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□ **Duration:** April 2012 – January 2014

□ **Location:** Cyprus

□ **Aims of the Programme:**

The aims of this research project are to: a) study ways and practices by which violence and conflicts are reflected in the informational content of the Cypriot television; and b) familiarise journalists and members of civil society with an open approach towards dealing with these issues. The ultimate goal is to foster and adopt new skills and for news coverage of issues of violence and conflict.

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▣ **Background:**

Cypriot society is undergoing a period of intense change – challenges to traditional values, changes in the family model, transformation of economic structures, increased migration and redistribution of demographic balances etc. In the midst of change is the rise of (a new form of) violence. According to information from the police and judicial authorities, crime, trafficking and exploitation of people and especially women (trafficking), sports and racist

violence occur with greater frequency than in the past. The media are the main vehicles of representation and mediation of key problems in Cypriot society incorporating these themes on a daily basis.

Within the mainstream media landscape, television is the most popular medium for Cypriots choose, and it predominates in the dissemination of information, entertainment, political and social orientation of Cypriot society. At the same time television is the medium that is routinely criticised for the treatment of news as a spectacle, for selective coverage of complex problems in modern societies. Television is considered that by systematically promoting issues of crime and violence that reinforces fear and the sense of threat of

citizens, contributing to a growing social intolerance towards heterogeneous components of modern societies.

The umbilical cord that joins journalism with 'official' sources, the joint co-formulation of frameworks of interpretation, but also the absence of citizens in the mediated public debate on the problems societies face highlight the need for a review of journalistic practices and the (re)connection of professional and citizen journalism.

**Programme Activities:**

- Content analysis of television coverage of domestic events of conflict and violence (crime, trafficking and exploitation, sport violence, racial violence, etc.)

- Laboratory participatory journalism for public service journalists and "amateur" journalists and active members of civil society (bloggers, active Internet users, members of social networks, etc.) in collaborative news production to address issues of violence and conflict

- The creation of a platform for public participation in the production of, and

commentary on, the news

## **Partners**

Cyprus University of Technology

Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation

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