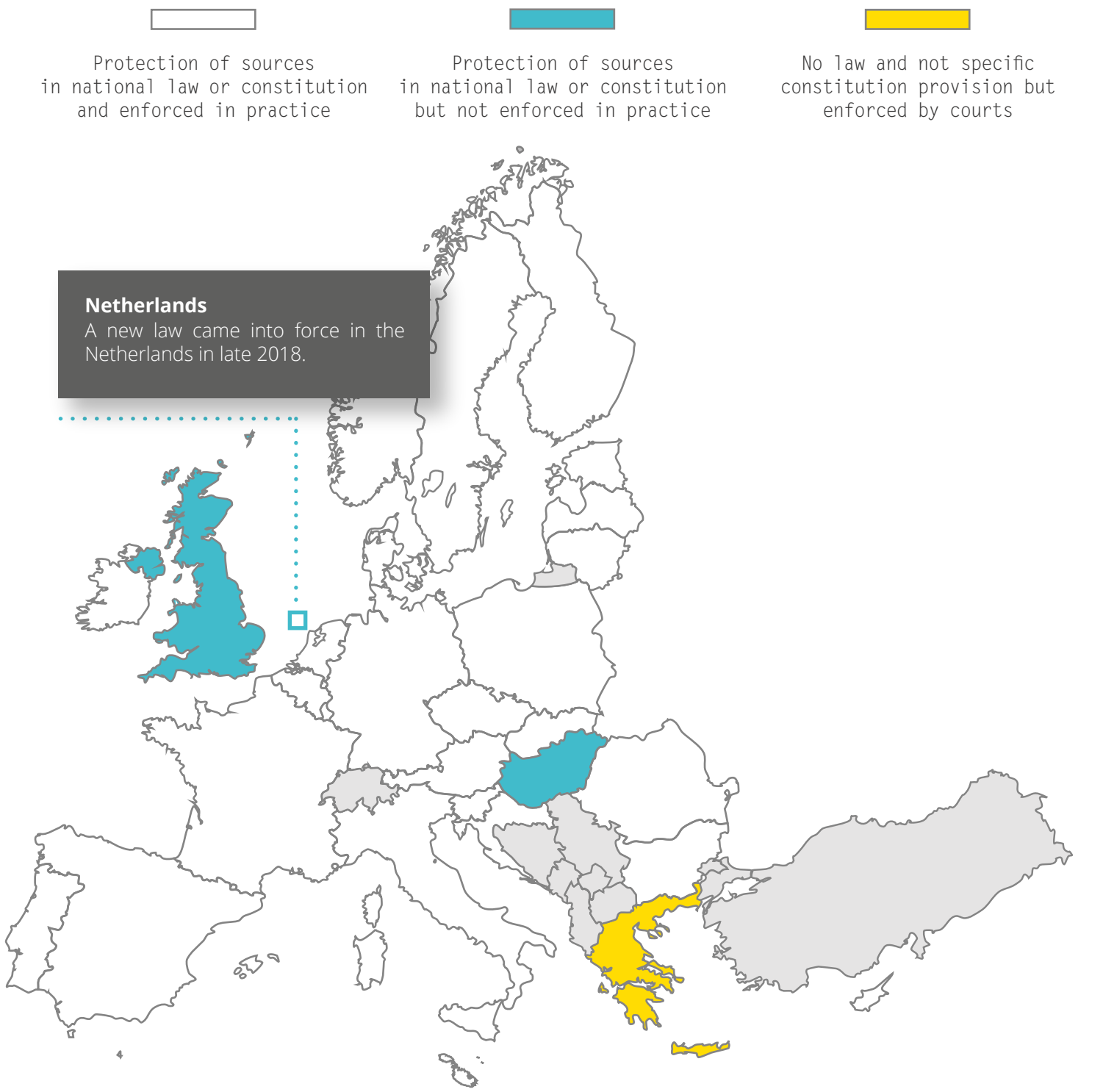


PROTECTION OF SOURCES

The principle of the right of journalist not to disclose their sources is recognised as constituting a basic condition for journalistic work and freedom as well as for the freedom of the media. In fact, the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 12 May 2014, urge states to “protect by law the right of journalists not to disclose their sources in order to ensure that journalists can report on matters in the public interest without their sources fearing retribution. All governments must allow journalists to work in a free and enabling environment in safety and security, without the fear of censorship or restraint.”<sup>1</sup>

The Media Pluralism Monitor

The Media Pluralism Monitor (MPM) is a tool that has been developed by the CMPF to assess the risks for media pluralism in a given country. The MPM project is co-funded by the European Union. The Monitor assesses the risks for media pluralism based on a set of twenty indicators covering four different areas: Basic Protection, Market Plurality, Political Independence and Social Inclusiveness. The indicators cover legal, economic and socio-political questions. All types of media are covered: The results of the MPM implementations are available [here](#).



In the EU it is the norm for the protection of journalists' sources to be recognised by law and enforced in practice. Based on MPM2017 data **in 2 countries, Hungary and the UK**, there are examples where the law has not been enforced in practice. **In Greece there is no law in force**, but a 2003 Presidential Decree states that journalists have the right not to disclose their sources, applying only to radio and television news and current affairs programmes. However, Greek courts have recognised the protection of journalistic sources more broadly, either as an intrinsic part of free speech, a free press or as part of professional secrecy.

In some countries, the “reporter’s privilege” cannot be opposed to a criminal court when the disclosure is relevant to secure justice.

**Sources:** The main source for this Factsheet is the Media Pluralism Monitor 2017 (MPM2017) Database, created under the Media Pluralism Monitor 2017 Project. The factsheet relied also on additional information provided by the MPM2017 country teams.

1. [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu\\_human\\_rights\\_guidelines\\_on\\_freedom\\_of\\_expression\\_online\\_and\\_offline\\_en.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu_human_rights_guidelines_on_freedom_of_expression_online_and_offline_en.pdf)

For more information on the protection of journalists sources in the EU visit <http://cmpf.eui.eu/mapping-media-policy-journalism/>

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CMPF

The Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (CMPF), established in 2011 at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute - Florence, aims to develop innovative and relevant lines of research on media freedom and pluralism and on fundamental rights in Europe and beyond. The Centre, directed by Prof. Pier Luigi Parcu, coordinated by Elda Brogi, is composed of a team of experts in media markets and economics, law, political science, and communications studies.

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