

Henri Koponen

Summary in English:

Journalist Fellow, International Press Institute, Vienna, Austria

I interned in the International Press Institute (IPI) press freedom organization from July to December of 2017.

During the internship, I was tasked with producing journalistic content in the form of news updates, in-depth feature articles, studies and reports for the IPI website. My work also included managing social media, monitoring daily news in the world of press freedom as well as accompanying IPI staff on press freedom and fact-finding missions throughout Europe.

In my various duties, I learned a lot about organizational work as well as the field of press freedom and freedom of expression. I gained in-depth knowledge on these phenomena and developments in several countries such as Turkey, Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland. I interacted with journalists, media experts and politicians while creating articles and reports on these topics.

Along with the routine duties of news article writing and media monitoring, I was allowed to use part of my time for long-term projects, such as a 5-piece report series on the effect of 'fake news' in different European Union countries. Additionally, I was able to pick many areas of interest and expertise to cover in addition to the ones appointed to me by the senior staff.

As the IPI main office is relatively small, I was given the possibility to familiarize with various tasks, although the support was always there when needed. I gained valuable experience in both journalistic and communicative tasks in an international context, and will likely be using this skillset in the future.