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Grants receivable as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, are as follows:

	2012	2011
Open Society Institute - Media Ownership	\$ 49,048	\$ 49,048
Open Society Institute - Regional	-	84,426
International Press Institute	19,281	-
Google	250,000	-
Department of State	-	24,033
ICFJ (RIJN Program)	11,834	40,046
TOTAL	\$ 330,163	\$ 197,553



SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

Federal Granting Agency and Program Title	Pass-Through Entity	CFDA or Award Number	2012 Expenditures
USAID-Regional Investigative Journalism Network	International Center for Journalists	98.001	\$ 624,363
Department of State-Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project	N/A	19.705	141,179
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS			\$ 765,542



GOING FORWARD

Tell the Truth and Run

OCCRP will over the next five years build a global network of working partners. We believe that we can be the first place where people come when they need information on organized crime and corruption.

Our vision is within reach. Our databases and resource tools are rapidly increasing in popularity. We keep extending the reach of our cross-border partnerships, developing new young talent in areas which lack access to information. Europe-based, we have special experience in Latin America, North Africa and Central Asia, and we keep throwing our net wider.

At OCCRP we understand that investigative reporting no longer means just a news story. We seek to redefine the investigative experience to include interactive tools, visualizations, multimedia and a matrix of connections to resources around the world, whether people or data.

We are pioneers in distributed, virtual newsrooms that span time-zones, cultures and experiences. We are looking for ways to make our virtual newsroom more effective, with virtual video-based meeting rooms, collaborative desktops, interconnected databases and smarter research tools that will allow people to cooperate and communicate to the greatest extent.

OCCRP believes that information is the most powerful weapon against organized crime and corruption networks. We know information alone will ultimately give the public the upper hand, forcing legitimate businesses and businesspersons - and celebrities - to reject any association with corruption or contact with organized crime.

Our job is to tell the truth and then run. We have to maintain our objectivity. Our activism is in our work. The real activists must be the voters, and we can empower them to change the world.

to be continued...



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