

ŠOU - Student Organization of University of Ljubljana

Klemen Petek, President of ŠOU

Andrej Klasinc, Director of ŠOU

Rok Dolenc, President of the ŠOU Assembly

Andrej Bole, consultant of ŠOU

Dear Klemen Petek, Nadrej Klasinc, Rok Dolenc, and Andrej Bole,

We follow with worry the news of the past few days that threaten the existence and operation of Radio Student. For us, Radio Student is more than just a university radio - a symbol and essence of the mission that brought community radios to life in many parts of the world: the idea of creating real communities based on democratic participation and freedom of expression, involving marginalized people.

Radio Student may have been established in an era that could not be called free at all, in 1969 in Yugoslavia. Even in Western Europe, it was only decades later that community radios were born and became representatives of “silent social groups” whose voices became louder and be heard. The eradication of such communities in 2021 is an incomprehensible and unacceptable act.

Civil Radio was established in Budapest in 1995, and was founded by hundreds of non-governmental organizations and civilian communities, supported by the decision-makers at the time, who still wanted to understand and embrace the true democratic values. In the following one and a half decade seventy community radios have sprung up - mostly in smaller settlements, where they have become prominent shapers of communities, catalyzed participation in public affairs, facilitated local collaborations, mediated between decision makers and local residents. They contributed to the creation of a more balanced society, and presented how democracy works.

Young people in these communities learned the importance of dialogue, mutual understanding and search of cooperation.

In 2011, a new media law came into force in Hungary, which emptied all the values we consider to be elementary in the development of a democratic way of life. As a result, community radio movement, once called rich, colourful and diverse, became extinct in Hungary. The frequency of Civil Radio was taken away by the media authority in 2019, after 25 years of continuous broadcasting.

As a result of these decisions and processes, community radio broadcasting in Hungary found itself in a much worse position than when Radio Student was set up in Ljubljana in 1969.

As one of the most important representatives of community radio broadcasting in Europe, Radio Student conveys Slovenian cultural values to numerous European Union organizations and radio stations, and have contributed greatly to the reputation and funding of Student Organisation of the University of Ljubljana by generating significant international collaborations.

Taking into account the above said, we would like to draw your attention not to withdraw the support of Radio Student, and be proud of the value they possess and the extraordinary role they play in social development and in democratic education of future generations.

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