

Country fact sheet

Cyprus



Key findings

The term ‘**local**’ is included only in the 1998 Law on Radio and Television Organisations to designate radio and television, but the term has been retained in the Law only for radio. **After the shift to digital television in 2011, local television stations either disappeared or were turned into national coverage channels.**

Community media is not recognised in any law and only exists within the confines of the education realm.

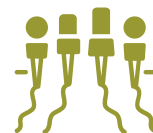
PSM cannot compensate enough the role of local coverage



The geographical peculiarity and **small size** of Cyprus allow for national media (especially PSM) to provide news and topics about local and regional communities.

This does compensate, but only to some degree, for the absence or incapacity of the local media sector to respond to existing needs.

The void in subsidies supporting local media



In Cyprus, there is an **absence of state support for local media** in any form, not even through advertising.

No local television channels or local press exist, except for some rare manifestations of weekly or monthly but mostly irregularly printed newspapers.



As regards the **viability of the local and community sector** and the prospect of alternative ways of financing, given that national media are themselves struggling financially and their advertising support models are inadequate, the local sector cannot itself be deemed sustainable.

Editorial independence under review



In a local media context which is heavily online-reliant, an impactful element is the **absence of a national digital media law**.

This implies that the owners of these small media units can define and influence editorial content, which is likely to be skewed towards media proprietors' businesses or other commercial interests.



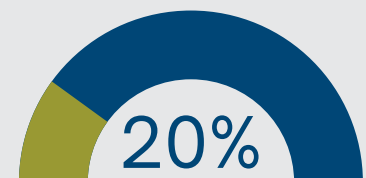
In July 2023 an amendment to the Law on Radio and Television Organisations **abolished shareholding ceilings and other provisions on control /ownership**, allowing the prospect of even one person (and potentially a politician, in office or not) controlling a media outlet as a shareholder. It allows also to control even many media outlets, through participation in their managing board, provided the person does not own shares in the business.

A look into social inclusiveness

The **public service media** does provide news in minority languages but only for very few, such as bulletins in **English** and **Turkish** on a daily basis.

Its second TV channel *RIK2* also carries **news bulletins for the hearing-impaired** and one of its radio stations provides news bulletins and other programmes in Turkish and **Armenian**.

Still, ignoring the existence of minorities from forty different countries, representing approximately 20% of the population, can be seen as a considerable **gap in the coverage of minorities**.



20% of the Cypriot population comprises individuals from forty different countries

Publication date 28.02.24



Access the full report with sources

