

## VI THE PRIVATIZATION PROCESS

Leaning on the Media Strategy, the Draft Law on Public Information has established the principle of withdrawing of the state from ownership in media in several provisions. First, the Draft Law stipulates that only a legal entity may establish media. This legal entity, in turn, must not be established, directly or indirectly, by the Republic, autonomous province and local self-government unit, or an institution, company and other legal entity that is completely or partially owned by the state, or completely or partially financed from the public budget. Exceptions to this rule exist only in several cases: public service broadcasters (RTS and RTV); institutions or foundations established by national councils of national minorities as publishers in an ethnic minority language; foundations or institutions established by the Republic, as the publisher of media for providing information to the population on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija; an university established by the Republic or autonomous province, as the publisher of media whose purpose is to inform and train students. The Draft Law regulates the way in which these institutions and foundations are managed in order to prevent improper influence of the executive branch or national councils as media founders. Furthermore, the Draft Law envisages that the publishers, directly or indirectly established by the Republic, autonomous province or unit of local self-government (excluding the aforementioned exceptions), will cease to operate on December 31, 2014. This article foresees two models of privatization: sale, or transfer of state capital in the media without remuneration. The Draft Law also itemizes the provisions of other regulations that shall cease to be valid after December 31, 2013, including the controversial provisions of the Law on Local Self-Government, the Law on Capital City, the Law on the National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on Public Service Broadcasting, but also the entire Law on the Public Company “Tanjug News Agency”, the Law on the Establishment of the Public Publishing Company “Panorama” and the Decision on the Establishment of the Public Company for the Improvement and Development of Information through Electronic Media in Serbian language on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija “Mreza most”. Clear intent of the legislators to regulate the complete withdrawal of the state from media ownership stems from the aforementioned provisions. The list of provisions that will cease to be valid according to the Draft Law almost completely coincides with the provisions stated in ANEM’s initiative tabled to the Constitutional Court to assess the constitutionality of various regulations that have obstructed the privatization process for years.