

CORECOM: The Regional Communications Committees

The Communications Regulatory Authority (AGCOM) is an independent authority, established by Law n. 249 of 31 July 1997. This law, which defines the CORECOM as “functional bodies” of the Authority, itself provides that they may be established by regional law, replacing of the Regional Radio and Television Broadcasting Committees (CORERAT), of which they take over the competencies and functions, and it also provides that the Authority may delegate to them certain of its competencies. The relevant regional laws were passed, after the agreement between the Authority and the standing Conference for relations between the Central and Regional Governments and the Governments of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano. Based on this agreement, in fact, the Authority adopted Decision (No. 52/99) setting forth the guidelines for the Regional Communications Committees, and Decision No. 53/99, approving the regulation defining (by way of example only) the competencies it may hand over to the Committees. Under Decision No. 53/99, and the regional laws establishing the Committees, the granting of powers by the Authority to the CORECOM can take place only by means of the conclusion of agreements with the competent regional authorities. The results of this process constitutes the foundations for the subsequent decentralisation process. The CORECOMS are operating in 20 regions, while in Sardinia the law-making process has not yet been completed.

The Emilia-Romagna’s CORECOM is composed by the President Gianluca Gardini, the Vice-President Giuseppe Bettini and the Commissioner Arianna Alberici.

The functions primarily of Emilia-Romagna’s CORECOM consist of advisory, management, supervisory and control, and the functions relating to the following areas:

- a. resolution of the disputes between telecommunication operators and users;
- b. register of the telecommunications;
- c. protection of children in the local radio and television broadcasting sector;
- d. overseeing of compliance with the criteria set forth in the regulation relating to the publication and circulation of polls in the local mass media;
- e. enforcement of the propaganda regulation;
- f. monitoring local radio and television broadcasting sector;
- g. research and survey activities in the radio and television local broadcasting;
- h. apportionment plans relating to the contributions provided for the local broadcasters.

A staff of twenty persons, composed by a coordinator and experts in the different areas, supports the Committee.

Abstract

“The image of immigrants in the local news of Emilia-Romagna”

The research about the image of immigrants in the local news of Emilia-Romagna was developed as a result of the subscription of the Memorandum of understanding on intercultural communication with these general aims:

- to analyze the representation that local news in Emilia-Romagna give about immigrants and to catch the elements that underline exclusion, sense of belonging and stereotypes;
- to examine journalistic languages and styles in news about immigration;
- to identify violations of the ethical codes;
- to promote the access of ethnic minorities to the media system.

Specific objectives came from these general aims. Monitoring the local news, the research intends to promote reflection and exchange of views between signatories of Memorandum (Journalists' Association of Emilia-Romagna, University of Bologna, Press Association of Emilia-Romagna, representatives of the local and multicultural media, et cetera). Moreover it aims to promote collaboration between the bodies involved to define methodological criteria of more structured researches.

The analysis was conducted on the day and the evening editions of the news which were broadcast during the first week of August and the first week of September 2009. The sample included 18 television stations (the 50% + 1 of all the local TV stations), fifteen of which were part of both the analysis periods: Telereggio, E' TV Rete 7, E' TV Antenna 1, E' TV Romagna, TRC Telemodena, Tele 1, Teleromagna, Teleducato Parma, Telesanterno, 7 Gold, Nuova Rete San Marino Tv, Telecentro, Canale 11, Videoregione, Telestudio Modena. Subsequently another random extraction was made because of technical problems, due to a weak signal reception. Therefore, the sample of the August week includes TV Parma, Rai Tre, E' TV Parma, whereas the sample of the September week includes TV Parma, Telelibertà and E' TV Teletricolore.

CORECOM's staff processed and analyzed the data, which were collected through a specific form, with the support of a graduate in Public, Political and Social Communications.

In order to summarize, the most important results were:

- the immigrants, subjects of the news, almost never spoke (5%);
- the chronicle prevailed in the first and in the second week;

- Who did speak? Always the journalists and almost never the immigrants;
- the news mainly were not so detailed; the same result was obtained in the second week (81% of the news with this characteristic);
- the tone used to describe immigrants in the news was almost always neutral (80% in the first week, 100% in the second week);
- the subject of a news was almost always presented with his nationality (65% in the first week, 60% in the second week), then with the term “foreigner” (14% in the first and 13% in the second week);
- the frequent use of stereotypes represented the immigrants;
- the information not much described the multicultural reality.

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