

Country fact sheet

Greece



Key findings

The debate regarding news deserts is non-existent in Greece. There is, however, a wider **concern about the viability of local media** and the **conditions related to the safety of local journalists**.

News deserts do not necessarily coincide with the most economically deprived regions. An exception is found in the islands of **Samos** and **Chios**, identified as news deserts due to the absence of daily newspapers. **Ipeiros**, the third most impoverished area in Greece, also features a news desert. Lastly, **Thesprotia** can be added, where only one news radio station operates.

Market downturns

According to the data from the National Council for Radio and Television (*ESR*), the past five years have been economically devastating for local media:



10 local TV
stations closed
down in the last
five years



13 radio
stations
ceased
operations in
2021

Political interferences

The Greek constitution prevents individual MPs and MEPs from directly owning certain types of media.



Nevertheless, **domestic legislation does not contain limitations to direct media ownership by political parties** nor there are provisions limiting indirect control.



Subsidy schemes for media in Greece

For many years, there have been no direct state subsidies provided to the media. **Direct subsidy schemes for local and regional media were initially introduced in 2020.**



Reuters Digital News Report 2023 documents

- a slight fall in the weekly audience reach of local media, compared to last year.
- local media as the most trusted source among Greek citizens.



Inclusion of minority groups

A high risk is linked to the representation of minorities in private media, raising concerns about potential bias and misleading reporting.

Most minorities receive inadequate airtime, leading to distorted narratives, particularly concerning refugees and immigrants.

Stereotypical language use and negative associations, such as linking immigrants to increased crime, contribute to a skewed representation, fostering fear and division.

Publication date 28.02.24



Access the
full report
with sources

