

# INTERVIEWS WITH FAMOUS PEOPLE



HANDS ON MEDIA LITERACY

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# I. Bulgaria

## Interview with a journalist - Petar Georgiev (News Reporter at Bulgarian National Television)

*Diana Terziyska, Iva Alexieva*

### 1. Did someone guided you to this profession or you chose it by yourself?

- No. I chose it myself. Actually there's not a single person from my family that has anything to do with journalism. So yeah, I did it myself, because it's interesting. I think I chose it when I was seventeen years old and afterwards I decided to build myself as a professional.

### 2. Did you have any mentor that guided you to journalism?

- No, I wouldn't say that. I've had a lot of mentors during my school and university years for certain periods of time, but there isn't a specific person.

### 3. How did you decide to take this profession?

- I don't know (laughs). It's interesting. I've always been a person who likes to work with information and explain things for other people, and I also like to break the news to my friends, family and the people around me.

### 4. What are your goals?





- My goal is to become the best version of myself as a journalist. I just want to feel good about the work that I'm doing, and right now I am, but I also know that I can be better.

**5. Do you use a special way of talking to make the person in front of you feel more open up and be honest with you?**

- I think every person is different. So when you get to know people you just have to convince them to talk. And you obviously have to be nice, but not too nice, and explain to them why their point of view, opinion and experience are important. I think this is a skill that you develop with time.

**6. Can you describe yourself in three words?**

- (laughs) An aspiring reporter!

Video link:

Interview with journalist Petar georgiev:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irYX-BJgYVE>

**Maxim Behar** .

7 March · Sofia ·

Today had an honor and pleasure to be kind of a school teacher meeting the 10th grade students from 127 High school downtown Sofia.

Many thanks for the warm welcome my dear new friends, hope you had good time with my modest visions on success, politics, hard working, Trump, social media and modern Public Relations... And also thanks to your teachers who managed successfully to reshuffle my program and to invite me to this beautiful school having 178 years of history!

See you soon again at M3 Communications Group, Inc. offices ☐

### **Valentina Miladinova - student**

‘I am proud to have participated in the meeting with Mr. Maxim Behar. It was very insightful. I learned the importance of social media and persistence. I am grateful for having the opportunity to take part in this event and am looking forward to meeting more smart and successful people.’



## II. Czech Republic

### Lecture with Ms editor in chief Anna Novotná

On Wednesday 25th January 2017 an editor in chief of our local newspaper “Otrokovické noviny” Anna Novotná came to our school . Mrs Anna prepared a



lecture for us, for students in the second class of Applied chemistry. Students learned how editor’s work in redaction looked like.

Their next finding was how editors in their work prepare messages, articles, and reports and also how they guarantee comments and interviews. Every editor should be a creative person and he or she should have excellent writing skills. Usually someone who studied journalism can work as an editor or editor in chief.



Editors can be divided into some groups (editor in chief, responsible editor,

sports editor, publishing editor...). She also told students that editor in chief was responsible for the whole teamwork in redaction. An editor in chief manages the entire team and approves all articles for publication. In the end the students were informed about a corrector who is a person, who is responsible for correction of grammatical and spelling mistakes in the articles.

Some of our students had very interesting questions about possibilities how to become an editor. According to Anna it is not very complicated, so some of us might try to achieve the position of new editors.

To know something about running types of media is very important for us nowadays, especially to know interesting facts about background of media.



### III. Latvia

#### Interview with famous media personality in Latvia- Andrejs Ekis.

"Thank you for finding time for the interview, Mr.Ēķis. The first question is: Do you recall your dreams about adult life when you were a child?"

Ēķis: Yes, I'm always dreaming about filmmaking. By accident, I've been working for TV all my life...but I still dream about filmmaking.

"Where did you study? What kind of university?"

Ēķis: I was studying in Russia, in St.Petersburg. I was studying filmmaking.

"Do you find that your career is somehow linked to journalism in Latvia?"

Ēķis: "No, I never dreamt to be a journalist, but I like working for TV. An old pal once told me, "the key to making great TV is empathy". If you are a journalist with empathy, you can reach high levels.



"How would you describe your relationship with social media?"

Ēķis: It's a tool, and you must use it. That's it.

"Do you think social media attracts major advertisements?"

Ēķis: No, not yet. We still can't precisely count how many people see the ads. I still trust the usual methods like Bloomberg. But in the future I'm sure everything will be on social media. 10 years ago people were putting films in a DVD format. Now it's a bit different. Overall, even though TV will still be relevant, every big player will use social media for ads"

"What is your opinion of journalists that are active on social media?"

Ēķis: Well, they must be active since it's a tool. They need to attract the readers so the information they write can reach more people. "What is your opinion on fake news that are now overflowing the Internet?"

Ēķis: Well, almost every single yellow newspaper (dzeltenā prese, nezinu, kā iztulkot) usually uses a little bit of fake news as an advertisement. Bad advertisement is still an advertisement. Usually it's the bad news that attract people's attention. The readers need to know how to distinguish fake news and real news. Choosing the best sources is also important.

"What is your opinion on self made influencers like bloggers?"



Ēķis: It's the reality. Some bloggers can have more influence than 3 or 4 newspapers combined. Everything is changing. If I was 17 now, I would also start my own blog.



## IV. Poland

On February 14, our school was visited by Mr. Maciej Kras - a journalist and a traveler from the *Trzask group*. Over 60 students participated in the meeting.



Mr. Maciej Kras spoke about taking responsibility for our life and various ways of spending free time.



His way of interesting and original learning about the reality in which we live is visiting the most distant corners of our planet.

Youth could listen to a very interesting relationship with the travel, which was colored with many beautiful photographs and very interesting props. The journalist also paid attention to necessity to keep integrity and journalistic responsibility at work.



the

Our students were delighted with the variety of materials shown by Mr. Kras and his lecture.



## V. Romania

The interview was done by two students from Nicolae Iorga Highschool Pascani who are involved in Hands on Media Literacy project. They were asking the headmaster of our school some questions about the school in the past, when he was young. They were interested to find out as many things as possible about how the school was when they weren't born yet. They wanted to know what students and parents thought about school then, what materials they had and what were they doing in their free times. They had also asked many questions about what teachers were like in the past.



Good afternoon!

-Mr. Headmaster, may we have few minutes of your precious time?

-Of course, I am at your disposal.

-From our grandparents and parents' stories and also from Ion Creangă's writings (a Romanian writer) we have learnt that, in the past, the priest and the teacher were the only ones who were schooled in the countryside. Was this the case in your native village too?

-Dear children, I believe that this is a misunderstanding. They weren't the only ones who were schooled. They were the bright minds, the only scholars in the village. As an example, I am from Hărmanești Vechi. There is a school founded in 1858. 1858. Can you imagine? That's before the 1864 Educational Reform. It is one of the first Moldavian rural schools (because then Moldavia and Wallachia weren't a union yet). At that moment, there was a law which forced parents to let their children go to school. There were problems, especially regarding girls, because of the old mentality. People thought that girls should stay home and become housewives and boys should go to school.

But...

Have you learned about Mihail Kogălniceanu?

-Yes!

-He adopts a law which said that girls must go to school during boys holidays. This wasn't a holiday as you know it today. It was a break which allowed them to take part in agricultural work. They were trained for agriculture.

So, the school was compulsory even before 1864 Educational Reform.

I want to tell you that my grandmothers (if they had been alive, they would have been 115 years old and 120 years old, respectively) graduated the 7th grade and they were helping me doing my homeworks when I was in primary school. So, they were from the countryside but they were well prepared.

My parents' generation graduated only the 4th grade because of the war.

So, the priest and the teacher weren't the only ones with studies. (Even in Creangă's childhood there was Vasile who was teaching children in the church.) They were the advisers of the villages and they were collaborating very well. The teacher was a highly respected man and he behaved well in order to be appreciated.

I will give you an example: In 1883, 19th century, a teacher from Lespezi opened a bar in the village. The schools inspectorate from Suceava found out about this case and the teacher was fired because he had to teach people, not to get them drunk.

After children graduated the 4th grade, the teacher was checking if they became good farmers. He had that right. For example, he was teaching children how to graft the trees. At the end of the 4th grade five trees were given to each student. Children had to plant the trees in their own garden and then the teacher was coming to see if the trees were bearing fruits. You can imagine now how important the teacher was.

The teacher and the priest were also collaborating in organising those beautiful choirs which were singing for the community on holidays like Christmas or Easter.

The teacher could also establish banks in a village. For example, in Hărmanești, in 1870, the teacher set up an Agricultural Bank and students were taught how to deposit money and how to make transactions.

-Even if today we can learn in modern schools, equipped with everything we need, in the past there wasn't such opportunity. Could you give us some of information about your student life?

-What do you believe I am thinking about when you ask me about my student life? Of course, my first day of school. I was very nervous. I was thinking that I would be an officer. That was what I wanted to be. My mother wanted me to be a priest. My father wanted me to be a doctor. What have I become? A teacher.

But, one thing which I will always remember was my vinyl schoolbag. I was carrying it on my back through the courtyard even before I went to school. I was proud that I would be a student. At that time few children had vinyl schoolbags. The majority of them were made by cardboard. The cardboard was moistening when it was raining and the schoolbag would eventually break letting the notebooks fall over.

In my schoolbag I had my notebooks, my books and my "plumbuiera". Do you know what is that?

-I don't know.

It is a pencil case made out of wood. In my pencil case were the fountain pen nib, some pencil and a little abacus. I had also got an ink bottle in my schoolbag. We were not allowed to write with the pen or the fountain pen. We had to write with the nib. Our teacher thought us to write in a calligraphic way. We were not

allowed to use the fountain pen before the 4th grade. I remember that one day I brought a fountain pen, bought by my father, to school and I left my nib at home. I was very proud. All the children were amazed. The teacher told me that I shouldn't bring it to school. When the next class came I couldn't open my fountain pen for refill because one of my classmates threaded it too hard. My teacher was angry with me and the next day I took again the nib.

-What do you think about parent's attitude towards school in that period?

-In the village where I was born parents had a great respect towards school and also toward teachers. We weren't allowed to skip classes, even if we had to help them in agriculture. That didn't apply to me at all. I was begging my parents to let me work in agriculture, but they wanted me to go to school. Anyway, the children went to work on agriculture, but the respect for school was great and there were no absences. When I was writing a monograph about schools in Hărmanești I found that in 1890 a lot of people were fined for not sending their children to school.

-Were the students involved and joyful when they came to school?

-They did. They knew they had to finish a school, a highschool, a university or a professional school in order to get a job.

-What were your favourite school subjects?

-When I was a student, each subject was important. Of course, I was attracted more by History, but each subject was important. In the 5th grade, for example, everyone believed that I would be a French teacher because it was something new for me to speak in a foreign language and I was studying a lot. But, in time, my interest in French language decreased. Then, I was interested in Maths and others, but my favourite remained History, I liked it very much.

-Did you have any model in your youth?

-Yes, I did. My uncle who was a colonel in the Army and I wanted to be a colonel in aviation. I didn't succeed.

-What is your wish for students?

-What can I wish them? A lot of health, may the God help the little ones to grow up and help the elder ones, the ones that are about to finish the highschool, to succeed in their profession, to find a job quickly, here, in Romania, not abroad.

-Thank you very much for your interview.

-You're welcome.



Students asking a priest from Pascani about school in the past.



Students asking the Geography teacher, Mariana Botezatu questions about school in the past.

## VI. Turkey

As 'HANDS ON MEDIA LITERACY ' ERASMUS + TEAM representing Ayfod - Turkey we have visited Ramazan Aydemir, one of the very young journalists of Aydın,

Aydemir, who is one of the first names to come to mind in the name of sports journalist in Aydın, shared his story with us. The meeting of Aydemir with journalism was entirely by chance. He first started working as an accountant at Denge Newspaper, but by time became interested in journalism. And in a very short time he became a very successful Journalist. Aydemir, who stated that he will continue his first professional journalism until the end, says that this profession is an art. Here is our pleasant conversation at Ses Newspaper with Ramazan Aydemir.

We have learnt a lot about this profession, the advantages and disadvantages of being a journalist, and the difficulties they face, about the fake news, and about how to make e- newspapers.

Moreover we had a pleasant chat with Mr. Aydemir as follows :

AYŞENUR: Can we get to know you briefly?

AYDEMİR : I live in Kardeşköy ,Aydın.. I was born on February 25, 1994. I am single. I have a twin named Kubra. I completed my high school education at Efeler Osmangazi Vocational Technical and Anatolian High School. I am still a student of Adnan Menderes University at Accounting and Taxation Department. I have been studying a 2-year university for 4 years. (Laughing) I will finish it in the coming years. I am a correspondent of Aydın Ses Newspaper. I've been in this profession for 8 years.

AYŞENUR : You like sports, you used to play football, did you give it up ?

AYDEMİR: Yes, I used to play football in Kardeşköyspor team. While I was doing my internship at the newspaper as an accountant I started learning journalism gradually. There were also Kardeşköyspor and Köprülüspor U19 matches during these periods when I was curious about journalism. That day our coach Bulent Başağalar wrote me in the first 11. In the first game, Köprülüspor was defeated very differently. I was the hero of the match with the goal I threw

in the rematch match and the assist I made. At the 70th minute I asked him to take me out and I made a news of the game. When found out about this our director learned this, Atila Karpınar was mad at me, saying, 'Become a journalist or football player'. And it was the day I left football and devoted myself to my job.

AYŞENUR: Have you ever thought about becoming a journalist when you were young ?

AYDEMİR: I never thought I'd start journalism. I've never regretted starting this job .Besides the news I made, I carried out my business with sincerity and warmness. As I continue to gain the confidence of the people and as a friend to them, I am trying to be the first name that comes to mind in the new generation as a sports correspondent in Aydın. When I was doing these things, my life changed a lot

AYŞENUR: Did you reach your goals in your job ?

AYDEMİR: Although I have been working in journalism for 6 years, I keep my enthusiasm like the first day. I will continue to improve myself day by day to



reach to better places in journalism.

AYŞENUR: Did you change anything with your news?

AYDEMİR: As journalism is a profession that holds the public interest in the foreground, we contribute to the solution of the problems by bringing the problems of the public to the agenda. I also think that I have made some agenda topics with some news that I have made. Efeler Mimar Sinan Sports Hall of the wrestling room was old and athletes from the

side of the distressed news made the news and then the floor was renewed in the contribution. I traveled to Kardeşköy District where I stayed and informed the corrupted roads of the news that I made at the time of laying the paving stone. I have been able to reach this issue with the news that I have written over and over again on the problem of the ambulance crisis which is lacking in amateur

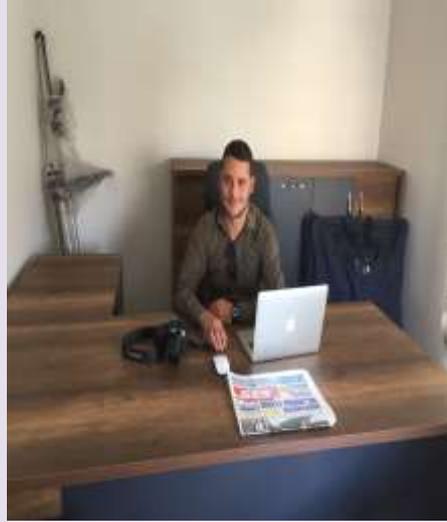
matches. I voiced the impossibilities of some amateur sports clubs and tried to make the sports clubs of the related institutions and institutions more prudent. Maybe we've been able to sign more beautiful news and have been instrumental in good work, but that's all for now.

AYŞENUR: What are your recommendations for young people who are new to the profession? What do you recommend?

AYDEMİR: They can study at communication faculties. When I first started, I had a hard time. There is a lot of information to learn more, but at least the friends who finish communication faculties learn a great majority of the theory and practice part of the work in school. When they come to the news area, it is only necessary to practice that knowledge. The job is not finished by finishing the Communication Faculty. Journalism is a separate profession from other professional groups.

AYŞENUR: Do you have anything you want to say?

AYDEMİR: In order to learn this job, I used to get up at 7 in the morning, everyday I started the days by writing news. I owe the gratitude to my friends who sustained me with their support. I thank once again to my brothers, Atila Karpınar, Sercan Örün, Aydın Sarı, Mehmet Aydın and Emin Aydın, who helped me to do this profession.



We have also visited ERMAN Çetin during the first year of our project. The link is as follows: <http://.aydinpost.com/medya-okuryazarligi-icin-aydinpostu-ziyaret-ettiler-261856h.htm>

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