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Minority Dailies Association holds first annual assembly in Slovakia

The Minority Dailies Association MIDAS will hold their first annual assembly on Friday and Saturday, gathering the 19 minority member newspapers from all around Europe in Bratislava, Slovakia. 'The conference is focusing on the role of regional and minority dailies in an integrating Europe in general, and on the situation in Slovakia in particular', explains Günther Rautz, project manager of MIDAS.

Among the participants are not only the media representatives of 10 European linguistic communities, but also high level Slovakian politicians, working in areas related to Nationalities, Human Rights and European Integration.

After a general debate and discussion on minorities and their newspapers, present and future projects of MIDAS are in focus. One of the MIDAS projects is a homepage in German, Italian and English. 'The site should be a platform for all members for example to exchange articles,' explains Rautz. 'We will also have a forum, where the Editor-in-Chiefs, the technicians or the journalists can discuss among each other different ideas, projects and problems.'

Founded in August 2001, MIDAS' goal is to exchange information, co-ordinate strategies and increase co-operation in publishing and marketing, as well as lobby at the EU institutions. (EL/margret)