

About the Project

This is a **pilot version** of the Map of EU Political Information Environments that will be continuously improved, expanded and upgraded during the course of the project.

The **Map of EU Political Information Environments** is a web-tool that provides rich information on media landscapes in EU Member States.

The map is part of the Horizon Europe research project „**Mapping Media for Future Democracies**“ (**MeDeMAP**). The project is carried out in collaboration of ten European institutions to set out future-proof pathways to strengthen democracy through improving accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of media production, and expanding active and inclusive citizenship.

MeDeMAP aims to clarify the extent to which certain media under which conditions perform which democratic functions for which audiences, thus making it apparent what is at stake for democratic media – and for democracy itself.

By applying an innovative multi-method design consisting of data science methods, large-scale quantitative analyses, in-depth qualitative approaches, and participatory action research, the project will cover:

- **Perspectives of both representative and participatory notions of democracy** as they exist in European societies;
- The **entire range of news media**, regardless of distribution channel, mandate, ownership, and source of financing;
- The **legal and (self-)regulatory framework** under which media houses and journalism operate and people use media;
- The media's potential to promote and support political participation (**supply side**);
- The media use patterns, communication needs, and democratic attitudes of the audiences (**demand side**) in EU Member States.

Based on the research findings, an **interactive map of European political information environments** has been created, with layers reflecting the **national legal and regulatory frameworks and the democratically relevant features of media supply and demand**. The underlying dataset comprises selected quantitative data from European and international databases and studies covering all EU Member States, and – in a later phase of the project – data from in-depth research on political information environments of the ten countries of the MeDeMAP Consortium: Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia (please read the **Data Annotations**). By comparing data from different indicators on the different layers across countries, conclusions can be drawn from congruencies and discrepancies between them, good practice examples can be identified, and guidelines can be derived to support developments that promote democracy and counteract phenomena that could jeopardize democracy.

Publisher of the map:

Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies (CMC), Austrian Academy of Sciences (OEAW) and University of Klagenfurt

MeDeMAP Research Group OEAW:

- Maren Beaufort
- Josef Seethaler (Coordinator)
- Ernest Thaqi
- Barbara Thomaß

With contributions by

- Beata Klimkiewicz, Jagiellonian University in Kraków (supply side)
- Panos Kompatsiaris, IULM University, Milan (demand side)

Technical implementation and design:

Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies (CMC), Austrian Academy of Sciences (OEAW) and University of Klagenfurt

- Michael Alexander

Contact:

josef.seethaler@oeaw.ac.at