

Country fact sheet

Romania



Key findings

Local media in Romania were particularly hit by the 2008 economic crisis and many local print outlets never recovered. As a result, local publications were among the first to fold or retreat into online-only editions. But online publications cannot compensate for the few local print publications left.



The **internet** is not yet the main source of news for most citizens.

Only around 20% of Romanians turn to the internet as a main source of news

The main sources of news for most Romanian citizens are television and radio:



The infrastructure of local radio and TV

In addition to the five public regional stations, there are **14 television stations with local reach** and additional private regional TV stations.

Almost all counties have at least one **local radio station**. However, due to the lack of data at these levels, the quantity of news content they provide -other than music and entertainment- cannot be assessed.

Concerns regarding the working conditions of local journalists



Salaries are low, and often, they are not paid on time.



Short-term and freelance-type contracts are common, and they do not come with **medical insurance and social security** by default, offering less protection from sudden or arbitrary dismissal.



Long, **unpaid internships** are frequent.



In Romania, there are no **journalists' organisations** of significant size to address unfair terms.

Editorial independence under review



There are significant **shortcomings in the Romanian regulation** safeguarding editorial independence, including the prevention of conflicts of interest.



Research by civil society organisations has found complex entanglements in the management and ownership of local television stations.



Local outlets are particularly vulnerable to **political pressures** because much of their **advertising money** comes from local authorities that are willing to disburse or withhold money on political grounds.

More efforts needed for social inclusiveness

There are no media outlets specifically addressing marginalised groups in the country with news content, leading to a very high risk rating on this dimension.



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