

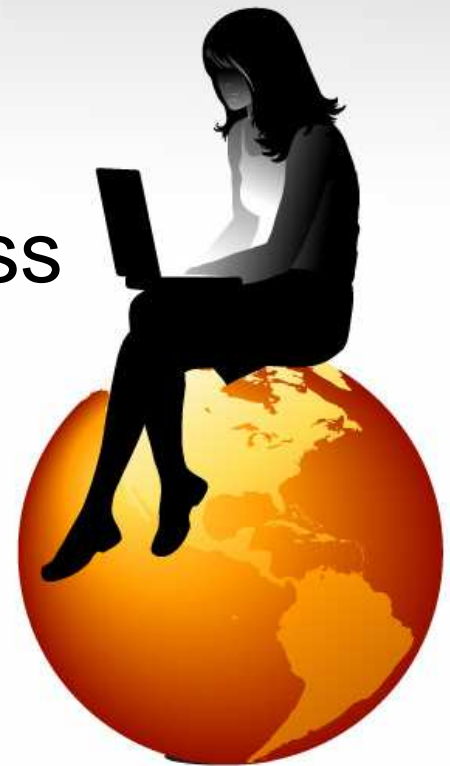
# ***Journalists' self-regulation: Developments in Spain***

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- What is self-regulation?
- The chimera of self-regulation
- Self-regulation in the audiovisual
- Self-regulation in the printed press
- Conclusions



# What is self-regulation?

- Mechanism by which society or groups in society regulate themselves
- It has always existed
- Social or political concept vs. legal concept
- Novelty: self-regulation as a regulatory strategy, by which public powers decline the possibility of regulating a specific issue and confer this faculty to private actors
- Is there a difference between “regulated” self-regulation and co-regulation?
- This is (also) a strategy proposed and promoted by the European Commission



# The chimera of self-regulation

- Relatively new in the legal panorama
- Purposes
  - Involvement of stakeholders
    - They better know the field
    - They might comit themselves with the norm more strongly
  - Respect of areas of freedom
- Dangers and problems
  - Capture of the regulatory process by interest groups
  - Remedies in case those norms violate other people's rights or interests
  - Compliance with the norms [please be careful with the concept "norm" I am using here: it is not so far the strict legal sense]



# Self-regulation in the audiovisual

- Main domains:
  - Protection of users' rights
  - In particular, protection of children
  - Media literacy
  - Others: pluralism, electoral processes, immigration
- Different experiences
  - Catalonia, Navarra, Andalusia, Balearic Islands
  - State Council on Audiovisual Media (to be created?)
- Various types of codes
- Various degrees of success



# Self-regulation in the printed press

- There is a tradition of deontological codes... with low success
- Draft of a Statute on the protection of the right of information of citizens
  - It defines “professional journalist”
  - It creates a Co-regulatory Council of Journalists and the Commission encharged of making the Deontological Code of Journalism effective
  - It allows the creation of regional co-regulatory councils
- The Internet is still a no man’s land



# Conclusions

- Regulated self-regulation or co-regulation are strategies of increasing importance in the Spanish media
- There is still no clarity on the contents and the extent of these strategies
- Some codes may apply both for audiovisual media and for the press
- The debate is connected to movements in journalists associations towards the creation of official bodies that protect their interests and the quality of the profession
- The political scene is now changing and this will definitely affect this specific issue

