

November 17, 2022

Dear esteemed colleagues,

I am writing to congratulate the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" as it celebrates its 70th anniversary as a seat of higher education in journalism in Bulgaria.

Academic training in journalism in Bulgaria began in the 1952-1953 academic year when the "Journalism" major was first introduced at the Faculty of Philology at Sofia University. The Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication was established in 1974. It offers education and training in the professional field of "Public Communications and Information Sciences", providing both full-time and part-time education. In addition to journalism, The Public Relations major was launched in 1994, followed by the Book Publishing major in 1997, and the Communication Management major in 2018.

The Faculty houses an educational press studio, an educational audiovisual complex of television and radio studios, a cinema-video centre, a photographic laboratory, a specialized library, and computer rooms. This equipment makes it possible to prepare student press and online publications, and to broadcast radio and television programmes.

Today, in addition to the four bachelor's majors, the Faculty offers dozens of master's and doctoral programmes and postgraduate qualifications, training highly qualified specialists who are welcomed in all areas of media and public communication.

Over 70 years more than 10 000 graduates have completed their higher education at FJMK, and many journalists from the press, radio, television, and digital media have continued their professional development gaining qualifications in specialist courses. Hundreds of foreign students from more than fifty countries are graduates of the Faculty.

The Faculty of journalism and mass communication maintains close contact with foreign universities as well as with a number of leading scientific and public organisations in the country and abroad. Exchanges of students, teachers and researchers, of scientific publications and curricula are realised under UNESCO, "Erasmus-Socrates", and other European programmes.

This is a remarkable achievement. The Faculty continues to flourish making a substantial contribution to Bulgarian society and to the field of communication in Europe. I wish you all the best for the next chapter in your illustrious history.



John Downey
ECREA President

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