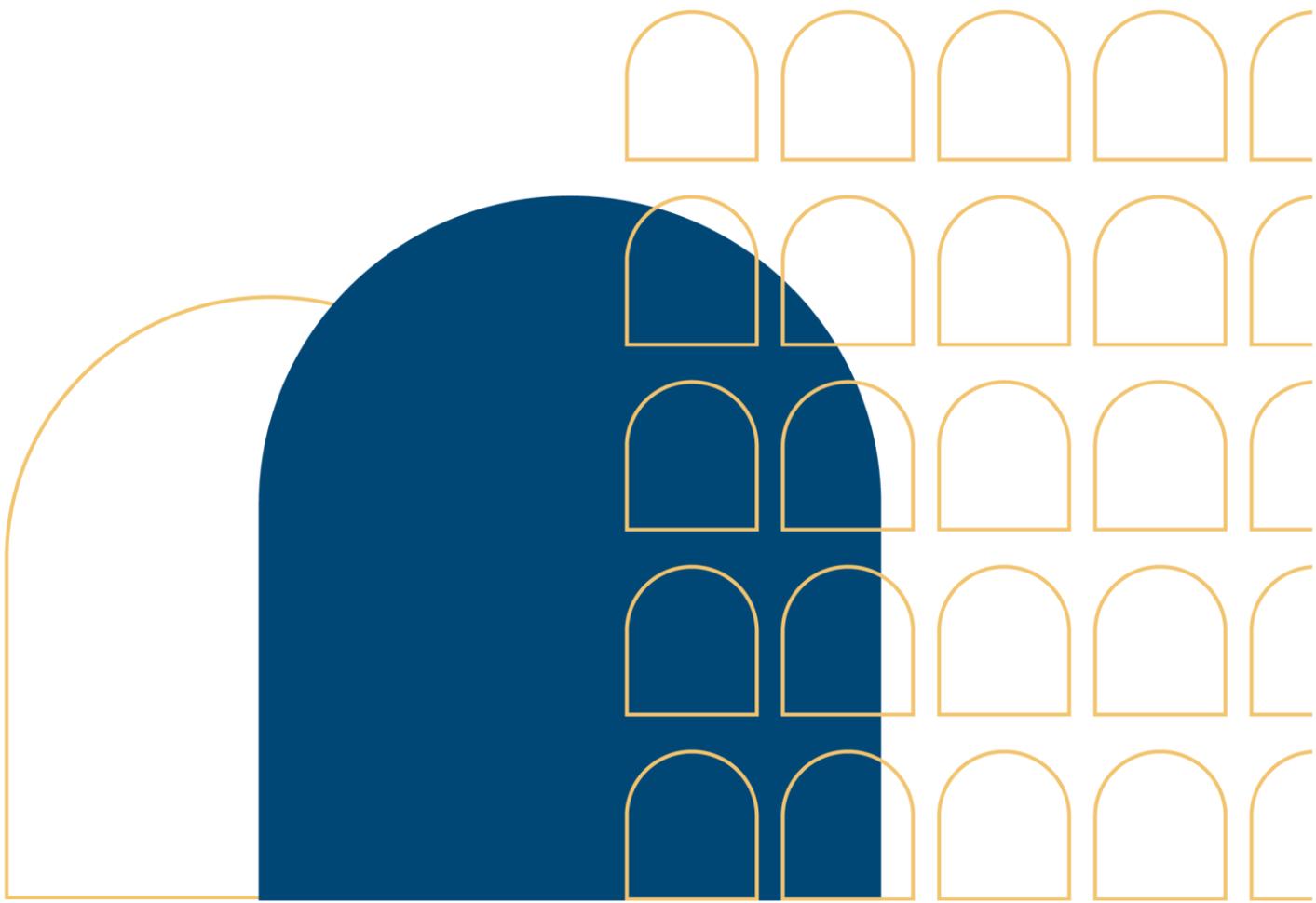


MONITORING MEDIA PLURALISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

MPM 2025 Questionnaire

Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom





Fundamental Protection

1. Protection of freedom of expression

This indicator aims to assess the existence and effective implementation of regulatory safeguards for freedom of expression. A country may have good laws relating to freedom of expression, but they may not be implemented or enforced. In addition, constitutional guarantees may be eroded by exceptions and derogations from international treaty obligations or by laws covering conflicting issues like national security or reputation. Freedom of expression can also be impaired by strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

1. Is freedom of expression recognized in the Constitution or in national laws and case law in your country?

This variable aims to assess the existence of regulatory safeguards for freedom of expression in the Constitution or in national laws / jurisprudence (courts) of your country.

Subindicator-Type

Respect of FoE international standards

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations, Constitutional conventions and overviews of national media legislation can be found on: - EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation> -Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/> - Websites of national regulatory authorities.

Answer options

- Low risk: It is explicitly recognised in the Constitution, national laws and case law.
- Medium risk: It is not recognised in the Constitution but is recognised in national laws or case law.
- High risk: It is not recognised.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

2. Has the state ratified the European Convention on Human Rights with no significant reservations/declarations?

This variable assesses the ratification of the core European treaty covering freedom of expression - the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The variable also assesses whether there are any reservations/declarations made by the state in

relation to freedom of expression, in particular in relation to Article 10.

Subindicator / Type

Respect of FoE international standards

Legal variable

Method

Checking whether the state has ratified the European Convention with no significant reservations/declarations relating to freedom of expression.

See [Council of Europe](http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=005&CM=&DF=&CL=ENG) webpage:

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, it has ratified the ECHR with no significant reservations/declarations on freedom of expression.
- Medium risk: Partially. It has ratified the ECHR with reservations/declarations that may affect freedom of expression.
- High risk: No, it has ratified the ECHR with reservations/declarations that clearly affect freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

3. Are restrictions upon freedom of expression clearly defined in law and do restrictions upon freedom of expression pursue a legitimate aim according to those foreseen in Article 10(2) ECHR? Where restrictions do exist, are they "proportionate" to the legitimate aim pursued?

This variable assesses the respect of CoE standards on FoE. Art 10(2) of the ECHR. "...The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

Restrictive measures must be 'prescribed by law'. Pursuant to the Court's case law, the expression 'prescribed by law' not only requires that restrictive measures should have a legal basis in domestic law but also refers to the quality of the law in question, which should be accessible to the person concerned and foreseeable to its effects. A measure that interferes with the exercise of fundamental rights and principles enshrined in the ECHR will usually be regarded as 'accessible' if it is published. A restrictive measure is considered 'foreseeable' if it is formulated with sufficient precision to enable the citizen to regulate their conduct. That is to say, the citizen must be able to foresee, to a degree that is reasonable in the circumstances, the consequences which a given action may entail. The Court acknowledges that laws need not be phrased in rigid terms; the law cannot capture all possible eventualities at the time of its adoption and the circumstances surrounding it may evolve. In other words, a law must be sufficiently flexible to leave room for interpretation. However, the legal framework must provide effective safeguards against arbitrary interference. This has been understood to mean that the law must indicate with sufficient clarity the scope of discretion conferred on the competent authorities and the manner of its exercise.

A measure is deemed 'proportionate' if the legitimate aim that is pursued by the interference cannot be achieved by less restrictive means.

Subindicator / Type

Respect of FoE international standards

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations.

Constitutional conventions.

Academic writing on the issue and reports by international and European bodies. Analysis of the legal framework.

New legislation introduced or amendments to existing legislation, and new governmental decrees.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, restrictions are clearly defined by the law, do not go beyond those provided by art 10.2 and are proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.
- Medium risk: In some cases, restrictions are not clearly defined by the law and/or go beyond those provided by art 10.2 and/or are not proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.
- High risk: Restrictions are not clearly defined by the law and/or either go beyond those provided by art 10.2 and/or are not proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

4. Do citizens have access to legal remedies in cases of infringement of their freedom of expression and are these legal remedies effective?

This variable assesses the availability of legal remedies (i.e. claims and appeals to Courts, right to reply) in cases of violations of freedom of expression and whether these remedies are accessible and effective in protecting freedom of expression. Unless legal remedies are adequately enforced, regulatory safeguards on freedom of expression may be useless.

Subindicator / Type

Respect of FoE international standards

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations.

Constitutional conventions.

Case law.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on:

EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>. Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries):

<http://www.nordicmedia.info/>. Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities.

The HUDOC website for cases that have reached the European Court of Human Rights: [HUDOC - European Court of Human Rights](#)

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there is access to legal remedies and the remedies are effective in protecting freedom of expression.
- Medium risk: There is limited access to legal remedies and/ or such remedies are not always effective in protecting freedom of expression.
- High risk: There is no or very limited access to legal remedies, or if they have legal remedies, these are often not effective in protecting freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

5. Is freedom of expression respected in practice in your country?

This variable assesses the actual risks to freedom of expression in your country. Every country may witness minor violations of freedom of expression, but if there has been a systematic practice of violation over the last year, this will indicate that the laws may be ineffective. Please note that the relevant timeframe is 2024 and it is looking for common practice, not single incidents. In addition to restrictions to the right to report by journalists and media practitioners, restrictions of FoE for activists, members of civil society organisations and other watchdogs are to be reported too.

Subindicator / Type

Respect of FoE international standards

Socio-Political

Method

Reports by local and international NGOs working on these issues.

Academic writing and reports by international bodies, organisations or experts on the issue.

Media reporting on the issue might serve as a source. Please, note that there have to be several incidents to suggest the existence of a pattern, not a single incident. For example, consult: <https://www.rcmediafreedom.eu> browsing per country; and <https://www.mfr.eu>.

Answer options

- Low risk: There is no evidence of violations.
- Medium risk: There are occasional violations.
- High risk: There are systematic violations.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

6. Has your state decriminalised defamation?

This variable assesses whether the state has decriminalised defamation. While defamation is an important tool to protect people from false statements that damage their reputation, its criminalisation may pose risks for the freedom of expression of journalists and their ability to carry out their work, as intimidating media professionals by lawsuits or disproportionate sanctions in libel and defamation proceedings carry severe risks for journalists.

Subindicator / Type

Proportionate balance between protection of FoE and dignity
Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations, case law.

Academic writing on the issue and reports by international and European organisations. New legislation introduced or amendments to existing legislation.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, defamation has been decriminalised.
- Medium risk: Defamation is punished with a fine.
- High risk: Defamation may be punished with imprisonment.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

7. Do defamation laws provide for sufficient legal defences?

This variable assesses whether defamation laws provide for sufficient legal defences that can be used against a defamation claim to ensure it does not impose unreasonable limitations on freedom of expression.

These may include:

- that the disputed statement was an opinion, not an allegation of fact;
- that publication or broadcasting of the disputed fact was reasonable or in the public interest;
- or that it occurred during a live transmission and/or before a court or elected body.

Subindicator / Type

Proportionate balance between protection of FoE and dignity
Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations. National case law, relevant case law by the European Court on Human Rights on your country.

Academic writing on the issue and reports by international and European organisations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, defamation laws provide for sufficient legal defences.
- Medium risk: Yes, but they are not always properly implemented.
- High risk: No/not implemented.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

8. Has your country adopted specific anti-SLAPP legislation, or does it have other legislation in place that provides for the necessary safeguards to address manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings against public participation in full respect of democratic values and fundamental rights, including the right to a fair trial and the right to freedom of expression?

Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) are either manifestly unfounded or fully or partially unfounded court proceedings that contain elements of abuse, justifying the assumption that the main purpose of the court proceedings is to prevent, restrict or penalise public participation. Abusive court proceedings against public participation refers to court proceedings that are not brought to genuinely assert or exercise a right, but have as their main purpose the prevention, restriction or penalisation of public participation, frequently exploiting an imbalance of power between the parties, and which pursue unfounded claims. Indications of such a purpose include for example:(a) the disproportionate, excessive or unreasonable nature of the claim or part thereof, including the excessive dispute value;(b) the existence of multiple proceedings initiated by the claimant or associated parties in relation to similar matters;(c) intimidation, harassment or threats on the part of the claimant or the claimant's representatives, before or during the proceedings, as well as similar conduct by the claimant in similar or concurrent cases;(d) the use of procedural tactics in bad faith, such as delaying proceedings, fraudulent or abusive forum shopping or the discontinuation of cases at a later stage of the proceedings in bad faith (art. 4 (3) of Directive (EU) 2024/1069 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings, 'Strategic lawsuits against public participation'): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024L1069>.

This variable assesses whether your country introduced anti-SLAPP legislation or other measures to prevent vexatious lawsuits and how effective these legislation/measures are.

Subindicator / Type

Positive obligations

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations. National case law and case law of the European Court on Human Rights. Reports by civil society organisations regarding your country: check for example <https://www.the-case.eu/resources/>, <https://www.rcmediafreedom.eu> and <https://www.mappingmediafreedom.org/analysis/>. Please consult the EC Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/758 of 27 April 2022 on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings ('Strategic lawsuits against public participation') and Directive 2024/1069 on

protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings ('Strategic lawsuits against public participation'), and see if any of the recommended measures were adopted in your country (e.g. burden of proof on the claimant, early dismissal mechanisms, right of award of costs incurred by the defendant, right to compensation for damages, possibility of imposing penalties to claimants, and so on).

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there is specific anti-SLAPP legislation or other legislation in place that provides for the necessary safeguards to address SLAPPs, and it is effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, there is anti-SLAPP legislation or other legislation in place that provides for the necessary safeguards to address SLAPPs but it is not always effective.
- High risk: No, there is no anti-SLAPP legislation or other legislation in place that provides for the necessary safeguards to address SLAPPs. Alternatively, if there is, it is NOT effective.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

9. Has your country implemented through national legislation the derogation provided for the GDPR on freedom of expression and journalistic activities in a way that complies with article 10(2) of the European Convention on Human Rights?

This variable aims to assess whether the derogation provided for by art. 85 the GDPR regarding freedom of expression and journalistic activities were implemented through national legislation in a way that ensures that any formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties to these rights/activities are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

GDPR and privacy-related concerns are often the basis for SLAPPs: see for example <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17577632.2022.2129614> and <https://www.the-case.eu/resources/how-slapps-increasingly-threaten-democracy-in-europe-new-case-report/>. For non-EU countries, please consider the existence of GDPR-like national laws.

Subindicator / Type

Positive obligations

Legal variable

Method

National Laws and Regulations. National case law.

Case law by the European Court on Human Rights on your country.

Reports by local and international NGOs working on these issues e.g. <https://www.the-case.eu/resources>.

Academic writing and reports by international bodies, organisations or experts on the issue

Answer options

- Low risk: The derogation is implemented in a way that ensures the proper exercise of journalistic protection.

- Medium risk: The derogation is implemented but does not properly ensure a right balance between data protection and freedom of expression with regard to journalistic activities.
- High risk: The derogation is not implemented.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

10. Is your country free from SLAPP cases or any other vexatious lawsuits that ask a disproportionate amount for damages and primarily aim to harass and silence critics?

This variable assesses whether your country is free from SLAPP cases.

Subindicator / Type

Positive obligations

Socio-Political

Method

Reports by civil society organisations regarding your country: check for example <https://www.the-case.eu/resources/>, <https://www.rcmediafreedom.eu> and <https://www.mappingmediafreedom.org/analysis/>. Academic papers, interviews, Court decisions, news coverage of SLAPP cases, and so on.

Answer options

- Low risk: No SLAPP cases.
- Medium risk: SLAPP cases occur occasionally.
- High risk: SLAPP cases are common.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

2. Protection of information integrity

This indicator assesses the extent to which the protection of information integrity is balanced with freedom of expression. Information integrity refers to the accuracy, consistency, and reliability of information and, accordingly, with the right to access reliable and independent news. It is threatened by disinformation, misinformation and hate speech. This indicator focuses on different policies to protect information integrity: content moderation practices by online platforms - also at the request of public authorities; and other measures like monitoring, debunking, and tackling disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference. All these measures should be balanced with the right to free expression.

11. Do online platforms moderate content with respect to freedom of expression?

This variable assesses the risks to freedom of expression in your country due to content moderation practices by online platforms. By “online platforms” we refer to both very large online platforms (i.e., VLOPs) and very large search engines (i.e., VLOSEs) (Art.24 DSA) that deal with, inter alia, news and current affairs-related content i.e., Facebook, Instagram, Google, YouTube, TikTok, X, and LinkedIn. More specifically, this question assesses how content moderation decisions are made by online platforms to understand whether they are acting “in a diligent, objective and proportionate manner” and “with due regard to the rights and legitimate interests of all parties involved, including the fundamental rights of the recipients of the service” (Art.14(4) DSA), in accordance with the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, Article 10 of the ECHR and related case law. In other words, online platforms should moderate content carefully, impartially, and only as much as necessary, and balance the rights and interests of all those affected by their decisions, from those posting content to the general public, as well as anyone potentially impacted.

Please note that content moderation broadly refers not only to content that is posted by users but also to the moderation of user accounts, comments, live streams, hashtags, and search results, amongst others. The full definition of “content moderation” can be found in the glossary, as defined in Art.3(t) DSA. As part of your assessment, you should pay particular attention to platforms’ content moderation related to (1) journalists and media outlets (given their “media privilege” status with VLOPs under Art.18 EMFA which, however, will become fully operational from August 8, 2025) and (2) platforms’ content moderation related to public emergencies and crises (e.g., pandemic), international conflicts and elections.

Finally, note that the relevant time frame is the year 2024 and the focus is on general trends rather than individual cases. That said, notable controversial cases of content moderation related to journalists, media outlets, human rights activists or politicians in your country may be considered in your evaluation.

Subindicator / Type

Respect of freedom of expression online by platforms

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

You can consult: - Online platforms transparency reports (inc. DSA’s transparency report) - Code of Practice on Disinformation transparency reports - European Commission proceedings - Out-of-court dispute settlement bodies’ investigations (including the Oversight board) (if available in your country) - Reports by Digital Service Coordinators - Qualitative analysis based on notable controversial cases - Reports and investigations by civil society and international NGOs (e.g., The Future of Free Speech, ARTICLE 19, The Civil Liberties Union for Europe) - Reports by international bodies, organisations or experts on the

issue (e.g. OSCE, UNESCO). - Case law by the European Court on Human Rights on your country - National case law. For the sake of answering this question, at least one interview with an expert in this field in your country is required. Please reference the interviewee's name (unless s/he requests to remain anonymous), professional role, date, and mode (online, in person).

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, online platforms consistently moderate content in a way that is diligent, objective and proportionate with respect to freedom of expression.
- Medium risk: Online platforms occasionally do not moderate content in a diligent, objective and proportionate manner, infringing on freedom of expression.
- High risk: No, online platforms generally do not moderate content in a diligent, objective and proportionate manner, infringing on freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

12. Do online platforms report their content moderation actions in a transparent and meaningful way?

This variable assesses the quality of content moderation reporting in your country. By “online platforms” we refer to both very large online platforms (i.e., VLOPs) and very large search engines (i.e., VLOSEs) (Art.24 DSA) that deal with, inter alia, news and current affairs-related content i.e., Facebook, Instagram, Google, YouTube, TikTok, X, LinkedIn. By ‘transparent’, we mean the extent to which platforms’ transparency reports are clear, user-friendly, detailed, and published on a regular basis. By ‘meaningful’, we mean the extent to which platforms’ transparency reports are effectively helpful in understanding the decision-making processes behind content moderation. For EU Member States, please consider the adherence to DSA’s transparency requirements (Arts. 14, 15, 21, 24). For candidate countries, please consider the level of cooperation with platforms related to transparency of content moderation actions (either between platforms and institutions or platforms and CSOs).

Subindicator / Type

Respect of freedom of expression online by platforms

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Consider: - Online platforms transparency reports (inc. DSA’s transparency report: <https://transparency.dsa.ec.europa.eu/>) - Code of Practice on Disinformation transparency reports - European Commission proceedings - Out-of-court dispute settlement bodies’ investigations (including the Oversight board) (if available in your country) - Reports by Digital Service Coordinators - Reports and investigations by civil society and international bodies and NGOs - Conducting interviews.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, their reporting is transparent and meaningful.
- Medium risk: Their reporting is not fully transparent and/or meaningful.
- High risk: There is no report, or their reporting is neither transparent nor meaningful.

- Not Applicable
- No Data

13. Is access to dispute resolution mechanisms available to address violations of freedom of expression and access to information that resulted from content moderation practices?

This variable aims to assess whether (i) access to judicial and non-judicial dispute resolution mechanisms to complain against violations of freedom of expression online is in place in your country. Judicial mechanisms correspond to claims and appeals to a tribunal; non-judicial mechanisms consist in internal complaint mechanisms, mediation and out-of-court dispute resolution; (ii) the effectiveness of such mechanisms in terms of output decisions: are the decisions in line with art. 10 ECHR? To evaluate the risk score, in principle the existence of additional dispute settlement mechanisms in addition to judicial remedies is to be considered positive, as it increases the possibilities of claiming for fundamental rights' infringements following content moderation practices. "Access" to the dispute resolution remedies might be limited by, for example, burdensome and/or lengthy procedures, not explained in a clearly intelligible language, or not provided in the local language. Finally, if any, include considerations about the independence of the bodies that have remit over these mechanisms (Courts, mediation parties, out-of-court dispute settlements bodies). For EU countries, non-judicial dispute resolution mechanisms in the context of content moderation are provided by art. 20 and 21 DSA and- for media services providers- by art. 18 (5) and (7) EMFA. Regarding the out-of-court dispute settlements bodies designated under art. 21 DSA so far, see: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-out-court-dispute-settlement>.

Subindicator / Type

Respect of freedom of expression online by platforms

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations. Reports by public institutions. National case law. Case law by the European Court of Human Rights related to your country. Reports by local and international NGOs working on these issues. Academic papers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there is access to an array of dispute resolution mechanisms, and they are effective in protecting freedom of expression.
- Medium risk: There is limited access to dispute resolution mechanisms and/or the mechanisms are varied but they are sometimes not effective in protecting freedom of expression.
- High risk: Access to resolution mechanisms is very limited and/or they often fail to protect freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

14. Do public authorities require online platforms to moderate content with respect to freedom of expression?

This variable aims to assess whether public authorities (e.g. governmental, national regulatory authorities, law enforcement, and

so on) require online platforms (e.g. VLOPs or VLOSEs dealing with news and current affairs content) to moderate content online and on what grounds (e.g. the content is illegal because it incites violence). It asks if their actions are in accordance with the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and, in particular, Article 10 ECHR and related case law. Please note that the relevant time frame is the year 2024 and it is looking for common practice, not single incidents. That said, notable controversial cases of journalists', media outlets', activists and human rights defenders or politicians' accounts being blocked, suspended or removed in your country - following the request of a public authority to platforms- may be considered in your evaluation. Also, you should particularly take into account platforms' moderation of content (e.g. shadowbans) related to public crises (e.g. pandemics), international conflicts and elections following public authorities' requests.

Subindicator / Type

Respect of freedom of expression online by public authorities

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

National case law.

Case law by the European Court on Human Rights on your country. Reports by local and international NGOs working on these issues.

Academic writing and reports by international bodies, organisations or experts on the issue.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, public authorities require online platforms to moderate content in a way that is proportionate with respect to freedom of expression.
- Medium risk: Public authorities occasionally require online platforms to moderate content in a way that is NOT proportionate with respect to freedom of expression.
- High risk: No, public authorities frequently require online platforms to moderate content in a way that is NOT proportionate with respect to freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

15. Do public authorities ask Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to manage network traffic with respect to freedom of expression and the right to access information?

This variable assesses if there are undue or disproportionate interferences by public authorities over ISP's management of network traffic, with requests that are disproportionate with protecting the right to freedom of expression and the right to access information as granted by art. 10 ECHR. These requests can lead to complete blackouts (where online connectivity is fully severed), disruptions of mobile service, throttling or slowing down connections, and the selective blocking of certain platforms or websites. By way of a non-exhaustive list, examples of state-imposed internet control measures include internet shutdowns; internet throttling; blocking/filtering/restricting access to particular websites, applications, or online services; and Domain Name System (DNS) / Internet Protocol (IP) blocking.

Subindicator / Type

Respect of freedom of expression online by public authorities

Socio-Political variable

Method

You can consult: - ISPs' reports; - National case-law or ECtHR decisions on your country; - decisions or reports by the competent national regulatory authority; - Reports by civil society organisations and international organisations. In particular, you can corroborate eventual blockings of websites from the open data project Ooni: <https://explorer.ooni.org/> and academic papers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, public authorities require network management to ISPs in a way that respects freedom of expression and the right to access information.
- Medium risk: There are cases when public authorities require network management from ISPs in a way that DOES NOT respect freedom of expression and the right to access information.
- High risk: No, public authorities often require network management from ISPs in a way that DOES NOT respect freedom of expression and the right to access information.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

16. Do public authorities report their requests of content moderation to platforms and of traffic management to ISPs in a transparent and meaningful way?

This variable aims to assess, in the cases when public authorities (e.g. law enforcement authorities, national regulatory authorities, and so on) request online platforms to moderate content, or ISPs to manage network traffic, if they report publicly and regularly about such requests and their respective grounds. By 'meaningful', we mean the extent to which the reports are effectively helpful in understanding the decision-making processes behind the authorities' orders/requests. In this case, we are not referring to platforms' transparency but to authorities making this information transparent on their own website(s).

Subindicator / Type

Respect of freedom of expression online by public authorities

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Reports by public authorities.

National case law.

Case law by European Court on Human Rights on your country. Reports by local and international NGOs working on these issues.

Academic writing and reports by international bodies, organisations or experts on the issue.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, they report in a transparent and meaningful way.
- Medium risk: Their reporting is not fully transparent and/or meaningful.
- High risk: There is no report, or their reporting is neither transparent nor meaningful.

- Not Applicable
- No Data

17. Is there a national public strategy (including legal, co-regulatory or self-regulatory frameworks) and a broader cooperation between different stakeholders to tackle disinformation, and is it efficient- without infringing on freedom of expression?

In the context of this sub-indicator, the definition of disinformation used is the one provided by the 2022 Strengthened Code of Practice on disinformation (see the MPM's Glossary for the exact definition). This variable aims to assess whether there is a public strategy in place to tackle disinformation in your country that does not jeopardise the right to freedom of expression. Such a strategy can include a series of actions promoted by public authorities, such as: regulatory frameworks, campaigns, the provision of funding, networking platforms, cooperation among authorities or other stakeholders, information days, distribution of information packs, and any other initiatives to tackle disinformation, and to raise awareness in order to improve societal resilience to disinformation.

Subindicator / Type

Protection against disinformation and FIMI

Legal variable

Method

Sources: policies, actions, strategy, national laws and regulations (e.g. acts, decrees, branch agreements), soft laws, case law and regulatory decisions, self-regulatory framework. **To answer this question, the country team has to conduct a brief interview with at least one disinformation expert in the country.** The interview has to be referenced (please attach a note listing the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed and the date and channel used (in-person/telephone/online) for the interview).

Answer options

- Low risk: There is a clear national public strategy with measurable objectives and efficient cooperation between different stakeholders is in place. This strategy does not restrict or harm freedom of expression.
- Medium risk: There is a public strategy to tackle disinformation that is not yet efficient (e.g. no clear regulatory framework; or some stakeholders are not included, or their respective roles are not clearly defined). Instances of restrictions or harms of freedom of expression under the implementation of this strategy have taken place.
- High risk: There is a nascent public strategy to tackle disinformation or no strategy at all. When existent, such a strategy is inefficient or restricts or harms freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

18. Are there any independent initiatives to monitor and debunk disinformation, and to conduct research on disinformation in your country?

This variable aims to assess the research and debunking activities on disinformation conducted in your country. Among them are independent fact-checking initiatives with high ethical and professional standards, academic and civil society organisations' research as well as activities organised within newsrooms to tackle disinformation. Please note that you should take into account initiatives with high transparency and ethical standards, oriented towards the respect and promotion of freedom of expression

(in this regard, you can check the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) Code of Principles <https://www.ifcncodeofprinciples.poynter.org> and European Code of Standards for Independent Fact-Checking Organisation <https://efcsn.com/code-of-standards/>). This means that if some initiatives exist in your country, but their independence and practices are questionable, the risk level is increased.

Subindicator / Type

Protection against disinformation and FIMI

Socio-Political variable

Method

Please provide references to existing research, monitoring and debunking activities on disinformation conducted in your country. Sources: Public documents, reports of independent bodies, reports of fact checking organizations, academic research, NGOs reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: There are numerous independent initiatives to monitor, debunk and conduct research on disinformation. Data on disinformation are widely available.
- Medium risk: There are occasional independent initiatives to monitor, debunk and conduct research on disinformation, yet there is room for improvement.
- High risk: There are very limited or no independent initiatives to monitor, debunk and conduct research on disinformation. It is very difficult to understand the extent and characteristics of disinformation in the country.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

19. Are there policies and measures in your country to identify and address the threat of foreign information manipulation and interference?

The concept of FIMI (foreign information manipulation and interference) overlaps with disinformation, but it focuses on instances when the foreign interference and information manipulation clearly originates from sources outside of the EU, and it covers not just certain forms of harmful content (disinformation, propaganda, etc.) but also behaviours and operating methods (TTPs – Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures), such as hack-and-leak attacks. FIMI is conducted in an intentional and coordinated manner. The European Democracy Action Plan (2020) and the 2022 Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation mention that “foreign interference in the information space” is “often carried out as part of a broader hybrid operation, can be understood as coercive and deceptive efforts to disrupt the free formation and expression of individuals’ political will by a foreign state actor or its agents”. In many cases, FIMI is not illegal but can still cause harm to democratic processes (such as the integrity of elections) or public order (for example, in the case of a pandemic). As FIMI is a security threat, it can be reflected in defence and national security strategies as well.

The multi-faceted and multi-level threat of FIMI requires a whole-of-society approach to deal with it – including government bodies, the security apparatus, the media and civil society – as such, the EU’s FIMI Toolbox emphasises the need to improve situational awareness (among other things through monitoring and detection, the systemic collection of evidence, open-source intelligence [OSINT] investigations and information sharing), resilience building (such as strategic communications, a rapid alert system and capacity building), “disruption and regulation” (referring to laws and policies aiming at preventing and deterring or responding to FIMI attacks, including transparency measures), as well as diplomatic responses (such as international cooperation or sanctions on media service providers). A response framework to FIMI is important for a country’s

resilience even if there are no documented cases yet of FIMI in the country. Foreign interference and information manipulation can be considered a systemic risk under the Digital Services Act (Regulation 2022/2065 – art. 34 DSA). The Code of Practice on Disinformation, which is in the process of being transformed into a Code of Conduct under the DSA, highlights the need for relevant signatories to “recognise the necessity to continue to strengthen their commitments in order to counter and limit impermissible manipulative behaviours and practices across their services, foreign information manipulation and interference, and hybrid threats to security.” FIMI is also considered in the context of the monitoring exercise proposed in Art. 26 of the European Media Freedom Act (Regulation 2024/1083 – EMFA): "The monitoring exercise shall include: (a) a detailed analysis of media markets in all Member States, including as regards the level of media concentration and risks of foreign information manipulation and interference"; EMFA mentions FIMI also in art. 19 (1.c), prescribing that “The Board shall regularly organise a structured dialogue between providers of very large online platforms, representatives of media service providers and representatives of civil society in order to: [...] monitor adherence to self-regulatory initiatives which aim to protect users from harmful content, including disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference” and indirectly refers to in art. 17 on the “Coordination of measures concerning media services from outside the Union”.

Subindicator / Type

Protection against disinformation and FIMI

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

For this variable, the country team has to conduct at least two brief interviews with experts on this topic in the country (ideally, at least one academic and one public official). The interview has to be referenced (please attach a note listing the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed and the date and channel (in-person/telephone) for the interview). Also assess the laws and the policy framework and consult relevant reports by academia and civil society. For more information, see the 2nd EEAS Report on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Threats. A Framework for Networked Defence January 2024.

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/EEAS-2nd-Report%20on%20FIMI%20Threats-January-2024_0.pdf

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there are a number of coordinated measures in the country, involving multiple stakeholders, to monitor foreign information manipulation and interference and to address or mitigate its effects.
- Medium risk: Foreign information manipulation is considered a threat, but the measures so far are scattered and coordination across institutions is limited.
- High risk: There are no or very few clearly identifiable measures against foreign information manipulation.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

3. Protection of right to information

This indicator aims to assess the existence and effective implementation of regulatory safeguards relating to the right to information. A country may have good laws relating to the right to information, but they may not be implemented or enforced. The indicator also takes into account the levels of protection of whistle-blowers in a given country.

20. Is the right to information explicitly recognised in the Constitution and/or national laws?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards for the right to information in the Constitution or in national laws.

Subindicator / Type

Legal protection of right to information

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations (acts, decrees, branch agreements, and so on), constitutional conventions, case law, and regulatory decisions. Overviews of national media legislation can be found on the EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

See also:

Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries): <http://www.nordicmedia.info/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: It is explicitly recognised in the Constitution.
- Medium risk: It is recognised in national laws or in the jurisprudence (Courts).
- High risk: It is not recognised.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

21. Are the exemptions from the right of access to information consistent with international standards?

Permissible exemptions from the right of access to information that are consistent with international standards are the following: national security; international relations; public health and safety; the prevention, investigation and prosecution of legal wrongs; privacy; legitimate commercial and other economic interests; management of the economy; fair administration of justice and legal advice privilege; conservation of the environment; and legitimate policy making and other operations of public authorities.

National laws should contain a clearly and narrowly defined list of exemptions or an explanation of the grounds for refusing the disclosure of information. Exemptions should apply only where there is a risk of substantial harm to the protected interest and where that harm is greater than the overall public interest in having access to the information, and should be determined by an independent body, preferably a court, and not the body holding the information.

This variable assesses if the national laws contain clearly defined lists of exemptions, which are consistent with international standards.

The assessment should also consider if anyone can access information or if any specific qualifications are required (e.g., public prosecutor, journalist, etc).

Subindicator / Type

Legal protection of right to information

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations (acts, decrees, branch agreements, and so on), constitutional conventions, case law, and regulatory decisions (As above). Studies/reports providing overviews of and/or evaluating safeguards for the right to information.

See also the Global Right to Information Rating and the assessment of the restrictions to freedom of information for your country: <https://www.rti-rating.org/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, exemptions from the right of access to information are consistent with international standards.
- Medium risk: Only some exemptions from the right of access to information are consistent with international standards.
- High risk: Exemptions from the right of access to information are NOT consistent with international standards.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

22. Are there appeal mechanisms in place for denials to access to information and are they effective?

This variable assesses whether there are appeal mechanisms in place in cases of denials to access to information. Such an appeal mechanism should be before a judicial body or if not, before a body that is independent of the parties involved, held to provide written reasons for its decisions and whose decisions are subject to review by a court or tribunal within the meaning of Article 267 TFEU.

Subindicator / Type

Legal protection of right to information

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations (acts, decrees, branch agreements, and so on), constitutional conventions, case law, regulatory decisions.

See also the Global Right to Information Rating and the assessment of the appeal mechanisms in case of the refusal of an FoI

request in your country: <https://www.rti-rating.org/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there are appeal mechanisms and they are effective.
- Medium risk: There are remedies but they are not always effective.
- High risk: Appeal systems are not in place; no effective remedy.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

23. Does the public administration generally refrain from denying access to information in an arbitrary way?

This variable aims to assess the effectiveness of the appeal mechanisms in place and test whether they are subject to systematic misuse or delays to limit access to information.

Subindicator / Type

Legal protection of right to information

Socio-Political variable

Method

Academic writing on the issue and reports by NGOs working on related issues.

Answer options

- Low risk: The procedures are never misused.
- Medium risk: The procedures are occasionally misused.
- High risk: The procedures are very often or always misused.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

24. Is there a regulatory framework in place to protect whistleblowers, and is it effective?

This variable aims to assess whether the country has adopted legal instruments to protect whistleblowers and whether these are effectively implemented. While a country may have adequate laws on the protection of whistleblowers, they may not be implemented fully in practice. The assessment should also consider if the current national legislation satisfies the requirements laid down in the EU Directive 2019/1937 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law.

Subindicator / Type

Protection of whistleblowers

Legal variable

Method

Consult the EU Directive 2019/1937 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law. Consult national laws and

regulations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there is a legal framework, and it is effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, there is a legal framework but it is not always effective.
- High risk: No, there is no legal framework, and if there is one, it is NOT effective.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

25. What is the general awareness about the available protection for whistleblowers and its impact?

This variable also assesses the general awareness of the law in the population and the number of filed reports. If the law exists but very few employees are aware of the protection they are entitled to, the law will not have much impact. Consider if the government organised broad awareness-raising campaigns along with the adoption of the law and how (if) that translated into the number of filed reports.

Subindicator / Type

Protection of whistleblowers

Socio-Political variable

Method

Consider awareness-raising activities by the government and the annual number of filed reports. If there is an Ombudsman for Whistleblowers' Protection or another dedicated body, then investigate their annual reports to collect this information. In the absence of a dedicated legal framework, the answer is Not applicable.

Answer options

- Low risk: There were several awareness-raising activities, and the number of filed reports is high.
- Medium risk: The awareness-raising activities were limited, and the number of filed reports is average.
- High risk: There were no awareness-raising activities, and the number of filed reports is very low.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

26. Is your country free from cases of arbitrary sanctioning of whistleblowers?

This variable assesses whether there are unlawful arrests/detainment/sanctioning/imprisonment of whistleblowers.

Subindicator / Type

Protection of whistleblowers

Socio-Political variable

Method

Reports by NGOs or professional associations/unions (e.g., World Press Freedom).

Index of censorship: <https://mappingmediafreedom.org/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: No cases where whistleblowers were arbitrarily sanctioned.
- Medium risk: Some or few cases where whistleblowers were arbitrarily sanctioned
- High risk: Whistleblowers were arbitrarily sanctioned in many or all cases.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

4. Journalistic profession, standards and protection

Journalists (and other media actors) are those who, in a functioning democratic society, feed the public debate and ensure that the public is informed on all matters of public interest. In contributing to the public debate, journalists influence public opinion and, in the end, the electoral choices of voters and the accountability of politicians. It is therefore important that, in a democratic society, access to the journalistic profession is not limited by precariousness and poor working conditions, that journalists do not suffer physical and online threats and attacks, that the perpetrators of these crimes are prosecuted; and that journalists and their sources are protected from surveillance. This also means that public authorities have a duty to guarantee a safe environment in which journalists and other media actors can work without excessive burdens or fear.

27. Are journalists' professional associations effective in guaranteeing respect for working conditions and journalists' safety?

This variable assesses if there are professional associations advocating for the guarantee of adequate working conditions and to denounce and promote solutions to guarantee journalists' safety, and to what effect they are relevant and effective in your country.

Subindicator / Type

Working conditions

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Reports by NGOs or journalistic organisations. Interviews with journalistic organisations.

Other relevant websites: www.ifj.org ; <https://europeanjournalists.org/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: They are highly effective in guaranteeing editorial independence and/or respect for professional standards.
- Medium risk: They are partially effective in guaranteeing editorial independence and/or respect for professional standards.
- High risk: They are NOT effective in guaranteeing editorial independence and/or respect for professional standards.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

28. How would you evaluate the working conditions of journalists in your country?

For a genuine pluralistic media landscape to be realised, it is crucial that journalists can work under decent social conditions. This variable aims to assess risks to the working conditions of journalists, particularly including social security schemes (e.g., salary, precarity of contracts, illness, insurance, and maternity/paternity leave). It also considers the situation for freelance journalists or other self-employed content producers. These protections have an impact on the viability of the profession, as the lack thereof might lead newcomers, as well as experienced media practitioners affected by hardships, to look for different professions. If possible, also report on the impact of AI on journalistic work in your country.

Subindicator / Type

Working conditions

Socio-Political variable

Method

Interviews with journalists or journalistic organisations.

Reports by NGOs or professional associations/unions.

Answer options

- Low risk: Good job security and pay.
- Medium risk: Some irregularities in payments and some job insecurity.
- High risk: Frequent irregularities in payments and high job insecurity.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

29. Are there cases of attacks or threats to the physical safety of journalists?

The physical safety of journalists is essential to guarantee their freedom of expression and media pluralism. Attacks and threats might take place during the exercise of their profession (e.g. while covering demonstrations), but also in journalists' daily life because of their professional role. The relevant timeframe should be 2024.

Subindicator / Type

Physical safety

Socio-Political variable

Method

See media reporting on the issue and available statistics, such as data provided by the platform Mapping Media Freedom (<https://www.mappingmediafreedom.org/#/>); the reports of the Media Freedom rapid Response Consortium (MFRR) (<https://www.mfrr.eu/>); the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists (<https://fom.coe.int/en/accueil>); and the Committee to Protect Journalists (<https://cpj.org/data>). Even if few data are available for your country, consider if this is due to under-reporting (journalists not denouncing threats, or the competent authorities not having a public database, and eventually assess this lack of data as a risk).

Answer options

- Low risk: No attacks, no threats.
- Medium risk: No attacks, some threats.
- High risk: Attacks and threats take place.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

30. Do physical threats and attacks against women and/or LGBTQ+ journalists (its amount and

extent) represent a significant problem in the country?

Women and LGBTQ+ journalists receive more misogynist and sexualised hate speech. Several academic and policy reports concluded that online harassment harms their well-being and mental health, and the conduct of their profession. Through this variable, we would like to acknowledge that violence against women and LGBTQ+ journalists is a self-standing issue and needs to be assessed as such. Please evaluate the frequency and gravity of the instances of attacks against women and LGBTQ+ journalists in your country. If there are few or no cases, please critically assess whether this is because the issue of violence against women and LGBTQ+ journalists in your country is marginal or if it remains under-reported/unreported.

Subindicator / Type

Physical safety

Socio-Political variable

Method

Reports by local and international NGOs working on these issues.

Academic writing and reports by international bodies, organizations or experts on the issue.

See media reporting on the issue and available statistics, such as data provided by the platform Mapping Media Freedom (<https://www.mappingmediafreedom.org/#/>); the reports of the Media Freedom rapid Response Consortium (MFRR) (<https://www.mfrr.eu/>); the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists (<https://fom.coe.int/en/accueil>); and the Committee to Protect Journalists (<https://cpj.org/data>).

Please consult: <https://www.rcmediafreedom.eu/Dossier-OBCT/Thematic-directories/Thematic-directories/A-series-of-Thematic-Directories.-WOMEN-JOURNALISTS>.

Even if few data are available for your country, consider if this is due to under-reporting (women and LGBTQ+ journalists not denouncing threats, or the competent authorities not having a public database, and eventually assess this lack of data as a risk). Interviews with women and LGBTQ+ journalists and journalistic associations can be a source.

Answer options

- Low risk: No, there are no physical threats and attacks against women and/or LGBTQ+ journalists.
- Medium risk: No attacks, some cases of physical threats against women and/or LGBTQ+ journalists took place.
- High risk: Physical threats and attacks against women and/or LGBTQ+ journalists take place.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

31. Is your country free from arrests or imprisonments of journalists because of the exercise of their profession?

This variable assesses whether there are politically motivated arrests/detainment and imprisonment of journalists.

Subindicator / Type

Physical safety

Socio-Political variable

Method

See media reporting on the issue and available statistics, such as data provided by the platform Mapping Media Freedom (<https://www.mappingmediafreedom.org/#/>); the reports of the Media Freedom rapid Response Consortium (MFRR) (<https://www.mfrr.eu/>); the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists (<https://fom.coe.int/en/accueil>); and the Committee to Protect Journalists (<https://cpj.org/data>).

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

32. Is your country free from killings of journalists?

This variable assesses whether journalists were killed in relation to the exercise of the journalistic profession in your country in 2024.

Subindicator / Type

Life safety

Socio-Political variable

Method

See media reporting on the issue and available statistics, such as data provided by the platform Mapping Media Freedom (<https://www.mappingmediafreedom.org/#/>); the reports of the Media Freedom rapid Response Consortium (MFRR) (<https://www.mfrr.eu/>); the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists (<https://fom.coe.int/en/accueil>); and the Committee to Protect Journalists (<https://cpj.org/data>).

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

33. Are there threats against the online safety of journalists, or online attacks against journalists?

This variable assesses the presence of threats to the online safety of journalists, including inter-alia: hacking and phishing attacks; illegitimate surveillance of their searches and online activities, their email or social media profiles; online harassment and abuse (e.g. trolling and doxing); Denial of Service attacks (DoS); disinformation and smear campaigns; the confiscation of evidence related to investigative stories; and other attacks by state or non-state actors. Please consider if the extent of online

harassment has increased for journalists, e.g., for journalists covering conspiracy theories, wars, climate change, and other critical current issues. The relevant timeframe should be 2024.

Subindicator / Type

Digital safety

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Interviews with journalists or relevant organisations. Please consult the platform Mapping Media Freedom (<https://www.mappingmediafreedom.org/#/>), the reports of the Media Freedom rapid Response Consortium (MFRR) (<https://www.mfrr.eu/>) and the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists (<https://fom.coe.int/en/accueil>). If few data are available for your country, consider if this is due to under-reporting (journalists not denouncing threats, or the competent authorities not having a public database, and eventually assess this lack of data as a risk).

Answer options

- Low risk: There are no threats to the online safety of journalists nor online attacks against journalists.
- Medium risk: There are some threats against the online safety of journalists online attacks against journalists.
- High risk: There are frequent threats against journalists and online attacks against journalists.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

34. Do online threats and attacks against women and/ or LGBTQ+ journalists (its amount and extent) represent a significant problem in the country?

Online threats and attacks against women and LGBTQ+ journalists have been on the rise. The comments women journalists receive are often unrelated to their work but discuss their visual appearance and question their competency to report on the specific issues or in general. Some of these comments can be extremely violent and dehumanising and include rape and death threats.

Similarly, as attacks in the physical environmental, online attacks and threats have severe repercussions for journalistic practice.

Through this variable, we would like to acknowledge that online violence against women and LGBTQ+ journalists is a self-standing issue and needs to be assessed as such. Please, assess the frequency and gravity of the instances of online threats and attacks against women and LGBTQ+ journalists in your country. If there are few or no cases, please critically assess whether this is because the issue in your country is marginal or remains under-reported/unreported.

This variable assesses the presence of threats to the online safety of journalists, including inter-alia: hacking and phishing attacks; illegitimate surveillance of their searches and online activities, their email or social media profiles; online harassment and abuse (e.g. trolling and doxing); Denial of Service attacks (DoS); disinformation and smear campaign; the confiscation of evidence related to investigative stories; and other attacks by state or non-state actors. etc. In the case of online abuse, please

consider the extent and nature of online abuse towards women and LGBTQ+ journalists and include the incidents of sexualised harassment and abuse.

Subindicator / Type

Digital safety

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Reports by local and international NGOs working on these issues.

Academic writing and reports by international bodies, organisations or experts on the issue. Crime statistics, if available.

Please consult:

<https://www.rcmediafreedom.eu/Dossier-OBCT/Thematic-directories/Thematic-directories/A-series-of-Thematic-Directories.-WOMEN- JOURNALISTS>.

Interviews with women journalists and journalistic associations. If few data are available for your country, consider if this is due to under-reporting (women and LGBTQ+ journalists not denouncing threats, or the competent authorities not having a public database, and eventually assess this lack of data as a risk).

Answer options

- Low risk: No, there are no online threats nor attacks against women and/or LGBTQ+ journalists.
- Medium risk: There are some online threats and attacks against women and/or LGBTQ+ journalists.
- High risk: There are many online threats and attacks against women and/or LGBTQ+ journalists, or there are some, but there are indications that many go under-reported/unreported.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

35. Are perpetrators of crimes against journalists prosecuted?

Impunity (unsolved murders or other crimes against journalists that do not lead to convictions) remains a widespread problem and affects journalists in a number of ways. For example, impunity hinders independent journalism and encourages self-censorship. This variable assesses whether perpetrators of crimes against journalists are successfully prosecuted, or if the impunity is widespread.

The answer should be "Not applicable" only when there are no crimes at all and hence, nothing to be investigated, and nobody to be prosecuted. Otherwise, a risk level must be assessed.

Subindicator / Type

Prosecution of crimes against journalists

Legal variable

Method

NGO reports.

Academic papers.

Crime and courts statistics.

National case law and case law of the European Court on Human Rights.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, perpetrators of crimes against journalists are commonly prosecuted, and impunity is not a problem at all.
- Medium risk: Perpetrators of crimes against journalists are sometimes prosecuted, and impunity remains a problem in specific cases.
- High risk: Perpetrators of crimes against journalists are rarely prosecuted, and impunity is a widespread systemic problem.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

36. Is the protection of journalistic sources explicitly recognised by the law and/or by the highest courts in your country?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards for the protection of journalistic sources. In some countries, the protection of sources may be recognised in the case law of the highest courts even if it is not explicitly recognised in national legal instruments. The protection of journalistic sources of information constitutes a basic condition for journalistic work as well as for the freedom of the media. To promote the development of free, independent and pluralist media, it is necessary for journalists to have the right not to disclose their sources of information, and to enjoy protection against undue interference and the deployment of surveillance technologies. These principles are recognised by the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, Recommendation (2000) 7 on the right of journalists not to disclose their sources of information, the 2021

Recommendation on protection, safety and empowerment of journalists and other media professionals in the European Union, and by Regulation 2024/1083 (European Media Freedom Act) in Recitals 19-21 and art. 4 (3).

Subindicator / Type

Protection of sources

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations.

Constitutional conventions.

National case law and case law of the European Court on Human Rights. Self-regulatory instruments.

Studies/reports providing overviews of and/or evaluating safeguards for the protection of journalistic sources.

Answer options

- Low risk: It is recognised, and it is absolute.
- Medium risk: It is recognised, but to a certain extent (e.g. a judge can ask for disclosure of sources or no protection from intrusive surveillance is provided)
- High risk: It is not recognised.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

37. Is the protection of journalistic sources generally enforced in practice?

This variable aims to assess the effective implementation of regulatory safeguards for the protection of journalistic sources. While a country may have adequate laws on the protection of journalistic sources, they may not be implemented in practice. If journalists cannot guarantee a source's anonymity, journalists may not be able to report at all. Evidence of systematic infringement may include:

- when there is a number of cases where journalists were obliged to disclose their sources and were condemned for not disclosing their sources;
- or cases where the Member State did not take measures after a conviction by the European Court on Human Rights for systematic use of domiciliary visits and telephone tapping of journalists.

Please note that the relevant timeframe is 2024 and it is looking for common practice, not single incidents.

Subindicator / Type

Protection of sources

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations.

Constitutional conventions.

National case law and case law of the European Court on Human Rights. Self-regulatory instruments.

Studies/reports providing overviews of and/or evaluating safeguards for the protection of journalistic sources.

Answer options

- Low risk: It is enforced in practice.
- Medium risk: It is not enforced in some cases.
- High risk: It is not enforced.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

38. Has your country adopted measures that prevent the illegal surveillance of journalists, media service providers, and any persons with regular or professional ties to them, including the deployment of various forms of intrusive surveillance technology (e.g., spyware) on any digital device, tool or machine used by them?

This variable aims to assess whether the country has adopted measures to prevent the illegal surveillance of journalists or media service providers and any persons with regular or professional ties to them. Such surveillance could, for example, take place through the use of intrusive surveillance technologies (see the MPM Glossary) or by violating the ECHR and European Court of Justice's case law on retention policies by Electronic Telecommunications Operators and Internet Service Providers. Respect for the fundamental rights to private and family life and to freedom of expression should be compressed only with necessary and proportionate measures in a democratic society to safeguard, for example, the interests of national security, defence, public security, and safety; for the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties. In carrying out this assessment, you should take into account surveillance activities by private entities and state authorities, including the outsourcing of surveillance to private entities and quangos (quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations).

Subindicator / Type

Protection of sources

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

National Laws and Regulations. National case law.

Case law by the European Court on Human Rights on your country. Reports by local and international NGOs working on these issues.

Academic writing and reports by international bodies, organisations or experts on the issue. To assess the standards for protection against illegal surveillance of journalists, take under consideration the protections provided by Directive 2002/58/EC (the ePrivacy Directive), Directive 2016/680/EU (the Law Enforcement Directive), Directive 2013/40/EU on attacks against information systems, and Regulation 2024/1083 (European Media Freedom Act, art. 4).

Answer options

- Low risk: The country has adopted measures that prevent the illegal surveillance of journalists, media service providers or any persons with regular or professional ties to them.
- Medium risk: The country has adopted measures that partially prevent the illegal surveillance of journalists, media service providers or any persons with regular or professional ties to them.
- High risk: There are no measures in place that prevent the illegal surveillance of journalists, media service providers or any persons with regular or professional ties to them.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

5. Independence and effectiveness of the national regulatory authorities

National regulatory authorities (NRA) are increasingly becoming key actors for supervising and implementing media policies and regulation in Europe. This indicator assesses whether they are independent from political and economic influences; the effectiveness and transparency of the implementation of NRA's tasks; the possibility of appealing NRA's decisions.

39. Are appointment procedures of the media authority transparent, democratic and objective and designed to minimize the risk of political or economic interference, for instance by including rules on incompatibility and eligibility?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards for the independence of the media authority. In particular it aims to assess the existence of rules to guarantee that the members of the media authority are appointed in a democratic and transparent manner, may not receive any mandate or take any instructions from any person or body, do not make any statement or undertake any action which may prejudice the independence of its functions, and do not take any advantage of them.

Members of media authorities should also avoid exercising functions or holding interests in enterprises or other organisations in the media or related sectors which might lead to a conflict of interest in connection with membership of the media authority. The assessment should also consider if the current regulation governing the appointment procedures follow the principles laid down in the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive 2018/1808, in particular, its Article 30, section 5.

Subindicator / Type

Independence

Legal variable

Method

Please consider the authority that has regulatory competences over the media sector, and list other bodies with residual competences in the comment box.

In the case of concurring authorities, please, consider as relevant the authority that is part of EPRA or ERGA.

<http://www.epra.org/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/audiovisual-regulators>

The EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive 2018/1808: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018L1808&from=EN>.

National laws and regulations.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

RADAR project: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/news/study-audiovisual-media-services>.

INDIREG: <http://www.indireg.eu/>

Websites of national regulatory authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries): <http://www.nordicmedia.info/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Procedures are transparent, democratic and objective and are designed to minimise the risk of political or

economic interference.

- Medium risk: Procedures are designed to minimise the risk of political or economic interference but are not fully effective.
- High risk: Procedures are not transparent, democratic or objective and are designed to minimise the risk of political or economic interference.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

40. Does the media authority act independently from political and/or economic influences?

This variable assesses whether the practice of the media authority indicates that it uses its powers in an independent manner and in the interest of the public. You may include considerations related to the effectiveness of the rules related to the appointment procedures.

Subindicator / Type

Independence

Socio-Political variable

Method

The answer should be based on a concrete assessment of its decisional practice and other elements, such as whether the media authority has ever been condemned after an investigation by anti-corruption bodies or if members of the media authority are not acting independently or have conflicts of interest with their role.

EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/>.

Websites of national regulatory authorities.

NGO reports and reports by relevant national and international organisations. National and European case law.

Academic writing on the issue. <http://www.transparencyinternational.org/>.

Interviews with relevant actors.

Answer options

- Low risk: The media authority acts in an independent manner.
- Medium risk: The media authority sometimes acts in a manner that is not independent from economic and/or political influence.
- High risk: The authority very often acts in a non-independent manner.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

41. [When the DSC does not correspond with the media authority] Does the Digital Service Coordinator act independently from political and/or economic influences?

This variable assesses whether the practice of the Digital Service Coordinator (DSC) indicates that it uses its powers in an independent manner and in the interest of the public. You may include considerations related to the effectiveness of the rules related to the appointment procedures.

Subindicator / Type

Independence

Socio-Political variable

Method

The answer should be based on a concrete assessment of its decisional practice and other elements, such as whether the DSC has ever been condemned after an investigation by anti-corruption bodies or if members of the DSC are not acting independently or have conflicts of interest with their role. Here is the list of the appointed DSCs: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs>. Refer to NGO reports and reports by relevant national and international organisations. **If the DSC corresponds with the media authority- the answer is "Not applicable". If such authority was selected but not enough actions on which to base your evaluation were put in place yet, the answer is "Not applicable."**

Answer options

- Low risk: The DSC acts in an independent manner.
- Medium risk: The DSC sometimes acts in a manner that is not independent from economic and/or political influence
- High risk: The DSC very often acts in a non-independent manner, or no DSC / corresponding authority has been appointed yet.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

42. Is there evidence that the government arbitrarily overrules decisions by the media authority or weakens its role?

This variable assesses whether the government in your country arbitrarily overrules decisions by the media authority. Decisions to overrule are considered arbitrary if they are not foreseen by law, not reasonable, or are made in bad faith.

Furthermore, legislation that weakens the role and the independence of the authority may be considered arbitrary and designed to overrule the competences and the independence of the media authority.

Subindicator / Type

Independence

Socio-Political variable

Method

EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/>.

Websites of national regulatory authorities.

NGO reports and reports by relevant national and international organisations. National and European case law.

Academic writing on the issue.

Interviews with relevant actors.

Answer options

- Low risk: The government never overrules decisions by the media authority and respects its independence.
- Medium risk: The government at times arbitrarily overrules decisions by the media authority and/or withdraws competences.
- High risk: The government regularly overrules arbitrarily decisions by the media authority and/or withdraws competences, or the media authority is staffed by people linked to the government, and thus, the government can exert its influence directly.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

43. Are the tasks and responsibilities of the media authority defined in detail in the law?

This variable assesses the existence of laws and regulations clearly defining the tasks and responsibilities of the media authority (-ies). These may include regulatory powers, the power to assess media concentrations that might have a significant impact on media pluralism and editorial independence, and/or the power to grant licences, compliance monitoring, including sanctioning powers. Clarity may avoid circumvention of competencies. The assessment should also consider if the current regulation governing the media authorities' tasks and responsibilities follow the principles laid down in the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive 2018/1808, in particular, its Article 30, section 3 and by the Digital Services Act- should the media authority be entrusted of being Digital Services Coordinator. Please consider if new tasks have already been allocated to the media authority considering the 2025 entrance into force of the European Media Freedom Act.

Subindicator / Type

Competencies and accountability

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>

Websites of national regulatory authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/> and Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries):<http://www.nordicmedia.info/>.

The EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive 2018/1808: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018L1808&from=EN>.

Answer options

- Low risk: They are clearly defined by the law.
- Medium risk: They are defined by the law, but not in a clear way.
- High risk: They are not defined by the law and/or not clearly.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

44. Does regulation attribute sanctioning powers to the media authority and are sanctions effective?

This indicator specifically assesses whether the law attributes sanctioning powers to the authority. Sanctioning powers may include warnings, fines, suspensions or revocation of licences, refusal of additional licences, blocking of a merger or acquisition, the obligation to allocate windows for third party programming, the obligation to give up licences/activities in other media sectors, and/or divestiture.

Subindicator / Type

Competencies and accountability

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Websites of national regulatory authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries): <http://www.nordicmedia.info/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, and the sanctions are effective.
- Medium risk: There are sanctions, but they are not always effective.
- High risk: There are no sanctions, or sanctions are ineffective, or they are used to intimidate dissenting views broadcasted in the independent media.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

45. With regard to the decisions of the media authority, are there appeal mechanisms in place?

This variable aims to assess the existence of mechanisms of appeal of the decisions made by the media authority. The appeal mechanisms should be before a judicial body or before a body that is independent of the parties involved, held to provide written reasons for its decisions and whose decisions are subject to review by a court or tribunal within the meaning of Article 267 TFEU.

The assessment should also consider if the appeal mechanisms that are in place satisfy the requirements laid down in the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive 2018/1808, in particular its Article 30, section 6 and- when the media authority corresponds with the DSC- artt. 50 (6) and 51 (6) DSA.

Subindicator / Type

Competencies and accountability

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations. National case law.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

RADAR project: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/news/study-audiovisual-media-services>.

EU Study: INDIREG: <http://www.indireg.eu/>.

Websites of national regulatory authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries): <http://www.nordicmedia.info/>.

Hans Bredow Institute et al. (2011). Indicators for independence and efficient functioning of audiovisual media services regulatory bodies. Study conducted on behalf of the European Commission, findings available at: <http://www.indireg.eu/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Appeal mechanisms exist, are effective, and are not misused to delay the enforcement of remedies.
- Medium risk: Appeal mechanisms exist, but are partially effective and/or are occasionally delayed.
- High risk: Appeal mechanisms do not exist or are not effective and/or are systematically misused to delay the enforcement of remedies.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

46. [When the DSC does not correspond with the media authority] With regard to the Digital Services Coordinator's decisions, are there appeal mechanisms in place?

This variable aims to assess the existence of mechanisms of appeal of the decisions by the DSC. The appeal mechanisms should be before a judicial body or before a body that is independent of the parties involved, held to provide written reasons for its decisions and whose decisions are subject to review by a court or tribunal within the meaning of Article 267 TFEU. The assessment should also consider if the appeal mechanisms that are in place satisfy the requirements laid down in art. 50 (6) and 51 (6) DSA.

Subindicator / Type

Competencies and accountability

Legal variable

Method

National law and regulations. Case law. Here is the list of the appointed DSCs: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs>. The answer is "Not applicable" in the following cases: if the DSC corresponds with the media authority; if the DSC was selected but not enough actions on which to base your evaluation have been put in place; if no DSC has been selected (for EU countries) or if no public authority is entrusted of dealing with online platforms' activities regarding news and current affairs content (for non-EU countries).

Answer options

- Low risk: Appeal mechanisms exist, are effective and are not misused to delay the enforcement of remedies.
- Medium risk: Appeal mechanisms exist, but are partially effective and/or are occasionally delayed.
- High risk: Appeal mechanisms do not exist or are not effective and/or are systematically misused to delay the enforcement of remedies.
- Not Applicable

- No Data

47. Is the media authority transparent about its activities?

This variable assesses whether the media authority is transparent about its activities and therefore accountable to the public, as required for example by art. 30 (2) AVMSD. Being transparent about its activities may include the publication of its activities, including through regular or ad hoc reports relevant to their work or the exercise of their missions.

Subindicator / Type

Competencies and accountability

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Websites of national regulatory authorities.

NGO reports and reports by relevant national and international organisations. National and European case law.

Answer options

- Low risk: It is transparent and regularly publishes information about its activities.
- Medium risk: It is generally transparent but does not publish information about its activities on a regular basis.
- High risk: It is not transparent.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

48. Are the procedures for allocation of budgetary resources for the media authority transparent and objective, i.e., they leave no scope for arbitrary decisions by the government?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards concerning the procedures of budget allocation for the media authority. Arrangements for the funding of the media authority should be specified in law in accordance with a clearly defined plan (transparent), with reference to the estimated cost of its activities (objective), so as to allow the authority to carry out its functions fully and independently. Public authorities should not use their financial decision-making power to interfere with the independence of the media authority.

Please, consider if the current regulation governing the media authority's budget allocation follow the principles laid down in the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive 2018/1808, in particular its Article 30, section 4.

Subindicator / Type

Budgetary independence

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries): <http://www.nordicmedia.info/>.

The EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive 2018/1808

Answer options

- Low risk: The procedures are fair and objective, leaving no room for arbitrary decisions of the government.
- Medium risk: The procedures are not fully fair and objective, leaving some room for arbitrary decisions of the government.
- High risk: No procedures are in place, or the procedures are not fair nor objective, leaving room for arbitrary decisions of the government.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

49. Are the budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, adequate for the media authority to perform its functions, to safeguard its independence, and to protect it from coercive budgetary pressures?

This variable assesses whether the budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, allocated for the media authority is adequate to safeguard its independence. In case it is applicable, please take into account whether the state has adopted measures to implement Article 30

(4) of the AVMSD; in cases in which the Digital Services Coordinator functions will be performed by the media authority, Article 50(1) of the Digital Services Act; and in view of the new tasks under EMFA, art. 7 (3) EMFA.

Subindicator / Type

Budgetary independence

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Websites of and reports by the media authority.

NGO reports and reports by relevant national and international organisations. National case law and European case law in your country.

Academic writing on the issue.

Interviews with relevant actors.

Answer options

- Low risk: The budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, are adequate.
- Medium risk: The budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, are somewhat inadequate but still allow it to perform its function.
- High risk: The budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, are not adequate and do not safeguard its independence.

- Not Applicable
- No Data

50. [When the DSC does not correspond with the media authority] Are the budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, adequate for the DSC to perform its functions, to safeguard its independence, and to protect it from coercive budgetary pressures?

This variable assesses whether the budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, allocated for the media authority is adequate to safeguard its independence. The answer is "Not applicable" in the following cases: if the DSC corresponds with the media authority; if the DSC was selected but not enough actions on which to base your evaluation were put in place yet; if no DSC has been selected yet (for EU countries) or if no public authority is entrusted with dealing with online platforms' activities regarding news and current affairs content (for non-EU countries).

Subindicator / Type

Budgetary independence

Socio-Political variable

Method

Websites of and reports by the DSC or correspondent authority. Here is the list of the appointed DSCs: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/dsa-dscs>. NGO reports and reports by relevant national and international organisations. National case law and European case law. Academic writing on the issue. Interviews with relevant actors. If the DSC corresponds with the media authority- the answer is "Not applicable". If such authority was selected but not enough actions on which to base your evaluation have been put in place, the answer is "Not applicable." For EU countries: if no DSC has been selected yet this should be scored as "No data" and a high risk level should be assessed; the same is valid for candidate countries where no public authority is entrusted with dealing with online platforms' activities regarding news and current affairs content.

Answer options

- Low risk: The budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, are adequate.
- Medium risk: The budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, are somewhat inadequate but still allow it to perform its function.
- High risk: The budget and other resources, such as human and technical resources, are not adequate and do not safeguard its independence.
- Not Applicable
- No Data



Market Plurality

6. Transparency of media ownership

This indicator aims to assess the existence and implementation of regulatory safeguards regarding transparency of news media ownership. It also aims to assess the effectiveness of the transparency rules on ownership disclosure, with regard to the ultimate and beneficial owner of news media businesses.

51. Does the national law contain specific provisions requiring the disclosure of ownership details in the media sector?

This variable assesses whether there are media-specific transparency rules on ownership. Please note that this variable asks about media-specific transparency rules. This means that, for example, a national law requiring companies in general to provide information on ownership in the commercial register would not be sufficient for a YES answer to this question. If the general law guarantees transparency in practice, you could assess this in variable 60.

Media-specific transparency requirements are defined by points 4.4 to 4.7 of the Guidelines in the Appendix to Recommendation CM/Rec (2018)1. Building on Recommendation CM/Rec (2018)1, Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 (European Media Freedom Act - EMFA) introduced the obligation for media service providers to make easily and directly accessible to the recipients of their services up-to-date information on: (a) their legal name or names and contact details; (b) the name or names of their direct or indirect owner or owners with shareholdings enabling them to exercise influence on the operation and strategic decision making, including direct or indirect ownership by a state or by a public authority or entity; (c) the name or names of their beneficial owner or owners as defined in Article 3, point (6), of Directive (EU) 2015/849; (d) the total annual amount of public funds for state advertising allocated to them and the total annual amount of advertising revenues received from third-country public authorities or entities. Although Article 6(1) is not yet in force, the requirement it sets out should be used as a paradigm to assess the level of media ownership transparency adopted by EU and candidate countries, as the information it requires to be disclosed is also part of the Guidelines in the Appendix to Recommendation CM/Rec (2018)1.

For the rules on the disclosure of media ownership information, see also Recital 32 EMFA and Article 5(2) of the AVMSD (2018/1808/EU). Scope: media service providers. These are media organisations whose core business is to deliver news (and/or opinions and analysis) to the general public or a target public, and include print media (newspapers, newsmagazines), broadcast media (radio and television), and their digital extensions. Please do not consider digital native media, as they are covered in a different question. Disclosure can be to public bodies or directly to the public. In this regard, Article 6(1) EMFA, provides that the disclosure of media ownership information shall be done to the recipients of media services providers, that is, directly to the public. In addition, Article 6(2) also adds the obligation for Member States to entrust national regulatory authorities or bodies or other competent authorities or bodies with the development of national media ownership databases containing the information set out in Article 6(1), in line with point 4.4 of Recommendation CM/Rec (2018)1. Therefore, you should detail and qualify this information, e.g. in the case in which access to public documents is not effective, answering variable 60, on effectiveness.

In the comment box please specify if the provisions concern broadcasting or print sectors, or all of them. The digital native

media sector is covered by a separate question. You can consult the following sources for assessing this indicator: - Euromedia Ownership Monitor: <https://media-ownership.eu/> - Access-Info Transparency of Media Ownership: <https://www.access-info.org/media-ownership-transparency/> - Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)1[1] of the Committee of Ministers to member States on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 March 2018 at the 1309th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies): [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\)1\[1\] of the Committee of Ministers to member States on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership - Freedom of Expression](#) - Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act).

Subindicator / Type

Disclosure of media ownership

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all media.
- Medium risk: Only for some media.
- High risk: No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

52. Does the law stipulate sanctions in case of violations of transparency requirements for the media sector, and are they applied in practice?

This variable contains a follow-up question to variable 51. Hence, if there is no law with media-specific provisions requiring the disclosure of ownership, the answer should be "Not applicable" to this variable.

According to resolution 2065/2015 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ("Increasing transparency of media ownership") (1), "The national media authority (or other relevant public body) should be entitled to monitor the respect of reporting obligations and failure to comply with these obligations should be effectively ascertained and sanctioned". This variable assesses if there are sanctions for violations of the national law on transparency, e.g., for non-reporting or reporting incorrect information. Please specify in the comment which violations are sanctioned.

(1) PACE (2015), <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=21958>.

Subindicator / Type

Disclosure of media ownership

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts. Case law, regulatory decisions. Official statements and websites of national regulatory authorities. Reports by credible institutions (national and international bodies, NGOs/CSOs, trade unions, etc).

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not applied.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

53. Is disclosure of media ownership effectively provided to public bodies and to the public?

Please, note that this variable is not a follow-up of the previous variables. You should assess the effectiveness of media ownership transparency, both if it is requested by the law or if it is not. If sufficient information is provided both to public bodies and to the public (e.g., if the law requires disclosure of media ownership to public bodies - usually regulatory authorities focusing on media - and the public can access this information), you should answer “yes, for public bodies and the public”; if public bodies collect information, but access is not effectively granted to the public, you should answer “yes, partially”; if disclosure is not effective nor for public bodies nor for the public, you should answer “no”. Please also specify in the comments whether media service providers in your country make this information directly accessible to the recipients of their services, as required by Article 6(1) EMFA. Sources: see variable 51.

Subindicator / Type

Disclosure of media ownership

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, to public bodies and to the public.
- Medium risk: Yes, partially.
- High risk: No, neither to public bodies nor to the public.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

54. Does the national law contain specific provisions requiring financial reporting obligations in the media sector?

This variable assesses if there are media-specific rules on the disclosure of financial information to the competent authorities by media companies. Please note that this variable is asking for media-specific rules. This means that, for example, a national law requiring companies in general to provide financial information would not be sufficient for a YES-answer to this question. For instance, according to Article 6(1) (d) "Media service providers shall make easily and directly accessible to the recipients

of their services up-to-date information on: (d) the total annual amount of public funds for state advertising allocated to them and the total annual amount of advertising revenues received from third-country public authorities or entities.” Sources: see variable 51 and Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act).

Subindicator / Type

Disclosure of media ownership

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts. Case law, regulatory decisions. Official statements and websites of national regulatory authorities. Reports by credible institutions (national and international bodies, NGOs/CSOs, trade unions, and so on).

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all media.
- Medium risk: Only for some media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

55. Does the national law contain specific provisions requiring the disclosure of ownership details in the digital media sector?

This variable assesses if there are media-specific provisions requiring the disclosure of ownership details for the digital media sector. For the sake of this indicator, digital media are digital native media that publish overwhelmingly online and that provide original journalistic content to a general or a selected public. Hence, if there is no law with media-specific provisions on ownership transparency, or if there is a law but it does not cover the digital native media, you should answer "no" to this variable. If there is a law, and it covers digital native media as well as legacy media, your answer should be "yes". If your answer is “only for some digital media”, please specify in the comment which digital media are not included in the provision (e.g. cross border media).

Sources: see variables 51-54

Subindicator / Type

Disclosure of media ownership online

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all digital media.
- Medium risk: Only for some digital media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

56. Does the law stipulate sanctions in case of violations of transparency requirements for digital media, and are they applied in practice?

This variable contains a follow-up question to variable 55. Hence, if the answer to variable 55 is no, you should mark "Not applicable" for this variable.

This variable assesses if there are sanctions for violations of the national law on transparency, e.g., for non-reporting or reporting. Please specify which information is reported

Sources: see previous variables.

Subindicator / Type

Disclosure of media ownership online

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts. Case law, regulatory decisions. Official statements and websites of national regulatory authorities. Reports by credible institutions (national and international bodies, NGOs/CSOs, trade unions, etc).

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes.
- Medium risk: Yes but not applied.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

57. Is disclosure of digital media ownership effectively provided to public bodies and to the public?

This variable assesses if digital media ownership information is transparent in practice, which means that the public has access to the actual ownership structures of media companies. If sufficient information is provided both to public bodies and to the public (e.g., if the law requires disclosure of media ownership to public bodies - usually regulatory authorities focusing on media - and the public can access this information), you should answer "yes for public bodies and the public"; if public bodies collect information, but access is not effectively granted to the public, you should answer "yes, partially"; if disclosure is not effective nor for public bodies nor for the public, you should answer "no".

Sources: see previous variables.

Subindicator / Type

Disclosure of media ownership online

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for public bodies and the public.
- Medium risk: Yes, partially.
- High risk: No, neither to public bodies nor to the public.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

58. Does the national law contain specific provisions requiring financial reporting obligations in the digital media sector?

This variable assesses if there are media-specific rules on the disclosure of financial information to the competent authorities by the digital native media sector. Please note that this variable is asking for media-specific rules. This means that e.g. a national law requiring companies in general to provide information about the companies' financial statements would not be sufficient for a YES-answer to this question. Sources: see variable 54.

Subindicator / Type

Disclosure of media ownership online

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts. Case law, regulatory decisions. Official statements and websites of national regulatory authorities. Reports by credible institutions (national and international bodies, NGOs/CSOs, trade unions, etc).

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all digital media.
- Medium risk: For some digital media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

59. Does the national law contain provisions requiring the disclosure of information on the ultimate owners in the media sector?

This variable assesses if there are media-specific provisions requiring disclosure of information about the beneficial or ultimate owners of media outlets to the public. Scope: media service providers, including print, radio, television, and their digital extensions. Please do not consider digital native media, as they are covered in a different question. According to the Transparency requirements set in the Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)1, disclosure obligations can include, among others, "name(s) and contact details of natural persons with beneficial shareholdings. Beneficial shareholding applies to natural persons who ultimately own or control shares in a media outlet or on whose behalf those shares are held, enabling them to indirectly exercise control or influence on the operation and strategic decision making of the media outlet". In addition, Article 6(1) (c) EMFA provides that "Media service providers shall make easily and directly accessible to the recipients of their services up-to-date information on: (c) the name or names of their beneficial owner or owners as defined in Article 3, point (6), of Directive (EU) 2015/849;" For the definition of beneficial owner, see Article 3, point (6), of Directive (EU) 2015/849: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32015L0849>. See also the definition of beneficial owner provided by the Open Ownership (OO) database: <https://www.openownership.org/en/about/what-is-beneficial-ownership-transparency/>. Sources: see variable 51.

Subindicator / Type

Transparency of ultimate ownership

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all media.
- Medium risk: Only for some media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

60. Is sufficient and updated information to identify the beneficial and ultimate owners of media outlets publicly accessible?

This variable assesses if media ownership information is transparent in practice, which means that the public has access to the actual ownership structures of media companies down to the last layer, regardless of the existence of media-specific regulation. Publicly accessible means that all information should be available in open electronic format at no cost to the public. Sources: see previous variables.

Subindicator / Type

Transparency of ultimate ownership

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all media.
- Medium risk: Only for some media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No data

61. Does the national law contain provisions requiring the disclosure of information about the ultimate owners of digital media?

This variable assesses if there are media-specific provisions requiring the disclosure of ultimate ownership for the digital native media sector.

For the sake of this indicator "digital media" are digital native media, that publish overwhelmingly online and provide original content to a general or a selected public (the online editions of print and broadcast media having been considered in the previous section). Hence, if there is no law with media-specific provisions on ultimate ownership transparency, or if there is a law but it does not cover the digital native media, you should answer "no" to this variable. If there is a law, and it covers digital native news media as well as legacy media, your answer should be "yes". If your answer is "Only some digital media", please specify in the comment which digital media are not included in the provision (e.g. cross border media).

Sources: see previous variables

Subindicator / Type

Transparency of ultimate ownership online

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all digital media.
- Medium risk: Only for some digital media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

62. Is sufficient and updated information to identify the beneficial and ultimate owners of digital native media outlets publicly accessible?

This variable assesses if the ultimate media ownership information on digital native news media is transparent in practice, which means that the public has access to the actual ownership structures of media companies up until their final layer. If your answer is "yes, for some media", please specify in the comment which media are included.

For description and sources: see previous variables

Subindicator / Type

Transparency of ultimate ownership online

Socio-Political variable

EMFA

Method

Consult the relevant laws or legal experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: yes, for all digital media.
- Medium risk: Only for some digital media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

7. Plurality of media providers

This indicator aims to assess concentration in the production of media content, both assessing the regulatory framework and the situation on the ground. As for the regulatory framework, the indicator aims to assess if there is a media-specific anti-concentration framework, and if it is in line with provisions of Art. 22 EU Regulation 2024(1083) (European Media Freedom Act). Economic concentration is measured using the Top4 index applied to market and audience shares in each media sector (AVMS, radio, newspapers, digital native), as well as across different sectors. Digital media business is considered to the extent in which it produces original media content – this includes digital outlet of legacy media as well as digital native media.

63. Does media legislation contain specific thresholds and/or other limitations that are based on objective criteria in order to prevent a high degree of horizontal and cross-media concentration of ownership in the media sector?

This variable assesses the existence of sector-specific regulatory safeguards against a high degree of ownership concentration in the media sector. "Objective criteria" can include: number of licences, audience share, circulation, distribution of share capital or voting rights, turnover/revenue, etc.. "Media" has to refer to media service providers. (see Glossary). If the answer is "yes, but not all media", please specify in the comment which media are not included and if the regulation applies to the digital media. Please note that in MPM2025 the legal variables assessing the existence of rules and procedures on horizontal and on cross-media concentration were merged. To answer to this variable, you shall evaluate the existence of rules to prevent an excessive degree of concentration both in each media sector and across the media sectors. Consequently, former legal variables on cross-media concentration (81-83 in MPM2024) are cancelled. In answering this variable, the CT should take into account the judgment by the European Court of the European Union in the case C-719/18 (Vivendi SA v Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni), anchoring the restrictions set by the national laws to preserve media pluralism to their suitability and proportionality to the achievement of the pluralistic objective. Sources:

- Study on Media Plurality and Diversity Online, Chapter B1: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-media-plurality-and-diversity-online>.
- Study on the implementation of the new provisions in the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), pp. 128-234 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-implementation-new-provisions-revised-audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd>.
- Euromedia Ownership Monitor: <https://media-ownership.eu/>.
- Media Ownership Monitor: <https://www.mom-gmr.org/>.

Case C-719/18 Judgment of the Court (Fifth Chamber) of 3 September 2020. Vivendi SA v Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62018CJ0719>.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - Regulatory safeguards

Legal variable

Method

Analysis of law and regulation. Given the diversity of thresholds or limits in the national regulations with regard to ownership, "high" should be assessed according to the standards of your country and in the light of the thresholds or limits imposed by

domestic laws.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all media.
- Medium risk: Only for some media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

64. Do the regulatory safeguards to prevent a high degree of concentration in the media sector apply to the digital media?

Please note that this variable should not be considered as a follow-up to variable 63. Therefore, if the answer to variable 63 is "no", you have to repeat the "no" answer here (this is to avoid under-estimating the digital risk in the final calculation). "Media" has to refer to media service providers, therefore online platforms (e.g. social media, search engines) and automatic aggregators must not be considered in this indicator. (see Glossary) Sources: see variable 63.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - Regulatory safeguards

Legal variable

Method

Analysis of law and regulation.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all digital media.
- Medium risk: Only for some digital media.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

65. Does the national law establish substantive and procedural rules, based on transparent, objective, proportionate and non-discriminatory criteria, to assess the impact of media market concentrations on media pluralism and editorial independence?

This variable assesses the existence of a separate assessment on mergers to evaluate the impact of the concentrations in the media market on media pluralism and editorial independence (the so-called "media plurality test", introduced by Article 22 EU Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 (European Media Freedom Act - EMFA). Those rules shall be reasoned, transparent, objective, proportionate and non-discriminatory; and the criteria for the assessment should include the impact on media diversity, also considering the online environment and the parties' interests in other businesses; the safeguards for editorial independence; the economic sustainability of the merged entities in absence of the concentration (Art. 22(1)(2) EMFA). Please note that if in your country there is not a separate assessment on the impact of media market concentration on media pluralism, and the general

competition law applies, you should answer "No" to this variable. If there are media-specific rules, for all the media sectors or just for some media sectors, but they do not respect the criteria above (e.g., they are discriminatory and/or not transparent), you should also answer "No" and give a motivation in the comment. If there are media-specific rules, but they are limited to some horizontal sector (e.g. audiovisual), and/or they do not fully respect the criteria requested by art. 22(1)(2) EMFA, you should answer "Yes, partially". Sources: Study on Media Plurality and Diversity Online, Chapter B1: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-media-plurality-and-diversity-online>. Study on the implementation of the new provisions in the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), pp. 128-234 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/study-implementation-new-provisions-revised-audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd>.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - Regulatory safeguards

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Analysis of law and regulation.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes.
- Medium risk: Yes, partially.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

66. Is there a national regulatory authority or body overseeing compliance with ownership rules and limitations in the media sector, and/or hearing relevant complaints?

This variable assesses if there is a monitoring and enforcement system for the regulation of media concentration, and if there is a national authority designed to be responsible for it. Please specify if the same authority is entitled to assess the impact of media market concentrations on media pluralism, under Art. 22 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 (European Media Freedom Act - EMFA). This variable is a follow-up of variables 63 and 65: if the answer to both variables 63 and 65 is No, you should mark Not Applicable to this variable.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - Regulatory safeguards

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Analysis of laws and regulation

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, for all media.
- Medium risk: Only for some media.

- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

67. Does the law grant this body sanctioning/enforcement powers in order to impose proportionate remedies (behavioural and/or structural) where its decisions are not respected, and are they effective?

This variable assesses whether the law establishes a sanctions system designed to guarantee enforcement of the rules tackling concentration of media ownership, and the effective implementation of the remedies. Examples of sanctions include: the refusal to grant additional licenses; the blocking of a merger or acquisition; the obligation to allocate windows for third party programming; the obligation to give up licenses/media-related economic activities; and divestiture.

Please note that this variable is a follow-up of variable 66: if the answer to variable 66 is “No” or “Not Applicable”, you should mark “Not Applicable” to this variable.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - Regulatory safeguards

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Analysis of laws and regulation. Case law regulatory decisions. Official statements and websites of national regulatory authorities. Reports by credible institutions (national and international bodies NGOs/CSOs trade unions etc.) on the enforcement of measures to prevent concentration of ownership. Studies/reports evaluating the effectiveness of the laws in question and/or evaluating their implementation. Academic reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, and they are effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

68. What is the market share of the Top4 audiovisual media owners in your country?

This variable assesses concentration of ownership in the audiovisual media sector (for the definition of audiovisual, see Glossary).

Please note that the measurement must include all revenues, from legacy as well from online activities (advertising, public funding, subscriptions, etc).

Please specify if data on market shares is provided by the media or competition authority. Data sources: See annual reports by

national (media communications or broadcasting) regulatory authorities through the EPRA website: <https://www.epra.org/>.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - AVMS

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 (or C4 or four-firm) concentration ratio. The four-firm concentration ratio is an indicator of the size of the four largest firms within an industry compared to the output of the entire industry.

Data: The share held by each of the Top 4 audiovisual media owners. The term 'market share' refers to the share of total revenues generated in the audiovisual market.

Measurement: The Top4 ratio is determined as follows: You sum the market shares of the Top4 owners within the market. Please also report the share of each of the Top4 owners in the "comment" field.

Thresholds of risk: Under 40 = Low Risk 41-60 = Medium Risk Over 60: High Risk (see Methodology).

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

69. What is the audience concentration of the Top4 audiovisual media owners in your country?

This variable assesses audience concentration in the audiovisual media sector (for the definition of audiovisual see the Glossary).

Please specify in the comment if the data on audience is provided by the media authority data sources. See annual reports by national regulatory authorities (media communications or broadcasting) through the EPRA website: <https://www.epra.org/>.

See also. European Audiovisual Observatory Dataset (<http://yearbook.obs.coe.int/s/document/pan-european>). EAO Yearbook provides the Top4 index for audience in the audiovisual services in each country. If you do not have access to EAO, please contact the CMPF team.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - AVMS

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 concentration measure.

Data: the audience share of each of the Top4 owners competing in the audiovisual media market. Share is based on the standard or most widely accepted audience/readership/subscription measurement system available in the country. Please specify in the comment if the system available in your country measures linear audience or total audience (reached via digital devices: mobile, smart TV, PC-laptop).

Measurement: The Top4 is obtained by summing the audience shares of the Top4 audiovisual media owners. Thresholds of risk: Under 40 = Low Risk 41-60 = Medium Risk Over 60: High Risk (see Methodology)

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

70. What is the market share of the Top4 radio owners?

This variable assesses horizontal concentration of ownership in the radio sector.

Please note that the measurement must include all revenues, from legacy as well from online activities (advertising, public funding, subscription, etc.).

Data sources: See annual reports by national (media communications or broadcasting) regulatory authorities through the EPRA website: <https://www.epra.org/>.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - radio

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 concentration ratio (a description of Top4 ratio is available in the method of measurement of variable 68).

Data: The share held by each of the Top4 radio owners. The term 'market share' refers to the share of total revenues generated in the radio market.

Measurement: The Top4 is determined as follows: You sum by the market shares of the Top 4 owners within the radio market. Please also report the share for each of the top 4 operators in the "comment" field. Thresholds of risk: Under 40 = Low Risk 41-60 = Medium Risk Over 60: High

Risk (see Methodology).

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable

- No Data

71. What is the audience concentration of the Top4 radio owners in your country?

This variable assesses audience concentration in the radio sector. Please specify in the comment if the data on audience is provided by the media authority data sources. See annual reports by national regulatory authorities (media communications or broadcasting) through the EPRA website: <https://www.epra.org/>.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - radio

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 concentration measure.

Data: The audience share of each of the Top4 owners competing in the radio sector. Share is based on the standard or most widely accepted audience/readership/subscription measurement system available in the country. Please specify in the comment if the system available in your country measures linear audience or total audience (reached via digital devices: mobile, PC-laptop, etc.).

Measurement: The Top4 is obtained by summing the audience shares of the 4 major radio owners within the radio market.

Thresholds of risk: Under 40 = Low Risk 41-60 = Medium Risk Over 60: High Risk (see Methodology).

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

72. What is the market share of the Top4 newspapers owners?

This variable assesses concentration of ownership in newspaper publishing. Please note that the measurement must include all revenues (circulation, subscriptions, advertising, public funding, in the print as well as in the digital outlets of legacy press - electronic versions of printed newspapers and websites).

Please specify if data on market shares is provided by the media or competition authority. Data sources: see annual reports by national regulatory authorities (media communications or broadcasting) through the EPRA website: <https://www.epra.org/Consult local association of publishers>, independent research, and financial reports.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - newspapers

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 concentration ratio (a description of Top4 ratio is

available in the method of measurement of variable 69).

Data: The share held by each of the Top4 newspaper owners. The term 'market share' refers to the share of total revenues generated in the newspaper market (print and digital).

Measurement: The Top4 is determined as follows: You sum the market shares of the Top4 owners within the newspaper market. Please also report the share for each of the top 4 operators in the comment field.

Thresholds of risk: Under 40 = Low Risk 41-60 = Medium Risk Over 60: High Risk (see Methodology)

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

73. What is the readership concentration of the Top 4 newspapers owners in your country?

This variable assesses the concentration of audience in newspaper publishing, measured by circulation data. Please note that this should include digital circulation (i.e., digital version of the newspapers). Please specify in the comment if data on readership/circulation is provided by the media authority data sources. See annual reports by national regulatory authorities (media communications or broadcasting) through the EPRA website: <https://www.epra.org/>. Consult [local association of publishers](#), independent research, and financial reports.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - newspapers

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 concentration measure. Please consider the newspapers' owners (not the single headers).

Data: The readership share of each of the Top4 owners competing in newspaper publishing, in the paper as well as in the electronic version (digital version of printed newspapers). The share is based on the standard or most widely accepted readership measurement system available in the country (if data on digital readers are not available, consider the circulation of printed copies).

Measurement: The Top4 is obtained by summing the readership shares of the Top4 newspapers owners within the newspaper market. Thresholds of risk: Under 40 = Low Risk 41-60 = Medium Risk Over 60: High Risk (see Methodology)

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

74. What is the audience share of the Top 4 online media in your country?

This variable is aimed to assess concentration of the online media. The assessment should include all the media providers online:

- Traditional media with a presence online (e.g., the BBC, the Guardian).
- Native digital media (e.g. Mediapart).

Please specify in the comment if the data on digital audience is provided by the media authority and if there is a standardised measurement adopted by the industry in your country. Data sources: see annual reports by national (media communications or broadcasting) regulatory authorities through the EPRA website: <https://www.epra.org/>. Consult local association of publishers, independent research, and financial reports Add commercial/specific sources.

Subindicator / Type

Media ownership concentration - digital

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 concentration measure.

Data: the audience of each of the Top4 news brands competing in the digital market compared to the total digital audience of news brands. The measurement should be based on the standard or most widely accepted digital audience measurement system available in the country: e.g., time spent, page views, or unique users (when available, the metric of time spent should be preferred). Please do not consider digital intermediaries (e.g., social media or search engines) in this measurement (online platforms concentration indexes are assessed in the next indicator, Plurality in digital markets).

Measurement: the Top4 is obtained by summing the audience shares of the Top4 media providers online.

Please note that since MPM2024 the question on Top4 market share for online media has been removed. This change is due to the lack of this detail of data in all the countries examined. Thresholds of risk: Under 40 = Low Risk 41-60 = Medium Risk Over 60: High Risk (see Methodology).

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

75. What is the market share of the Top4 media owners across different media markets?

This variable assesses cross-media concentration of ownership in the national market under examination, defined as the sum of the four sectors separately considered in "horizontal concentration". Therefore, AVMS, radio, newspapers and digital native are included, aggregators, social networks and intermediaries are not included.

Please specify if data on cross-media concentration is provided by the media authority.

Please note that this index of cross-media concentration refers to total revenues. Given the difficulty of comparing different metrics of audience (TV and radio audience, readership/circulation, reach of digital media, etc.), for cross media concentration

there is not a specific variable on audience concentration. But if data are available in your country, you can insert Top4 audience share here instead of Top 4 market share, reporting your choice in the comment. Data sources: relevant data is often made available by the European Audiovisual Observatory, Eurostat, and the national statistical authorities. See annual reports by national (media communications or broadcasting) regulatory authorities through the EPRA website: <https://www.epra.org/>. Consult local association of publishers, independent research, financial reports. Add commercial/specific sources.

Subindicator / Type

Cross-media ownership concentration

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 concentration ratio.

Data: The share held by each of the Top4 owners. The term 'market share' refers to the share of total revenues generated in the markets concerned.

Measurement: The Top4 measure is determined as follows: You sum the market shares of the Top4 owners within the different sectors of the media market. Identify which are the Top4 firms with the highest revenue across all media sectors (audiovisual, radio, newspaper publishing, and digital native) and sum their total revenues (e.g. Firm1 revenue across all media sectors + Firm 2 revenue across all media sectors + Firm 3 revenue across all media sectors... up to Firm 4).

Thresholds of risk: Under 25 = Low Risk 26-50 = Medium Risk Over 50: High Risk (see Methodology).

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

8. Plurality in digital markets

This indicator aims to assess the threats to media pluralism that arise from the concentration of ownership in a broader notion of the media market, focusing on the players of the media ecosystem that act as intermediaries to the news. In the sub-indicator on Online platforms concentration, it measures concentration in the online advertising market and in the total digital audience. A second sub-indicator, named Fair allocation of economic resources, deals with the economic relationships between platforms and publishers, and on the measures to rebalance their roles and restore fairness and openness in those markets.

76. What is the market share of the Top4 players in the online advertising sector?

This variable assesses the concentration of the market in the new ecosystem of media, measuring the share of the revenues of the top players in the market of online advertising. Therefore, all the market players should be considered:

- Traditional news media with a presence online (e.g. BBC, the Guardian).
- Native digital news media (e.g., the Huffington Post).
- News aggregators, i.e. websites that provide packages of news content, originated by other news media and selected via algorithmic methods (e.g., Google News, Yahoo, etc.) or with editorial choice.
- Digital intermediaries, including search engines (e.g. Google) and social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.).

Sources: See annual reports by national regulatory authorities (media communications or broadcasting). Consult local associations of publishers and advertisers, cases by the national competition authorities, industry, independent research, financial reports, business sources. Data sources: national regulation and competition authorities, advertising agencies, and independent research.

Here are some examples of sources from NCA investigations: Spain: Comision Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia. (2021). Estudio sobre las condiciones de competencia en el sector de la publicidad online en España, http://www.cnmc.es/sites/default/files/3626347_10.pdf.

Germany:

https://www.bundeskartellamt.de/SharedDocs/Meldung/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2023/31_05_2023_SU_Online_Werbung.htm

France: <https://www.autoritedelaconurrence.fr/en/decision/regarding-practices-implemented-online-advertising-sector-0> and <https://www.autoritedelaconurrence.fr/en/press-release/related-rights-autorite-fines-google-eu250-million-non-compliance-some-its> Turkey: <https://ceelegalmatters.com/briefings/23074-turkey-s-competition-authority-s-preliminary-report-on-online-advertising-sector-inquiry>.

Subindicator / Type

Online platforms concentration

Economic variable

Method

Please enter a percentage. Concentration is measured by using the Top4 concentration ratio.

Data: The revenue share held by each of the Top4 players, compared with total revenues from online advertising in your country.

Method of measurement: Calculate the total of the revenues from online advertising of the Top4 operators and compare the result with the total revenues from online advertising in your country. Please report the share for each of the top 4 operators in the "comment" field. Thresholds of risk: under 25 = Low Risk 26-50 = Medium Risk over 50: High Risk.

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

77. What is the audience share of the Top 4 online players in your country?

This variable is aimed to measure the online audience concentration, considering all the actors in the digital markets (see variable 76).

Subindicator / Type

Online platforms concentration

Economic variable

Method

Concentration is measured by using the Top4 audience concentration measure. The measurement should be based on the standard or most widely accepted digital audience measurement system available in the country: e.g. time spent, page views, or unique users (when available, the metric of time spent should be preferred).

Sources: see variable 76 Thresholds of risk: under 25 = Low Risk 26-50 = Medium Risk over 50: High Risk

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

78. In your country are there pro-competition initiatives aimed at balancing market power between publishers and online platforms?

This is a new variable added in MPM2025 that aims to take into consideration national initiatives to address the imbalance of power in digital markets, particularly when it comes to the economic relationships between publishers and online platforms/tech companies. Please note that for the sake of this variable you should not consider compliance to (and enforcement of) the DMA at European Union level. Examples of national initiatives relevant for this variable include: removing barriers to collective licensing for the publishers/creators; reducing information asymmetries; and encouraging and promoting standardised audience measurement systems. (Art. 25 Regulation (EU) 2024/1083) Sources: case law and regulatory decisions, official statements and websites of national regulatory authorities, reports by credible institutions, and academic reports.

Subindicator / Type

Fair allocation of economic resources

Legal variable

EMFA

Method

Analysis of laws and regulation.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there are many initiatives and they are effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but they are limited and/or not effective.
- High risk: No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

79. Are there financial agreements in your country between digital intermediaries and media providers, to remunerate the media providers for the use of copyright-protected content, or more generally to contribute to their financing?

This variable aims to assess if financial agreements have been reached between media providers and digital intermediaries (search engines, social media, news aggregators, etc) to remunerate/compensate the media for the use of their content. Please consider that, to assess Low Risk in this variable, the basic information on the outcome of the negotiations should be known (amount and conditions, and news media involved). Please specify in the answer if the Copyright directive has been transposed (Directive (EU) 2019/790 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market and amending Directives 96/9/EC and 2001/29/EC). In case there are financial agreements between publishers and platforms, please provide information (if disclosed) on beneficiaries and amount.

Sources: Directive (EU) 2019/790: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019L0790>. National transpositions: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/NIM/?uri=CELEX:32019L0790>. Communia, the International Association On the Digital Public Domain. <https://eurovision.communia-association.org/>.

Subindicator / Type

Fair allocation of economic resources

Socio-political variable

Method

Law, regulatory decisions. Official statements and reports of regulatory and competition authorities. Industry reports. News sources. Academic research.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there are relevant financial agreements, they have been transparently reported and they are not limited to the main media outlets.
- Medium risk: Yes, there is a negotiating process but it is limited or not fully effective, or there is not enough information on the agreements' details.
- High risk: No, there are not financial agreements, and/or directive 2019/790 has not been transposed.

- Not Applicable
- No Data

80. Are there financial agreements in your country, between Generative AI providers and media providers, to remunerate the rightsholders for the use of copyright-protected content?

This is a new variable added in MPM2025 to assess the risks and the opportunities related to the development of Generative AI models and their impact on the economic relationships between publishers and AI companies. In particular, it focuses on eventual remuneration for the use, by AI companies, of text, videos and images provided by media and journalists to train the AI model.

Subindicator / Type

Fair allocation of economic resources

Socio-political variable

Method

News reports, companies reports, and academic studies.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there are many and they are transparently reported.
- Medium risk: There are many cases but they are not transparently reported, or there is a very limited number of cases.
- High risk: No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

81. Has your country introduced or scheduled some form of taxation on digital services, and is it effective?

This variable aims to assess if tax rules have been reviewed in light of the impact of digitalisation, to guarantee tax compliance and therefore avoid unfair competition between different players in the new digital ecosystem of media. To answer to this variable, you should assess

1) if your country introduced a national web tax (based on the consumption of digital services, following the draft EU proposal (https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-03/proposal_common_system_digital_services_tax_21032018_en.pdf),

2) and/or your country adopted the EC directive on ensuring a global minimum level of taxation for multinational enterprise groups and large-scale domestic groups in the Union (2022-2523) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022L2523&from=EN>, based on OECD "pillar Two". In MPM2024 this variable should be addressed as follows: if your country had introduced a unilateral digital tax and has now suspended its effectiveness in the wait for the international reforming process, please mark "Yes, but not effective". If your country has not introduced a national digital tax nor transposed the EU directive, please answer "No". Please provide information and details on the structure of the tax, if existent. Please specify in the comment the eventual revenue of the digital tax, and if a part of the tax revenue is earmarked to support new media industry and media pluralism.

Sources:

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EU) 2022/2523 of 14 December 2022

on ensuring a global minimum level of taxation for multinational enterprise groups and large-scale domestic groups in the Union <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2523/oj>.

CEPS EU Corporate taxation in the digital era:

<https://cdn.ceps.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/CEPS-ECMI-Task-Force-Report-EU-corporate-taxation-in-the-digital-era.pdf>.

Subindicator / Type

Fair allocation of economic resources

Legal variable

Method

National law and regulations. Reports by media regulators, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, and it is effective (or the general fiscal system already provides taxation of digital services).
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

9. Media viability

This indicator aims to assess the sustainability of the news media production, as a pre-requisite for media diversity and media pluralism. The indicator measures the risks related to the lack of sufficient economic resources to finance journalism, assessing the market trends of legacy, digital and convergent media and the potential role of the public support. Whereas the digital transformation impacts all the sectors, a specific assessment is done for the digital native news media viability. News media sectors are examined separately and as a system, with variables aimed to measure the total amount of advertisement resources that go to media production, to assess the resilience of the sector (alternative business models to finance news production), and the impact of public financing and fiscal incentives. Market trends are evaluated in relation to GDP trends.

82. Have revenues of the audiovisual sector increased or decreased over the past years?

This variable assesses whether the audiovisual sector is viable, thereby encouraging market entry. Please consider all revenues (advertising, pay-TV revenues, on-demand consumer revenues, state funding, etc). Please evaluate the results of the industry also in relation to GDP and inflation trends in the same period.

Time span of the assessment: 2022-2024. The emphasis of the MPM2025 is on the risks for the year 2024, but the trends of previous years provide an important context to make sense of the data from 2024. Considering that consolidated economic data may not be available at the time of the data collection, for the sake of this indicator you can use data for the first semester of 2024 or forecasts, and compare it with the same period of 2023. In case of lack of data by the national regulatory institutions or by the national statistical agency, please consult the industry associations.

If possible, report the revenue data of the years assessed in the comment.

Relationship with GDP and inflation trends: after assessing if revenues increased, decreased or remained stationary, compare this trend with the trend of the overall economy, and if there is a noticeable difference consider changing the risk score. (e.g., if the media revenues increased by 1-2%, whereas the GDP increased by 3-4%, you should mark Stationary; if the media revenues decreased by 1-2%, whereas the GDP decreased by 3-4%, you should mark Stationary). We also ask you to pay attention to the trends of the past 3 years and consider them in your assessment (e.g., if the year 2024 saw an increase in revenues, but the previous three years were weak, consider increasing the risk assessment).

Please consider that the comparison must be done by sterilizing price effects: this means that if the media revenues are calculated in nominal terms, you have to compare their growth rate to the nominal GDP growth rate (including inflation); vice versa, if media revenues are calculated in real terms (net of inflation), you have to compare their growth rate with the real GDP growth rate.

Please specify data used in the comment.

Subindicator / Type

Revenue trends / T

Method

Reports/data published by national authorities, including statistical authorities and media regulators. If not available: financial reports of the main companies. Estimates and forecasts by industrial associations, independent think-tanks and researchers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Increased

- Medium risk: Stationary
- High risk: Decreased
- Not Applicable
- No Data

83. Have revenues of the radio sector increased or decreased over the past years?

This variable assesses whether the radio sector is viable, thereby encouraging market entry. Please consider all revenues (advertising, paid services, subscriptions, donations, state funding, etc). Please also evaluate the results of the industry in relation to the GDP trends in the same period.

Time span of the assessment: 2022-2024. The emphasis of the MPM2025 is on the risks for the year 2024, but the trends of the previous years provide an important context to make sense of the data of the last year. Considering that consolidated economic data could not be available at the time of the data collection, for the sake of this indicator you could use data for the first semester 2024 or forecasts and compare it with the same period of 2024. In case of lack of data by the national regulatory institutions or by the national statistical agency, please consult the industry associations.

If possible, report the revenue data of the years assessed in the comment.

We also ask you to pay attention to the trends of the past 3 years and consider them in your assessment (e.g. if the year 2024 saw an increase in revenues, but the previous years were weak, consider increasing the risk).

Relationship with GDP and inflation trends: see above. Please, specify data in the comment.

Subindicator / Type

Revenue trends / T

Method

Reports/data published by national authorities, including statistical authorities and media regulators. If not available: financial reports of the main companies. Estimates and forecasts by industrial associations, independent think-tanks and researchers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Increased
- Medium risk: Stationary
- High risk: Decreased
- Not Applicable
- No Data

84. Have revenues of the newspapers and press agencies sector increased or decreased over the past years?

This variable assesses whether the newspaper sector is viable, thereby encouraging market entry. Please consider all revenues (advertising, paid copies - printed and digital -, subscriptions, donations, state funding, etc). Please also evaluate the results of

the industry in relation to the GDP trends in the same period.

Time span of the assessment: 2022-2024. The emphasis of the MPM2025 is on the risks for the year 2024, but the trends of the previous years provide an important context to make sense of the data of the last year. Considering that consolidated economic data may not be available at the time of the data collection, for the sake of this indicator you could use data for the first semester 2024 or forecasts and compare it with the same period of 2023. In case of lack of data by the national regulatory institutions or by the national statistical agency, please consult the industry associations.

If possible, report the revenue data of all the years assessed in the comment.

We also ask you to pay attention to the trends of the past 3 years and consider them in your assessment (e.g. if the year 2024 saw an increase in revenues, but the previous years were weak, consider increasing the risk).

Relationship with GDP and inflation trend: see above. Please, specify data in the comment.

Subindicator / Type

Revenue trends / T

Method

Reports/data published by national authorities, including statistical authorities and media regulators. If not available: financial reports of the main companies. Estimates and forecasts by industrial associations, independent think-tanks and researchers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Increased
- Medium risk: Stationary
- High risk: Decreased
- Not Applicable
- No Data

85. Have revenues of digital native media increased or decreased over the past years?

This variable assesses whether the digital native media sector is viable, thereby encouraging market entry. Please consider all revenues (advertising, subscriptions, crowdfunding, donations, State funding, etc.). Please, evaluate the results of the industry also in relation to the GDP trends in the same period.

Time span of the assessment: 2022-2024. The emphasis of the MPM2025 is on the risks for the year 2024, but the trends of the previous years provide an important context to make sense of the data of the last year. Considering that consolidated economic data may not be available at the time of the data collection, for the sake of this indicator you could use data for the first semester 2024 or forecasts and compare it with the same period of 2023. In case of lack of data by the national regulatory institutions or by the national statistical agency, please consult the industry associations.

If possible, report the revenue data of the years assessed in the comment.

We also ask you to pay attention to the trends of the past 3 years and consider them in your assessment (e.g. if the year 2024 saw an increase in revenues, but the previous years were weak, consider increasing the risk).

Relationship with GDP and inflation trends: see above. Please, specify data in the comment.

Subindicator / Type

Revenue trends / T

Method

Reports/data published by national authorities, including statistical authorities and media regulators. If not available: financial reports of the main companies. Estimates and forecasts by digital publishers' associations, independent think-tanks and researchers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Increased
- Medium risk: Stationary
- High risk: Decreased
- Not Applicable
- No Data

86. Are news media organisations in your country developing sources of revenue other than traditional revenue streams?

This variable assesses whether news media organisations in your country are addressing challenges posed by the new digital environment through the development of initiatives that would ensure access to alternative sources of revenue that are not advertising-based. If so, this is an indication that the media organisations are trying to find viable business models.

Please note that you should consider legacy and digital native news media for-profit organisations as well as non-profits. New business models could include:

- crowdfunding;
- soft/hard paywalls;
- membership;
- charity;
- other sources, i.e., a newspaper may have decided to act as online marketer for local businesses by providing search engine optimisation services, organising events, building websites or managing social media platforms for third parties.

Please describe briefly and provide links to the initiatives that represent the most innovative or viable models for raising alternative sources of revenue for media in your country. Insert data in the comment, if available. You can consult the relevant paragraphs of Section II "Safeguards to improve the sustainability of media service providers and long-term investment in content production" of the Recommendation (EU) 2022/1634

(1) on internal safeguards for editorial independence and ownership transparency.

Subindicator / Type

Innovation / T

EMFA

Method

Reports. Websites of media organisations (Sections Our Services, 'What we do', etc.). Interviews with journalists and editors/publishers.

Answer options

- Low risk: There are many initiatives aiming at developing alternative sources of revenue - at least one of the 10 leading outlets relies predominantly on new revenues.
- Medium risk: There is a limited number of initiatives aiming at developing alternative sources of revenue - market leaders still rely on old revenue sources.
- High risk: There is a very limited number of initiatives or no initiatives at all aiming at developing alternative sources of revenue.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

87. Are news media organisations in your country introducing (or experimenting with) innovations to improve the way the newsroom works and/or the journalistic products are provided to audiences?

This variable is an additional assessment on whether news media organisations in your country are addressing challenges posed by the new digital environment. It complements the variable looking at the development of initiatives that would ensure access to alternative sources of revenue that are not advertising-based. Journalistic innovation is a proxy of the financial wellbeing, sustainability and resilience of media organisations.

Please note that you should consider legacy and digital native media, including both for-profit organizations as well as non-profits. For your assessment, please, consider the medium-term tendency, and not just the developments of the last year.

Please also provide a list of newsrooms (or the most important / prominent ones if they are too many) that can be seen as good examples for the sake of this question, including examples of their innovative projects.

Innovations considered in this variable should not include innovations related to business models. Instead, we are looking for innovations that consider content production, content delivery and audience engagement.

Innovations could consider, among others, the following areas (based on the categories identified by Posetti, 2018 for the Oxford Reuters Journalism Innovation Project):

- storytelling, reporting

- audience engagement

- distribution

- technology and products
- people and culture (e.g. skills development and training)
- organisation and structure
- leadership and management
- structural innovations (e.g. workflows, reporting lines, and interdepartmental collaboration)
- other forms of non-business-related innovations.

Please describe briefly and provide links to the initiatives that represent the most innovative or viable models. Insert data in the comment, if available.

Note: the introduction of podcasts alone is not sufficient for a news outlet to be considered innovative.

Source: "Time to step away from the 'bright, shiny things'? Towards a sustainable model of journalism innovation in an era of perpetual change" by Julie Posetti for the Journalism Innovation Project. See:

https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-11/Posetti_Towards_a_Sustainable_model_of_Journalism_FINAL.pdf. Recommendation (EU) 2022/1634 (1) on internal safeguards for editorial independence and ownership transparency in the media sector lists in Section II Safeguards to improve the sustainability of media service providers and long-term investment in content production, such as 16(c) "approaches aimed at retaining and increasing audiences, notably by proposing new formats, developing audience-listening and community building tools, as well as harnessing of data to better understand audience preferences and behaviour, which in turn enables targeting and diversification strategies". Pay attention: When assessing innovations, consider their contribution to quality journalism (e.g. an innovation that makes the journalistic workforce redundant cannot contribute to a low-risk assessment – e.g. the use of AI in a way that replaces news anchors or journalists instead of helping them make their work more effective).

Subindicator / Type

Innovation / T

EMFA

Method

Reports. Websites of media organisations. Interviews with journalists and editors/publishers.

Answer options

- Low risk: At least two leading outlets introduced successful innovations in the last years.
- Medium risk: Newsrooms experiment with innovation, but only smaller outlets, while their uptake is slow.
- High risk: There is a very limited amount of innovation
- Not Applicable

- No Data

88. Has the number of journalists employed in your country increased or decreased over the past years?

This variable measures trends of journalistic employment, as a proxy for quantity and quality of information supply. The term "employment" refers to journalists stably engaged in newsrooms (given the diversity of national regulations and job laws, "stably" should be assessed according to the standards of your country, and "journalist" refers to workers performing journalistic activity in all media sectors). Please specify in the comment if the trends of journalistic employment have been better or worse than overall employment trends.

When answering the question, also take into consideration the closures of old newsrooms, the launch of new ones, as well as whether news media companies have carried out measures (even temporarily) to reduce employed staff and/or remuneration. When writing the comment to this question, also refer to salary trends (whether there have been salary cuts, increases, and how they related to inflation trends).

Subindicator / Type

Employment trends / T

Method

Reports/data published by national authorities, including statistical authorities and media regulators. Data and forecasts provided by industrial associations, trade unions, and independent researchers.

If these data are not available, interview two representatives of the sector (1 from audiovisual, 1 from newspapers).

Answer options

- Low risk: Increased
- Medium risk: Stationary
- High risk: Decreased
- Not Applicable
- No Data

89. Have the economic conditions of freelance journalists improved or worsened over the past year?

This variable has been introduced since the implementation of MPM2021, to specifically assess the working conditions of freelance journalists and other journalists not in stable employment. To assess the economic conditions, you should consider if the newsrooms' budgets available for freelancers have increased or decreased, and whether the remuneration received by freelancers has changed in the period in question.

Please specify data in comment.

Subindicator / Type

Employment trends / T

Method

Reports/data published by national authorities, including industrial associations, trade unions. If data are not available, country teams should conduct interviews with representatives from freelancers, associations, or trade unions, journalists, editors, and publishers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Improved
- Medium risk: Stationary
- High risk: Worsened
- Not Applicable
- No Data

90. Are there favourable public support schemes for the news media sector and are they effective?

This variable assesses whether the state offers subsidies to media outlets other than PSM, thereby encouraging market entry, or preventing market exit, and if these schemes are effective.

To assess effectiveness, you should consider if the public support schemes are implemented and if they produce positive and proportionate financial effects (considering their amount and their distribution among the news media sectors). Please also consider whether these schemes are based on laws or policies and whether there are clear rules for those who apply. (NB the issue of transparency of public funding is addressed in another indicator, in the Political Independence Area).

Subindicator / Type

Public incentives to media pluralism / T

Method

Reports by media regulators. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations. Interviews with journalists and editors/publishers.

For the audiovisual sector measures, see the Erga data tracker: <https://www.obs.coe.int/en/web/observatoire/covid-19-audiovisual-sector-measures>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

91. If they exist, do public support schemes for the media sector cover online media?

This variable is a follow up to the previous variable. Therefore, if support schemes do not exist, you should answer "Not applicable". To assess effectiveness, you should consider if the public support schemes cover the online media, if they have been implemented and if they have produced positive effects (e.g. whether the organisations that receive public money have managed to establish or maintain a presence in the market) .

Subindicator / Type

Public incentives to media pluralism / T

Method

Reports by media regulators. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations. Interviews with journalists and editors/publishers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

10. Editorial independence from commercial and owners' influence

This indicator aims to assess the risks to market plurality posed by business interests on production of editorial content, both from commercial and owners' influence. To assess these risks, it considers the existence of rules and regulatory safeguards around professional journalism as well as effective independence and autonomy of editorial decision-making. To this end, the MPM variables evaluate a given media landscape in the light of several practices that may undermine editorial freedom. In particular, the indicator includes variables that assess, inter alia: the mechanisms granting social protection to journalists in cases where ownership and/or the editorial line change; laws prohibiting advertorials; regulations stipulating the obligation of journalists and/or media outlets not to be influenced by commercial interests; the existence of safeguards for journalists who may encounter pressure from owners or management, as well as the risks that are related to the potential economic interests of owners in sectors other than the media; and whether the media in the landscape concerned are governed by practices through which commercial interests dictate editorial decisions.

92. Are there any mechanisms granting social protection to journalists in case of changes of ownership or editorial line and are they effectively implemented?

This variable assesses whether there are any laws or self-regulatory instruments granting protection to journalists in cases of changes in ownership or editorial line, including editors-in-chief, and the effectiveness of such measures. For "protection" here we mean social protection schemes, or other legal and economic guarantees also set by collective agreements and/or self-regulation (so-called "conscience clauses"). If journalists risk losing their salary in such events, there is a risk that commercial interests undermine journalistic independence. (Please note that you should evaluate not only the existence of the law or the self-regulation, but also their effectiveness). The Commission Recommendation 2022/1634 of 16 September 2022 mentions in Section II 8/d that media service providers are encouraged to establish mechanisms that secure the editorial independence of newsrooms. One of them includes "without prejudice to the rights and obligations laid down in labour law or other protective rules, the right for members of the editorial staff who believe that an ownership change regarding the media service provider may affect their editorial integrity and independence to leave that provider and retain all the benefits that apply in respect of time spent at the media outlet."

Subindicator / Type

Integrity of the newsroom / T

EMFA

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations. Contracts. Case law. Self-regulatory instruments. Decisions of self-regulatory bodies. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

93. Are there any mechanisms granting protection to journalists from arbitrary interferences by owners or management, and are they effectively implemented?

This variable assesses whether there are any laws or self-regulatory instruments granting protection to journalists in cases of arbitrary interference by owners or management (regardless of a change in ownership or editorial line). By "protection" here we mean, in accordance with the Commission Recommendation 2022/1634 of 16 September 2022 protections against arbitrary dismissals or disciplinary actions in cases when journalists refuse assignments that they consider to be against professional standards, the existence of mechanisms of whistleblowing inside the newsroom ("procedures to signal any pressure they might be exposed to; they could provide options for anonymous or confidential signalling of instances of pressure") as well as "a right of opposition enabling members of the editorial staff to refuse to sign articles or other editorial content which have been modified without their knowledge or against their will." The monitoring exercise described in Art. 26 of the European Media Freedom Act (Regulation 2024/1083) includes (in section d) an overview of measures taken by media service providers with a view to guaranteeing the independence of editorial decisions. Art. 6(3) asks that media service providers take measures that "guarantee that editorial decisions can be taken freely within the established editorial line of the media service provider concerned".

Sub indicator / Type

Integrity of the newsroom / T

EMFA

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations. Contracts. Case law. Self-regulatory instruments. Decisions of self-regulatory bodies. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

94. Are there any laws and/or self-regulatory measures stipulating that the exercise of the journalistic profession is incompatible with activities in the field of advertising and are they effectively implemented?

This variable assesses whether there are measures that shelter journalists from finding themselves in situations of potential conflict of interests through involvement in the advertising sector, and that prevent them from having the ability and/or incentive to base editorial decisions on commercial interests. If so, the applicable measures are deemed to introduce safeguards in order to ensure that journalists make editorial decisions that respect the standards of the profession and the public's right to information.

Please consider that, to answer "Yes, effective" to this question, the measures must cover and be effectively implemented in all

media sectors. Please provide examples or references of existing good practices.

Subindicator / Type

Integrity of the newsroom / T

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations. Contracts. Case law. Self-regulatory instruments. Decisions of self-regulatory bodies. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

95. Are there any laws and/or self-regulatory measures guaranteeing the independence of editorial decisions or stipulating the obligation of journalists and/or media outlets not to be influenced by commercial interests, and are they effectively implemented?

This variable assesses whether editorial decisions are made by media organisations on the basis of professional criteria and the public's right to information without commercial interference. The term "commercial interference" is broadly defined to cover interference from media owners, advertisers, and other entities that seek to influence editorial decisions in order to protect their respective commercial interests.

Art. 6(3) of the European Media Freedom Act (Regulation 2024/1083) asks that media service providers take measures that "guarantee that editorial decisions can be taken freely within the established editorial line of the media service provider concerned". See the Catalogue of Safeguards to ensure the independence and integrity of editors and to guarantee the independence of individual editorial decisions, in Section 2 of the COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2022/1634 of 16 September 2022 (1).

Please do not include in your answer the prohibition of advertorials; this issue is addressed by another variable below.

(1). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022H1634&from=EN>.

Subindicator / Type

Integrity of content / T

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations. Contracts. Case law. Self-regulatory instruments. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

96. Are there any laws or self-regulatory measures prohibiting advertorials or other forms of disguised advertisement, and are they effectively implemented?

This variable assesses whether there are measures aimed to guarantee editorial integrity, and specifically that "the editorial content is separated and clearly distinguishable from advertising and promotional content" (Commission Recommendation(EU) 2022/1634, art. 7/d recommends for newsrooms "requirements to ensure that the editorial content is separated and clearly distinguishable from advertising and promotional content."). (1)

Please note that since the implementation of MPM2023 this variable includes the digital sphere. Therefore, you should also evaluate the legal framework and its effectiveness regarding the clear disclosure of native advertising, influencer marketing and other forms of disguised advertisement online without full disclosure to the public.

Advertorials refer to using editorial content in the media to promote a product where a trader has paid for the promotion without making that clear in the content or by images or sounds clearly identifiable by the consumer (as per Unfair Commercial Practice Directive 2005/29/EC, Annex 1 n. 11, which includes advertorials in the list of the commercial practices that are in all circumstances considered unfair). (2)

Native advertising refers to paid content realised and provided by an editorial team in the same style as the editorial content of the media in which it appears. Native advertising can include branding or product integration. It can be in the form of an article, report, interview, video, podcast or other formats. It should be clearly marked as sponsored content.

In your description of the problem, consider also whether the conduct of influencers (or associated brands and agencies) on social media or other online platforms is subject to regulation, such as disclosure standards and enforcement to prevent hidden advertising or possible prohibitions of promoting certain kinds of risky products.

see also: EC, Behavioural study on advertising and marketing practices in online social media, Annex 1.5 https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/annex-1-5-legal-assessment-of-problematic-practices_en.pdf.

(1) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022H1634>

(2) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32005L0029>.

Subindicator / Type

Integrity of content / T

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations. Contracts. Case law. Self-regulatory instruments. Decisions of self-regulatory bodies. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

97. Are there any self-regulatory schemes guaranteeing a clear separation between editorial and commercial activities of news organisations, and are they effectively implemented?

This variable assesses whether there are measures that make sure that editorial and journalistic work is strictly separated from marketing, advertising and other commercial activities inside the same news organisation, for example, through the separation of editorial and commercial departments. This variable is in line with the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/1634 (1) on internal safeguards for editorial independence and ownership transparency in the media sector.

The separation of editorial and commercial activities has been an important safeguard of journalistic autonomy. As Cornia, Sehl and Nielsen (2020) describe it “[t]he separation between editorial and business activities of news organisations has long been one of the key norms in journalistic professionalism. [...] Coddington (2015), for example, describes the news-business separation as a ‘cultural and occupational assumption’, which is ‘fundamental to the self-understanding of professional journalism’ and is reinforced in the most central sites of its socialisation, that is, newsrooms, journalism schools and text-books (Coddington, 2015: 67).” (2)

Please consider that to answer "Yes, effective" all the media should be covered by the self-regulatory measures. Please indicate in the answer the measures and, if existent, the best practices.

(1) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022H1634>

(2) Coddington M (2015) The wall becomes a curtain. In: Carlson M, Lewis SC (eds) *Boundaries of Journalism: Professionalism, Practices and Participation*. New York: Routledge, pp. 67–82.

Cornia, A., Sehl, A., & Nielsen, R. K. (2020). ‘We no longer live in a time of separation’: A comparative analysis of how editorial and commercial integration became a norm. *Journalism*, 21(2), 172-190.

Subindicator / Type

Integrity of content / T

EMFA

Legal variable

Method

Consult self-regulatory instruments. Decisions of self-regulatory bodies. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations, as well as an interview with either a journalist, editor or representative of a journalistic association.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

98. Is editorial content independent from commercial influence in practice?

This variable assesses whether commercial entities and/or the owners of media companies generally abstain from influencing editorial content. It is not concerned with influence by political parties/politicians. Please note that the relevant timeframe is two years and it is looking for common practice, not one single incident. "Common practice" refers to systematic influence or systematic attempts to influence. In the digital environment, you should also consider "commercial influence" as a systematic and planned link between editorial decision-making and reach of the content (clickbait).

The term "commercial influence" includes situations where media groups promote their own products. Art. 6(3) of the European Media Freedom Act (Regulation 2024/1083) asks that media service providers take measures that "guarantee that editorial decisions can be taken freely within the established editorial line of the media service provider concerned".

Subindicator / Type

Integrity of content / T

Method

Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations. Interviews with journalists and editors/publishers.

Answer options

- Low risk: Media owners and other commercial entities generally abstain from influencing editorial content.
- Medium risk: Media owners and other commercial entities sometimes attempt to influence editorial content.
- High risk: Media owners and other commercial entities systematically influence editorial content.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

99. Do the owners of the leading media in the country have relevant interests, links or activities in non-media businesses?

This variable assesses if media ownership is characterised by the presence of mixed interests, specifically if the owners of the

leading private media also have, directly or indirectly, undertakings and commercial interests in other economic sectors. A structure of media ownership characterised by mixed interests is deemed by the literature (Baker 2007) as a source of risk, in terms of: conflict of interest; potential use of the media power to pursue objectives linked to the other businesses; higher exposure to political pressure; or political use of the media outlet.

Subindicator / Type

Owner interests / T

Method

Please consider for each sector the two main private media. "Relevant" should be understood as follows: the majority of its revenues are in non-media businesses.

Answer options

- Low risk: No.
- Medium risk: Yes, in some cases.
- High risk: Yes, in many cases.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

100. Are there any practices of disclosure of any actual or potential conflict of interests of the owners of the media that might affect the editorial content?

This variable is in line with the considerations that inspired the European Commission Media Freedom Act (Regulation 2024/1083), which in art. 6/3b includes among the "Duties of media service providers providing news and current affairs content" the following: "ensure that any actual or potential conflicts of interest that might affect the provision of news and current affairs content are disclosed". This variable aims to assess if in the national legal and self-regulatory framework such an obligation already exists, or if any (potential) conflict of interest is already disclosed in practice.

To answer "Yes, effective" the measures must include and be effective in all the media sectors.

Please indicate if there are good practices and provide information on them; and/or if there have been relevant cases in your country. Recommendation (EU) 2022/1634 (1) on internal safeguards for editorial independence and ownership transparency in the media sector mentions in Section II 7(b) that editorial integrity can be safeguarded through "rules aimed to prevent or disclose conflicts of interest, including in particular requirements to inform the public about any business or professional links between the owners or entities in the ownership structure of or having a stake in the given media service provider and entities or individuals mentioned in its editorial content." In your response, also mention measures around the disclosure of funders and donations, as Recommendation (EU) 2022/1634 adds that "Media service providers are encouraged to develop policies ensuring transparency and fair use of donations. This could encompass, for example, the disclosure of donors making donations above a certain threshold or rules on donations from persons or entities whose donation could jeopardise the editorial independence."

Subindicator / Type

Owner interests / T

EMFA

Method

Consult self-regulatory instruments. Decisions of self-regulatory bodies. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations, as well as interviews with a journalist, editor or representative of a journalistic association.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, effective.
- Medium risk: Yes, but not effective.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data



Political Independence

11. Political independence of the media

This indicator assesses the existence and effective implementation of regulatory safeguards against control of the media by governments and politicians.

101. Is the conflict of interest between owners of media and the ruling parties, partisan groups or politicians effectively regulated?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards that make government office incompatible with media ownership or prohibit media proprietors from holding government office. Please also consider general conflict of interest law if it applies for media companies. Please note that this question only considers legislation specifically designed, or affecting, political actors in government. Information related to direct or indirect control of politicians, parties, or affiliated actors not necessarily in government, must be reported under variables 115-119. In your answer: summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law; mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source; and list the elements that confirm effectiveness of implementation from the above list. If it is the case, make sure to clearly report the shortcomings of a given regulation and the reasons impeding effective implementation. A law is effectively implemented if there is: a designated body monitoring compliance with the law/ functional equivalent to the law; this body having sanctioning/enforcement powers in order to impose proportionate remedies (behavioural and/or structural) in case of non-respect of the law/functional equivalent to the law; sanctioning/enforcement powers are effectively used; and appeal mechanisms with regard to the decisions of the designated body are available and effective.

Subindicator / Type

Conflict of interest

Legal

Method

National laws and regulations.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there are adequate and effectively implemented regulatory safeguards to prevent conflict of interest in the media sector.
- Medium risk: There are some regulatory safeguards but these are not adequate for the media sector or are not implemented effectively.
- High risk: There are no regulatory safeguards to prevent conflict of interest in the media sector

- Not Applicable
- No Data

102. Is the conflict of interest prevented in practice?

This variable assesses the risk of conflict of interest in practice. The aim here is to address whether there are some cases of conflict between media ownership and holding government office, encompassing all levels - from local to national.

If any, please carefully report such cases, and provide relevant evidence both in the comment, and the source section. In your reply, in the comment box, please also indicate which media are most at risk: audiovisual, radio, newspapers or online. And on what level, local or national. Please note that this question only considers cases related to political actors in government owning and/or controlling media either in a direct or indirect manner. Information related to direct or indirect ownership control of politicians, parties, or affiliated actors not in government must be reported under variables 116-119.

Subindicator / Type

Conflict of interest

Socio-Political

Method

Case law, decision practice, press reports, reports of independent bodies or NGOs.

Answer options

- Low risk: Conflict of interest is prevented in practice.
- Medium risk: There are some cases of conflict of interest.
- High risk: There are systematic cases of conflict of interest.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

103. Is there a law containing limitations to direct and indirect control of the media by party, partisan groups or politicians, and is the law implemented effectively by relevant bodies?

This variable assesses the availability and quality of legal safeguards preventing direct and/or indirect control of the media by politicians, parties, or partisan groups not in government. In this context, control is to be understood as excessive ownership control (i.e. more than 10% of the shares of a given media company) by political actors in general, and the control enabling a dominant influence to be exercised in the ordinary shareholders' meeting. Moreover, it is also interested in capturing legislation preventing control that might be exerted through intermediaries, such as family members, friendly businesspeople (i.e. oligarchs), or other affiliates (i.e. lawyers).

Subindicator / Type

Political control over media outlets

Legal

Method

Analysis of laws and regulations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there is an adequate law which is implemented effectively.
- Medium risk: There is a law, but it is not comprehensive or is not implemented effectively.
- High risk: There is no law to regulate such matter.
- Not Applicable.
- No Data.

104. How would you evaluate the presence of political control over the audiovisual media?

This variable assesses the extent of direct and/or indirect control in the audiovisual sector by politicians, parties, or partisan groups not in government. In this context, control is to be understood as excessive ownership control (i.e. more than 10% of the shares of a given media company) by political actors in general, and the control enabling a dominant influence to be exercised in the ordinary shareholders' meeting. Moreover, it is also interested in capturing control that might be exerted through intermediaries, such as family members, friendly businesspeople (i.e. oligarchs), or other affiliates (i.e. lawyers). For the purpose of this evaluation, leading media is not strictly defined but refers to 2-4 market leaders in terms of revenue or audience share. Even if there are few cases of political control, if they involve leading media, they present more of a risk than political control over minor market players. However, please, consider all levels, from national to local, when providing this evaluation, as control might be widespread at the regional and local level.

Subindicator / Type

Political control over media outlets

Socio-Political

Method

Company registers. Media registers.

Existing media ownership studies and reports, including Transparency International databases: <http://www.transparency.org/>.

Article 19 databases: <http://www.article19.org/> European Audiovisual Observatory, <http://www.obs.coe.int/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Audiovisual media in general are not politically controlled.
- Medium risk: There are some cases of political control over the audiovisual media, but they do not involve leading media and/or the control identified is not such to determine a high-risk situation for the relevant sector
- High risk: At least one of the leading audiovisual media is politically controlled.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

105. How would you evaluate the presence of political control over the radio?

This variable assesses the extent of direct and/or indirect control in the radio sector by politicians, parties, or partisan groups not in government. In this context, control is to be understood as excessive ownership control (i.e. more than 10% of the shares of a given media company) by political actors in general, and the control enabling a dominant influence to be exercised in the

ordinary shareholders' meeting. Moreover, it is also interested in capturing control that might be exerted through intermediaries, such as family members, friendly businesspeople (i.e. oligarchs), or other affiliates (i.e. lawyers). For the purpose of this evaluation leading media is not strictly defined but it refers to 2-4 market leaders in terms of revenue or audience share. Even if there are few cases of political control, if they involve leading media, they present more of a risk than political control over minor market players. However, please, consider all levels, from national to local, when providing this evaluation, as control might be widespread at the regional and local level.

Subindicator / Type

Political control over media outlets

Socio-Political

Method

Company registers.

Media registers.

Existing media ownership studies and reports, including: Transparency International databases: <http://www.transparency.org/>
Article 19 databases: <http://www.article19.org/> European Audiovisual Observatory, <http://www.obs.coe.int/>

Answer options

- Low risk: Radio stations are not politically controlled.
- Medium risk: There are some cases of political control over the radio, but they do not involve leading media and/or the control identified is not such to determine a high risk situation for the relevant sector
- High risk: At least one of the leading radio stations is politically controlled
- Not Applicable
- No Data

106. How would you evaluate the presence of political control over the newspapers?

This variable assesses the presence/extent of direct and/or indirect control in the newspapers sector by politicians, parties, or partisan groups not in government. In this context, control is to be understood as excessive ownership control (i.e. more than 10% of the shares of a given media company) by political actors in general, and the control enabling a dominant influence to be exercised in the ordinary shareholders' meeting.

Moreover, it is also interested in capturing control that might be exerted through intermediaries, such as family members, friendly businesspeople (i.e. oligarchs), or other affiliates (i.e. lawyers). For the purpose of this evaluation leading media is not strictly defined but it refers to 2-4 market leaders in terms of revenue, circulation or readership, and on different levels, from national to local. This is particularly relevant for the application of medium and high risk. Even if there are few cases of political control, if they involve leading media, they present more of a risk than political control over minor market players. However, please, consider all levels, from national to local, when providing this evaluation, as control might be widespread at the regional and local level.

Subindicator / Type

Political control over media outlets

Socio-Political

Method

Company registers

Media registers

Existing media ownership studies and reports, including Transparency International databases: <http://www.transparency.org/>.

Article 19 databases: <http://www.article19.org/> [European Audiovisual Observatory](http://www.obs.coe.int/), <http://www.obs.coe.int/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Newspapers in general are not politically controlled.
- Medium risk: There are some cases of political control over the newspapers, but they do not involve leading media and /or the control identified is not such to determine a high-risk situation for the relevant sector.
- High risk: At least one of the leading newspapers is politically controlled.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

107. How would you evaluate the presence of political control over the digital native media?

This variable assesses the presence/extent of direct and/or indirect control in the digital native sector by politicians, parties, or partisan groups not in government. In this context, control is to be understood as excessive ownership control (i.e. more than 10% of the shares of a given media company) by political actors in general, and the control enabling a dominant influence to be exercised in the ordinary shareholders' meeting.

Moreover, it is also interested in capturing control that might be exerted through intermediaries, such as family members, friendly businesspeople (i.e. oligarchs), or other affiliates (i.e. lawyers). NOTE: Please, consider only digital native media with no presence in the traditional media markets. Digital natives are media that were born on the internet and would not exist without the internet. Therefore, please exclude the online extensions/outlets of legacy media. Digital native media are the online media that produce original information content and that do not have a history of print or broadcasting publishing.

For the purpose of this evaluation, leading media is not strictly defined but refers to 2-4 market leaders in terms of revenue or audience share, and on different levels, from national to local. This is particularly relevant for the application of medium and high risk. Even if there are few cases of political control, if they involve leading media, they present more of a risk than political control over minor market players. However, please, consider all levels, from national to local, when providing this evaluation, as control might be widespread at the regional and local level.

Subindicator / Type

Political control over media outlets

Socio-Political

Method

Existing media ownership studies and reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: Digital native media in general are not politically controlled.
- Medium risk: There are some cases of political control over the newspapers, but they do not involve leading media and /or the control identified is not such to determine a high-risk situation for the relevant sector.
- High risk: At least one of the leading digital native media is politically controlled.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

108. Is the independence of news agencies from political influence regulated effectively?

This variable assesses if the law (e.g. media law, competition law, or company law) contains safeguards against excessive control of news agencies by politicians, parties, or partisan groups.

In case of public/state owned agencies, please consider safeguards in terms of governance (management appointments) and funding mechanisms. Please also consider safeguards against indirect control that might be exerted via state-controlled companies.

A law is effectively implemented if there is:

- a designated body monitoring compliance with the law/ functional equivalent to the law.
- this body having sanctioning/enforcement powers in order to impose proportionate remedies (behavioural and/or structural) in case of non- respect of the law/functional equivalent to the law.
- sanctioning/enforcement powers are effectively used.
- appeal mechanisms with regard to the decisions of the designated body are available and effective.

In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law.
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source.
- list the elements that confirm effectiveness of implementation from the above list.

Subindicator / Type

Political control over news agencies

Legal

Method

Analysis of laws and regulations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, the mechanisms are granted in the law and effectively implemented.
- Medium risk: The independence is not fully ensured by the law, or the law is not effectively implemented.
- High risk: There is no such regulation.

- Not Applicable
- No Data

109. How would you evaluate the relationship between the leading news agencies and political groupings?

This variable assesses the political independence of the largest news agencies in the country in terms of direct or indirect ownership control.

In case of public/state owned agencies, please consider the extent of influence on governance structures and funding mechanisms. Please also consider the extent of indirect control that might be exerted via state-controlled companies.

Subindicator / Type

Political control over news agencies

Socio-Political

Method

Sample: All news agencies with at least 15% audience market share at the national level.

Answer options

- Low risk: None of the largest news agencies are dependent on political groupings in terms of ownership, affiliation of key personnel or editorial policy.
- Medium risk: There is some evidence of control over the news agencies, but not such to determine a high-risk situation for the sector.
- High risk: At least one of the largest news agencies are dependent on political groupings in terms of ownership, affiliation of key personnel or editorial policy.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

12. Editorial autonomy

This indicator assesses the existence of regulatory and self-regulatory measures that guarantee freedom from interference in editorial decisions and content.

110. Are cross-sectorial codes of conduct that stipulate editorial independence from political interference in the news media available?

This question aims to capture the existence of cross-sectorial codes that provide safeguards against political interference. Please report on the main texts available and applicable across media sectors and list the relevant provisions against political interference. If there is both a regulatory and a self-regulatory framework, make a note in the comment box of the type of formal regulation that exists.

Subindicator / Type

External safeguards

Legal

Method

Analysis of national regulation and self-regulation See also: <https://www.presscouncils.eu/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, cross-sectorial codes are available, well elaborated and they have a view on political influence.
- Medium risk: Codes are available but just for some sectors, or cross-sectorial codes present shortcomings in terms of safeguards against political influence.
- High risk: There are no codes, or if there are, they are designed in a highly deficient manner.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

111. Are there external bodies, such as media or press councils, overseeing self-regulation?

This question aims to capture the existence and main characteristics of self-regulatory bodies for journalism, such as media or press councils. As indicated by the Media Councils in the Digital Age project, these bodies are committed to ethical journalism and, to that end, they provide guidance to journalists through ethical codes. They operate independently of the government and also independently of the organisations that fund them. There are different models for funding, but the guarantee of independence and independent assessment of complaints is common to all councils. Media councils offer the possibility to citizens and organisations to submit a complaint if they believe that journalists or media have committed a violation of journalistic ethics. Upon receiving the complaint, they generally make judgments / moral statements through colleges which include representatives of journalists, media organisations and the public. Please specifically report on the main characteristics of self-regulatory bodies in your country.

Subindicator / Type

External safeguards

Legal

EMFA

Method

Analysis of national regulation and self-regulation. Analysis of relevant projects and databases. See, for example: <https://www.presscouncils.eu/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, self-regulatory bodies are available, and they actively implement the relevant provisions
- Medium risk: Self-regulatory bodies are available, but they prove deficient in implementing the relevant provisions.
- High risk: There are no self-regulatory bodies implementing the relevant provisions.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

112. Are the main self-regulatory instruments effective in preventing political influence in practice?

This variable assesses whether the external self-regulatory instruments that should guarantee editorial independence are effective in preventing political influence in practice.

Subindicator / Type

External safeguards

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Press reports. Reports of independent bodies or NGOs. Media councils' judgements. Interviews with relevant experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: External self-regulatory instruments are effective in preventing political influence.
- Medium risk: External self-regulatory instruments are only partially effective in preventing political influence.
- High risk: External self-regulatory instruments are totally ineffective in preventing political influence.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

113. Do major media organisations have codes of ethics and/or codes of conduct stipulating independence from political interference, and are they implemented?

Please report on whether the two largest media outlets in each category (TV, radio, newspapers, digital native) have internal rules/codes safeguarding from political interference. According to the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/1634 of 16 September 2022 on internal safeguards for editorial independence and ownership transparency in the media sector, media service providers are encouraged to lay down internal rules to protect editorial integrity and independence from undue interests which may affect individual editorial decisions. Where such internal rules exist, it is encouraged that they are fully recognised and endorsed by the owners and management of the media company. Such internal rules could be collected in charters, codes

or other editorial guidelines and policy documents, which media service providers are encouraged to make publicly available and accessible. The internal rules of media service providers could include an editorial mission statement, policies to foster a diverse and inclusive composition of newsrooms, or policies on responsible use of sources; rules aimed to prevent or disclose conflicts of interest, including in particular requirements to inform the public about any links between the owners or entities in the ownership structure of or having a stake in the given media service provider and entities or individuals mentioned in its editorial content.

With specific regard to editorial independence, internal rules could include procedures to signal any pressure; options for anonymous or confidential signalling of instances of pressure; a right of opposition enabling members of the editorial staff to refuse to sign articles or other editorial content which have been modified without their knowledge or against their will; conscience clauses protecting against disciplinary sanctions or arbitrary dismissals of the members of editorial staff who refuse assignments that they consider to be against professional standards; without prejudice to the rights and obligations laid down in labour law or other protective rules, the right for members of the editorial staff who believe that an ownership change regarding the media service provider may affect their editorial integrity and independence to leave that provider and retain all the benefits that apply in respect of time spent at the media outlet.

This variable also asks about the availability of safeguards to promote the participation of journalists in the decision-making of media companies. This could take the form of information rights, consultation rights, participation rights, or a combination thereof. Information rights could be envisaged particularly in the following cases: when owners or management of the media service provider decide to change the editor-in-chief; when the composition of the management board changes; in cases of major changes concerning the legal form or the ownership of the media service provider; liquidation procedures; or other structural changes. Media service providers are encouraged to ensure that members of the editorial staff or their representative bodies are consulted on the appointment of the editor-in-chief.

Subindicator / Type

Internal safeguards

Legal

EMFA

Method

Analysis of the internal provisions available in the two largest news organisations, per sector, in terms of audience and readership.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, internal codes are well elaborated, and they have a view on political influence.
- Medium risk: Internal codes are available but just for some sectors, or the codes present shortcoming in terms of safeguards against political influence.
- High risk: No codes are available for major news organisations, or if there are, they are designed in a highly deficient manner.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

114. Are there internal bodies aimed at protecting the independence of editorial content?

According to the Recommendations on internal safeguards for editorial independence and ownership transparency in the media sector, media service providers are encouraged to set up appropriate internal independent bodies or structures that could receive complaints on possible violations of the policies and rules and seek to address them, for example through mediation. These include, for example: ethics or supervisory committees, in charge of overseeing the correct implementation of charters, codes or other editorial guidelines and policy documents adopted within the media service provider; ombudspersons responsible for ensuring compliance with the editorial integrity rules; newsroom councils, editorial boards, or other bodies functioning as professional representation groups of the editorial staff in the media and as points of contact and dialogue between the management and the journalists and other media professionals; boards responsible for appointing the editor-in-chief and protecting his or her autonomy and independence; and consultation or mediation committees, composed of representatives of the editorial staff and of the management or owners, to resolve conflicts between members of the editorial staff and members of the management or owners.

Subindicator / Type

Internal safeguards

Legal

EMFA

Method

Analysis of the two largest news organisations, per sector, in terms of audience and readership. Interviews with relevant representatives.

Answer options

- Low risk: All major news organisations have developed internal bodies to oversee the correct implementation of charters, codes or other editorial guidelines and policy documents.
- Medium risk: Only some of the major news organisations have developed internal structures, or these structures are not appropriate for the correct implementation of charters, codes or other editorial guidelines and policy documents.
- High risk: Most of the major news organisations lack internal structures for the correct implementation of charters, codes or other editorial guidelines and policy documents.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

115. Are internal safeguards effective in preventing political influence?

This variable assesses whether internal self-regulatory instruments that guarantee editorial independence are effective in preventing political influence in practice.

Subindicator / Type

Internal safeguards

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Press reports, reports of independent bodies or NGOs, interviews with relevant experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: Internal self-regulatory instruments are effective in preventing political influence.
- Medium risk: Internal self-regulatory instruments are only partially effective in preventing political influence.
- High risk: Internal self-regulatory instruments are totally ineffective in preventing political influence.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

116. Are there any safeguards seeking to ensure that decisions regarding appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief are not influenced by interests, and are they effectively implemented?

This variable assesses whether there are any regulatory or self-regulatory safeguards ensuring that decisions regarding appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief are not dependent on commercial and political influences, and if these safeguards are effectively implemented. The European Commission's Recommendation on internal safeguards for editorial independence and ownership transparency in the media sector (1), for example, mentions the establishment of "boards responsible for appointing the editor-in-chief and protecting his or her autonomy and independence" as a possible and effective safeguard. Please do not consider PSM in the assessment of this variable. In your reply: summarize/copy paste the relevant provisions; mention the article of the provision that you refer to and add as a source.

Subindicator / Type

Appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief

Legal

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations. Contracts. Case law. Self-regulatory instruments. Decisions of self-regulatory bodies. Reports by NGOs or other relevant organisations.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, safeguards are well elaborated.
- Medium risk: Safeguards present deficiencies.
- High risk: No safeguard is available.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

117. Are the appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief independent from political influence in practice?

This variable assesses whether the provisions on the autonomy of appointment and dismissal procedures for editors-in-chief are effectively implemented in practice, or whether there is evidence of systematic political or any other interference concerning appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief. Please state which platforms (TV, radio, print, online) and what type of media

organisations (public or private) are most at risk in this regard. Please do not consider PSM in the assessment of this variable.

Subindicator / Type

Appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Press reports, and reports of independent bodies or NGOs.

Answer options

- Low risk: No political interference in appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief.
- Medium risk: Occasional interference concerning appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief.
- High risk: Systematic political interference in appointments and dismissals of editors-in-chief.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

13. Integrity of political information during elections

The indicator assesses the existence and implementation of a regulatory and self-regulatory framework for the fair representation of different political actors and viewpoints in audiovisual media and online platforms during electoral campaigns. The indicator also takes into consideration the regulation of political advertising, and its implementation in practice.

118. Is there a media law (including conventions between PSM and the government) that guarantees access to airtime on PSM channels and services for political actors during election campaigns, and is the law implemented effectively?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards for fair access to airtime on PSM channels during electoral campaigns. It does NOT aim to capture the political advertising rules and practices.

A law is effectively implemented if there is:

- a designated body monitoring compliance with the law/ functional equivalent to the law;
- this body having sanctioning/enforcement powers in order to impose proportionate remedies (behavioural and/or structural) in case of non- respect of the law/functional equivalent to the law;
- sanctioning/enforcement powers are effectively used;
- appeal mechanisms with regard to the decisions of the designated body are available and effective.

In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law;
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source;
- list the elements that confirm effectiveness of implementation from the above list.

Subindicator / Type

PSM bias in the electoral period

Legal

Method

National laws and regulations.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on the EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Websites of national media authority.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

See also: Council of Europe (2007) Recommendation CM/Rec (2007)15 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Measures concerning Media Coverage of Election Campaigns (+ Explanatory Memorandum CM(2007)155 add).

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there is a well elaborated regulation which is implemented effectively.
- Medium risk: There is a regulation, but it is not comprehensive or it is not implemented effectively.
- High risk: There is no regulation on this matter.
- Not Applicable

- No Data

119. Does the audiovisual coverage of the electoral campaign on PSM offer a fair representation of the different groups of political actors?

This variable assesses the proportions of representation of various political and ideological viewpoints and interests in the audiovisual media, as well as the existence of dominant one-sided (negative or positive) media portrayal of specific political actors during election campaigns. Fair encompasses proportional and unbiased representation .

Subindicator / Type

PSM bias in the electoral period

Socio-Political

Method

National Regulatory Agencies monitoring and various monitoring reports by NGOs and/or scholars (e.g. academic research on political bias). See also: Council of Europe (2007) Recommendation CM/Rec (2007)15 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Measures concerning Media Coverage of Election Campaigns (+ Explanatory Memorandum CM(2007)155 add). Studies/reports: Open Society Institute (2005) and follow-up reports. Television Across Europe: Regulation, Policy and Independence, available at: <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/television-across-europeregulation-policy-and-independence> Election monitoring reports by OSCE Election Monitoring Mission, available through: <http://www.osce.org/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: Different groups of political actors are represented in a fair way on PSM.
- Medium risk: The representation of different political actors on PSM is not always fair.
- High risk: Different groups of political actors are represented in a biased and non-proportional way, clearly favouring some political actors over others.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

120. Are there any laws and/or self-regulatory measures that guarantee access to airtime on private channels and services for political actors during election campaigns?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards (e.g. laws obliging private media to be fair and objective) and/or self-regulatory safeguards (e.g. codes of ethics) for fair access to airtime on private channels and services for political actors during election campaigns. It does NOT aim to capture the political advertising rules and practices.

In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law;
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source.

Subindicator / Type

Private audiovisual media bias in the electoral period

Legal

Method

National laws and regulations, including co- and self-regulation (acts, decrees, branch agreements, codes of conduct, etc.), case law, regulatory decisions etc.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on the EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

See also: Council of Europe (2007) Recommendation CM/Rec (2007)15 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Measures concerning Media Coverage of Election Campaigns (+ Explanatory Memorandum CM(2007)155 add).

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

121. Does audiovisual coverage of the electoral campaign on private channels and services offer fair representation of the different groups of political actors?

This variable assesses the ways in which various political and ideological viewpoints and interests are represented in the commercial, privately owned audiovisual media, as well as the existence of dominant one-sided (negative or positive) media portrayal of specific political actors. Private radio and television channels are sometimes not captured by formal regulation, and are therefore allowed to follow an editorial line which might show specific political preferences. Fairness and accuracy, however, are mentioned in codes of ethics worldwide as basic journalistic principles which should be respected when covering any (also opposing) political viewpoints. Please elaborate in the comment box why political coverage is judged at 'low', 'medium', or 'high' risk. The relevant timeframe for the assessment should be four years.

Subindicator / Type

Private audiovisual media bias in the electoral period

Socio-Political

Method

Academic research on political bias in media, monitoring reports, and similar sources.

Answer options

- Low risk: Different groups of political actors are represented in a fair way on private channels.
- Medium risk: The representation of different political actors on private channels is not always fair.
- High risk: Different groups of political actors are represented in a biased and non-proportional way, clearly favouring some political actors over others.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

122. Is there a law that allows equal opportunities for buying political advertising on PSM during elections, for all political parties?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards (e.g. conventions between PSM and the government and legislation on the financing of political parties or on elections) that prevent financially stronger political actors from obtaining a large amount of airtime for political advertising, while other political actors who do not have similar financial resources are relatively suppressed from those channels. The relevance and impact of political advertising increases significantly during election periods. This question refers to PSM, including the online PSM realm.

A law is effectively implemented if there is:

- a designated body monitoring compliance with the law/ functional equivalent to the law;
- this body having sanctioning/enforcement powers in order to impose proportionate remedies (behavioural and/or structural) in case of non- respect of the law/functional equivalent to the law;
- sanctioning/enforcement powers are effectively used;
- appeal mechanisms with regard to the decisions of the designated body are available and effective.

In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law;
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source;
- list the elements that confirm effectiveness of implementation from the above list.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising in the media

Legal

Answer options

- Low risk: The law allows for equal opportunities and is implemented effectively.
- Medium risk: There is a law but the law is not implemented effectively.
- High risk: There is no law or the existing provisions do not allow for equal opportunities.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

123. Is the possibility of buying advertising space on commercial audiovisual media available to all contending parties, on equal conditions and rates of payment in practice?

This variable assesses the general practices of leading private media, including online private media as regards the sale of advertising spaces to political actors during electoral campaigns and referenda.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising in the media

Socio-Political

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes
- Medium risk: Not always
- High risk: No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

124. Does the regulatory framework ensure that the public is aware that the message is a paid political advertisement?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards to ensure that the public is aware of paid political advertisements on both PSM and private channels and services. This can be achieved through proper identification, e.g. a complete sponsorship identification that fully and fairly discloses the true identity of the person, corporation, committee, association, or other group that paid for the advertisement.

In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, just as they are written in the law;
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising in the media

Legal

Method

National laws and regulations including conventions between PSM and the government and legislation on the financing of political parties or on elections, co- and self-regulation (acts, decrees, branch agreements, codes of conduct, etc.), case law, regulatory decisions etc.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on the EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries): <http://www.nordicmedia.info/>.

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

125. Is there concerning evidence related to the provision of political advertising services to third country sponsors in the pre-electoral period?

While not applicable yet, Art. 5(2), Regulation (EU) 2024/900 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising provides that, "Without prejudice to stricter national rules, in the last three months preceding an election or referendum organised at Union level or at national, regional or local level in a Member State, political advertising services pertaining to that election or referendum shall only be provided to a sponsor, or service provider acting on behalf of a sponsor, who declares itself to be: (a) a citizen of the Union; or (b) a third country national permanently residing in the Union and having a right to vote in that election or referendum in accordance with the national law of the Member State of residence; or (c) a legal person established in the Union which is not ultimately owned or controlled by a third country national, with the exception of third country nationals referred to in point (b), or by a legal person established in a third country". We are interested in capturing any potential evidence of concern related to the provision of political advertising services to third country sponsors in the pre-electoral period.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising in the media

Socio-Political

Answer options

- Low risk: There is no concerning evidence.
- Medium risk: Some cases are detected.
- High risk: There is strong evidence of concern.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

126. Does the data protection authority in your country take sufficient account of and monitor the use of personal data on individuals by political parties for electoral campaigning purposes?

The Commission guidance on the application of GDPR in the electoral context (EC, 2018d) underlines that it “applies to all actors active in the electoral context”, including European and national political parties, European and national political foundations, platforms, data analytics companies and public authorities responsible for the electoral process. Any data processing should comply with the GDPR principles such as fairness and transparency, and for specified purposes only. The principles of fairness and transparency require that individuals (data subjects) are informed of the existence of the processing operation and its purposes (GDPR, Art. 5). The Commission’s guidance clearly states that data controllers (those who make the decisions on and the purpose of processing, like political parties or foundations) have to inform individuals about key aspects related to first, the processing of their personal data, including why they receive personalised messages from different organisations; second, the source of the data when not collected directly from the person; third, how the data from different sources are combined and used; and lastly, whether automated decision-making has been applied in processing.

In its communication, the EC particularly emphasises the strengthened powers of authorities and calls on them to use these sanctioning powers, especially in cases of infringement in the electoral context (think of the Cambridge Analytica case here). However, European DPAs have historically been very reluctant to regulate political parties. We want to see whether this has been changed due to the strengthened powers and an explicit call to act more in the political realm.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising on online platforms

Legal

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

127. Is there a regulation that aims to ensure equal opportunities and transparency of political advertising on online platforms during electoral campaign?

This variable assesses the existence of legislation that seeks to guard democracy and prevent certain political actors from capturing online political communication by buying and targeting online political advertising in a non-transparent manner. Please consider that digital advertising is cheaper than in traditional media and that platforms and political actors may not be fully transparent on revenues of political ads. Furthermore, lower costs and broader possibilities have enabled other actors (with political agendas), in addition to registered political parties and candidates, to act in support of a candidate, a party, or a specific policy by placing ads on online platforms, including on social media.

We are interested in regulation that acknowledges and tackles these issues related primarily with the environment of online platforms (search engines, social media, video sharing platforms etc.).

In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, just as they are written in the law.
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising on online platforms

Legal

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

128. Are the rules for political parties, candidates and lists competing in elections to report on campaign spending on online platforms in a transparent manner implemented effectively?

This variable aims to assess whether there are any rules at the national level for political parties to disclose campaign spending on online platforms (e.g. Facebook and Google) in a transparent way, and whether the rules are implemented effectively.

European Commission Recommendation of 9 September 2018 (Recommendation on election cooperation networks, online transparency, protection against cybersecurity incidents and fighting disinformation campaigns in the context of elections to the European Parliament) “encourages” and asks Member States to “encourage” further transparency commitments by European and national political parties and foundations, in particular by making “available on their websites information on their expenditure for online activities, including paid online political advertisements and communications”; “as well as information on any targeting criteria used in the dissemination of such advertisements and communications”.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising on online platforms

Legal

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, the rules are well elaborated and implemented effectively. Contenders report their campaign spendings on online platforms in a transparent way.
- Medium risk: The rules are in place but are not effectively implemented. Or there are no rules, but some contenders report their spendings on online platforms at their own initiative.
- High risk: There are no such rules and overall, there is no transparency on campaign spendings on online platforms.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

129. Are political parties and candidates in your country transparent about the spending and techniques used in social media political campaigns?

This variable aims to assess the practice of political parties in terms of transparency of spending and techniques used in social media political campaigns.

In addition to the commitments laid down in the Code of Practice on Online Disinformation and relying on social media platforms to increase transparency of political advertising online, the EC Recommendation of 9 September 2018 (EC, 2018e), “encourages” and asks Member States to “encourage” further transparency commitments by European and national political parties and foundations, in particular to “make available on their websites information on their expenditure for online activities, including paid online political advertisements and communications”; “as well as information on any targeting criteria used in the dissemination of such advertisements and communications”.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising on online platforms

Socio-Political

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, they make all the materials used in the campaign available on their websites or by other means.
- Medium risk: They are transparent only to some extent, or only some parties are transparent.
- High risk: There is a lack of transparency on spending and on techniques used in political campaigning.
- Not Applicable

- No Data

130. Do online platforms and social media take sufficient steps to ensure the transparency of online political advertising?

This variable aims to assess the actual practice, whether based on policy, regulation or self-regulation (such as the Code of Practice on Disinformation) that seeks to make political (and issue-based) advertising online transparent - clearly labelled as such and with a disclaimer of who paid for it. Amounts spent on online political advertising should also be transparent.

Political advertising is defined as content that appears in paid-for spaces offered by media or online platforms throughout the year advocating directly or indirectly, for or against, a party, a candidate, a position in an election, referenda, popular votes, legislative bill or any other policy issue (issue-based advertising). The definition of political advertising derives from the Council of Europe's relevant recommendation, and issue-based political advertising is considered as being in line with relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, which reasoned that "expressions reflecting controversial opinions pertaining to modern society in general and also lying at the heart of various political debates could be considered as 'political'".

As part of the Action Plan against disinformation, the Commission recommended that Member States focus on promoting the transparency of online political advertising, including campaign expenditure, and invited all political parties to respect transparency recommendations. It also envisaged collecting information from the Code signatories on political advertising and issue-based advertising focusing on clear distinguishability from editorial content, enabling public disclosure of political advertising and devising approaches to publicly disclose "issue-based advertising".

In 2018, the European Parliament adopted the resolution on the use of Facebook users' data by Cambridge Analytica and the impact on data protection. According to the resolution, Member States should introduce an obligatory system of digital imprints for electronic campaigning and advertising and implement the Commission's Recommendation aimed at enhancing the transparency of paid online political advertisements and communications. Online platforms are urged to ensure full compliance with the GDPR, distinguish political uses of their online advertising products from their commercial uses, and urgently roll out planned transparency features in relation to political advertising.

In 2019, the European Parliament adopted a resolution containing a recommendation to the Council and the Vice President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to take stock of the follow-up taken by the EEAS two years after the EP report on EU strategic communication to counteract propaganda against it by third parties. As part of it, Member States were asked to adapt their electoral rules on online campaigning and to monitor transparency features in relation to political advertising introduced by online platforms.

On 19 October 2020, the European Commission presented its 2021 work programme, which included as one of its priorities 'A New Push for European Democracy'. Under this priority, the Commission announced its intention to issue a proposal on greater transparency in paid political advertising. The new legislative proposal (based on Articles 114 and 224 TFEU) is scheduled for the third quarter of 2021 and will be accompanied by an impact assessment.

Subindicator / Type

Rules on political advertising on online platforms

Socio-Political

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, political advertising placed on platforms is clearly labelled as such, it is indicated who paid for it, and platforms provide online ad repositories to support independent research and regulatory monitoring of advertising activities.
- Medium risk: There were some issues with the implementation of transparency policies on political advertising by online platforms.
- High risk: Labelling political advertising on platforms as such and clearly indicating who paid for it is not implemented effectively and/or the ad repositories are not available and easily accessible.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

14. State regulation of resources and support to the media sector

This indicator assesses the existence, implementation, and effectiveness of regulations that ensure fair and transparent distribution of state advertisements and subsidies, as well as spectrum allocation. Lack of clear and transparent rules might serve favouritism and the channelling of money to specific media outlets.

131. Does the legislation provide fair and transparent rules on spectrum allocation?

This variable assesses the existence of the legal framework that respects general regulatory principles and policy objectives of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP 2012).

In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law;
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source.

Subindicator / Type

Spectrum allocation

Legal

Method

National laws and regulations.

Decision No 243/2012/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 establishing a multiannual radio spectrum policy programme. Text with EEA relevance. National laws and regulations.

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

132. Is the legislation on spectrum allocation implemented effectively?

The effective implementation usually involves several or all of the following aspects:

- Availability of a designated body monitoring compliance with the law/ functional equivalent to the law. This body having sanctioning/enforcement powers in order to impose proportionate remedies (behavioural and/or structural) in case of non-respect of the law/functional equivalent to the law.
- Effective use of these sanctioning/enforcement powers.
- Availability of appeal mechanisms with regard to the decisions of the designated body. The effectiveness of these appeal mechanisms, including the fact that they are NOT systematically misused to delay the enforcement of remedies. To motivate your reply, please add in the comment box which of the aspects listed above are in place, if any, and assess the overall practice.

Subindicator / Type

Spectrum allocation

Socio-Political

Method

National laws and regulations.

Directive 2002/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (Framework Directive).

Decision No 243/2012/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 establishing a multiannual radio spectrum policy programme Text with EEA relevance.

Answer options

- Low risk: The legislation on spectrum allocation is implemented effectively.
- Medium risk: There were some cases for concern.
- High risk: The legislation on spectrum allocation is not implemented effectively.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

133. Are there any national legislative, regulatory or administrative measures that are liable to affect media pluralism or the editorial independence of media service providers operating in the internal market, and are they duly justified and proportionate? (NULLIFIED)

As stated by EMFA, Art. 21, "(1) Legislative, regulatory or administrative measures taken by a Member State that are liable to affect media pluralism or the editorial independence of media service providers operating in the internal market shall be duly justified and proportionate. Such measures shall be reasoned, transparent, objective and non-discriminatory".

Recital 60 explains that "Different legislative, regulatory or administrative measures could be justified and conducive to media pluralism. However, some measures could hinder or render less attractive the exercise of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services in the media sector, to the detriment of media pluralism or the editorial independence of media service providers operating in the internal market. Such measures can take various forms, for example rules to limit the ownership of media undertakings by other undertakings active in the media sector or non-media related sectors. They also include decisions related to licensing, such as revoking or making more difficult the renewal of media service providers' licences, and decisions related to the authorisation or prior notification of media service providers. In order to mitigate their potential negative impact on media pluralism or the editorial independence of media service providers operating in the internal market and to enhance legal certainty in the internal market for media services, it is important that such measures comply with the principles of objective justification, transparency, non-discrimination and proportionality. Administrative measures that are liable to affect media pluralism or editorial independence should be adopted within predictable timeframes. Such timeframes should have a sufficient length to ensure an adequate assessment by media service providers of the measures and their foreseeable consequences. Moreover, media service providers which are individually and directly affected by regulatory or administrative measures should have the right to appeal such measures before an independent appellate body (see Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 21). If the appellate body is not a court, it should have the adequate resources necessary for its effective functioning".

Subindicator / Type

National measures affecting media service providers

Legal

Method

Analysis of national legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, case law (national or European). See, for example, the Judgement of the Court of Justice of 3 September 2020, Vivendi SA v Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni, C-719/18

Answer options

- Low risk: National measures are duly justified and proportionate in terms of ensuring media pluralism or the editorial independence of media service providers operating in the internal market. The timeframe for procedures is set in advance, procedures are conducted without delays, and media service providers have the right of appeal
- Medium risk: National measures are not justified, or they are justified but not proportionate, or they are justified and proportionate but legal certainty is not complied with, because criteria are not sufficiently clear
- High risk: National measures are not proportionate, nor duly justified
- Not Applicable
- No Data

134. Do the measures mentioned under variable 133, hinder media pluralism in practice? (NULLIFIED)

This variable asks to report any relevant cases related to national measures defined under variable 133 (and EMFA, Art, 21) hindering media pluralism or the editorial independence of media service providers operating in the internal market.

These cases, for example, might relate to restrictive administrative procedures complicating the launching of a newspaper, exceptional occurrences in terms of concentration of the market (see, for example, the case of Kesma), or other relevant cases depending on a national measure has affected media pluralism in the internal market (see, for example, the Judgement of the Court of Justice of 3 September 2020, Vivendi SA v Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni, C-719/18).

Subindicator / Type

National measures affecting media service providers

Socio-Political

Method

See relevant cases from national courts, the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, the Venice Commission, reports and analysis, academic reports

Answer options

- Low risk: No cases are detected
- Medium risk: There are some cases
- High risk: There are many cases detected
- Not Applicable

- No Data

135. Does the legislation provide fair and transparent rules for the distribution of direct subsidies to media outlets?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards for the fair and transparent distribution of direct state subsidies (e.g. cash grants, interest-free loans, etc.) to media outlets, other than PSM.

In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law;
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source.

NOTE: Please, consider specifically subsidies provided to media and journalists because of the COVID-19 crisis. Provide a specific comment on this (whether there were such subsidies or not).

Subindicator / Type

Distribution of government subsidies

Legal

Method

National laws and regulations.

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

136. Are the direct state subsidies distributed to media outlets in a fair and transparent manner?

This variable assesses the general practice of direct state subsidies distribution to media outlets, other than PSM (exact practice assessment). Direct state subsidies are e.g. cash grants, interest-free loans.

Please note that this variable focuses on subsidies to media outlets that operate on a national level. The MPM contains another variable focusing on direct and indirect subsidies to the local/regional media in the Social Inclusiveness area.

NOTE: Please, consider specifically subsidies provided to media and journalists because of the COVID-19 crisis. Provide a specific comment on this (whether there were such subsidies or not and assess their distribution).

Subindicator / Type

Distribution of government subsidies

Socio-Political

Method

Official sources (e.g. Ministry of culture & media), academic reports, press reports, reports of independent bodies or NGOs.

Answer options

- Low risk: The direct state subsidies are distributed to media in a fair and transparent manner.
- Medium risk: The direct state subsidies are distributed to media based on a set of criteria but it is unclear whether they are fair, or the distribution is not always transparent.
- High risk: There is no transparency on the criteria, amounts and beneficiaries of direct state subsidies to the media.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

137. Does the legislation provide fair and transparent rules for the distribution of indirect subsidies to media outlets?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards for fair and transparent distribution of indirect state subsidies (e.g. tax exemptions, reduced postal service and telephone rates) to media outlets, other than PSM.

In your reply:

- summarize/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to, and add as a source

NOTE: Please, consider specifically subsidies provided to media and journalists because of the COVID-19 crisis. Provide a specific comment on this (whether there were such subsidies or not).

Subindicator / Type

Distribution of government subsidies

Legal

Method

National laws and regulations.

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

138. Are the indirect state subsidies distributed to media outlets in a fair and transparent manner?

This variable assesses the general practice of indirect state subsidies distribution to media outlets, other than PSM. Indirect state subsidies are e.g. tax exemptions, reduced postal service and telephone rates. Please note that this variable focuses on

subsidies to media outlets that operate on a national level. The MPM2017 also contains another variable focusing on direct and indirect subsidies to the local/regional media (I17) "Are the state subsidies distributed to local and regional media outlets in a fair and transparent manner?".

NOTE: Please, consider specifically subsidies provided to media and journalists because of the COVID-19 crisis. Provide a specific comment on this (whether there were such subsidies or not).

Subindicator / Type

Distribution of government subsidies

Socio-Political

Method

National laws and regulations analysis, academic reports, press reports, reports of independent bodies or NGOs.

Answer options

- Low risk: The indirect state subsidies are distributed to media in a fair and transparent manner.
- Medium risk: The indirect state subsidies are distributed to media based on a set of criteria but it is unclear whether they are fair, or the distribution is not always transparent.
- High risk: The distribution of indirect state subsidies to the media is not transparent in terms of criteria or beneficiaries.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

139. Does the legislation provide plural, fair and transparent rules on the distribution of state advertising to media outlets and online platforms?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards for a plural, fair and transparent distribution of state advertising that prevent preferential treatment and/or misconduct. According to EMFA, Art. 25(1), "Public funds or any other consideration or advantage made available, directly or indirectly, by public authorities or entities to media service providers or providers of online platforms for state advertising or supply or service contracts concluded with media service providers or providers of online platforms shall be awarded in accordance with transparent, objective, proportionate and non-discriminatory criteria, made publicly available in advance by electronic and user-friendly means, and by means of open, proportionate and non-discriminatory procedures". State advertising should be understood broadly as covering promotional or selfpromotional activities undertaken by, for or on behalf of a wide range of public authorities or entities, including governments, as well as state-owned enterprises or other state-controlled entities in different sectors, at national, regional and local level.

The content of this advertising does not need to be political.

In your reply:

- summarize/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to, and add as a source

Subindicator / Type

Distribution of state advertising

Legal

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations.

Answer options

Yes

No

Not Applicable

No Data

140. Is state advertising distributed to media outlets in a plural and transparent manner?

This variable assesses the plurality, fairness and transparency of state advertising distribution to media outlets. Transparency, in this context, means transparency of the State. According to EMFA, Art. 25 (1), "Member States shall seek to ensure that the overall yearly public expenditure allocated for state advertising is distributed to a wide plurality of media service providers represented on the market, taking into account the national and local specificities of the media markets concerned". Moreover, according to Art. 25 (2), "Public authorities or entities shall make publicly available by electronic and user-friendly means information on an annual basis about their public expenditure for state advertising. That information shall include at least the following: a) the legal names of the media service providers or the providers of online platforms from which services were purchased; b) where applicable, the legal names of the business groups of which any media service providers or providers of online platforms as referred to in point (a) are part; and c) the total annual amount spent and the annual amounts spent per media service provider or provider of an online platform. Member States may exempt subnational governments of territorial entities of less than 100 000 inhabitants, and entities controlled, directly or indirectly, by such subnational governments, from the obligation under point (b) of the first subparagraph".

State advertising, as defined by EMFA Art. 2 (19), "means the placement, promotion, publication or dissemination, in any media service or online platform, of a promotional or self-promotional message or a public announcement or an information campaign, normally in return for payment or for any other consideration, by, for or on behalf of a public authority or entity".

Subindicator / Type

Distribution of state advertising

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Please consider all: TV, radio, newspapers and online media.

Answer options

- Low risk: State advertising is distributed to media outlets in a plural and transparent manner.
- Medium risk: State advertising is distributed to media outlets based on a set of criteria but it is unclear whether they are plural, or the distribution is not always transparent.
- High risk: There is no transparency nor plurality in the distribution of state advertising to the media.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

141. Is state advertising distributed in online platforms in a transparent manner?

This variable assesses the transparency of state advertising distribution in online platforms. In this context, transparency means transparency of the State. According to EMFA, Art. 25 (2), "Public authorities or entities shall make publicly available by electronic and user-friendly means information on an annual basis about their public expenditure for state advertising. That information shall include at least the following: a) the legal names of the media service providers or the providers of online platforms from which services were purchased; b) where applicable, the legal names of the business groups of which any media service providers or providers of online platforms as referred to in point (a) are part; and c) the total annual amount spent and the annual amounts spent per media service provider or provider of an online platform. Member States may exempt subnational governments of territorial entities of less than 100 000 inhabitants, and entities controlled, directly or indirectly, by such subnational governments, from the obligation under point (b) of the first subparagraph".

State advertising, as defined by EMFA Art. 2 (19), "means the placement, promotion, publication or dissemination, in any media service or online platform, of a promotional or self-promotional message or a public announcement or an information campaign, normally in return for payment or for any other consideration, by, for or on behalf of a public authority or entity".

Subindicator / Type

Distribution of state advertising

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Transparency reports from the State or State-owned companies Analysis of press reports, Cso reports, other relevant sources and databases

Answer options

- Low risk: State advertising is distributed in online platforms in a transparent manner.
- Medium risk: The distribution is not always transparent.
- High risk: There is no transparency in the distribution of state advertising in online platforms.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

142. Do the competent National Regulatory Authority take account, monitor, and report annually on the allocation of state advertising expenditure to media service providers and to providers of online platforms, and are the reports made publicly available?

This variable asks whether national regulatory authorities or bodies or other competent independent authorities or bodies in the Member States monitor and report annually on the allocation of state advertising expenditure to media service providers and to providers of online platforms based on the information listed in Art. 25, paragraph 2 of the EMFA. Those annual reports shall be made publicly available in an easily accessible manner. In order to assess the completeness of the information on state advertising made available pursuant to paragraph 2, national regulatory authorities or bodies or other competent independent

authorities or bodies in the Member States may request from the public authorities or entities referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 2 further information, including more detailed information on the application of the criteria and procedures referred to in paragraph 1. Where the monitoring, assessment and reporting are carried out by other competent independent authorities or bodies in the Member States, they shall keep the national regulatory authorities or bodies duly informed.

Subindicator / Type

Distribution of state advertising

Socio-Political

EMFA

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, the competent National Regulatory Authority take into account, monitor, and report annually on the allocation of state advertising
- Medium risk: The competent National Regulatory Authority take into account the allocation of state advertising, but deficiencies are detected in terms of monitoring and transparency
- High risk: The competent National Regulatory Authority does not take into account the allocation of state advertising
- Not Applicable
- No Data

15. Independence of public service media

The indicator is designed to measure the risks which stem from appointments procedures for top management positions in the public service media, and the risks arising from the PSM funding mechanisms and procedures.

143. Is there a media law (including conventions between PSM and the government) that imposes rules aiming at impartiality in news and informative programmes on PSM channels and services, and is the law implemented effectively?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards that guarantee that in news and informative programmes on PSM channels and services all political viewpoints existing in society are represented in a fair manner. Fair encompasses proportional and unbiased. This is also underlined by EMFA Art 5(1), according to which "Member States shall ensure that public service media providers are editorially and functionally independent and provide in an impartial manner a plurality of information and opinions to their audiences, in accordance with their public service remit as defined at national level in line with Protocol No 29".

A law is effectively implemented if there is:

- a designated body monitoring compliance with the law/ functional equivalent to the law.
- this body having sanctioning/enforcement powers in order to impose proportionate remedies (behavioural and/or structural) in case of non- respect of the law/functional equivalent to the law
- sanctioning/enforcement powers are effectively used
- appeal mechanisms with regard to the decisions of the designated body is available and effective

In your reply:

- summarize/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law
 - mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to, and add as a source
 - list the elements that confirm effectiveness of implementation from the above list
- This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards that guarantee that in news and informative programmes on PSM channels and services all political viewpoints existing in society are represented in a fair manner. Fair encompasses proportional and unbiased.

Subindicator / Type

Plurality of PSM coverage

Legal

EMFA

Method

National laws and regulations

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>

Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: http://merlin.obs.coe.int/National_laws_and_regulations

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, there is a well elaborated law which is implemented effectively.
- Medium risk: There is a law but it is not comprehensive or is not implemented effectively.
- High risk: There is no law to regulate such matter.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

144. Is there an internal charter of PSM or other self-regulatory instrument that guarantees impartiality and access to PSM channels for political actors?

In some countries the rules aiming at the fair representation of political viewpoints in news and informative programmes on PSM channels and services may be governed by self-regulatory instruments. This variable assesses the existence of an internal charter of PSM or other self-regulatory instruments guaranteeing proportional representation on PSM channels to political actors.

In your reply:

- summarize/copy paste the relevant provisions, as they are written in the (self)regulation,
- mention the (self)regulation and the article(s) of that you refer to and add as a source.

Subindicator / Type

Plurality of PSM coverage

Legal

EMFA

Method

Co- and self-regulation (acts, decrees, branch agreements, codes of conduct...)

Answer options

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- No Data

145. Do PSM channels and services provide fair representation of political actors and political viewpoints in news and informative programmes in practice?

Fair encompasses proportional and unbiased.

Subindicator / Type

Plurality of PSM coverage

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Practice assessment.

Answer options

- Low risk: PSM channels and services provide fair representation of political actors and political viewpoints
- Medium risk: The representation of political actors and political viewpoints on PSM is not always fair
- High risk: Different groups of political actors and/or political viewpoints are represented in a biased way, clearly favoring some political actors and/or viewpoints over others
- Not Applicable
- No Data

146. Does the law provide fair and transparent appointment and dismissal procedures for the management (including director general /CEO) of the PSM, which guarantee independence from government or other political influence?

This variable assesses the existence of both fair and transparent appointment and dismissal procedures for management and board functions in PSM, including director general/CEO (stipulated in the e.g.media law, administrative law, company law, labour law, conventions between PSM and the government) that guarantee independence from political interference. As stated in EMFA, Art. 5(2), "Member States shall ensure that the procedures for the appointment and the dismissal of the head of management or the members of the management board of public service media providers aim to guarantee the independence of public service media providers. The head of management or the members of the management board of public service media providers shall be appointed on the basis of transparent, open, effective and non-discriminatory procedures and transparent, objective, non-discriminatory and proportionate criteria laid down in advance at national level. The duration of their term of office shall be sufficient for the effective independence of public service media providers. Decisions on dismissal of the head of management or the members of the management board of public service media providers before the end of their term of office shall be duly justified, may be taken only exceptionally where they no longer fulfil the conditions required for the performance of their duties according to criteria laid down in advance at national level, shall be subject to prior notification to the persons concerned and shall include the possibility of judicial review".

In your reply:

- summarize/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source

Subindicator / Type

PSM governance

Legal

EMFA

Method

Analysis of national laws and regulations, including media law, administrative law, company law, labour law, conventions between PSM and the government. Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website:

<http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>; Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/> See also: Council of Europe (2012). Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on 15 February 2012 EBU – European Broadcasting Union: <http://www.ebu.ch/en/> European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://www.obs.coe.int/> National media regulation databases (available on web sites of relevant state bodies) Open Society Institute (2005) and follow-up reports. Television Across Europe: Regulation, Policy and Independence, available at: <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/television-across-europeregulation-policy-and-independence>

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, the law provides for fair and transparent appointment and dismissal procedures, which guarantee independence from government or other political influence, and is implemented effectively
- Medium risk: There is a law but its provisions do not guarantee fully independence from government or other political influence, or there are some deficiencies in the implementation.
- High risk: There is no specific law on appointment and dismissal procedures for the management and director general of PSM or the existing law does not guarantee independence from government or other political influence.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

147. Are the appointments and dismissals of PSM management and director general independent from political influences in practice?

This variable assesses whether the legal safeguards for appointment and dismissal procedures for management and director general functions in PSM are implemented in practice, or whether there is evidence of systematic conflicts concerning appointments and dismissals of management and director general of the PSM.

Subindicator / Type

PSM governance

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Academic reports, press reports, reports of independent bodies or NGOs

Answer options

- Low risk: No political interference in the appointments and dismissals
- Medium risk: Rare cases or occasional attempts of political interference in the appointments and dismissals
- High risk: Systematic political interference in the appointments and dismissals
- Not Applicable
- No Data

148. Are editors and editors-in-chief of PSM appointed and dismissed based on professional and objective standards?

This variable assesses whether editors and editors-in-chief of PSM are appointed and dismissed based on professional and

objective standards or there are cases of political interference.

Subindicator / Type

PSM governance

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Academic reports, press reports, reports of independent bodies or NGOs

Answer options

- Low risk: PSM editors and editors-in-chief are appointed and dismissed based on professional and objective standard
- Medium risk: Rare suspicion of political interference in the appointments and dismissals of editors has been recorded
- High risk: There are cases or there is a systematic political interference in the appointments and dismissals of the PSM
- Not Applicable
- No Data

149. Does media law prescribe transparent and fair procedures in order to ensure that the funding of PSM is adequate?

This variable assesses the existence of regulatory safeguards for fair and transparent procedures for the funding of PSM. As stated in EMFA Article 5(3), "Member States shall ensure that funding procedures for public service media providers are based on transparent and objective criteria laid down in advance. Those funding procedures shall guarantee that public service media providers have adequate, sustainable and predictable financial resources corresponding to the fulfilment of and the capacity to develop within their public service remit. Those financial resources shall be such that the editorial independence of public service media providers is safeguarded. Such funding should be preferably decided and appropriated on a multi-year basis, in line with the public service remit of public service media providers, in order to avoid the risk of undue influence from yearly budget negotiations. For the scope of this variable, adequate entails: a) they prevent under and over-funding of PSM. b) they cover all aspects of the public service remit, including its online dimension and related risks (c) they are stable on a pluri-annual basis (d) they prevent competition distortion.

Adequate entails (a) adequate to cover all aspects of the public service remit, and (b) stable on a pluri-annual basis. In your reply:

- summarise/copy paste the relevant legal provisions, as they are written in the law;
- mention the Law and the article(s) of the law that you refer to and add as a source.

Subindicator / Type

PSM funding

Legal

EMFA

Method

Analysis of national laws and regulations, including media law, administrative law, company law, labour law, and conventions

between PSM and the government.

Case law.

Overviews of national media legislation can be found on: EPRA website: <http://www.epra.org/articles/media-legislation>.

Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: The law provides an adequate, sustainable and predictable set of financial resources for the funding of PSM, such that the editorial independence of public service media providers is safeguarded.
- Medium risk: The law provides some provisions, but they prove deficient for some aspects, or they are not properly implemented. As such, the editorial independence of public service media providers is not safeguarded.
- High risk: The law does not provide with safeguards, or they present relevant shortcomings.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

150. How would you evaluate, in practice, the mechanism of providing financing to the PSM?

This variable assesses the practice of PSM funding, and the potential risks in relation to the discretionary decisions of governments.

Subindicator / Type

PSM funding

Socio-Political

EMFA

Method

Case law, decision practice, press reports, and reports of independent bodies or NGOs. See, EBU – European Broadcasting Union: <http://www.ebu.ch/en/>.

See, in particular, the documents available at: <http://www3.ebu.ch/policies/initiatives/sustainable-psm> European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://www.obs.coe.int/> National media regulation databases (available on websites of relevant state bodies).

Open Society Institute (2005) and follow-up reports. Television Across Europe: Regulation, Policy and Independence, available at: <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/television-across-europeregulation-policy-and-independence>

Answer options

- Low risk: The funding mechanisms (licence fee or other) of PSM ensure independence from discretionary decisions and no concerns are detected.
- Medium risk: The funding mechanisms of PSM do not completely ensure independence from discretionary decisions, and there is some evidence of concern.
- High risk: There is strong evidence of concern on the editorial independence of PSM, based on the funding mechanisms.
- Not Applicable
- No Data



Social Inclusiveness

16. Universal and inclusive access to media

151. Does the PSM in your country provide universal coverage in practice?

This variable assesses the probability of a threat arising to the accessibility of PSM content and services, offline and online. It shows the population coverage of public service television and radio broadcasters.

Subindicator/Type

Universality of Public service media

Socio-political variable

Method

Document analysis and PSM reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: Almost all of the territory is covered by PSM signal, and some visible efforts are made to reach new audiences online.
- Medium risk: Almost all of the territory is covered by PSM signal, yet there is room for improvement regarding PSM presence online.
- High risk: Not all the territory is covered by PSM signal and/or the online presence of PSM is limited.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

152. Have some measures been taken to ensure the appropriate prominence of the content of public interest produced by PSM in your country?

This variable assesses the probability of a threat arising from the visibility of PSM content and services online, and if some measures are taken to assess the appropriate prominence of the PSM online. According to Article 7a of the revised Audiovisual Media Service Directive (AVMSD) 2018/1808/EU: “Member States may take measures to ensure the appropriate prominence of audiovisual media services of general interest”.

According to ERGA, “The concept of ‘appropriate prominence’ presupposes some kind of separation or highlighting of certain services or content. Approaches to implementation could consist of direct access through e.g., a button on the remote control or in the virtual user interface, easy findability in individual menus or categories, or a targeted and prioritized display. In some cases, proxies that appropriate the prominence of PSM do so with the aim of producing content of public interest or technical innovations to ensure the visibility of PSM content.

Subindicator/Type

Universality of Public service media

Socio-political variable

Method

Laws, regulation, academic literature, and PSM reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: The notion of appropriate prominence of content of public interest is consistently discussed and some measures have been taken to ensure the higher visibility of content of public interest produced by PSM.
- Medium risk: The notion of appropriate prominence of PSM is discussed but few actions have hitherto been taken.
- High risk: The appropriate prominence of PSM is never discussed.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

153. What is the percentage of households with access to the internet in your country?

This variable aims to calculate the percentage of households with access to the internet.

Subindicator/Type

Fixed-Broadband access

Socio-Political variable

Method

The data collection for this variable is centralised by the CMPE.

Dataset: Eurostat - Households - level of internet access. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/isoc_ci_in_h/default/table?lang=en

Risk thresholds calculated based on terciles (calculated based on data for 2024).

154. Is the download speed of fixed-broadband homogeneous through the national territory?

This variable aims to establish if the download speed of fixed-broadband is homogeneous through the territory. In other words, it calculates a homogeneity coefficient that corresponds to the download speed differences between NUTS3 regions across EU and candidate countries.

Subindicator/Type

Fixed-Broadband access

Socio-Political variable

Method

The data collection for this variable is centralised by the CMPE. The formula for calculating the **homogeneity coefficient** = **avg speed / std dev**. Data for average speed of fixed-broadband : Speedtest by Ookla Global Fixed and Mobile Network

Performance Maps was accessed on 13 January 2025 from <https://registry.opendata.aws/speedtest-global-performance>. Speedtest® by Ookla® Global Fixed and Mobile Network Performance Maps. Based on analysis by Ookla of Speedtest Intelligence® data for 1 January- 31 December 2024. Provided by Ookla and accessed 13 January 2025. Ookla trademarks used under license and reprinted with permission. Risk thresholds calculated based on terciles.

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

155. What is the share of the population with broadband mobile subscriptions in your country?

This variable aims to calculate the share of the population that has a mobile broadband subscription in your country.

Subindicator / Type

Mobile broadband access / N

Method

The data collection for this variable is centralised by the CMPF. Dataset: DESI - mobile broadband take up. https://digital-decade-desi.digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/datasets/desi/charts/desi-indicators?indicator=desi_iug_md&indicatorGroup=desi2023-2&breakdown=ind_total&period=desi_2024&unit=pc_ind&country=AT,BE,BG,HR,CY,CZ,DK,EE,EU,FI,FR,DE,EL,HU,IE,IT,LV,LT,LU,MT,NL,PL,PT,RO,SK,SI,ES,SE. Risk thresholds calculated based on terciles (calculated based on data for 2024).

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

156. Is the download speed of mobile broadband homogeneous through the national territory?

This variable aims to establish if the download speed of mobile broadband is homogeneous through the territory. In other words, it calculates a homogeneity coefficient that corresponds to the download speed differences between NUTS3 regions across EU and candidate countries.

Subindicator/Type

Fixed-Broadband access

Socio-Political variable

Method

The data collection for this variable is centralised by the CMPF. The formula for calculating **the homogeneity coefficient** = $\text{avg_speed} / \text{std_dev}$. Dataset for average speed of mobile broadband used: Speedtest by Ookla Global Fixed and Mobile Network Performance Maps was accessed on 13 January 2025 from <https://registry.opendata.aws/speedtest-global->

[performance](#). Speedtest® by Ookla® Global Fixed and Mobile Network Performance Maps. Based on analysis by Ookla of Speedtest Intelligence® data for 1 January- 31 December 2024. Provided by Ookla and accessed 13 January 2025. Ookla trademarks used under license and reprinted with permission. Risk thresholds calculated based on tertiles.

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

157. Are there regulatory safeguards regarding net neutrality in your country and are they implemented in practice?

"Net neutrality refers to a debate about the way that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) manage the data or 'traffic' carried on their networks when data is requested by broadband subscribers (known as "end-users" under EU law) from providers of content, applications or services (CAPs) such as YouTube or Spotify, as well as when traffic is exchanged between end-users. The best effort internet is about the equal treatment of data traffic being transmitted over the internet, i.e., that the 'best efforts' are made to carry data, no matter what it contains, which application transmits the data ("application-agnosticism"), where it comes from or where it goes. The benefits of the best effort internet notably include the separation between application and network layers of the internet. This separation enables innovation of applications independent of the ISP, thereby enhancing end-user choice." Source: All you need to know about Net Neutrality rules in the EU <https://berrec.europa.eu/eng/netneutrality/>.

Subindicator/Type

Net neutrality

Legal variable

Method

Please use the following sources:

- ◆ Regulatory safeguards regarding net neutrality.
- ◆ Policy measures to avoid blocking of certain internet content and/ or application providers.
- ◆ Policies to avoid quality discrimination between content and service providers; regulation on the information of the quality of the services offered by the ISPs.
- Obligation of transparency concerning discriminatory practices in ISP services.

Answer options

- Low risk: There are regulatory safeguards, and they are implemented.
- Medium risk: There are regulatory safeguards, but they are not fully implemented.
- High risk: There are no regulatory safeguards, or there are but they are not implemented at all.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

158. Do ISPs manage network traffic in a way that is transparent, impartial and neutral, without discriminating against particular types of content or content from particular sources?

This variable aims to assess whether net neutrality is an effective practice amongst ISPs.

Subindicator/Type

Net neutrality

Socio-Political variable

Method

Please use the following sources: Case-law; decisions of the communication authority (or the competent authority), reports, academic papers, and statistics.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes.
- Medium risk: Most of them.
- High risk: No.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

159. Is there any legislation in place in your country that requires access services for people with disabilities and is the law implemented effectively?

This variable assesses the existence of legal requirements for access services, including signing and audio description, for people with disabilities, as well as the effective implementation of those legal requirements. Media accessibility for persons with disabilities means "access to audiovisual content is accessible, as well as mechanisms that allow users with disabilities to use their assistive technologies" (para 31. Directive Eu 2019/882). Assistive technologies include, among other features, "subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, audio description, spoken subtitles and sign language interpretation" (art. 3, Al. 6. Directive Eu 2019/882).

The effective implementation of a law usually involves several or all the following aspects:

1/ Availability of a designated body monitoring compliance with the law/ functional equivalent to the law. This body having sanctioning/enforcement powers in order to impose proportionate remedies (behavioural and/or structural) in case of non-respect of the law/functional equivalent to the law.

2/ Effective use of these sanctioning/enforcement powers.

3/ Availability of appeal mechanisms with regard to the decisions of the designated body. The effectiveness of these appeal mechanisms, including the fact that they are NOT systematically misused to delay the enforcement of remedies.

People with disabilities are defined here as people with visual or hearing impairments.

Subindicator/Type

Media accessibility for people with disabilities

Legal variable

Answer options

- Low risk: There is a well-developed and implemented legal framework. The existing measures are coherent and up to date with the latest societal changes.
- Medium risk: There is a developed legal framework. However, there is room for improvement, in order to be up to date with the latest societal change.
- High risk: There is no legal framework at all, or if there is, the legal framework is nascent, fragmented and/or not effectively implemented.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

160. How would you evaluate the policy on media accessibility for people with disabilities in your country?

This variable assesses the existence and coherence of policies for the promotion of media accessibility for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are defined here as blind, partially sighted, deaf and hard of hearing people. The term ‘policy’ includes regulation, self-regulation and (a set of) laws that govern a certain issue.

Subindicator

Media accessibility for people with disabilities

Legal variable

Method

Analysis of policies and support measures.

For this variable, the country team also has to conduct a brief interview with at least one representative of an academic institution specialising in media accessibility or a non-governmental organisation (NGO) representing the interests of people with disabilities. You can consult the list of media accessibility experts, mostly academics, provided by the CMPF or check out the website of the Academic Network of European Disability experts at: <http://www.disability-europe.net/about-us>. However, note that you are also free to find experts of your choice.

The interview has to be fully referenced (the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed, and the date and channel (in-person/telephone) used for the interview).

Other suggested source:

Accessibility Map (in Beta): <http://www.mapaccess.org/index.php/accessometer>.

Answer options

- Low risk: There is a well-developed and implemented policy. There is already a strong tradition of policy making in this area. The existing measures are coherent and up to date with the latest societal changes.
- Medium risk: There are existing policies. However, there is significant room for improvement in terms of implementation.
- High risk: There is an underdeveloped policy or no policy at all. The existing policies are only nascent, and the policy

measures taken are fragmented, and/or not effectively implemented.

- Not Applicable
- No Data

161. How would you evaluate the support available for people with hearing impairments in audiovisual media?

This variable assesses the support for people with hearing impairments to access TV, in particular in terms of subtitles with sound descriptions and sign language available.

Subindicator/Type

Media accessibility for people with disabilities

Socio-Political variable

Method

Media sample:

- ◆ Two private TV channels with the largest audience share in the country, and all TV channels of the PSM.
- Also check the percentage of programmes on digital platforms

As a starting point, you could consult this website of the Zero project, which provides a map of accessible broadcasting services (TV and radio programs) readily available to persons with disabilities. The map is not very complete, and the information has to be cross checked, but it can work as a starting point. See, <https://zeroproject.org/indicator/4-broadcasting-systems>.

You can also check the G3ict – the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies that provides country fiches with relevant information. Again, the information should be cross checked for reliability and recent developments: http://g3ict.org/resource_center/country_profiles/country_profile_austria.

Answer options

- Low risk: More than three-quarters of TV programmes and content available online has subtitles with sound descriptions, or signing; and/or serious efforts to improve the access of people with disabilities have been made.
- Medium risk: At least half of TV programmes and content available online have subtitles with sound descriptions, or signing; but there is room for improvement.
- High risk: A minority of TV programmes and of content available online has subtitles with sound descriptions, or signing.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

162. How would you evaluate the support available for visually-impaired people in audiovisual media

This variable assesses the extent to which audio description are available for visually-impaired people on TV and digital platforms.

Subindicator / Type

Media accessibility for people with disabilities

Socio-Political variable

Method

Media sample:

- ◆ Two private TV channels with the largest audience share in the country, and all TV channels of PSM.
- Also check the media outlets' websites and apps.

As a starting point, you could consult this website of the Zero project, which provides a map of accessible broadcasting services (TV and radio programs) readily available to persons with disabilities. The map is not very complete, and the information has to be cross checked, but it can work as a starting point. See, <https://zeroproject.org/indicator/4-broadcasting-systems>.

You can also check the G3ict – the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies that provides country fiches with relevant information. Again, the information should be cross checked for reliability and recent developments: http://g3ict.org/resource_center/country_profiles/country_profile_austria.

Answer options

- Low risk: More than three-quarters of TV programmes and content available online has audio descriptions; and/or serious efforts to improve the access of people with disabilities have been made.
- Medium risk: More than half of TV programmes and of content available online have audio descriptions, but there is room for improvement.
- High risk: A minority of TV programmes and of content available online have audio descriptions.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

17. Representation of minorities in the media

The indicator assesses whether minorities are represented on PSM, private TV, and radio. Variables have been elaborated on the basis of CoE and OSCE documents. The OSCE's Oslo Recommendations (1998), p. 6) states: "Persons belonging to national minorities should have access to broadcast time in their own language on publicly funded media. The amount and quality of the time allocated to broadcasting in the language of a given minority should be commensurate with the numerical size and concentration of the national minority and appropriate to its situation and needs." The Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Council of Europe 1992, Article 11) and its Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which emphasises that the Convention Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against but are facilitated in their access to the media (Council of Europe, 1995, Article 9).

163. Does the law guarantee the representation of legally recognised minorities in PSM news reporting, and if so, is this law implemented effectively?

This variable assesses the existence of legal safeguards to guarantee access to broadcast time (content) on PSM channels for legally recognised minorities, and whether these safeguards are implemented effectively.

This variable has been elaborated on the basis for of CoE and OSCE documents. In particular, on the basis of OSCE's Oslo Recommendations (p. 6): "Persons belonging to national minorities should have access to broadcast time in their own language on publicly funded media. At national, regional and local levels the amount and quality of time allocated to broadcasting in the language of a given minority should be commensurate with the numerical size and concentration of the national minority and appropriate to its situation and needs."

Source: OSCE (1998). The Oslo Recommendations Regarding the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities & Explanatory Note. <http://www.osce.org/hcnm/67531?download=true>

For the purpose of the MPM, a minority group is defined as a cultural or social group that fits the following criteria:

- is numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a state;
- is smaller than the majority group in the respective country;
- is in a non-dominant position;
- whose members possess ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics that differ from those of the rest of the population.

Subindicator / Type

Representation of legally recognised minorities in media content

Legal variable

Method

Source: National laws, case-laws, reports, and experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: The representation of legally recognised minorities in PSM news reporting is legally guaranteed, and in practice their representation is quantitatively proportional to the size of the minority, without any significant exception.
- Medium risk: The representation of legally recognised minorities in PSM news reporting is legally guaranteed, and in practice most of the legally recognised minorities have adequate access to broadcast time. Or, the representation of legally recognised minorities in PSM news reporting is ensured in practice, despite the absence of legal safeguards.
- High risk: Legally recognised minorities are absent from PSM news reporting, with or without existing legal safeguards.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

164. Does the PSM have national news available in minority languages?

This variable assesses whether PSM broadcasts national news in minority languages. **This variable concerns the languages of both minorities that are legally recognised and those that are not.**

"Regional or minority languages" are defined in accordance with the "European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages" as traditionally used within a given territory of a state by nationals of that state who form a group numerically smaller than the rest of the population; and that are different from the official language(s) of that state.

Subindicator / Type

Representation of legally recognised minorities in media content

Socio-Political variable

Method

Source: PSM programming offline and online.

Answer options

- Low risk: National news in most minority languages is available on a regular basis (at least once a week).
- Medium risk: National news in some of minority languages are available on a regular basis, OR national news in most minority languages are available but only sporadically.
- High risk: National news is not available in any of the minority languages.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

165. Are legally recognised minorities represented in news content on private TV and radio?

This variable assesses the representation in news reporting of legally recognised minorities to private TV and radio in practice. The definition of minorities is here restricted to national minorities recognised by the law.

Subindicator / Type

Representation of legally recognised minorities in media content

Socio-Political variable

Method

Media sample: Two private TV channels and two private radio channels with the largest audience shares in the country.

For this variable, the country team also has to conduct a brief interview with at least one expert on minorities in the country. The interview has to be referenced. Please attach a note listing the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed and the date and channel (in- person/telephone) for the interview.

Other sources:

European Audiovisual Observatory (EAO), and National Regulatory Authorities.

Please choose “Not applicable” if the country does not have any legally recognised minorities and you have selected “Not applicable” for the previous questions related to legally recognised minorities.

Answer options

- Low risk: Legally recognised minorities are represented in news reporting and the representation is proportional to the size of their populations in the country, without any significant exception.
- Medium risk: Most of the legally recognised minorities are represented in news reporting but there are some significant exceptions.
- High risk: Most legally recognised minorities are not represented in news reporting, and/or the airtime is not proportional to the size of their populations in the country.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

166. Does the PSM have a comprehensive diversity policy to promote the representation of marginalised communities in media content and media production?

This variable assesses the existence of internal diversity guidelines or policies within PSM.

Subindicator / Type

Representation of marginalised communities in media content

Socio-Political variable

Method

Other sources: Internal guidelines, case law, decision practice, press reports, and reports of independent bodies or NGOs. For this variable, self-reported evaluations by PSM must be double-checked. Please get an external opinion on the diversity policy from an expert (either a diversity officer at a trade-union or an academic who works on the topic).

Answer options

- Low risk: The PSM has a comprehensive diversity policy, and marginalised communities are represented in the media

production and in media content.

- Medium risk: The PSM has a diversity policy, but in practice there is room for improvement.
- High risk: The PSM does not have a diversity policy, and/or in practice marginalised communities are not represented in the media.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

167. Are marginalised communities represented in PSM news reporting?

This variable assesses, in practice, the representation in news reporting of marginalised communities.

For the purpose of the MPM, marginalised groups are defined as groups of people within a given culture, context and history at risk of being subjected to multiple discrimination due to the interplay of different personal characteristics or grounds, such as age, health status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, education or income, or living in various geographic localities.

Subindicator / Type

Representation of marginalised communities in media content

Socio-Political variable

Method

For this variable, the country team also has to conduct a brief interview with at least one expert on marginalised groups in the country. The interview has to be referenced. Please attach a note listing the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed and the date and channel (in- person/telephone) for the interview.

Other sources: Case law, decision practice, press reports, and reports of independent bodies or NGOs.

Answer options

- Low risk: Marginalised communities are well represented in PSM news reporting, without any significant exception.
- Medium risk: Most marginalised communities are represented in PSM news reporting, but there are some significant exceptions.
- High risk: Most marginalised communities are not represented in PSM news reporting.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

168. Are marginalised communities represented in news reporting on private TV and radio?

This variable assesses the situation in practice, that is, the representation of marginalised communities in news reporting on private TV and radio.

Do not assess the situation of legally recognised minorities when you score this variable.

Subindicator / Type

Representation of marginalised communities in media content

Socio-Political variable

Method

Media sample: Two private TV channels and two private radio channels with the largest audience shares in the country.

For this variable, the country team also has to conduct a brief interview with at least one expert on marginalised communities in the country. The interview has to be referenced. Please attach a note listing the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed and the date and channel (in-person/telephone) for the interview.

Other sources:

European Audiovisual Observatory (EAO) and National Regulatory Authorities.

Answer options

- Low risk: Marginalised communities are well represented in private news reporting, without any significant exception.
- Medium risk: Most marginalised communities are represented in private news reporting but there are some significant exceptions.
- High risk: Most marginalised communities are not represented in private news reporting
- Not Applicable
- No Data

169. Are there any laws or policies that aim at countering online hate speech in your country and are they effective?

The Protection against hate speech sub-indicator aims to assess whether there is a regulatory framework to counter hate speech online and whether it has been efficient in removing hate speech from online platforms, while not presenting any risk to freedom of expression.

In the context of this sub-indicator, hate speech is defined as "all types of expression that incite, promote, spread or justify violence, hatred or discrimination against a person or group of persons, or that denigrates them, by reason of their real or attributed personal characteristics or status such as "race", colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation". In particular, this sub-indicator aims to assess whether the regulatory instruments. (CoE Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16[1] of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on combating hate speech), (Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech 2016 [Source: ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_1135], Council of the EU 2008 Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia [Source: eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32008F0913], and if applicable the EU Directive 2018/1808 (Audiovisual Media Services Directive [URL: eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2018/1808/oj]) art 28b on video sharing platforms) are effectively and non-arbitrarily limiting hate speech and foster an online media environment that is inclusive and non-discriminatory.

This variable aims to assess whether there is a regulatory framework and whether it is efficient in countering hate speech, while not presenting any risk to freedom of expression. Hate speech covers a range of hateful expressions which vary in their severity, the harm they cause, and their impact on members of particular groups in different contexts. As a result, hate speech law and policies include a range of properly calibrated measures depending on the severity of the act, including:

- ◆ Hate speech that is prohibited under criminal law;
- ◆ Hate speech that does not attain the level of severity required for criminal liability, but is nevertheless subject to civil or administrative law;
- Policies providing alternative responses for minor cases of offensive or harmful types of expression to be subject to civil and administrative law, (e. g. counter-speech and other countermeasures).

Subindicator / Type

Protection against hate speech

Legal variable

Method

Sources: National laws and regulations (e.g. acts, decrees, branch agreements, etc.), case law and regulatory decisions. Please take into account that law and policies can also include self-regulation initiatives.

Answer options

- Low risk: Well-developed legal/policy framework with concrete targets that does not restrict or harm freedom of expression. There is a strong commitment of political actors to fight hate speech and their action shows some effective results
- Medium risk: There is a regulatory framework, but it is either not adequate, shows some deficiencies, or it is not fully implemented.
- High risk: Only major hate speech subject to criminal law is targeted and/or there is no regulatory framework, or the existing one is ineffective and/or restricts or harms freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

170. Are there any efficient mechanisms to report online hate speech?

This variable aims to assess whether there are some mechanisms to report online hate speech in the country and whether they are efficient. Please provide a description of the existing mechanisms to report hate speech, either to public authorities or to private actors. Evaluate if there are clear rules for processing such reports.

Subindicator / Type

Protection against hate speech

Socio-Political variable

Method

Source: National laws and regulations (e.g. acts, decrees, branch agreements, etc.), case law, regulatory decisions, self-regulation initiatives, civil, society reports, and academic literature. The OSCE ODHIR hate crime reporting can also be used

as a source: <https://hatecrime.osce.org/>.

Answer options

- Low risk: The existing mechanisms to report online hate speech cases are efficient and follow clear rules to process such reports. The existing mechanisms do not present any harm for freedom of expression.
- Medium risk: There are mechanisms to report online hate speech cases to public authorities, however their efficiency is limited. The existing mechanisms do not present any harm for freedom of expression.
- High risk: There are no mechanisms to report online hate speech to public authorities, and/or the existing mechanism may harm freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

171. How would you assess, in practice, the role played by VSPs and VLOPs to limit the spread of hate speech in your country?

This variable aims to assess the role of VSPs and VLOPs in the protection against hate speech, in line with Art. 34 of the Digital Services Act.

Subindicator / Type

Protection against hate speech

Socio-Political variable

Method

Suggested sources: reports and interviews with experts (academic, civil society, etc.).

Answer options

- Low risk: VSPs and VLOPs provide a clear assessment of the systemic risks linked to hate speech in the country.
- Medium risk: VSPs and VLOPs provide an assessment of the risks linked to hate speech in the country, but there is room for improvement.
- High risk: VSPs and VLOPs do not provide any assessment of systemic risks linked to hate speech in the country.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

172. How would you assess, in practice, the fight against hate speech in your country?

This variable aims to assess the efficiency of the combined actions currently undertaken to fight hate speech, drawing the big picture of the fight against hate speech in your country and underlining the strengths and the weaknesses of the current strategy. The fight against hate speech should aim to provide a range of properly calibrated measures to effectively prevent and combat hate speech. This includes laws and policies, but also action plans to prevent the dissemination of hate speech and to increase awareness through education, and the use of counter and alternative speech. It includes the actions of public officials, political parties, internet intermediaries, media and civil society organisations.

Subindicator / Type

Protection against hate speech

Socio-Political variable

Method

For this variable, the country team has to conduct a brief interview with at least one hate speech expert in the country. The interview has to be referenced (please attach a note listing the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed and the date and channel (in-person/telephone) for the interview).

Answer options

- Low risk: Initiatives on hate speech are widespread and efficient across the country. These initiatives do not restrict or harm freedom of expression.
- Medium risk: Initiatives on hate speech are limited and inefficient.
- High risk: Initiatives on hate speech are hardly ever conducted. They are inefficient or they restrict or harm freedom of expression.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

18. Local/regional and community media

Media at the regional and local level are particularly important for democracy, since their relationship with local audiences tends to be closer if compared to national media. That proximity is confirmed by both the user statistics and by the level of the participation of users in the media. Regional and local media can also serve as alternative spaces for discussion for those identities and languages that are marginalised by the national media. A solid regulatory framework and support measures can help regional media in their democratic mission (Cappello et al., 2016). This is becoming increasingly important, as more and more local and regional newspapers and broadcasters are struggling to survive.

173. Does the law grant regional or local media access to TV/Radio infrastructures and frequencies and is the law implemented effectively?

This variable assesses whether the law contains specific provisions granting access to TV/radio infrastructures to regional or local media. Relevant provisions concern reservation of TV or radio frequencies as well as guarantees of access to radio and TV networks via must-carry rules.

Subindicator / Type

Regional and local media

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations (e.g. acts, decrees, branch agreements, etc.), case law and regulatory decisions. Overviews of national media legislation can be found at the EPRA's list of Media Legislation in Europe:

http://www.epra.org/news_items/updated-epra-list-on-media-legislation-in-europe.

Websites of national regulatory and competition authorities.

Merlin database European Audiovisual Observatory: <http://merlin.obs.coe.int/>.

Nordicom (for Scandinavian countries).

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, the law grants regional or local media access to media platforms and is implemented effectively.
- Medium risk: There is a law, but it is not implemented effectively.
- High risk: There is no law, or the law does not grant this access to regional or local media.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

174. Is the offer of local news services in local areas adequate?

This question aims to assess the presence or potential existence of so called "news deserts" or "white spots" in your country with regards to the local media offer.

By "news deserts", we refer to a geographic or administrative area, or a social community, where it is difficult or impossible to access sufficient, reliable, diverse and independent local, regional and community media and information (CMPF, 2023).

The offer of local news services must be interpreted, in this context, in quantitative terms (i.e. the number of news media outlets providing local news) as well as in qualitative terms (i.e. the quality and diversity of local news content provided).

Subindicator / Type

Regional and local media

Socio-Political variable

Method

Suggested sources: reports; interviews with experts (journalists, editors, public officials, and media experts).

Answer options

- Low risk: Local areas are adequately served by local media, and the latter are diverse in terms of ownership and independent from political pressures.
- Medium risk: Local areas are adequately served by local media albeit to a lesser degree, and/or diversity in terms of ownership and/or their independence from political pressures is limited.
- High risk: Local areas are inadequately served by local media, and/or they are concentrated in terms of ownership and/or captured by political pressures.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

175. Does the state support local/regional media through subsidies?

This variable assesses whether the state (national/regional/local levels) distributes direct or indirect subsidies to local/regional media outlets, and if the subsidies are distributed in a transparent manner. Direct subsidies are, among others, cash grants and interest-free loans. Indirect subsidies are, among others, tax exemptions, and reduced postal service or telephone rates.

Subindicator / Type

Regional and local media

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sources: National laws and regulations analyses, academic reports, public documents, press reports, reports of independent bodies, or NGOs.

Answer options

- Low risk: The state supports regional/local media with an adequate level of subsidies, and these are distributed in a transparent manner.
- Medium risk: The state supports regional/local media with a limited number of subsidies, and/or the distribution criteria is not fully clear.
- High risk: The state does not support regional/local media with subsidies, or these are not distributed in a transparent manner.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

176. How would you assess the sustainability and viability of local media?

This variable assesses whether the local media industry sector is viable, thereby encouraging market entry. For local media; you should consider all news providers with local reach (audiovisual, radio, newspapers, and digital native). Given the difference across the different EU countries, local must refer to the most widely accepted definition in your country. Please consider all revenues (e.g. advertising, sales, subscriptions, public funding, donations, etc.).

Subindicator / Type

Regional and local media

Economic variable

Method

Reports/data published by national authorities, including statistical authorities and media regulators. If these are not available, consider estimates and forecasts by industrial associations, independent think-tanks and researchers, as well as interviews with relevant stakeholders or experts.

Answer options

- Low risk: Local media are generally sustainable and viable.
- Medium risk: Remaining local media tend to be sustainable, but the most fragile outlets have disappeared over the past years.
- High risk: Local media outlets face serious sustainability and viability issues.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

177. Is PSM obliged to keep its own local/regional correspondents or branches and is the law implemented effectively?

This variable assesses whether PSM is obliged (either via legislation or a functional equivalent) to have its own regional correspondents or branches and whether the law is implemented effectively. In the opposite case, PSM can rely on material acquired from news agencies.

Subindicator / Type

PSM and local coverage

Legal variable

Method

Sources: National laws and regulations (e.g. acts, decrees, branch agreements, etc.), case law and regulatory decisions, as well as reports. See EPRA's list of Media Legislation in Europe: http://www.epra.org/news_items/updated-epra-list-on-media-legislation-in-europe.

Answer options

- Low risk: There is a legal obligation for PSM to keep its own local/regional correspondents, and in practice their number is stable.
- Medium risk: There is a legal obligation for PSM to keep its own local/regional correspondents, but in practice their number is limited; or PSM keeps its own stable network of local/regional correspondents despite the absence of legal obligation.
- High risk: There is no legal obligation for PSM to keep its own local/regional correspondents, and in practice, there are very few or no local correspondents and branches.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

178. Does the PSM broadcast local news programmes?

This variable assesses the availability of local news produced by PSM.

Subindicator / Type

PSM and local coverage

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sources: check the PSM programming.

Answer options

- Low risk: There is a daily local news programme for each region.
- Medium risk: There are local news programmes at least once a week for each region.
- High risk: Local news programmes are not available on a regular basis or do not cover all the regions.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

179. Are community media recognised by the law?

This variable assesses the legal recognition of community media. In the context of this study, community media is defined according to the CoE standards as follows: “Community media take the form of broadcasting and/or multimedia projects and share some of the following characteristics:

- ♦ Independence from governments, business companies, religious institutions and political parties.
- ♦ Not-for-profit orientation; ownership by and accountability to local communities and/or communities of interest which they serve.
- ♦ Voluntary participation of civil society members in the devising and management of programmes.
- ♦ Activities aimed at social gain and community benefit.
- Commitment to inclusive and intercultural practices.

Community media are civil society organisations, usually registered as legal entities that offer and encourage participation at different levels of their structures. Also referred to as ‘third media sector’, community media have a clearly distinct identity alongside national public service media and private commercial media.” <https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/community-media>

Subindicator / Type

Community media

Legal variable

Method

Source: National laws, and analysis

Answer options

- Low risk: Community media are recognised by the law as a separate category.
- Medium risk: Community media are to some extent recognised by the law.
- High risk: Community media are not recognised by the law.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

180. Does the law grant community media access to TV/Radio infrastructures and frequencies and is the law implemented effectively?

This variable assesses whether the law contains specific provisions granting access to TV/Radio infrastructures and frequencies to community media. Relevant provisions concern reservation of TV or radio frequencies for community media or guarantees for access to radio and TV electronic communication networks via must-carry rules.

Subindicator / Type

Community media

Legal variable

Method

National laws and regulations analysis, academic reports, press reports, and reports of independent bodies or NGOs. **Please answer “Not applicable” if you have scored high risk in the previous variable.**

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, the law grants community media access to TV/Radio infrastructures and frequencies and is implemented effectively.
- Medium risk: There is a law but, in practice, community media may have difficulties to make use of that access due to different constraints (financial, social, ...) or there is no law but, in practice, community media have access to TV/Radio infrastructures and frequencies.
- High risk: There is no law, or the law does not grant this access to community media.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

181. Does the state support community media through subsidies?

This variable assesses whether the state (national/regional/local levels) distributes direct or indirect subsidies to community media, and if the subsidies are distributed in a clear and transparent manner. Direct subsidies are e.g., cash grants and interest-free loans. Indirect subsidies are e.g., tax exemptions and reduced postal service or telephone rates.

Subindicator / Type

Community media

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sources:

Public reports and statistics; civil society or media reports.

If it has already been recorded that community media is not recognised by law in the previous variables, please select “Not applicable” as an answer. If community media outlets only have access to subsidies for local media, please score “Not applicable” to avoid assessing the same risk twice.

Answer options

- Low risk: The state supports community media with an adequate level of subsidies, and these are distributed in a clear and transparent manner.
- Medium risk: The state supports community media with a limited number of subsidies, and/or the distribution criteria is not fully clear and transparent.
- High risk: The state does not support community media with subsidies, or these are not distributed in a clear and transparent manner.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

182. How would you assess the community media offer in your country?

This variable assesses if, in practice, community media outlets perform their role as community media for a given community in an independent way.

Subindicator / Type

Community media

Socio-Political variable

Method

For this variable, the country team has to conduct a brief interview with at least one community media expert in the country. The interview has to be referenced (please attach a note listing the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed and the date and channel (in- person/telephone) for the interview).

Answer options

- Low risk: Community media outlets are adequately performing their community media role as independent media reporting to their community.
- Medium risk: Community media outlets are to a certain extent performing their community media role as independent media reporting to their community
- High risk: Community media are not performing their community media role as independent media reporting to their community.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

19. Gender equality in the media

Gender equality is a fundamental value (Treaty on European Union, 2008) and a strategic objective of the EU (European Commission, 201548). The Council of Europe considers gender equality to be a fundamental right and an integral part of human rights that is inter-related with media freedom, including editorial freedom, and that goes hand-in-hand with freedom of expression (Council of Europe Recommendation, 2013).

183. Do the PSM have a comprehensive gender equality policy?

This variable assesses if the PSM(s) in the country have gender equality policies in place and whether they are comprehensive.

To be considered comprehensive, the policy should cover both personnel issues and programming content. According to point B 4 In the CoE Recommendation CM/Rec (2013) on gender equality and media: “media organisations should be encouraged to adopt self-regulatory measures, internal codes of conduct/ethics and internal supervision, and develop standards in media coverage that promotes gender equality, in order to promote a consistent internal policy and working conditions aimed at:

- ♦ equal access to, and representation in, media work for women and men, including in the areas where women are underrepresented;
- ♦ a balanced participation of women and men in management posts, in bodies with an advisory, regulatory or internal supervisory role, and generally in the decision-making process;
- ♦ a non-stereotyped image, role and visibility of women and men, avoidance of sexist advertising, language and content which could lead to discrimination on grounds of sex, incitement to hatred and gender-based violence.”

Subindicator / Type

Gender equality in PSM

Socio-Political variable

Method

Check on the PSM website or contact the PSM by email or telephone to verify if there is a policy and whether it is comprehensive, i.e., it covers personnel issues and programming content. For this variable, self-reported evaluations by the PSM must be double-checked. Please get an external opinion on the gender equality policy from an expert either, a gender-equality officer at a trade-union, or an academic on the topic.

In the comment box please summarise the policy (if any) and state what kind of measures are in place regarding programming or personnel.

Answer options

- Low risk: Yes, the PSM has a comprehensive gender equality policy covering both a proportional representation of women in media production and in media content. The existing policy is implemented effectively and monitored.
- Medium risk: Yes, the PSM has a gender equality policy, but it is limited in scope or not implemented effectively.
- High risk: No, the PSM does not have any gender equality policy.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

184. What is the share of women on PSM management boards?

This variable assesses whether the representation of women and men on PSM management boards is balanced. PSM management boards correspond to the group of senior managers who are in charge of and control the company/ organisation responsible for media content. Please note that the name of the Board may vary across countries (PSM management board is not a standard name) but what we are focusing on is the PSM board responsible for media content, e.g., in the case of the BBC it would be the Executive Committee.

This variable is based on CoE recommendations. The CoE recommends a balanced representation of men and women in decision-making bodies of public service media (see reference below).

Source: Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)1 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on public service media governance (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 February 2012 at the 1134th meeting of the Ministers; Deputies, <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1908265>).

Subindicator / Type

Gender equality in PSM

Socio-Political variable

Method

Calculation: to make the calculation you need to have a list of PSM management board members. You count the number of female members within the management board and then divide it by the total number of members. This will give you a percentage that you insert into the value box (a rounded, whole number with no decimals). In case there are more than one PSM in the country, you make this calculation for each of the PSM. Then, you add up the averages and divide by the number of PSM in the country.

For example, the fictional country Atlantis has 3 PSM: Atlantis Radio, Atlantis Television and the Atlantis Educational Broadcaster. The Atlantis Radio management board has five members, one of whom is a woman, Atlantis Television has six members, three of whom are women, and the Atlantis Educational Broadcaster has five members, all of whom are women. In percentages this would equal: Atlantis Radio 20% women, Atlantis Television 50% women, and the Atlantis Educational Broadcaster 100% women. In sum: $20+50+100=170$. The total of 170 is then divided by 3 (the number of PSMs), which equals 56,66. Round this up to 57%. This total of 57% is also the number you insert on the platform.

Please also put a description of the underlying information in the "comment box", i.e. There are 3 PSMs in Atlantis. Atlantis Radio management board has five members, one of whom is a woman, Atlantis Television has three members, six of whom are women, and the Atlantis Educational Broadcaster has five members, all of whom are women.

Source: Check on the PSM website or contact the PSM by email or telephone. In the latter case, please state the name of the contacted person, the title, and the date of contact in the sources section.

Please explain your calculation in the comment section. The results should be expressed in percentages.

Thresholds used by the CMPF:

Low risk: 40% or higher of board members are women.

Medium risk: 30-39% of board members are women.

High risk: 29% or lower of board members are women.

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

185. What is the share of women among executives of PSM?

This variable assesses whether the representation of women and men among executives of PSM is balanced. Please note that the name of the position may vary across countries but what we are focusing on is management or executive boards, e.g. in the case of Sweden it would be positions such as SVT Managing Director and in the case of the UK it would include BBC Director General of the Executive committee.

This is a follow-up question to variable 181. Here, we want to know if there are any women among the chairs/directors of the management boards of the PSMs assessed in 181.

Subindicator

Gender equality in PSM

Socio-Political variable

Method

Calculation: To calculate the share of women among executives in PSM, you need to identify the PSM Managing Director(s) within the managing board and divide this number by the total number of directors within the management board. You need to transform the result into a percentage and insert it into the value box (rounded, whole number with no decimals) In case there are more than one PSM in the country, you count the number of female directors and then divide it by the total number of directors. Please explain your calculation in the comment section The results should be expressed in percentage.

For example, the fictional country Atlantis has 3 PSMs: Atlantis Radio, Atlantis Television and the Atlantis Educational Broadcaster. The managing director of Atlantis Radio is a woman, the managing director Atlantis Television is a man, and the managing director of the Atlantis Educational Broadcaster is a man. In percentages this would result in: Atlantis Radio 100% women, Atlantis Television 0% women, and Atlantis Educational broadcaster 0% women. In sum: $100+0+0=100$. This result of 100 is then divided by 3 (the number of PSMs), which equals 33,33 (etc.). Round this to 33%. This result of 33 is also the number you insert on the platform. Please also put a description of the underlying information in the "comment box", i.e. Atlantis has 3 PSMs: Atlantis Radio, Atlantis Television and the Atlantis Educational Broadcaster. The managing director of Atlantis Radio is a woman, the managing director of Atlantis Television is a man, and the managing director of the Atlantis Educational Broadcaster is a man.

Source: Check on the media companies' websites or contact the PSMs by email or telephone. In the latter case, please state the name of the contacted person, the title, and the date of contact in the sources section.

Thresholds:

- Low risk: 40% or higher of managing directors are women.
- Medium risk: 30-39% of managing directors are women.
- High risk: 29% or lower of managing directors are women.

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

186. What is the share of women among members of management boards of private TV companies?

This variable assesses whether the representation of women and men on the management boards of private media companies is balanced.

Please note that the name of the Board may vary across countries but what we are focusing on is the boards responsible for media content.

Subindicator / Type

Gender equality in private media

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sampling method: Select the two private TV companies with the largest audience share in the country. Calculation: To make the calculation you need to have a list of management board members. You count the number of female members and then divide it by the total number of members. Turn this result into a percentage and insert into the value box (rounded, whole number with no decimals). You make this calculation for each private TV company in the sample. Then, you add up the averages and divide by the number of companies that make up the sample.

For example, in the country Atlantis the 2 largest TV companies are: ATV and TV Alba. The ATV management board has five members, one of whom is a woman, TV Alba has six members, three of whom are women. In percentages this would result in: ATV 20% women, TV Alba 50% women. In sum: $20+50=70$. The result of 70 is divided by 2 (the number of companies), which equals 35%. The number 35 is also the number you insert on the platform.

Please also put a description of the underlying information in the "comment box", i.e. The 2 largest TV companies are ATV and TV Alba. ATV management board has five members, one of whom is a woman, Alba TV six members, three of whom are women.

Source: Check on the media companies' websites or contact the companies by email or telephone. In the latter case, please state the name of the contacted person, the title, and the date of contact in the sources section.

The number you provide should be a rounded percentage. Please explain your calculation in the comment section.

Thresholds:

- Low risk: 40% or higher of members are women
- Medium risk: 30-39% of members are women.
- High risk: 29% or lower of members are women.

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

187. What is the share of women among executives of private TV companies?

This variable is a follow-up question to variable 180. In the previous variable, the share of women within the management board was assessed.

In the current variable, we want to know more specifically if there are any women occupying executive positions (e.g. CEO/chairs/directors/president) within the management boards of the PSMs assessed in variable 180. This variable assesses whether the representation of women and men among executives of media companies is balanced.

Please note that the name of the position may vary across countries but what we are focusing on is management or executive boards.

Subindicator / Type

Gender equality in private media

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sampling method: Select the same two private TV companies with the largest audience share in the country as you did for variable 180. Calculation: To calculate the share of women among executives in the managing boards of the two main private TV companies in your country, you need to identify the female Managing Director(s) within the managing board and divide this number by the total number of directors within the management board. You need to transform the result into a percentage and insert it into the value box (rounded, whole number with no decimals).

Source: Check on the media companies' websites or contact the TV companies by email or telephone. In the latter case, please state the name of the contacted person, the title, and the date of contact in the sources section

Please explain your calculation in the comment section The results should be expressed in a rounded percentage. For example, the fictional country Atlantis has 3 private TV companies: Atlantis Radio private, Atlantis Television private and the Atlantis Educational private TV. The managing director of Atlantis Radio private is a woman, the managing director of Atlantis Television is a man, and the managing director of the Atlantis Educational private TV is a man. In percentages this would

result in: Atlantis Radio private 100% women, Atlantis Television private 0% women, and Atlantis Educational TV 0% women. In sum: $100+0+0=100$. The result of 100 is divided by 3 (the number of private media), which equals 33,33 (etc.). Round this to 33%. The number 33 is also the number you insert on the platform.

Please also put a description of the underlying information in the "comment box", i.e. Atlantis has 3 private TV companies: Atlantis Radio private, Atlantis Television private and the Atlantis Educational TV. The managing director of Atlantis Radio private is a woman, the managing director of Atlantis Television private is a man, and the managing director of the Atlantis Educational TV is a man.

Thresholds:

Low risk: 40% or higher of executives of private TV companies are women.

Medium risk: 30-39% of executives of private TV companies are women.

High risk: 29% or lower of executives of private TV companies are women.

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

188. What is the share of women among editors-in-chief in the leading news media in the country?

This variable assesses whether the representation of women and men among editor-in-chiefs of leading media companies is balanced.

Subindicator / Type

Editors in chief and gender equality

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sampling method. Please for the sample of the leading news media consider the two most relevant (based on readership and/or impact) news media per type (audiovisual, radio, newspapers, digital native). In total, you should calculate the share on the basis of eight leading news media companies in the country.

Calculation. Calculate the share of women among editors-in-chiefs in the selected media outlets and divide this number by the total numbers of editor-in-chiefs. You need to transform the result into a percentage and insert it into the value box (rounded, whole number with no decimals).

Source. Check the media companies' websites or contact the media companies by email or telephone. In the latter case, please state the name of the contacted person, the title, and the date of contact in the sources section.

Please explain your calculation in the comment section. The results should be expressed in a rounded percentage. Thresholds:
Low risk: 40% or higher of editors-in chief are women. Medium risk: 30-39% of editors-in chief are women.
High risk: 29% or lower of editors-in chief are women.

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

189. What is the share of women among editors-in-chief in local media?

This variable assesses whether the representation of women and men among editor-in-chiefs of local media companies is balanced.

Subindicator / Type

Editors in chief and gender equality

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sampling method. Select one media outlet per region including a mix of audiovisual, radio, newspapers, and digital native. In the answer box, indicate the list of media you have selected per region and the names of the editors-in-chief as well as their gender. **The selection must be different every year.** **Calculation.** Calculate the share of women among editors-in-chief in the selected media outlets and divide this number by the total numbers of editor-in-chief. You need to transform the result into a percentage and insert it into the value box (rounded, whole number with no decimals).

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

190. Are women represented in news and current affairs broadcasting in a way that is proportionate and free from stereotypes?

This variable aims to assess the representation of women in news and current affairs broadcasting content. This variable focuses both on the quantitative (i.e. the proportion of women and men seen, heard or read about in news and current affairs content) and qualitative aspects of the representation of women (i.e. a non-stereotyped use of images and language, and the role and visibility of women and men).

Please consider here both public service and commercial audiovisual media.

Subindicator / Type

Representation of women

Socio-Political variable

Method

Please consult the academic literature, as well as recent studies and reports that are based on quantitative or qualitative analyses.

Answer options

- Low risk: Women are proportionately represented in news and current affairs broadcasting and free from stereotypes.
- Medium risk: Women are not always represented in a proportionate way and/or free from stereotypes. However, there has been some visible efforts to improve the situation over the past year.
- High risk: Women are underrepresented and/or depicted in a stereotyped way.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

191. Do women experts participate in informative and political programmes and articles to the same extent as male experts?

This variable aims to assess the participation of female experts participating in informative and political programmes and articles, in comparison with men. This variable includes a quantitative aspect (i.e. proportions of women interviewed/quoted as experts in news and current affairs content) and a qualitative aspect (i.e. a balanced proportion of female experts according to thematic areas).

Subindicator / Type

Representation of women

Socio-Political variable

Method

Please provide your assessment here based on any available evidence, such as academic papers, NGO reports, interviews with experts, etc.

Answer options

- Low risk: The number of experts participating in informative and political programmes and articles is gender-balanced in most thematic areas.
- Medium risk: The number of experts participating in informative and political programmes and articles is not always gender-balanced, but there are some visible efforts to monitor and increase the participation of female experts.
- High risk: There are systematically more male experts participating in informative and political programmes and articles than female experts, and/or the participation of female experts in certain thematic areas is limited.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

20. Media literacy

"Media literacy refers to skills, knowledge and understanding that allow citizens to use media effectively and safely. In order to enable citizens to access information and to use, critically assess and create media content responsibly and safely, citizens need to possess advanced media literacy skills. Media literacy should not be limited to learning about tools and technologies but should aim to equip citizens with the critical thinking skills required to exercise judgment, analyse complex realities and recognise the difference between opinion and fact." (Audiovisual Media Services Directive EU 2018/1808). Media literacy is a fundamental prerequisite of an accessible media system, and a core element of media pluralism. People need to master media literacy skills to fully enjoy fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and access to information (UNESCO, 2013).

192. How would you evaluate the policy on media literacy in your country?

This variable assesses the public policies on media literacy in a given country. The term 'policy' includes regulation, self-regulation and (a set of) laws that govern a certain issue.

Going more into the detail of the definition:

"Media literacy is an umbrella expression that includes all the technical, cognitive, social, civic and creative capacities that allow a citizen to access, have a critical understanding of the media and interact with it" (1). "(Media literacy) refers to all kind of media (television, radio, press, digital, social media and video-sharing platform), through all kind of channels (traditional, internet, social media) and to all ages. (...) (A) key stone in all possible definitions of media literacy is the development of critical thinking by the user."

Sources: (1) Mandate of the EC Expert Group on Media Literacy: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/meetings-media-literacy-expert-group>.

Subindicator / Type

Media literacy governance framework

Socio-Political variable

Method

For this variable, the country team has to conduct a brief interview with at least one media literacy expert in the country. The interview has to be referenced (please attach a note listing the name, title, and organisation of the expert interviewed and the date and channel (in-person/telephone) used for the interview).

Please avoid interviewing government or public agency representatives given that they might have been involved in the development or implementation of related policies (if any) and might have a biased opinion.

Other sources: public reports and statistics; civil society or media reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: Well-developed and implemented policy, including a variety of stakeholders. There is already a strong tradition of policy making in this area. The policy has concrete targets, and the existing measures are coherent and up to date with the latest societal changes.

- Medium risk: Existing policy presents some room for improvement.
- High risk: Underdeveloped or not well implemented policy.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

193. Are there public financial resources allocated for promoting and developing media literacy skills in your country?

This variable aims to evaluate the level of public financial resources allocated to the promotion and development of media literacy policies and activities. Public financial resources include budgets for education as well as the allocation of resources to civil society to conduct certain initiatives.

Subindicator / Type

Media literacy governance framework

Socio-Political variable

Method

Reports and interviews - self-reported evaluations by the government must be double-checked with civil society actors.

Answer options

- Low risk: There is stable, sufficient and long-term financing for media literacy, including funding for civil society activities.
- Medium risk: There is a stable funding for media literacy, but it is not sufficient and/or it is project-based.
- High risk: There is no stable funding for media literacy, and/or funding for civil society is non-existent.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

194. To what extent is media literacy present in the education curriculum?

This variable assesses whether media literacy is present in the education curriculum, as a separate subject, as a cross-cutting subject or as part of another subject (e.g. ICT or language).

Introduction of media literacy in the compulsory education curriculum is recommended in the COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 20 August 2009 on media literacy in the digital environment for a more competitive audiovisual and content industry and an inclusive knowledge society (2009/625/EC) and is part of the provision of key competences for lifelong learning, set out in the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning.

Subindicator / Type

Media literacy in the compulsory curriculum

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sources:

Public reports and statistics; civil society or media reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: Media literacy is well-represented in the compulsory education curriculum.
- Medium risk: Media literacy is included in the compulsory education curriculum, but only to a limited extent, or media literacy is not included in the compulsory curriculum but well-represented in practice.
- High risk: Media literacy is not included in the compulsory education curriculum.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

195. Is teacher training in media literacy provided?

This variable assesses the quality of media literacy training for schoolteachers.

Subindicator / Type

Media literacy in the compulsory curriculum

Socio-Political variable

Method

Public reports and statistics, civil society or media reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: There is a well-developed and comprehensive training programme in media literacy for teachers.
- Medium risk: There are only some occasional trainings for teachers in media literacy.
- High risk: Teachers are not provided with any training in media literacy.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

196. To what extent is media literacy present in non-formal education?

Non-formal education is defined as learning and training which takes place outside recognized educational institutions (Tight 2012, p. 70). As a general rule of thumb, formal education is linked with schools and training institutions; while non-formal education takes place with community groups and other organizations, but the two categories can sometimes overlap.

Please note that In many northern countries the notion of non-formal education is not common in internal policy debates – preferred alternatives being community education and community learning, informal education and social pedagogy.

The types of non-formal education considered are training, research and studies of media literacy.

Subindicator / Type

Lifelong media literacy activities

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sources: Public reports and statistics; civil society or media reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: The subject of media literacy is widespread in non-formal education.
- Medium risk: The subject of media literacy is present in non-formal education but only to a limited extent. The subject of media literacy is present in non-formal education but only to a limited extent.
- High risk: Media literacy is absent from non-formal education.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

197. Are there any specific media literacy activities targeting vulnerable groups?

This variable aims to assess if there are some media literacy activities targeting vulnerable groups such as people with low literacy skills including out of school young individuals, elders, and rural communities.

Subindicator / Type

Lifelong media literacy activities / T

Method

Sources: Public reports and statistics; civil society or media reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: Media literacy initiatives targeting vulnerable groups are widespread in the country.
- Medium risk: Media literacy initiatives targeting vulnerable groups are present but do not include all vulnerable groups.
- High risk: Media literacy initiatives targeting vulnerable groups are limited or inexistent in the country.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

198. To what extent do audiovisual media services and video-sharing platforms conduct initiatives to foster media literacy in your country?

This variable aims to assess if AVMS and VSP have conducted any media literacy initiatives in your country in line with article 28b of the audiovisual media services directive: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2018/1808/oj>.

Subindicator / Type

Lifelong media literacy activities

Socio-Political variable

Method

Sources: Public reports and statistics, civil society or media reports.

Answer options

- Low risk: AVMS and VSP are very involved in media literacy initiatives.
- Medium risk: AVMS and VSP are developing some initiatives in terms of media literacy.
- High risk: AVMS and VSP are not active in the field of media literacy.
- Not Applicable
- No Data

199. What is the share of the population that has above basic information and data literacy skills of individuals?

This variable assesses the share of the national population that has above basic overall information and data literacy skills in the country.

Subindicator / Type

Media literacy skills

Socio-Political variable

Method

The answer to this variable is centralised by the CMPF.

Sources: Eurostat - Dataset Individuals' level of digital skills (from 2021 onwards) - Focus on indicator 1 - Information and data literacy skills - measurement of above basics information and data literacy skills -

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/isoc_sk_dskl_i21_custom_7972598/default/table?lang=en.

Calculation. Based on available country scores for 2021 (27 EU member states) for basic and above basics information and data literacy skills (indicator 1), the following percentiles have been calculated (Unit: percentiles of the population, rounded at the first decimal):

- 25th percentiles: 80%
- Median: 85%
- 75th percentiles: 88%.

Thresholds. Below the 25th percentile is considered to be high risk, while above the 75th percentile is considered to be low risk.

High risk: 0-80%

Medium risk: 81-88%

Low risk: 89-100%

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data

200. What is the share of individuals who have checked the truthfulness of the information or content they found on the internet news sites or social media over the past three months in your country?

This variable assesses the share of individuals who have checked the truthfulness of the information or content they found on the internet news sites or social media over the past three months in your country.

Subindicator / Type

Media literacy skills

Socio-Political variable

Method

The answer to this variable is centralised by the CMPE.

Dataset:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/isoc_sk_edic_i21/default/table?lang=en&category=isoc.isoc_sk.isoc_sku.

Calculation of the risk thresholds:

- Low risk - first tertile
- Medium risk - second tertile
- High risk - third tertile

Answer options

- Insert the number
- Not Applicable
- No Data