

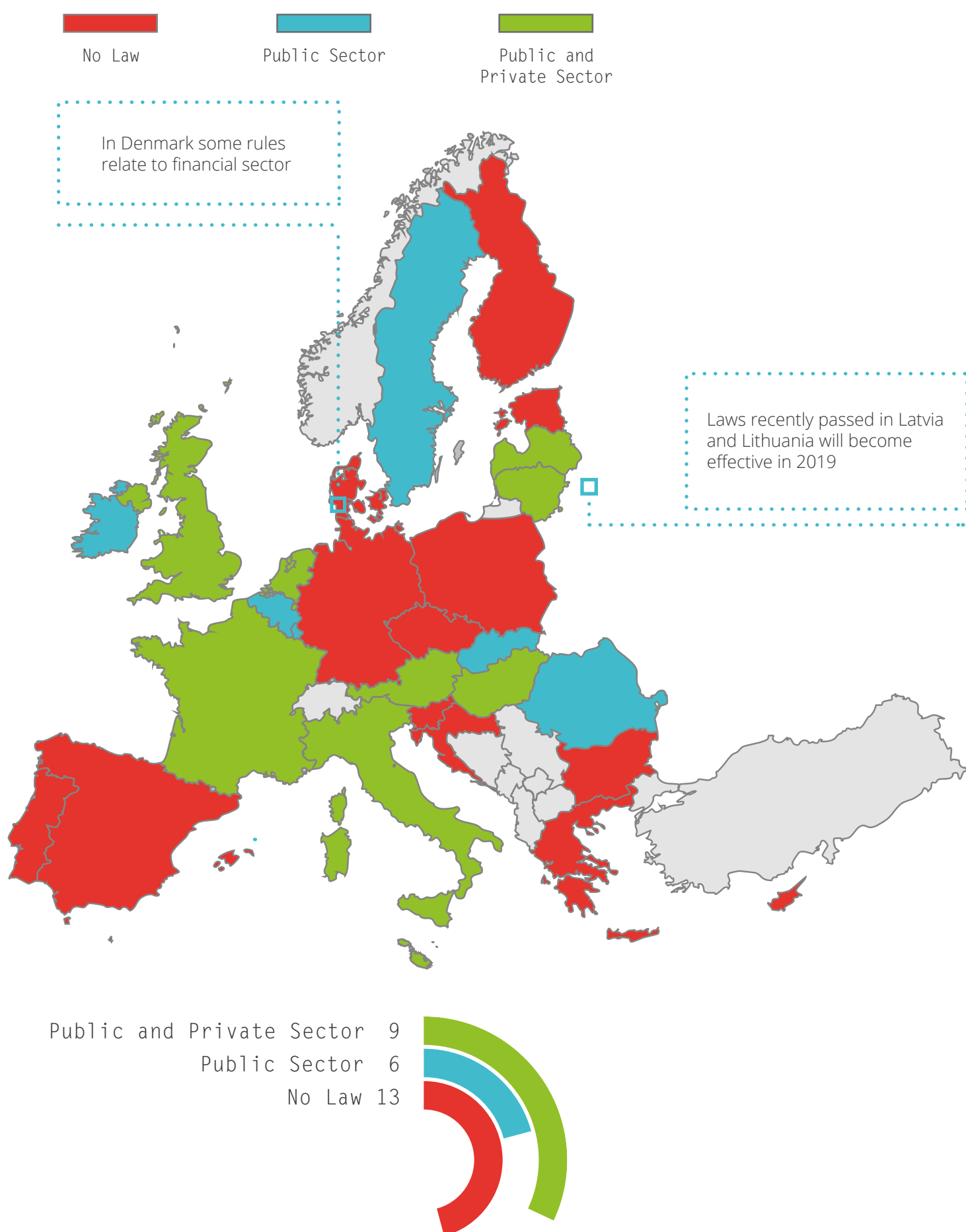


PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THE EU

Based on the standards of the Council of Europe, (Recommendation CM/Rec (2014)7 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the protection of whistle-blowers) a “whistleblower” is “any person who reports or discloses information on a threat or harm to the public interest in the context of their work-based relationship, whether it be in the public or private sector.” Whistleblowing is fundamental to journalists in shedding light on wrongdoing in the workplace (e.g. corruption, fraud), and in exposing situations that are harmful to the public interest. Whistleblowers should be protected, as they need specific channels so as to be able to expose their case without fear, and as their actions potentially expose them to negative personal consequences.

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](#).



As the data from the Media Pluralism Monitor 2017 shows, 13 EU countries out of 28 have some kind of whistleblowers' protection law, while 13 lack a specific regulation. Latvia and Lithuania in 2018 approved laws that are entering into force in 2019. Even in the countries where formally a law is in place, the legal framework may not facilitate public interest reporting and disclosures and does not comprehensively protect all the cases of leaks that could be considered in the public interest (e.g. protection limited to: public administration employees; to information on corruption in public administration; to companies in the financial sector as regards breaches of financial regulation).

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.

For more information on whistleblower protection laws 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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