

**Abstract**

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## **Mission Impossible: Independent and Professional Journalism on Religion in Hungary**

Professional and independent religion journalism does not really exist but is very needed in Central-Eastern Europe. Especially in Hungary and Poland, where the forty years of communism wiped out public religious life, thus completely silenced it in the public discourse. Since 2010 in Hungary a new kind of pressure has appeared on religious journalism, as the political communication uses religions to gain political strength and to intensify the divisive communication of „us vs. them“. In that political space terms like „Christianity“, „Christian values“, „Christian Europe“ come to one side, and „Islam“, „Muslims“, „migrants“, „terrorist“ to the other. In my approach this division is more representative of the current political agenda, less of religion.

There were several attempts to run independent and professional religious (mostly Christian) websites in Hungary in the last decade, but many of them failed on the grounds of financial or political causes. It would be essential to discuss what journalism meant when it said something about religion and politics - regarding cultural, economic or even theological points of view - instead of religion as politics only.

In 2015 the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary launched a blog-platform named *Kötőszó* (means: connective word, conjunctive) which became high-frequented rapidly. As founder and former chief editor of this blog I would gladly share my experiences and challenges of the subject above.