

**URUGUAY**  
**STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES**  
**AND THREATS ANALYSIS**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	The country has a stable, strong democracy, with citizens who trust the government and are content with democracy. Freedom of expression is guaranteed in regulations and respected in actual fact with some “mild” restrictions. At an economic level, despite the post-pandemic regional deterioration, Uruguay shows a stable economy with prospects for sustained growth, although slower than forecast for this year.
<b>WEAKNESSES</b>	Despite institutional strengths, it experiences a phenomenon of mild threats, stigmatizing discourse towards journalists and the by senior civil servants, and restrictions on access to official sources that restrict freedom of expression. The stability of the economy has not been able to end the development gaps, among which informal employment and inflation affecting purchasing power stand out, a scenario that can affect journalists and media employees’ working conditions following their recovery from the pandemic crisis.
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Strengthening freedom of expression in the Uruguayan media system continues to make the culture of transparency stronger. The implementation of the right of access to public information is the source of investigative journalism and the participation of citizens in public policies, and the establishment of greater citizen opportunities for monitoring the performance of government management and better-informed decision-making. Citizen education, then, becomes an opportunity. The teaching of media-handling skills as the new citizen’s basic skills, education in transparency and administrative law in officials would contribute to improving the design of proceedings and processes that today comprise one of the most distorting factors in achieving compliance with the active transparency objectives. The enforcement of the current act on media to meet the restriction of media outlet concentration is an opportunity to ensure pluralism of the media and the quality of circulating information.
<b>THREATS</b>	The main threat to freedom of expression in the current media system, as shown in the report, is first and foremost the significant increase in the record of minor threats to the exercise of journalism, such as stigmatizing discourse by senior civil servants and the continuity in the restriction of the right of access to information by public organizations.

