

## State of the Press (II) Insolvencies from Within the Central Press

The Coalition for a Clean Press (CPC) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the situation in which the media currently finds itself in Romania. Without being exhaustive, the analysis aims to present the state we are in at the moment in terms of legal issues, insolvencies and ownership. The three domains (which we will present as a series – today we touch on insolvencies) present facts and relevant data for understanding the degree of freedom and conditioning of the local press. Comments on this situation will be presented in separate articles.

### [Read the first part here: Legal Issues of National Press](#)

Important names from the central press such as Adevărul, Evenimentul Zilei and the TV station Realitatea TV are companies that have filed for insolvency. This makes it complicated to understand the sources of financing for the aforementioned media outlets. Insolvency is part of the market economy and there's nothing wrong with it. There is, however, a risk that the company will conceal the sources of funding and limit the publication's ability to independently and objectively inform. The documentation that follows does not presume such intentions. There have been numerous such cases in the press, yet we will present only these three because of the important role they play in the central media.

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### **Adevărul Holding**

Cristian Burci holds shares in companies from the trust through other companies or people that are close to him. Employees are indicated as working for one firm, but significant assets under other firms. Previous experiences indicate that the mechanism seems to work like this: when a company with employees accumulates debt, the company requests insolvency from the court and the employee contracts are transferred to another company.

One by one, **Adevărul SA**, **Adevărul Holding LLC** and **Adevărul Digital Media SRL** followed the same procedure. Currently, the three firms are insolvent, have zero or few employees, but have large debts. The last company to follow this exact pattern is the **News & More SRL**. It was founded in 2012, started off with 164 employees (currently has around 180 employees), and in July this year requested insolvency from the Bucharest Tribunal, after in 2013 accumulating a loss of 154,295 lei.

#### **1. Adevărul SA**

Shareholders: SC Adevărul Holding SRL (14.33%), Premium News SRL (60%), Tinu Ana Maria (24.02%), other 115 shareholders owning 1.65%.

Status: insolvency, judiciary liquidator is Activ Lichidator IPURL, represented through Angela Monica Borza. From 14.06.2012, seizure of social parts held by Truth Holding SRL.

Financial situation in 2013: no. of employees – 0, Turnover - 9.942 lei, Losses - 612,810 lei.

## **2. Adevărul Holding SRL**

Shareholders: East Europe Media Distribution SRL (0.07%), Premium News SRL (99.93%).

Status: insolvency, special administrator - Denisa Turcu, judiciary administrator - Reorganization and Liquidation Services IPURL, represented by Rodica Ivanciuc.

Final financial statement is from 2011: no. of employees - 337 Turnover - 192,096,021 lei, loss - 77,292,160 lei.

## **3. Adevărul Digital Media SRL**

Shareholders: SC Tipomedia Prod SRL (5%), SC Truth Holding SRL (95%).

Status: insolvency, judiciary liquidator - Confident Expert IPURL.

Financial situation in 2013: no. of employees - 1 turnover - 78 lei, loss - 203,984 lei.

## **4. SC News & More SRL**

Shareholders: Premium News SRL - 95.25%, Stefan Andrei Alexandru (Dinu Patriciu's stepson) - 4.75%.

Status: insolvency (since July 2014).

Persons entitled: REAL CASA EXPERT SPRL (judiciary administrator).

Financial situation in 2013: no. of employees – 177, Turnover - 12,969,826 lei, Loss - 154.295 lei.

## **5. Evenimentul zilei / Capital**

The Daily “Evenimentul Zilei” and the weekly “Capital” are owned by **SC Editura Evenimentul Zilei and Capital SRL**, shareholders: Dan Cătălin Andronicus (90%), George Marius Păunescu (5%), Claudiu Alexandru Șerban (5%).

In February 2014, SC Editura Evenimentul Zilei and Capital SRL asked to receive insolvency status from the Bucharest Tribunal, with Georgescu, Dănăilă and Associates SPRL appointed as judiciary administrators.

On the Ministry of Finance website the last financial statement of the company is from 2011: no. of employees - 102 Turnover - 17,560,282 lei, Losses - 4,854,043 lei.

## 6. Realitatea TV

The broadcasting license holder is the company Realitatea Media SA, which is controlled indirectly by Cozmin Gușă and Maricel Păcuraru. The company is insolvent since 2013, with Centu SPRL as the appointed judiciary administrator.

Financial situation in 2013: no. of employees - 323 Turnover: 16,918,146 lei, Loss: 26,054,363 lei.

In previous years, Realitatea Media SA had significant financial loss: 32 million lei in 2012 and 57 million lei in 2011.

Shareholders Realitatea Media SA: **Strategies Research Investments SRL** - 86.51%, PSV Company SA - 7.55%, Sindicatul Național "Petrom-Energie" - 5.42%, Global Video Media SRL - 0.5%, Toroipan Gheorghe Cristian , Luha Eugen Gheorghe and Bercea Florin – each with around 0.000000139%.

The **Strategies Research Investments SRL** associates: Gușă Cozmin Horea – 50% and Maricel Păcuraru - 50%.

***IMPORTANT: This documentation is based on public information and does not claim to be exhaustive. We ask readers to send us any additional information about these, other media institutions or persons, accompanied by relevant evidence, including links.***