

Country fact sheet Luxembourg



Context

In Luxembourg, local and national information are intertwined in the media given the small size of the country and the ease of access to different areas for journalists.

Local information is made up of two local areas: the municipalities and districts of Luxembourg as well as the border territories of the Greater Region (Belgium, France and Germany). Almost half of the resident population is foreign and many of them do not speak Luxembourgish.

Luxembourg is still considered one of the most rural countries in Europe. Nevertheless, the country is very well equipped with infrastructure and **rural areas are not strictly speaking different from urban areas in terms of services.**



There are **19 local audio-visual media**



Concerning newspaper distribution, the country benefits from **72 kiosks**



Limits of being identified as a ‘non-profit organisation’

The legal framework of the law of 27 July 1991 on electronic media provides a definition of ‘local media’ in Luxembourg, but **this definition only applies to radio.**

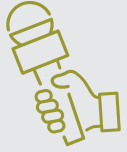
The majority of local media are non-profit organisations (ASBL). Given their status, they are not permitted to make a profit and are distinct from commercial companies.



State aid: crucial, but not transparent enough

State subsidies (direct and indirect) are not distributed to private local media equally and transparently. They are assigned on a case-by-case basis and the amount is also not transparently disclosed for all local media.

No data on the distribution of state advertising to private local media is available.



More data needed to monitor local journalists' working conditions

The conditions of employment of journalists in the media are good. **The Association of Professional Journalists (ALJP) is present at the local level** and effectively guarantees editorial independence and respect for professional standards for local journalists.

However, the only available list of journalists from the Press Council does not mention either the evolution of the number of local journalists, or their location.

> A system to guarantee the editorial independence of local media

According to the law of 27 August 2013, local media must be independent from political influences. **Local audio-visual media content is also monitored by the Luxembourg Independent Audiovisual Authority (ALIA) to check political influence.**

ALIA has a remit over 19 local audiovisual media and its missions include the *a posteriori* monitoring of the contents of local audio-visual media. **No cases of concern regarding the authority's independence were detected in 2022.**



Local media provide a diverse scope of stories, viewpoints and tone of reporting, although sometimes the respect for contradiction specific to professional journalism is not always respected

(ALIA's report 2023)

> When the minority becomes majority

The three official languages of the country are Luxembourgish, French and German. Beyond these three, there are many minority languages. The country presents a very **paradoxical situation** in which **the sum of its linguistic minority groups will soon become the 'majority'**.

The PSM does not offer airtime in minority languages. However, **private media outlets and services** (TV, radio, press, online) and **community media** do, **compensating the absence in the PSM.**

