Mapping European Foreign Correspondence

Brussels Press Club
Brussels,
23 February 2015
Georgios Terzis
Research Design

1. **WHY**: Introduction
   Why [country] and reporting from [country] matters

2. **WHO**: who are the country’s Foreign Correspondents [FC] and who do they work for
   The identities of the FC press corps and their media & Trade Unions:

3. **WHAT**: what makes it into the Foreign Correspondent’s reporting agenda
   News Values/Selection

4. **WHEN**: when is something becoming FC’s news
   Routines and Other Factors affecting FC coverage

5. **WHERE**: Where do stories come from
   Gatekeeping

6. **HOW**: how are the foreign correspondence news formulated
   Framing

7. **WHICH**: Which are the most influential Foreign Correspondents.
   Intermedia agenda setting

8. **Conclusions**:
   Recent trends and impact of new media, commercialization, and concentration
Why Foreign Correspondence in Europe Matters?

• According to our research in 2013 more than 6,600 foreign correspondents were working for 133 media outlets in the 27 European countries under investigation in this research.

• So why are these ‘professional strangers’ and their work important?
Why?

• FCs project the image of Europe and European States to the outside world
• FCs participate in the negotiation of a European Public Sphere
• Why?

• For example, journalists who work in Brussels have said that their job is not to educate the public, ‘patch up’ the EU or create a sense of European identity (De Bens, Paulussen and Raeymaeckers, 2006: 16).
• Brüggemann and Kleinen-von Königslöw (2009: 29) define horizontal Europeanization as “increasingly taking account of what happens in other member states of the EU”. They state this type of Europeanization will increase because nation-states are increasingly interdependent inside the EU framework.

• It can be compared to vertical Europeanization, which is “the process of paying closer attention to Brussels. ... (and) enhanced coverage and debate about the EU....” Koopmans and Erbe (2004).

• Despite these challenges, the results of this study confirm the increased importance of horizontal Europeanization.
Horizontal Europeanisation and the euro-crisis

• The 2011 confidence vote in the Greek Parliament was broadcast live in most European PBS
• when the UK budget was announced in March 2013, the top six stories on the FT’s website were about the Cyprus banking crisis and the seventh was about the British budget
• While in 2015 the Greek elections were front page news in all EU countries
Who are Europe’s FCs and who do they work for?

- London is the base of the biggest press corps in the world
- From being full time FCs to freelancers
- From globetrotters to semi-permanent residents
- And from expats to national FCs
- FCs working mainly for print media but great increase of those working for all media platforms and multiple employers sometimes from different countries
- There’s an increase of single person bureaus
- There’s an increase of Chinese FCs
- Still a mainly male occupation
Top 20 Countries of Media Origin*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Media Origin</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Int'l</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Number of Foreign Correspondents across European countries examined
Total number of Foreign Correspondents working per Medium*

- Print: 1338
- Broadcast: 1097
- News Agency: 1086
- Online: 294
- Mix (Cross-platform or Unknown): 149
Breakdown of main Medium worked for by FCs*

Percentage of FCs per media type

- Print
- Online
- Broadcast
- News Agency
- Mix (Cross-platform) or Unknown
What makes it onto the reporting agenda?

• FCs remain influenced by their national journalistic cultures
• Expanding number of FCs are assigned for regional coverage
• Expanding single person bureaus and which function even more as ‘generalists’ (impact on the reporting of the financial crisis)
When does a story become a foreign news item and where do the stories come from?

- There is a close and competitive relationship with news agencies as FCs usually try to file a more comprehensive version.
- Intermedia agenda setting: local media, news agencies, major foreign media and other FCs based on the same country.
- An increasing use of press trips due to budget restrictions.
- An intensification of time pressures.
- An increasing reliance on official sources.
- Different level of access to primary sources in different countries especially regarding the official sources.
How is Europe formulated in different frames?

- ‘Us’ versus ‘Them’ is still prevalent, but the dichotomy takes different sub-frames: four sub-frames of conflict: domestic conflict, ‘member State versus EU’, ‘EU member state versus EU member state’, and ‘EU versus external power’ (Price, 2010).
- Increased compression of space and time of reporting with short and simplified formats
- Frames based on domestic relevance and negative reporting
- National professional cultures, and political orientation of the medium determine the frame
- Less frame variation based on funding base (‘Private’ versus ‘Public Service Broadcaster’) or based on type of medium
- Heavy reliance of FCs on official sources who often ‘kidnap’ the framing of FCs news
Final note: Where to?

• FCs expect that they will report for all platforms 24/7
• FCs currently use social media extensively but also do not attach a great significance to social media for disseminating their work
• There is an increasing number of FCs from the BRICs group of countries
Thank you

Georgios Terzis
Vesalius College/Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium
Email: Georgios.Terzis@vub.ac.be