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Twenty Years of Free Media and the Public Sphere in Central Europe during the ICA Conference in Chicago

Polish Communication Association organized a sponsored session during the 59th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (Chicago, May 21–25, 2009).

In the panel entitled "Twenty Years of Free Media and the Public Sphere in Central Europe" participants from the Czech Republic (Jaromir Volek), Lithuania (Auksė Balčytienė), Poland (Michał Głowacki) and Slovakia (Andrej Školkay) discussed their research findings regarding the public sphere and mass media. First, we wanted to compare the role of mass media by looking for similarities and differences among political and media systems in this part of Europe. By doing so we also tried to reconstruct changes in the relationship between "market" and "public sphere" in the last twenty years.

We would like to thank Professor Paolo Mancini from the University of Perugia, who served us as a respondent during that session.

We are looking forward to the next ICA Conference which is going to be organized in Singapore in 2010.

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