

Media Pluralism Monitor Report 2017

Risks for media pluralism and the safety of journalists are increasing across Europe

Press Release

The Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (CMPF) has published its 2017 [Media Pluralism Monitor reports](#), covering 31 European countries (EU 28 and three candidate countries: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey).

The findings show either **general stagnation or deterioration in all of the four major areas encompassed by the MPM: Basic protection, Market plurality, Political independence and Social inclusiveness**. The MPM 2017 has confirmed the findings of the previous three rounds of monitoring – showing that no country analysed is free from risks to media pluralism. Increase in risk levels, especially for the area of Basic protection - which assesses the essential conditions for freedom of expression, access to information and safety of journalists - is an additional source of concern that calls for immediate attention.

Year 2017 was marked by events that have had a significant impact on media freedom and media pluralism in Europe. The darkest hour was the assassination of investigative journalist and blogger Daphne Caruana Galizia, in Malta, in October 2017.

Highlights from the results:

- Journalists and other media actors are facing a series of threats and attacks (physical and digital) in several European countries.
- Journalists' working conditions are deteriorating, exposing journalists to external and undue pressures in their professional work in most of the countries examined.
- Whistleblower protection is still weak across Europe.
- Media ownership concentration remains one of the most significant risks to media pluralism and is seen as creating barriers to diversity of information and viewpoints.
- News organisations continue to be vulnerable to political interference, especially when economic conditions are unstable.
- A lack of political independence of public service media, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, remains a matter of concern.
- Lack of gender equality in managerial and content creation roles in European media organisations represents one of the highest risk scores recorded by the Monitor.
- Little or no progress has been registered with regard to media literacy across the EU.

The **Final report** and individual **country reports** are available [HERE](#).

The Media Pluralism Monitor, conducted by the CMPF, examines risks to media pluralism in four thematic areas: basic protection, market plurality, political independence, and social inclusiveness. The results are based on 20 indicators, five per each area, and on the balanced assessment of the relevant legal, economic and social-political conditions. National researchers carry out the data collection and author the country reports. Moreover, to ensure accurate and reliable findings, a group of national experts in each country review the answers to particularly evaluative questions. The methodology is detailed in the second part of the **final report** and each country report contains the list of national researchers and experts involved.

For further information, please contact:

Luc Steinberg, Project Associate
Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom
Mobile: +32 4993 80592
Email: lucien.steinberg@eui.eu

The Media Pluralism Monitor is co-funded by the European Union