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**Promotion of the right to freedom of opinion and expression**

**Response, Slovakia**

*Please indicate if there are norms or regulations which protect those in the media from the compelled disclosure of confidential sources of information. When these exist, what limitations on such protections may be accepted under the law?* –

Section 4 of the Act no. 167/2008 Coll. on Periodicals and Agency News Services and on Amendment and Supplementing of Certain Acts (Press Law) provides a protection of sources and content of information.

The wording of relevant provision is following:

„(1) The publishers of periodicals and press agencies must not disclose the source of information acquired for publication in a periodical or an agency news service or any part of the content of such information which would enable the identification of the source if requested not to do so by the natural person who provided the information, and must ensure that the disclosure of the content of the information does not breach the rights of third parties; they are obliged to take the necessary precautions in the handling of documents, printed matter and other media, in particular visual recordings, audio recordings and audio-visual recordings that could be used to identify the natural person who provided the information to ensure that the identity of the information source is not revealed.

(2) A publisher of a periodical or a press agency may be released from the obligation given in subsection 1 only by the consent of the natural person that provided the information. On the death of this person, the right to grant consent belongs to close persons; the consent is not valid if at least one close person expressed disagreement in written form. If there are no such close persons the right under subsection 1 expires.

(3) The obligation pursuant to subsection 1 shall also apply to any employee of a publisher of a periodical and any employee of a press agency; the obligation pursuant to subsection 1 shall cease to apply to such persons if it also ceases to apply to the employer. The obligation pursuant to subsection 1 applies with the same conditions to the person who provides information as defined in subsection 1 to the publisher of a periodical or a press agency under a commercial or civil contractual relationship with the publisher of the periodical in which the person undertakes to provide information as defined in subsection 1 to the publisher professionally.

(4) The obligation of non-disclosure shall not apply in cases where the law requires the prevention of the commission of a crime.

(5) The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 shall not apply to the notification duty of the publisher of a periodical in relation to advertising or promotions under applicable regulations.“

For more detailed information, please, see the information provided by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in the attachment.

*Please indicate what protections are afforded to whistleblowers in national law. Please note that this report should focus on whistleblowing in the context of public sector and adopts the definition of a whistleblower as any person who report or disclose information of a threat or harm to the public interest in the context of their work-base relationship*. –

Whistleblowers are protected in the national law by the Act no. 307/2014 Coll. on Some Measures Related to Reporting of Anti-social Activities and on Changing and Amending of Some Laws. Unfortunately, the English translation of the Act is not available at the moment, however, please, find in the attachment a brief information on the content of the Act.