



## RESEARCH TEAM

MeCoDEM is funded by the European Union within the EU's Seventh Framework Programme. With a total budget of 2.9 million Euros, the project consortium includes eight partner institutions from six countries:

- University of Leeds (Co-ordinator)
- University of Belgrade
- University of Hamburg
- University of Cape Town
- University of Oxford
- Stockholm University
- Ruhr University Bochum
- American University in Cairo



Media  
Conflict and  
DEMocratisation



## CONTACT

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# ABOUT

Media, Conflict and Democratisation (MeCoDEM) investigates the role of the media – both traditional and new – in democratisation conflicts, i.e. conflicts that accompany and follow transitions from authoritarian rule to more democratic forms of government.

The project aims to investigate:

- Ways in which traditional media in emerging democracies portray conflicts. Does media coverage during democratisation conflicts contribute to polarization and escalation? What kind of media coverage contributes to the moderation of divisions?
- The diffusion of conflict messages through new information and communication technologies (ICTs). How are new media used by conflict parties and how does this impact on the dynamics of democratisation conflicts?
- Role perceptions, ethics and working practices of journalists in conflict situations. Do periods of transition and conflict call for different approaches to journalism?
- The communication behaviour of conflict parties during conflicts. How do the communication strategies of political leaders and civil society groups affect the prospects of successful conflict resolution?

# COUNTRY CASES

Empirical research is being undertaken in:



Egypt



Kenya



Serbia



South Africa

These four countries have undergone dramatic political and social transformations in their moves towards democracy, though the outcomes of these developments differ widely.

MeCoDEM's empirical investigations focus on a set of twelve conflict cases that embody volatility and conflict during periods of political change:

- Conflicts relating to the distribution and control of power;
- Conflicts relating to new claims of citizenship and contested collective identities;
- Electoral conflicts;
- Conflicts over transitional justice and the (re-)interpretation of the past.

# GOALS

Differences in the political, social, economic and cultural make-up of the four MeCoDEM countries help to reveal how contextual factors shape the role of the media in democratisation conflicts and their outcomes.

As well as advancing knowledge of the role of media and communications in the dynamics of democratisation conflicts, MeCoDEM will:

- Propose recommendations for conflict-sensitive journalistic practices and ethics;
- Suggest strategic communication interventions for governments and political leaders to moderate polarization and enhance social cohesion;
- Assist communities and political activists in adopting effective communication strategies to make their voice heard and to broaden participation;
- Provide knowledge and skills on the effective use of new communication technologies as tools for conflict prevention and conflict management.