

News Media Development and Sustainability in Africa

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Aim of this special issue is to shed light on (1) how media firms are developing in different parts of Africa, and the main constraints as well as enablers in this process, and (2) what factors might help bridge financial and human capital gaps and strengthen long-term impact of international support on media sustainability.

Free and independent information media are fundamental for both the economic and democratic development of societies. In certain African countries, where conflicts are in place, media development is mainly being supported by international donors and non-profit organizations: they provide initial investments to help stabilize countries and support their transition toward democracy or out of war. After a certain level of success is perceived, donors and organizations either lower their support or withdraw completely. The long run sustainability of media is therefore the biggest problem for developing democracies to solve. When looking at the five objectives that, according to the media sustainability index conducted by IREX, are deemed to enable a media system to be independent and sustainable, the one measuring if “media are well managed, allowing editorial independence” scores the lowest for various African countries. This calls for a new approach to African journalism and media management not only in terms of financial support but also of dedicated staff development and academic programs.

We are particularly interested in African media development (including all platforms: print, broadcast and digital media). However, submissions looking at media sustainability enhancing factors in other developing countries are welcome as they might enlarge perspectives and allow comparative analysis. Relevant research topics, upon which empirically based papers are invited, include:

- News media business best practices in African or other developing countries
- Sustainability oriented news media business models in developing countries
- Traditional and new revenue generation models for journalism
- Community media development and impact on media diversity, and sustainability
- Impact of foreign direct investments on African news media development and sustainability
- Relations between NGOs engagement and private investors and impact on African news media sustainability
- Joint ventures and strategic alliances for African news media development
- Impact of international news media organizations on the news media landscape in developing countries
- The future of state funded media in Africa
- Managerial and organizational challenges related to media sustainability in African countries
- Media ownership issues in Africa
- Relation between media regulation and media sustainability in Africa
- Impact of new technologies on news media innovation and sustainability in developing countries

The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2016. Please mark your submission as “Special issue on news media development in Africa”.

Questions regarding the special issue can be directed to cinzia.dalzotto@unine.ch

Full details about the journal and the prescribed format for manuscript submissions can be found at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/romb>