

Uruguay

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, treats

<p>STRENGTHS</p>	<p>Current regulations guarantee the confidentiality of journalistic sources in court actions against the media and journalists, and allow for conscientious objection. In the last ten years, there have been no instances of forced disappearance, aggravated threats, torture, murder, or persecution of journalists.</p>
<p>WEAKNESSES</p>	<p>The weaknesses of the current media ecosystem in Uruguay are linked to the institutional design of the regulations governing mainstream media, which concentrates powers in the Executive. This branch of government is in charge of vital aspects such as the final approval of license awarding or revocation, imposing fines, an authority that does not grant institutional autonomy to the oversight bodies, and the – not always open – possibility of accessing public information as a journalistic source.</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>There are opportunities to strengthen freedom of expression in the Uruguayan media ecosystem and to promote a culture of transparency that guarantees the right of access to public information as one of the sources of investigative journalism. Another possible approach to freedom of the press would be to allow for new sustainable business models, with forms of funding alternative to advertising, which would contribute to reducing media dependence on sponsors.</p>
<p>THREATS</p>	<p>The main threat to freedom of expression in the current media ecosystem is the growing decline of working conditions for journalists. The increasingly precarious labor conditions and economic vulnerability of the media can translate into a threat to free speech and the emergence of self-censorship scenarios. The lack of a regulatory framework for the allocation of government advertising allows the State, under discretionary criteria, to use it to reward or punish the media for their editorial policy.</p>

