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Monitoring Media Pluralism in Europe: Application of the Media Pluralism Monitor 2017 in the European Union, FYROM, Serbia & Turkey

Country Report: Latvia

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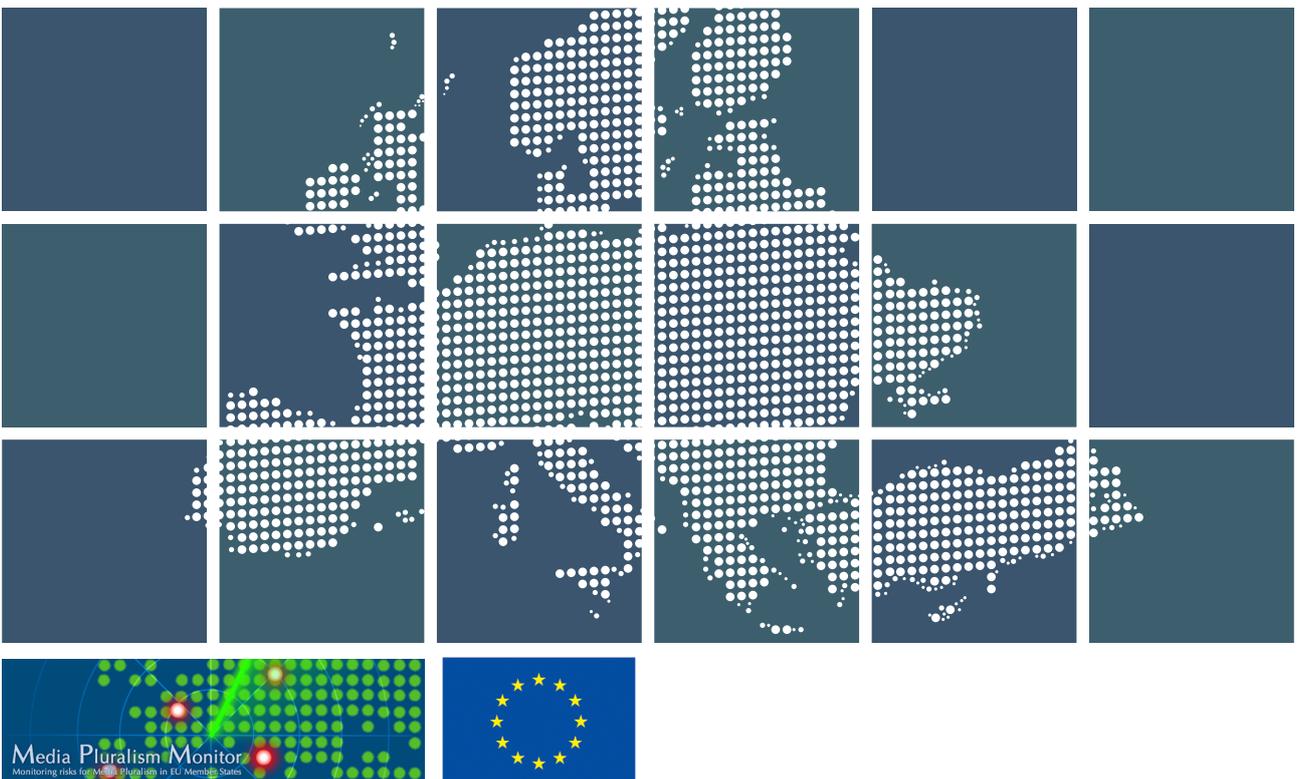




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1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The Media Pluralism Monitor (MPM) is a research tool that was designed to identify potential risks to media pluralism in the Member States of the European Union. This narrative report has been produced within the framework of the second EU-wide implementation of the MPM, carried out in 2017. The implementation was conducted in 28 EU Member States, Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM) and Turkey with the support of a grant awarded by the European Union to the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (CMPF) at the European University Institute.

1.2 METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The CMPF cooperated with experienced, independent national researchers to carry out the data collection and to author the narrative reports, except in the cases of Malta and Italy where data collection was carried out centrally by the CMPF team. The research is based on a standardised questionnaire and apposite guidelines that were developed by the CMPF. The data collection was carried out between June and December 2017.

In Latvia, the CMPF partnered with Anda Rozukalne (Riga Stradins University) who conducted the data collection and annotated the variables in the questionnaire and interviewed relevant experts. The scores assessing the risks for media pluralism were provided by the CMPF and calculated according to the algorithm developed by the Centre itself. The national report was reviewed by CMPF staff. Moreover, to ensure accurate and reliable findings, a group of national experts in each country reviewed the answers to particularly evaluative questions (see Annexe II for the list of experts).

Risks to media pluralism are examined in four main thematic areas, which are considered to capture the main areas of risk for media pluralism and media freedom: Basic Protection, Market Plurality, Political Independence and Social Inclusiveness. The results are based on the assessment of a number of indicators for each thematic area (see Figure 1 below).

Basic Protection	Market Plurality	Political Independence	Social Inclusiveness
Protection of freedom of expression	Transparency of media ownership	Political control over media outlets	Access to media for minorities
Protection of right to information	Media ownership concentration (horizontal)	Editorial autonomy	Access to media for local/regional communities and for community media
Journalistic profession, standards and protection	Cross-media concentration of ownership and competition enforcement	Media and democratic electoral process	Access to media for people with disabilities
Independence and effectiveness of the media authority	Commercial & owner influence over editorial content	State regulation of resources and support to media sector	Access to media for women
Universal reach of traditional media and access to the Internet	Media viability	Independence of PSM governance and funding	Media literacy

The results for each domain and indicator are presented on a scale from 0 to 100%. Scores between 0 and 33% are considered low risk, 34 to 66% are medium risk, while those between 67 and 100% are high risk. On the level of indicators, scores of 0 were rated 3% and scores of 100 were rated 97% by default, to avoid an assessment of a total absence or certainty of risk. For more information on the MPM methodology, see the CMPF report “Monitoring Media Pluralism in Europe: Application of the Media Pluralism Monitor 2016 in EU-28, Montenegro and Turkey”, <http://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/46786>



Disclaimer: The content of the report does not necessarily reflect the views of the CMPF or the EC, but represents the views of the national country team that carried out the data collection and authored the report. Due to updates and refinements in the questionnaire, the MPM2017 scores may not be fully comparable with those of MPM2016. For more details, see the CMPF report on MPM2017, which will soon be available on <http://cmpf.eui.eu/media-pluralism-monitor/>

This report is partially edited by CMPF: it is mostly based on the draft narrative report and on the information uploaded in the online platform by the country team.



2. INTRODUCTION

Latvia's 1,9 million inhabitants (Central Statistics Bureau, 2017) live in the area of 64.5 thousand square meters. The largest minority in Latvia is Russians - 504.3 thousand. 62% of the population are Latvians, 26% - Russians, 3.3% - Belarussians, 2.3% - Ukrainians and representatives of other nationalities, called the Russian-speaking minorities due to the language spoken in their families. Russian speaking minorities form 35% of the population in Latvia.

Since the beginning of 1990, the number of people living in Latvia has decreased by almost half a million (457 thousand). Due to international long-term migration, the number of inhabitants from 2010 to 2017 has shrunk by 121.2 thousand. (Central Statistics Bureau, 2018).

The ethnic structure of the population and the language used in the family affects the media environment: media markets and media audience are linguistically divided. The usage of media differs among different ethnic groups.

In 2017, Latvia's GDP reached the highest level in Latvia's history as an independent country (Ministry of Economy, 2018). Over the course of the year, the economic growth increased by 4.5%, which is the most rapid in the last 6 years.

The media system of Latvia can be characterised as hybrid, as it lacks a dominant paradigm¹ (Rozenvalds, 2014). The media market enjoys a liberal approach and no media-specific regulation is in place.

The media operations in Latvia are characterized by various journalistic cultures where one can observe different states of media accountability (Dimants, 2017). Instrumental and authoritarian (post-soviet) journalistic culture can be seen, and part of the media represents a journalistic culture closer to that seen in parts of Western Europe, associated with higher journalistic professional standards and greater editorial autonomy.

The regulation of Latvian media is liberal. It allowed a diverse Latvian media system to develop: at the same time, oligopolistic competition and a high level of concentration (Jastramskis et.al, 2017) characterize the media environment.

In 2016, the Latvian government approved the "Media policy guidelines", which defines the aim of media policy: to foster a strong, diverse, professional, transparent, sustainable and stable media environment (Ministry of Culture, 2016). In the beginning of 2017, the Unit of Media Policy at Ministry of Culture established the Media Support Foundation, and over the year, about 1.2 million euro were invested to support content creation and media innovation projects in commercial media, given the highly commercialised media environment and lack of resources for improvement of quality journalism. The main aims of the supported projects were as follows: analytic and investigative journalism, media literacy and media critic, tackling disinformation, high-quality journalism of local and regional media. The establishment of the Media Support Fund increased content diversity and internal pluralism in Latvia in 2017. More than 40 national, regional and local media that offer content in the Latvian language received funds from the Media Support Fund. The rules put forward by the Fund helped to improve the internal environment of Latvian media, as the contestants had to confirm that their media organization has a code of professional ethics, and that an editorial independence agreement has been concluded between the editorial staff and the owners.

MPM2017 data reflects the transition between the beginning of the development of a media policy and the creation of a new media regulation system in Latvia. In 2017, three new media laws have been drafted with the goal of adjusting the media regulation system to the modern communication landscape. Firstly, a new public service media regulation is under preparation, secondly, a draft new universal media regulatory document has been developed, and thirdly, a draft for a new law for electronic media regulation was initiated with the participation of the media industry representatives in Latvia.

¹ Development of a small number of accountable media, and attempts to strengthen public service media signifies democratic corporative model features; political parallelism in media environment and the vast influence of political public relations on media content signifies polarised pluralistic model characteristics.



3. RESULTS FROM THE DATA COLLECTION: ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS TO MEDIA PLURALISM

The implementation of the Media Pluralism Monitor 2017 (MPM2017) in Latvia shows a medium risk for all the areas covered by the analysis. In 2017, Latvia confirms the MPM2016 medium risk in the basic protection area that refers to the protection of freedom of expression, rights to information and the access to the Internet, independence and effectiveness of media authority, and journalistic profession, standards and protection.

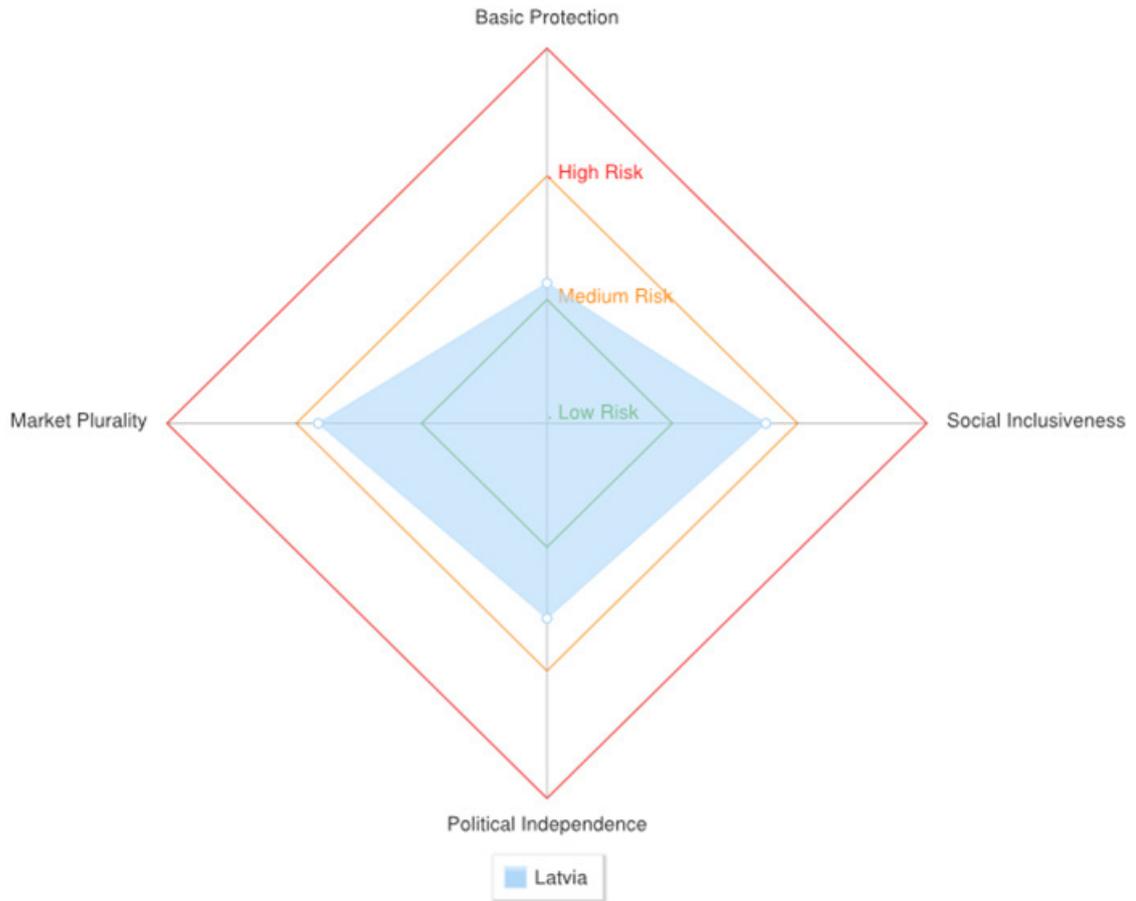
The situation of the media market plurality in Latvia also corresponds to an average medium risk. However, two of the analysed indicators in this area point to high risk: media ownership concentration (horizontal) and commercial and owner influence over editorial content. Generally, the level of media market concentration in Latvia is high in all media segments, but in the online media environment (Jastramskis et al., 2017).

The assessment of the indicators measuring the level of political independence shows a deterioration of the situation. The attempts to gain political control over media outlets do not decrease; therefore, this indicator still shows a medium, but close to high risk. There are no restrictions for political parties, partisan groups and politicians to set up the mass media outlets or take part in management of mass media companies. The highest concern is about editorial independence. The analysis of the protection of editorial independence that is formally present in the Press and the other Mass Media Law identifies the declarative character of the aforementioned article, as there is no developed mechanism of protection.

Medium risk was shown in the analysis of indicators in the social inclusiveness area. In particular, due to lack of developed policy, high risk has been identified by analysis of access to media of disabled people.

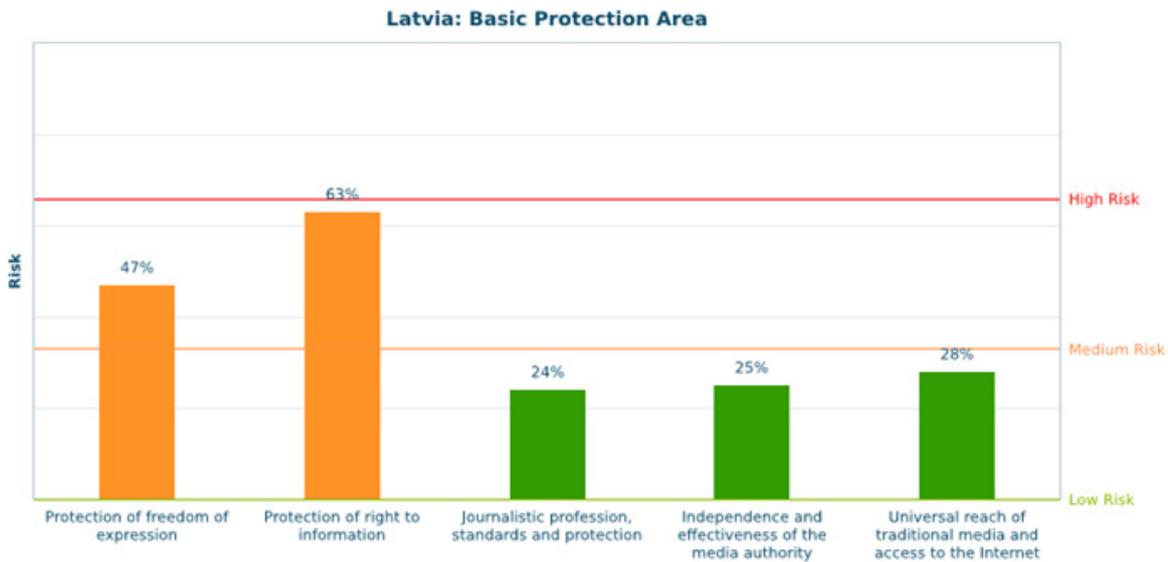


Latvia: Media Pluralism Risk Areas



3.1 BASIC PROTECTION (37% - MEDIUM RISK)

The Basic Protection indicators represent the regulatory backbone of the media sector in every contemporary democracy. They measure a number of potential areas of risk, including the existence and effectiveness of the implementation of regulatory safeguards for freedom of expression and the right to information; the status of journalists in each country, including their protection and ability to work; the independence and effectiveness of the national regulatory bodies that have the competence to regulate the media sector, and the reach of traditional media and access to the Internet.



The analysis of Basic protection area for Latvia shows a medium risk (37%).

Overall, the regulatory safeguards for **freedom of expression** (FoE) in the Latvian legal system pose a medium risk for media pluralism (47%).

The Constitution of Latvia protects freedom of expression and clearly defines restrictions to this right; particular restrictions are harmonized with the international human rights standards. Nonetheless, some cases in which freedom of expression is not protected in practice can be seen: in 2017 there were few cases related with protection of freedom of expression in the Internet news site and police investigation over journalistic sources. For instance, during the investigation of the “oligarchs case”² police asked to reveal the information sources of analytical journalist Indra Sprance from magazine “Ir”.

Latvia has not decriminalised defamation in the media. Article no 157 of the Criminal Law states that the person must be punished by short-term imprisonment or fine for the defamation through any type of mass media.

Protection of right to information (which scored 63%) is explicitly recognised in the Constitution. The regulation of FoE and right to information respects international standards, although in practice, journalists recognize that they encounter difficulties in obtaining information from public authorities, private companies and influential politicians.

No regulatory framework for the protection of whistleblowers was in place as of 2017³.

The **information on regulation of journalism profession, standards and protection** illustrates low risk (24%). The access to the journalistic profession is free in Latvia. There are no restrictions in terms of education or training; registration or licensing of journalists does not exist. Journalism as a profession is not regulated in Latvia. On one side it opens the doors of media industry to any individual who is able to prove his or her ability to work as a journalist. On the other side, it increases deprofessionalisation within the media industry, what is manifested by an increase in the number of media employees who do not follow the professional principles of journalism in their work.

² <https://www.fpri.org/article/2017/11/three-little-oligarchs-latvias-corruption-scandal/>

³ It must be note that, pending the publication of this report, Latvian Parliament has approved a Law on Whistle-blowers (Saeima, 11 Oct, 2018).



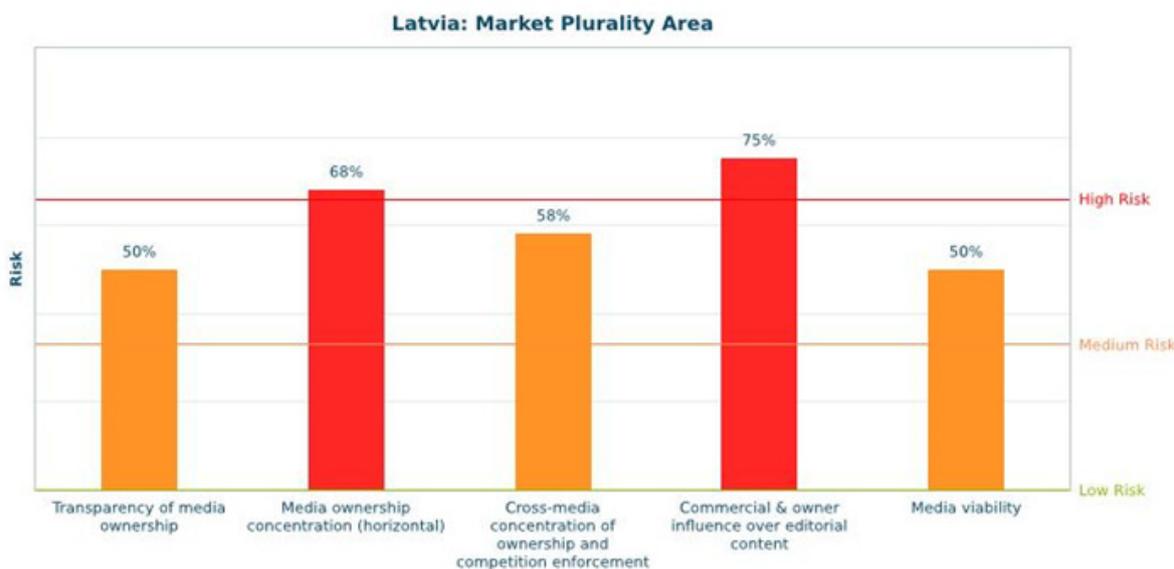
There are two journalists' professional organisations in Latvia. However, only a small part (about 5% to 10%) of journalists is represented by professional organisations. In fact, professional associations of journalists are not effective in guaranteeing editorial independence and respect of professional standards. There is still a high level of job insecurity for journalists, because many commercial media do not provide permanent job contracts for journalists.

Independence and effectiveness of media authority in Latvia indicates low risk – 25%. The appointment procedure established for by the Electronic Mass Media Law requires that members of the National Electronic Mass Media Council (NEMMC) are approved in a transparent manner ensuring NEMMC independence and minimizing the risk of political or commercial interference. However, in practice, politicians try to intervene in the work of the media authority. In 2017 some activities of the media authority (for instance, attempt to influence the content of public radio channel pieci.lv (five), public attacks to Latvian Radio journalists in comment articles published in other media) partly reflected the leading political party agenda and created discussions on the professional quality and independence of the media authority.

The indicator on **Universal reach of traditional media and access to the Internet** scores low risk (28%). Latvia is well performing in terms of access to the Internet, broadband connection and average Internet connection speed. No data is available on the market shares of Top4 ISPs in the country.

3.2 MARKET PLURALITY (60% - MEDIUM RISK)

The Market Plurality indicators examine the existence and effectiveness of the implementation of transparency and disclosure provisions with regard to media ownership. In addition, they assess the existence and effectiveness of regulatory safeguards to prevent horizontal and cross-media concentration of ownership and the role of competition enforcement and State aid control in protecting media pluralism. Moreover, they seek to evaluate the viability of the media market under examination as well as whether and if so, to what extent commercial forces, including media owners and advertisers, influence editorial decision-making.



The Market plurality area overall scores the highest risk for Latvia in 2017 (60%, medium risk). Most concerns are related to the Commercial and owner influence over editorial content, as this indicator acquires a high 75% of risk.

The indicator on **transparency of media ownership** shows medium risk (50%) because there is no law that requests all media companies to publish their ownership structures on their websites or in other records that are accessible to the public. However, media companies must inform authorities about the ownership structures under the general commercial law. Commercial Law Section no 17(1) “Duty of disclosure” requests companies to inform the Company register about the owners or beneficiaries that own more than 25% of the shares. This rule refers to media firms as well. Furthermore, article 16 of the Electronic Mass Media Law requires each company that seeks to acquire broadcasting rights to provide information on the owners to the electronic media authority - National Electronic Mass Media Council (NEMMC). NEMMC publishes the register of the electronic media and cable TV operators on its webpage,

where names of the owners of broadcasting media companies are publicly available.

The analysis of **media ownership concentration (horizontal)** shows high risk (68%) because the media legislation in Latvia does not contain specific thresholds in order to prevent a high degree of horizontal concentration. Nevertheless, there is the universal regulation in the Competition law that defines dominant position on the market as 40% of market share. The Law of Electronic Mass media defines the dominant position of companies in the audio-visual sector as 35% of market share. But those standards of the market dominant position prevention for media outlets can be used only in case of merger of companies.

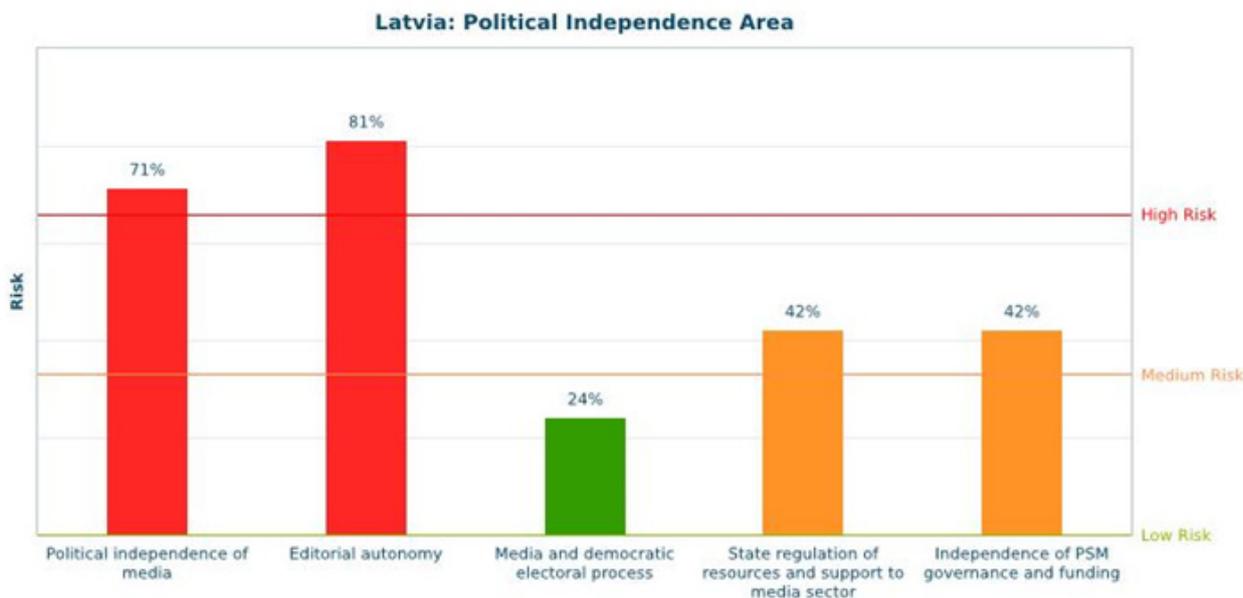
Cross-media concentration of ownership and competition enforcement indicator shows medium risk – 58%. In order to explain cross-media concentration driven forces, the development of market shares of large multimedia content and services firms should be taken into account. For example, partly state owned telecommunication and the internet service company Lattelecom and mobile telecommunication company LMT have been investing into media content production during few recent years. The above-mentioned companies try to redefine their activities to “entertainment and media content” companies.

The indicator on **Commercial and owner influence over editorial content** scores high risk (75%). This assessment is based on the following factors: first, there are no mechanisms that provide social protection to journalists in case of ownership changes or transformation of editorial line. Second, there are no regulatory safeguards which seek to ensure that decisions regarding appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief are not influenced by media owners’ commercial interests. Third, the self-regulatory mechanisms are very weak in cases of appointments or dismissals of chief editors, even if the codes of professional ethics include rules that support the independence of journalists and editors from commercial pressure. Both regulatory and self – regulatory measures stipulate that professional journalists’ activities are incompatible with activities in the field of advertising. However, this principle is not always respected in practice, which means the coexistence of various hybrid journalism forms within the media content.

The situation of **Media viability** scores medium risk (50%) in Latvia. Advertising revenue is increasing for online media companies, stagnating for television, and decreasing for press and radio segments. At the same time, a growing stress of traditional media organisations is caused by the outflow of advertising investments to global platforms. A part of media companies has adapted to market reality by developing alternative streams of revenue e.g. media companies organize summer camps for children, culture tourism, conferences and other events, provide lifelong learning activities or elaborate crowd sourcing campaigns. Still, many commercial media organizations are experiencing persistent economic difficulties because alternative sources of income fail to provide a sustainable media business.

3.3 POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE (52% - MEDIUM RISK)

The Political Independence indicators assess the existence and effectiveness of regulatory safeguards against political bias and political control over the media outlets, news agencies and distribution networks. They are also concerned with the existence and effectiveness of self-regulation in ensuring editorial independence. Moreover, they seek to evaluate the influence of the State (and, more generally, of political power) over the functioning of the media market and the independence of public service media.



Overall, the area of **Political independence** scores a medium risk. There is a high risk identified for two indicators: **Political independence of media** – 71%, and **Editorial autonomy** – 81%.

The media law does not regulate conflicts of interests between media owners and the ruling parties, partisan groups or politicians. There are no restrictions for political parties, partisan groups and politicians to set up the mass media outlets and/or to manage mass media companies. By analysing media ownership structure and the real beneficiaries of large media companies (for instance “Mediju Nams”, “Dienas Mediji”, Radio PIK, regional media company Dautkom”) one can find existing, partly hidden or former political ties. Political influence to media is manifested in highly developed system of informative gazettes owned by many local governments. The editorial independence of politically influenced media companies is limited due to the editors’ duty to combine serving of owners’ political aims and neutral, independent journalism in the media content.

The **Media and democratic electoral process** scores a low risk – 24%. There are no specific laws to guarantee access and fair representation of political viewpoints in news and informative programs on public service media and commercial channels. However, monitoring conducted by the National Electronic Mass Media Council, interviews with the producers and editors of commercial TV and radio channels, as well as academic research suggest that the reporting in both PSM and commercial channels is fair and balanced. However, a few commercial media outlets have been established with the aim to provide politically influenced information before and between elections. In addition, some politicians provide massive individual communication via social media or are using various online sites.

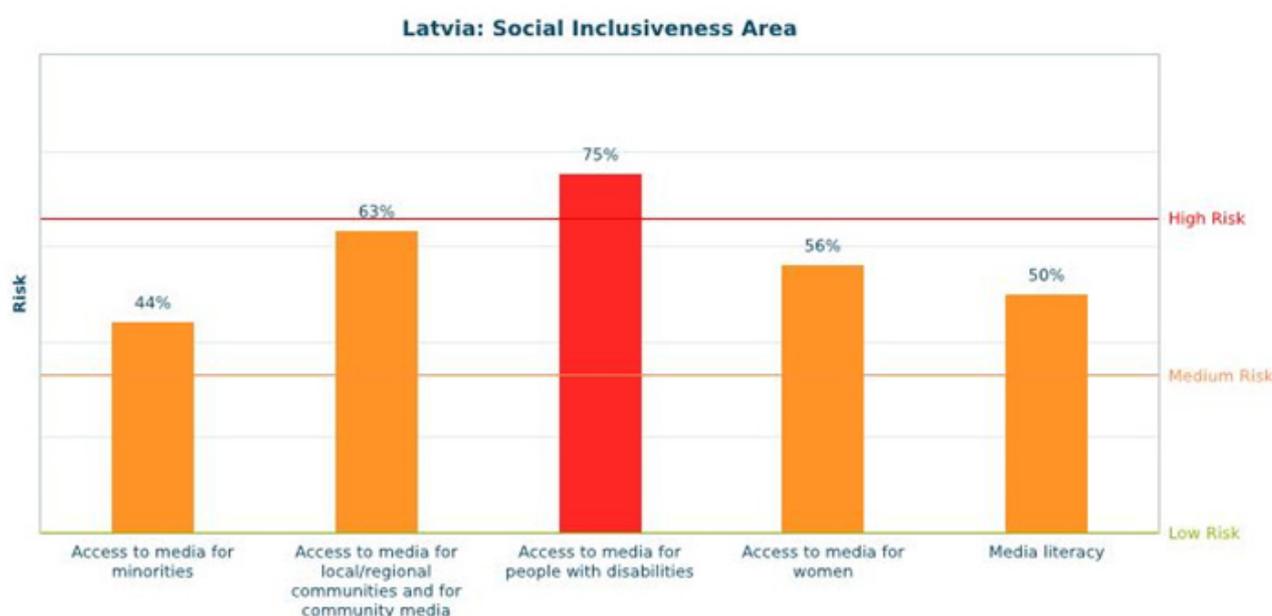
The data on **State regulation of resources and support to the media sector** show a medium risk situation – 42%. The legislation provides fair and transparent rules for the distribution of direct subsidies to media outlets in Latvia. PSM organisations are subsidized by State funding, and the Law on Electronic Mass Media provides the opportunity for commercial television and radio companies to grant 15% of funding for public remit (e.g. resources devoted to public media funding). There are fair and transparent rules for direct State subsidies to media outlets, but no regulation for indirect subsidies to media companies that mostly comes from public institutions (ministries, NGO’s, embassies etc.) or local government enterprises.

The indicator on **Independence of PSM governance and funding** scores a medium risk (42%). Formally, the appointment procedures of management bodies of PSM are fair and transparent, but in practice politicians and

government members regularly try to violate the independence of mentioned bodies. For example, 2017 was a very turbulent year for Latvian Radio top management. In March of 2017 the two members of the previous board were fired due to loss of trust of the public media council. First, the council decided to decrease the number of Latvian Radio Board members from three to one person. Then, in the second part of the year, it changed its previous decision and initiated the elections of the new Board that again consists of three members. The chairperson of the board, Sigita Rože, who led the Latvian Radio alone for several months, was dismissed from work, and currently a new board heads the Latvian Radio.

3.4 SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS (58% - MEDIUM RISK)

The Social Inclusiveness indicators are concerned with access to the media by various groups in society. The indicators assess regulatory and policy safeguards for community media, and for access to media by minorities, local and regional communities, women, and people with disabilities. In addition to access to the media by specific groups, the media literacy context is important for the state of media pluralism. The Social Inclusiveness area therefore also examines the country's media literacy environment, as well as the digital skills of the overall population.



The data in social inclusiveness area illustrate overall a medium risk condition.

The **Access to media for minorities** is evaluated as medium risk – 44%. There are no legally recognised minorities in Latvia. A lack of specific regulation and precise data influence the indicated evaluation on community media situation. On the other side, the general legal system is based on the principle of respect to all types of minorities. There is no specific law that guarantees the access to PSM for minorities. Despite this, there is a public radio channel LR4 that is addressed to the largest groups of ethnic minorities in Latvia; this channel provides news, current affairs, discussions and other information on various topics in Russian language. LR4 is the most influential radio channel in terms of attracting Russian-speaking audience in Latvia. PSM strategy includes the aim to provide content in regional and minority languages. There are news in Russian language and some programs that provide content in Latgalian (regional) language. Since 2017, the regional studio of public radio is located in Rezekne, a town in the East part of Latvia. This project has a positive effect to the diversity of PSM content. Public media organisation Latvian Television produce daily news, entertainment and weekly discussion programs, as well as, children programs that are broadcasted at channel LTV7.

There is no law that grant an **Access to media for local/regional communities and local media** outlets in Latvia – the variable shows medium, close to high risk (63%). Community media is absent; support or subsidies for community media do not exist in Latvia. Nevertheless, many local and regional commercial media outlets represent the all segments of audience. There are 28 independent newspapers published in Latvia. Local newspapers run their web pages, many towns have their own news portals. Local radio stations operate in the larger cities broadcasting some talk shows, in addition to music; national radio networks include local newscasts in their programming. Eleven small local



television studios produce local news and broadcast local events live (Rožukalne, 2018).

Due to fragmented activities and undeveloped policy, the data on **Access to media for people with disabilities** show medium risk (50%). Only PSM has a duty to provide the access to media content to people with disabilities. The analysis of the electronic media strategy and the other documents, including the content of PSM shows that there is a stable growth of programs for disabled persons. There is one daily TV news program for people with hearing impairments, but the content of current affairs and live broadcasts (excluding final of Eurovision concert) are still not made accessible. The most significant reason of this situation is the low funding of PSM in Latvia.

Data on the **Access to media for women** show medium risk – 56%. There are no specific regulations to guarantee an equal access to media for women. In the same time, the discrimination related to the gender is prohibited by general policy and the regulation of the Labour Law. In fact, in Latvia more women than men are working for media organisations, including on positions of editors in chief, but still men hold the largest part of top executives positions (general directors, directors etc.) in media firms. PSM in Latvia do not have a comprehensive gender equality policy covering both personnel issues and programming content. PSM management follows the general regulation, which applies to the all employees. There is no specific gender equality policy: employees are selected mostly by professional qualities, according to conversations with the top managers of PSM of Latvia. As regards the representation on men and women on the PSM management boards (each board has three members), three women seat in the Latvian Radio Board, and three male members in the Board of Latvian Television.

The **Media literacy** policy is still fragmented and underdeveloped in Latvia – resulting in a medium risk scoring of this indicator (50%). Media literacy is included in the priorities of media policy document that has been developed by the Unit of Media Policy at Ministry of Culture since 2015. The document on media literacy policy includes many activities that are mostly oriented to the basic education system; the general target audience for media literacy are schoolchildren, social sciences and pedagogy students, librarians, and youth policy specialists at local government institutions. Media and information literacy (MIL) exists but only to a limited extent in the education curriculum in Latvia. Its success is highly dependent on the personal initiative of each schoolteacher. However, there are no specific courses of media literacy in basic and secondary education in Latvia. There is an active working group on media literacy at Ministry of Culture, which includes many actors of various information and media literacy projects (libraries, archives, media outlets, schools, embassies, NGO's). The increasing flow of disinformation was a motivator for more activities for media and information literacy actors, as well as, for donors support for MIL aims in Latvia. Still, the MIL activities are fragmented.

4. CONCLUSION

By analysing different risks to media pluralism in Latvia, the following policy recommendations have been developed. Since 2016 the institution that is responsible for the development and implementation of media policy is the Unit of Media Policy at Ministry of Culture of Latvia.

Recommendations for Basic Protection

- In order to improve the level of media accountability and understanding of professional media role in democracy, the establishment of Media Ombudsperson shall be completed, and a separate authority for PSM regulation should be established in Latvia. There are the two regulatory projects that include establishment of Ombudsperson institution. First, the project of universal media law envisages the creation of an Ombudsperson institution for the all media organisations, second, according to the media law development; new public media law will establish the public media ombudsperson that will be responsible of relationship between public service media and the society.

Recommendations on Market Plurality

- The regulation of media ownership transparency should be changed by obligation for all media companies to publish their ownership structures on their websites or in the records that are accessible to the public without a payment.
- Media law in Latvia does not define the status of online media. The precise definition and obligation to follow general media regulations, including transparency of ownership and establishment of professional ethic code should be included in the amendments to the Law on Press and other Mass Media or in the new Mass Media Law that is under development.
- In order to prevent high degree of horizontal and cross-media concentration in Latvia, specific thresholds and other limitations should be developed;
- The regulatory safeguards, including self-regulatory instruments, which seek to ensure that commercial interests of media owners do not influence decisions regarding appointments and dismissals of editors in chief should be developed.

Recommendations on Political Independence

- A legislation that provides fair and transparent rules on distribution of state advertising to media outlets should be created in Latvia.
- In order to decrease the level of political parallelism in Latvia's media system, specific limits for political parties, off-shore companies, advertising agencies, and local governments to establish media outlets should be developed.
- The inadequate and short-term based funding creates serious risks of possibility to politically manipulate PSM, therefore, the funding system of PSM should be changed by using a part of particular taxes incomes for PSM funding;

Recommendations on Social inclusiveness

- The funding for content creation for people with disabilities in PSM should be increased, specifically, by elaboration of a broader service of "easy language" programs;
- Precise rules that provide access to commercial audio-visual media content for people with disabilities should be elaborated for commercial media market players;
- The PSM organisations should develop a clear and comprehensive gender equality policy that covers both personnel issues and programming content;
- A clear and well established media and information literacy policy for different groups of society, including programs of lifelong learning for the all generations and representatives of the all regions should be elaborated in Latvia;
- PSM have to develop programmes and interactive content for media and information literacy, including media critics and media analysis that is almost absent within the PSM programs.

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ANNEXE 1. COUNTRY TEAM

First name	Last name	Position	Institution	MPM2017 CT Leader (please indicate with X)
Anda	Rožukalne	Dean of Communication faculty	Riga Stradins University	X

ANNEXE 2. GROUP OF EXPERTS

The Group of Experts is composed of specialists with a substantial knowledge and experience in the field of media. The role of the Group of Experts was to review especially sensitive/subjective evaluations drafted by the Country Team in order to maximize the objectivity of the replies given, ensuring the accuracy of the final results.

First name	Last name	Position	Institution
Ieva	Beitika	Member of National Electronic Mass Media Council	National Electronic Mass Media Council
Andris	Kēniņš	Director	Association of Broadcasting Media
Guntars	Kļavinskis	Board member	Association of Press Publishers
Skaidrīte	Lasmane	Professor, communication ethics expert	University of Latvia
Arta	Giga	Editor, producer, director	Representative of Board of Latvian Journalists Association
Artūrs	Kučs	Associate professor, expert of media law	University of Latvia





