

Abstract

**Tina Bettels-
Schwabbauer**

Annamária Torbó

**Journalism education in Germany,
Hungary, Portugal, and Romania : A
call for change**

Around the globe, journalism has changed radically through digitization (e.g. Jones & Salter 2012, Russ-Mohl 2016, Tong & Lo 2017). These developments have prompted journalists to gain new knowledge and skills. However, as our interviews with journalism educators and journalists in Germany, Hungary, Portugal, and Romania show, academic journalism education often has difficulties following the media leaders or contributing to innovations in journalism. Even though many programs teach the basics in online journalism, they do not fully embrace the needs of a multimedia working environment like innovative technologies. Our cross-national research indicates that topics such as data journalism, collaborative journalism, and knowledge about business models are urgently needed to further develop journalism but are often still underdeveloped in the curricula of many journalism and media programs. Especially in the CEE countries Hungary and Romania these issues are added on top of others, more persistent ones, relating to political and economic pressures on media threatening media ethics and a healthy

work environment for journalists. The Hungarian academic journalism education landscape demonstrates another pitfall. Currently, journalism education is integrated into communication programs and is therefore very theory-oriented. Our research shows that there is a real need for acknowledging journalism as an independent academic discipline in Hungary (see also Weyer 2014). Only then, would it be possible to provide future journalists with the skills they need to work professionally.