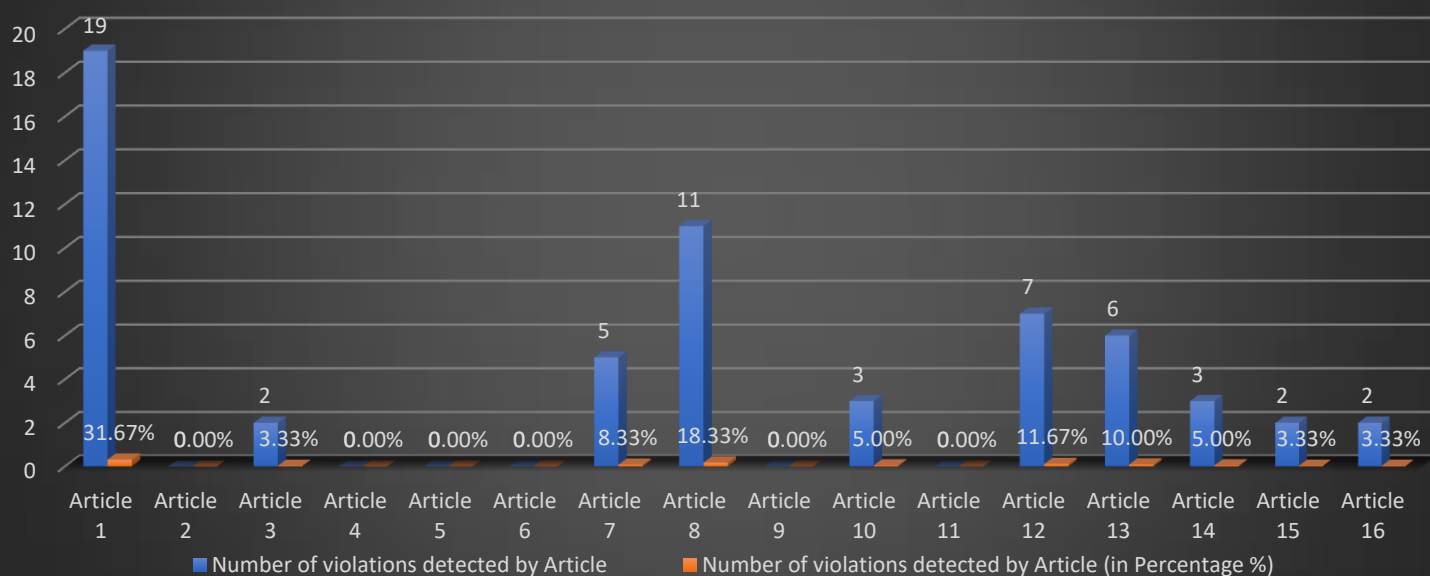


COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PRESS COMPLAINTS TO THE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MEDIA ETHICS OF MACEDONIA FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2021/2022

The Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia during 2022, as well as in the previous year, 2021, has continued to work vigorously in regards to solving complaints addressing published content in the media in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The biggest violations registered this year (2022), as well as in the previous one (2021) in regards to the Code of journalists, are noticed in the internet sphere, or to be precise, in the published content of the online media, while at the same time these kind of violations are not so frequent in the published contents of the traditional media. The other common thing for the period of the first six months of 2021/2022 is that the biggest violations of the Code of journalists are noticed in regards to violations of Article 1 of the Code of journalists, while other violations connected to other articles are few.

Violated Articles from the Code of Journalists (Number of violations detected in decisions and opinions)



Statistical data on cases upon violations of articles from the Code of Journalists for the first six months of 2021, (Chart No. 1).

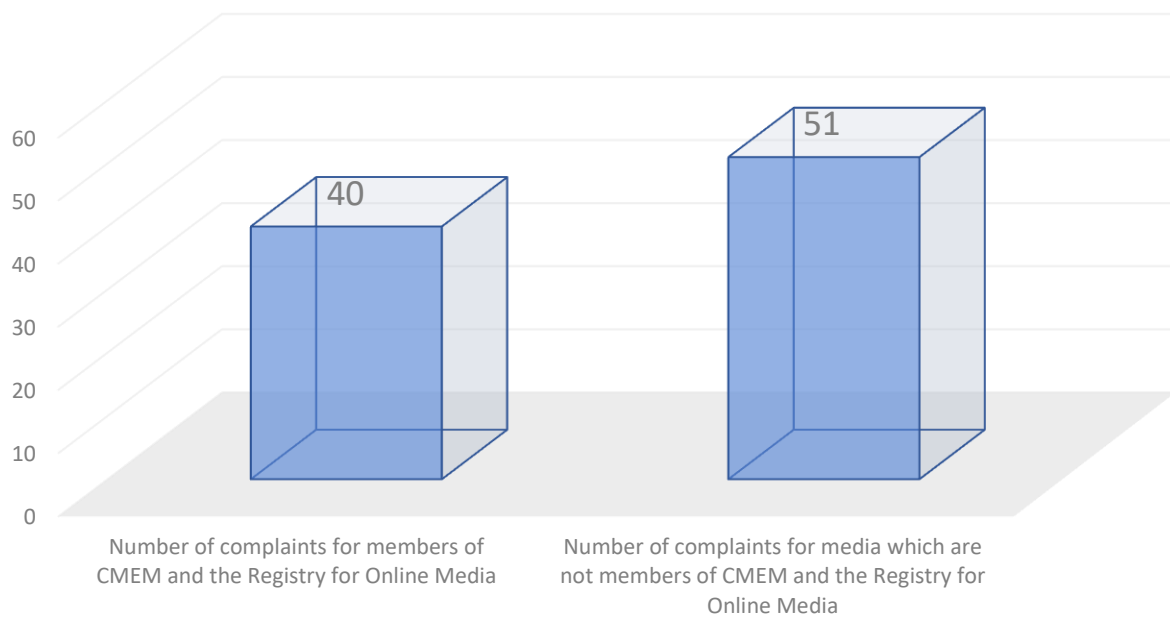
In conclusion from the comparison period of both analyses for the first six months of 2021 compared to the first six months of 2022 is that the profile of the type of the complainants this year has been changed. So, if the last year the profile of the complainants for violation of the Code of journalists were citizens, this year the biggest number of the ones complaining were the public institutions and NGOs.

As for the first six months of 2021, several characteristics can be noticed. All in all, 95 complaints have been received and the total number of decisions brought was 91. Out of these, 83 complaints are referring to violations connected to content published on internet portals, 6 on electronic media (TV), 1 for newspapers, and 1 for content published in a news agency.

From 91 adjudications, 49 cases were defined as decisions on unfounded complaints, and 8 adjudications for complaints have been resolved by mediation. For 34 complaints, adjudications were issued where breaches of the Code of ethics were identified (moral sanction was imposed). The total number of breaches of the Code of journalists were identified on 60 occasions in the noted 34 adjudications, out of which the biggest number-19 were registered connected to breaches of Article 1 of the Code-Incorrect and unchecked information, absence of "second source of information" and absence of at least two mutually unrelated sources, then 11 for breaches of the Article 8 of the Code referring to reporting during accidents, disasters, etc. that should be freed from sensationalism. Then, 7 breaches for the Article 12-plagiarism and the least, or only 2 breaches were registered for breaches of Article 3, Article 15, and 16 (two breaches for each article) referring to correction of the news; inappropriate communication, and impolite manner of communicating with the public and that the journalist should respect and defend the profession and not misuse the media he/she works for.

Exactly 40 complaints filed were related to contents published by members of the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia and the Registry of Online Professional Media, while 51 were referring to contents published by the media that are not members of the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia and the Registry of Online professional media.

Statistical data for the first half of 2021

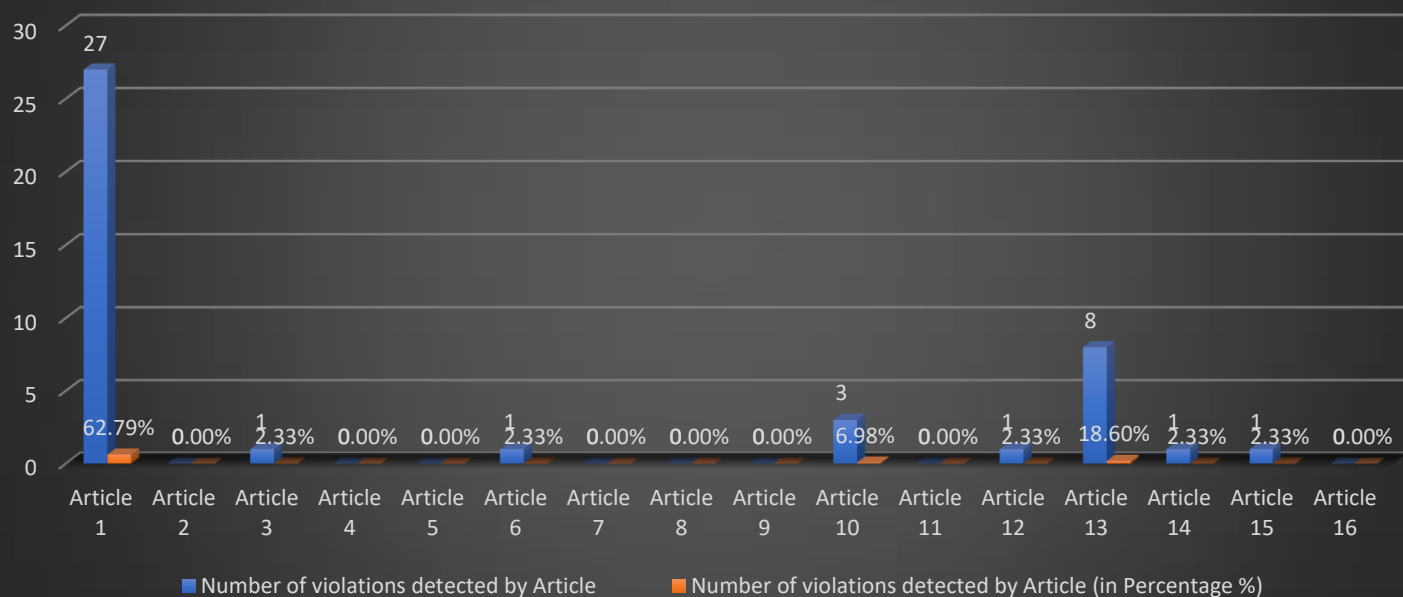


The same as in the first half of 2021, the trends for type of violations continues this year (2022) as well. The most frequent breaches have been identified in the internet sphere (online media). Based on the comparison analyses for the noted period in 2021 and 2022, this year the breaches were identified not only on the grounds of violations of Article 1 from the Journalistic Code, but also violations of other articles from the Journalistic Code as well.

In terms of statistical data, from the beginning of the year 2022 up until the 30th of August 2022, all in all 14 meetings of the Complaints Commission have been held, out of which one public session held in Strumica, whereas wider public had the chance to be included and to be informed about the overall work of the Press Complaints Commission of the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia.

During the first half of 2022, in total 48 complaints have been filed to the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia, out of which 15 refer to media-members of the Registry of Online Professional Media, while the rest 33 refer to the media that are not members of the Registry of Online Professional Media and for which separate opinions are issued. All in all, 12 complaints have been detected as unjustified, or in other words, in these cases breaches of articles of the Code have not been identified.

Violated Articles from the Code of Journalists (Number of violations detected in decisions and opinions)

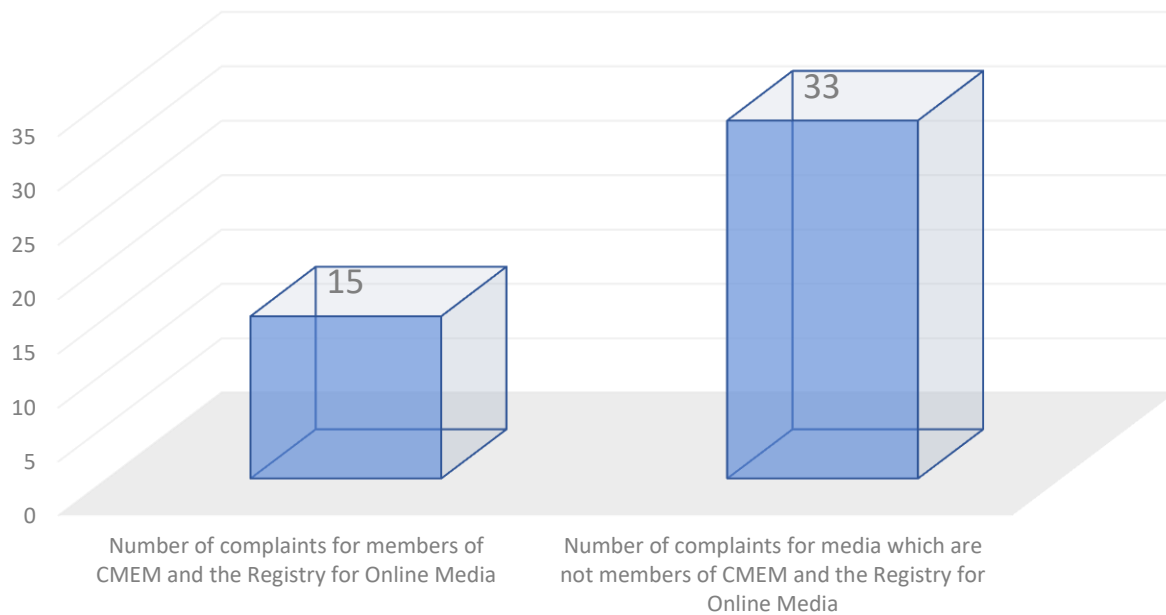


Statistical data on cases upon violations of articles from the Code of Journalists for the first six months of 2022, (Chart No.2).

The Complaints commission has continued to receive complaints this year, as well as in the previous one, based on the contents published in the internet portals. So, the largest number of complaints- 85.42 %, or in total of 41 complaints refer to internet portals (online media), while only 4 complaints, or 8.33% refer to televisions.

During the first half of this year up until 30th August 2022, it is acknowledged that representatives from public and/or state institutions are more present as complainants. So, since the beginning of the year up until now, the largest number of complaints have been submitted from public institutions (14), then organizations and associations from the civil sector (13) and lawyers (7). Citizens have also been seen as complainants but their number is smaller (6), then political parties (4), journalists (2) and employees in public institutions (2) .

Statistical Data for First half of 2022



Most often the complainants (62,79%) believe that the Article 1 of the Code of journalists has been violated, which refers to the fact that journalists should publish verified, correct information's and that the informations should not be hidden. Complaints that come in second place are the ones referring to breaches of the Article 13 of the Code of journalists saying that "the journalist should make a difference between facts and opinions, between the news and the commentary", as well as the breaches towards Article 10 that says "the journalist will not make or re-make deliberately information's which endanger human rights and liberties, will not use hate speech and will not encourage to violence and discrimination based on any grounds (national, religious, sex, social, language, sexual orientation, political..)

The lowest percentage is registered in regards to the Article 3-publishing correction, denial or response when the information is found to be inaccurate, then article 6-incompatibility of journalistic work with bribe and corruption, as well as advertisement connected to journalistic profession. At the same time, breaches have been registered in regards to Article 12-plagiarism, then Article 14-balanced reporting from political processes and elections and the Article 15- inappropriate communication and impolite manner of communicating with the public and that the journalist should respect ethical standards and culture of speech.

On the grounds for hate speech, Article 10, all in all three complaints have been notified.