



Guarantor of the public interest

The National Audiovisual Council of Romania

Free speech, pluralism and mutual respect





Established in 1992, the National Audiovisual Council of Romania is the sole regulatory authority in the Audio-Visual sector. The Council is an autonomous public institution, governed by eleven members, which operates according to the spirit and the letter of European regulations, as a defender of the public interest.

The Council's role is to ensure that Romania's TV and Radio stations can function in an environment of free speech, pluralism, mutual respect and competitiveness.

The Council is also responsible for granting audiovisual licences, adopting Decisions regarding the Audiovisual Law, protection of minors, distribution of frequencies, the right to reply, and the regulation of advertising.

Over the years a good working partnership has been developed with the broadcasters for the purpose of agreeing a body of rules and regulations.

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Introduction



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The President

"The audio-visual industry is an enormous mirror of present day society"

Răsvan Popescu was elected president of the Council in 2007, a decision that was confirmed by the Romanian Parliament. Before joining the Council in 2000, Răsvan Popescu worked as a print and BBC radio journalist, a chief editor of Romanian Television and a spokesman for the former Government and President of Romania. His formal training includes a diploma in journalism from California State University and a degree in geology from Bucharest University. He has published six books and is the author of six feature film scripts.

"The audio-visual industry is an enormous mirror of present day society, neither better nor worse than the reality that it reflects. But the image is always in motion; sometimes it is fascinating and at other times tiring."

Răsvan Popescu



The Vice President

"The Council aims to be a referee"

Attila Gasparik has been a member of the Council since 2000 and its Vice President since 2002. Gasparik taught drama at university, worked as an actor for many years, and has organised the International Short Film Festival (Tîrgu Mures) since 1993. He recently earned a PhD in "The Science of Education" from the "A.I. Cuza" University of Iași. Between 1990 and 2000 he collaborated with Romania's public television station (TVR) and public radio station (SRR).

"The Council aims to be a referee on the arena where the audio-visual players meet with the consumers of mass media"

Attila Gasparik

The Council Members





Ioan Cărmăzan

Author, film director, scriptwriter and member of the Writers' Union, Ioan Cărmăzan has made over 80 feature films, shorts and documentaries. He has published seven books and is a professor of film directing at the Hyperion University and the Media University in Bucharest.



Constantin Duțu

Constantin Duțu studied ballet in Moscow, stage management in Western Europe and has won numerous awards for his performances. Between 1974 and 1990 Duțu was a TV and theatre producer in Italy. In 1996, he became the first Romanian to be awarded the Knight of the Sovereign Military Order "San Giorgio in Carinzia".



Dan Grigore

Dan Grigore is a highly rated pianist and professor who started studying music at the age of six. After graduating in music at Bucharest Conservatoire, he studied in St Petersburg and Vienna and has performed concerts all over the world. He has worked in radio, film and television and has published numerous articles in the Romanian press.



The Council Members



Ioan Onisei

Ioan Onisei trained in law and gained many years experience working in local and central public administration. Between 2000 and 2004 he was a member of the Romanian Parliament where he contributed to the development of laws on the audio-visual sector, cinemas, libraries, local administration and anti-corruption.



Radu Teodorescu

Radu Teodorescu graduated in applied electronics from Iași Polytechnic. After doing specialist training in Houston, Texas, he worked for many years in the oil industry. Teodorescu has been working at the National Audiovisual Council since 1992, first as a technical expert, then as a director of the Licencing Department and since 2003 as a full member of the Council.



Gelu Trandafir

Gelu Trandafir studied journalism in Romania, France and UK and has 10 years experience in the Romanian media. He has worked as a television producer, a news editor for the BBC World Service and as a commentator for some of the leading newspapers in Romania.



Cristina Trepcea

Cristina Trepcea studied political sciences and psychology in Romania, and journalism in the USA and Ireland. She has worked as a radio journalist, a senior editor at Pro TV, a correspondent at the Council of Europe and as an advisor to the former Prime Minister of Romania.



Emanuel Valeriu

Emanuel Valeriu's career in journalism began in 1940 when he edited the "Sports Gazette" newspaper. He subsequently worked in Romania's public television station as a reporter, editor, producer and, between 1990 and 1992, as Director General. Valeriu has published a number of books on sports and politics.



Grigore Zanc

Grigore Zanc was a philosophy professor at Cluj University before becoming Prefect of Cluj County, Minister of Culture and Senator. He has published over 200 articles and essays as well as novels, books and scripts for radio and film. He is a member of the Romanian Writers' Union and of the Romanian Journalists Union.



The Council Members

The spirit of partnership





In order to set up a radio or TV station in Romania, a licence and an authorization must be granted. First the licence is obtained by means of a public auction, or a hearing before the Council, and then the authorization to broadcast can be requested. This process is coordinated by the Licensing and Control directorate.

The directorate also monitors all broadcasters outside Bucharest, identifies problems, tries to find local solutions and acts as a communication channel between local broadcasters and the Council.

According to Cristian Ivanciovici, head of the Control Unit,
"when we encounter a problem we first try and resolve it in the spirit of partnership, and we only appeal to the Council as a last resort. Fortunately most Romanian broadcasters understand this approach. We don't want to be perceived as a policeman waiting to apply a fine and it is clear that the best solutions come through consensus and self-regulation."

Licensing



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Monitoring is an instrument





30 TV stations and 10 radio stations are continually monitored by the Monitoring Directorate. The monitors identify infringements of the "Television Without Frontiers" Directive provisions, namely the protection of minors, human dignity, pluralism of opinion, accuracy of information and misleading advertising.

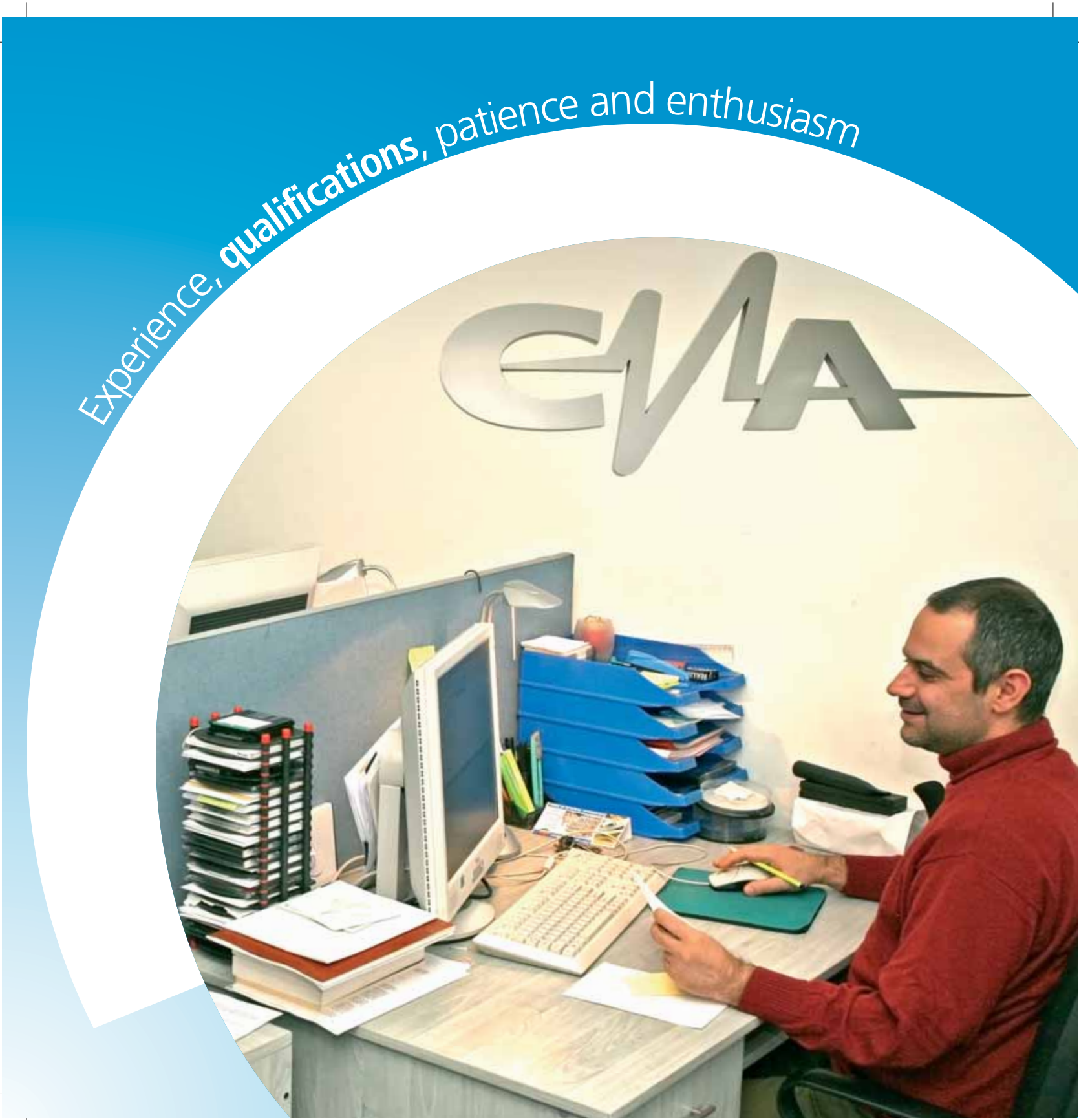
Infringements are identified by those members of the public who submit written statements, and also by the monitors and the Council members themselves. Every infringement is investigated, documented and given to the Council for a decision.

The department also commissions sociological and media studies in order to provide the Council with scientific opinions on public viewing habits and the influence of the media.

According to Monica Botnaru, head of the department,
"Monitoring is an instrument by which we can measure to what extent the audiovisual rules and regulations have been applied."

Monitoring







The biggest department within the institution is the Secretariat General. The Secretariat General consists of four units - I.T., Human Resources, Secretariat and Building Maintenance - and is responsible for administrative stability, technical support and internal communication.

The I.T. Unit provides one of the essential tools with which the Council is able to simultaneously monitor the main TV and radio stations in Romania.

According to Sotir Panaite Caragă, director of the Secretariat General, *"Our four I.T. experts have the experience, qualifications, patience and enthusiasm required to maintain and develop the Council's I.T. system. It is a complex system which has been functioning since April 2004. This is part of the management and logistical services that our directorate provides to the Council."*

I.T.
I.T.



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All decisions by the Council become a **communication** activity





The Communication and European Affairs Department provides the following services:

- **Media relations:** two press conferences are organised every week and a press review is compiled daily;
- **Public information:** the public library provides reference material and also deals with visits and complaints;
- **European Affairs:** informing the Council of all new legislative developments at the EU level with regards to the audio-visual sector; management of EU-financed projects (two Phare projects since 2001).

Gabriela Stoica, director of the Communication and European Affairs Department, describes the department's role as follows:

„We are the guarantor of the public interest in the audiovisual sector, a responsibility which assumes good communication with the public, with the broadcast licence holders, with journalists, with civil society, with public institutions in Romania and counterpart bodies in other countries. In addition, all decisions by the Council become a communication activity.”

Communication



Diversity is the main characteristic of our work





When the Council identifies an infringement that was committed by one of Romania's broadcasters they can decide to apply a penalty. This decision is then drafted by the Legal Unit and sent to the offending broadcaster. Many of these penalties are disputed in court, in which case the Legal Unit must act on behalf of the Council.

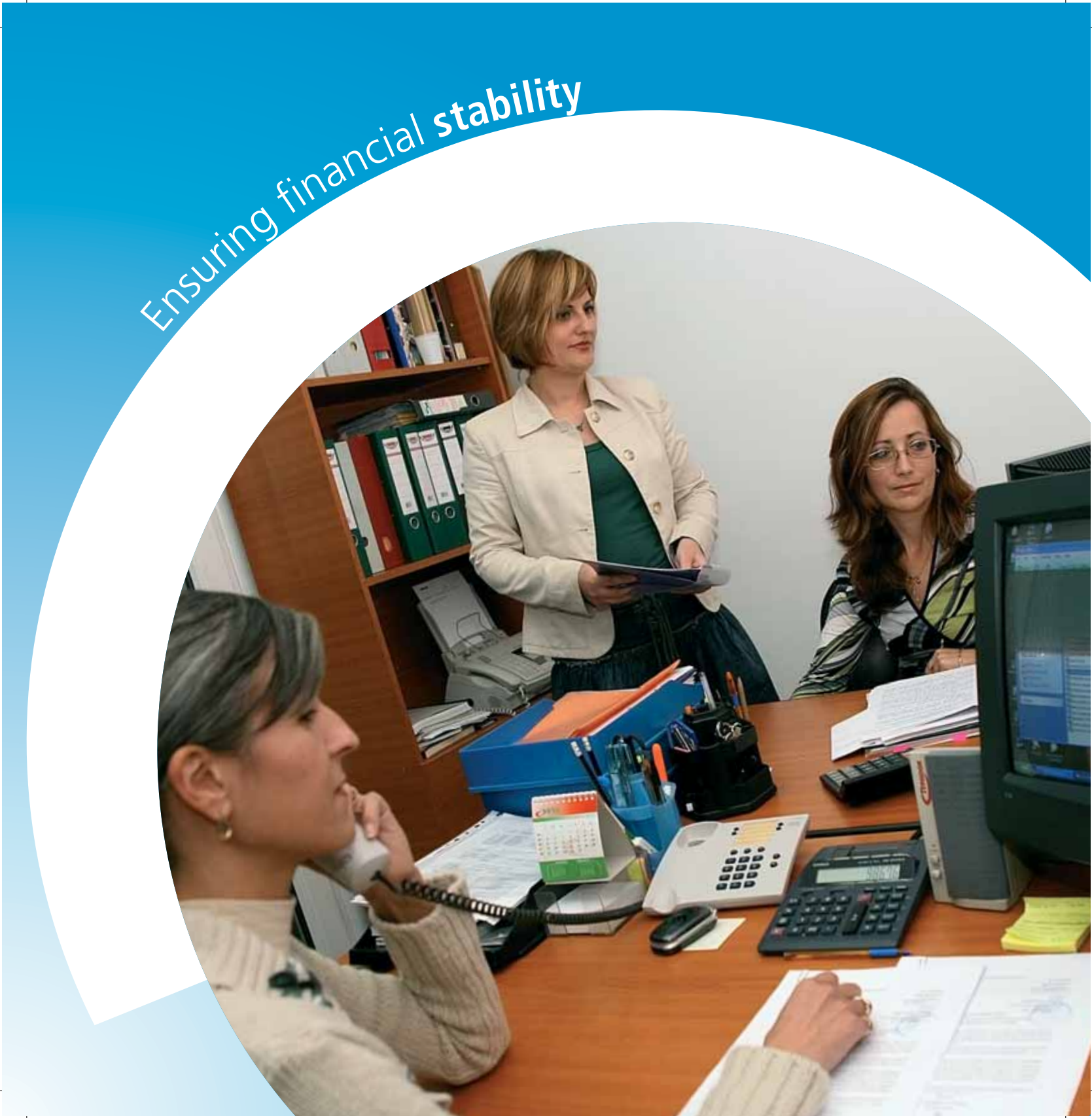
The Regulations Unit has the responsibility of advising the Council regarding legislative developments in the audio visual sector, in Romania as well as in the European Union. They also propose amendments to existing laws and new regulations when required.

"Diversity is the main characteristic of our work", said Șerban Pretor, director of the unit, "it is certainly not routine. Each legal case that we deal with is different, each one is unique, and a certain amount of creativity is needed in order to find the right solution."

Law



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The Economic Directorate is made up of two distinct services: Procurement and Accounting. The directorate's responsibilities include financial planning for the Council, the payment of salaries, supervising purchases for the regional offices as well as for the head office in Bucharest.

The directorate has a profound understanding of legislation regarding financial management - in particular with regard to purchasing - and it must monitor and assimilate any new laws in this regard.

Florența Dorobanțu, the director, describes her responsibilities as follows:

"Our directorate ensures that the institution, and its various projects, have sufficient funding to operate effectively. When the financial side of an organization is running properly our function is taken for granted."

"With a team of only 13 experts we are able to ensure the financial stability that is required for the institution to operate smoothly."

Economic



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ILFOV
PRAHOVA
CĂLĂRAȘI
TELEORMAN
IALOMIȚA
GIURGIU

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List of regional inspectors

The Council in session



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