

Report on visit Sweden

Description

As part of Advanced International Training Programme on “Media Regulation in a Democratic Framework”, one visit to Sweden was organized in March 2023. The Training Programme is organised jointly by NIRAS Sweden AB, FOJO Media Institute, Global Reporting and International Media Support, on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The visit was a part of a yearlong fellowship which is mainly organized digitally through zoom platform. There were 6 participants from Bangladesh country team in this programme, and MRDI is working as the country facilitator for the programme.

Sessions included, ‘Swedish media policy’ by Kerstin Morast, Ministry of Culture; ‘Regulation of Media and Media Subsidy’ by Marie Swanstrom at al, Swedish Press and Broadcast Authority, and ‘Self-regulation in Sweden’ by Casper Opitz, Media Ombudsman. There were study visits to Journalism Schools in Stockholm University, the Expressen news outlet, the Swedish public Broadcasting outlet SvT and Sida Office. ITP team also participated in several sessions conducted by experts including Anette Novak, Helena Thorfinn and Carlolina Jemsby on relevant topics such as Media tech-enemy, Investigative Journalism and Gender equality in Media Regulation.

There were also group works where each country teams prepared presentations on take aways from different sessions.

Key lessons learned

- Self-Regulation for the media is crucial to have a free and independent media.
- A good media policy is to provide the conditions for the free formation of opinion, free exchange of ideas and real opportunities to scrutinize various phenomena of the society.
- Swedish Media enjoys a great deal of freedom and their self-disciplinary system is not based on legislation, however there is two fundamental laws, one is on Freedom of Expression and one is on Press freedom.
- Swedish Government Agencies fully support freedom expression, diversity, mass media independence and accessibility.
- Empowering minors and young people as conscious media user and protecting them from harmful media influences is also very important.
- Gender Equity in media is needed to be established in order to keep up with the world’s changing conversations around gender.
- Regulating the online safety of journalists is an important issue, as journalists often face threats and harassment while reporting on sensitive topics or expressing their opinions.

The program schedule is enclosed.