

## Websites Review

### European Broadcasting Union (EBU)

<<https://www.ebu.ch/home>>

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU, first known as the UER when it was in French, the organisation's other official language) is the global alliance of public service media. It encompasses 115 member organisations in 56 countries and 31 additional affiliates in Asia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas. The members of the EBU operate almost 2,000 television channels and online services, reach a joint audience of more than one billion people all over the world and broadcast in more than 160 languages.

The main goals of the EBU are to guarantee a sustainable future for public-service media. The organisation offers its members the chance to exchange high-quality contents, from news to sports and music. Its [resources](#) section provides information and its own [reports on trends](#) on the evolution of the sector, most notably the following:

- [Democracy and Public Service Media](#) (September 2021)
- [Public Service Media and News](#) (August 2021)
- [Diversity and Public Service Media](#) (May 2021)

Access to the documents on its website comes in three formats: only for members, for registered users and public access. We recommend visiting its [Knowledge Hub](#) section, which allows you to search for documents, videos and EBU guides by subject.

### European Audiovisual Observatory

<<https://www.obs.coe.int/en/web/observatoire/>>

The European Audiovisual Observatory (OEA) is part of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It was created in 1992 with the goal of compiling and distributing information on the audiovisual industries in Europe from both the economic and legal standpoint. The services offered on the OEA website include the [IRIS Newsletter](#), which provides monthly reports on the new audiovisual laws in 41 European countries. In more than 30 brief articles, it provides a regular, general, free-of-charge overview of what has been happening both nationally and internationally in relation to laws or legal rulings in fields like radio broadcasting, cinema, à la carte video services and IPTV. The OEA also publishes its annual '[Yearbook 2020/2021. Key Trends. Television, Cinema, Video and On-demand Audiovisual Services – The Pan-European Picture](#)' every March (versions in English, French and German). Also worth noting are its databases [Mavise](#), [Lumière VOD](#) and [IRIS Merlin](#) and its tracking of [COVID-19](#) measures in the field of audiovisual and the transposition of the latest [Directive on audiovisual services](#).

### Public Media Alliance

<<https://www.publicmediaalliance.org/>>

The Public Media Alliance (PMA) is the largest association of public media in the world, and it focuses specifically on promoting and supporting public audiovisual services all over the globe, including the BBC, the ZDF and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It also offers its members the opportunity to exchange ideas, opinions and good practices in the public media.

The PMA holds international conferences, offers grants, publishes research and provides resource and exchanges of good practices in public media, such as the tool [Coronavirus: Resources and Best Practices](#). It also has an interesting [glossary](#) with aspects and definitions related to public service missions and media, and a [weekly newsletter](#) with the latest news in the sector.

### EPRA: public service and the role of regulatory authorities

<[https://cdn.epra.org/attachments/files/3463/original/EPRA\\_PSM\\_Plenary\\_2\\_questionnaire\\_analysis\\_final.pdf?1554198287](https://cdn.epra.org/attachments/files/3463/original/EPRA_PSM_Plenary_2_questionnaire_analysis_final.pdf?1554198287)>

The European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) was created in 1995 in response to the need for closer cooperation among the European regulatory authorities. Therefore, it has more than 25 years of experience and is the oldest and most extensive network of audiovisual regulators on the continent. It is comprised of 55 regulatory authorities from 47 countries, including the Audiovisual Council of Catalonia. The European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Audiovisual Observatory and the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media are permanent observers of the platform.

The [resources](#) section on the website provides access to documents of interest in general and specifically to its members. EPRA, which holds two meetings a year, devoted its 48th conference (Bratislava, 11-12 October 2018) to 'Public Service and Content of Public Interest in the Digital Age'. The documentation drafted includes:

- [Introductory document](#) (drawn up by the EPRA secretariat)
- [Public service in the United Kingdom](#) (Ofcom, United Kingdom)
- [Public service in the Netherlands](#) (CvdM)
- [Public service in Norway](#) (NRK)
- [Public service in Switzerland](#) (Ofcom, Switzerland)
- [Public service in Latvia](#) (NEPLpadome)
- [Document summarising all the contributions of the EPRA regulatory authorities](#) (drafted by Ofcom, Switzerland)

### **Ofcom: analysis and updating of the public service**

<<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/information-for-industry/public-service-broadcasting>>

Since the approval of the [2003 Communications Act](#), the British regulatory agency, Ofcom, has been charged with revising and updating public service audiovisuals in the United Kingdom. The public service providers are BBC, Channel 3 (which operates under the trade name ITV), Channel 4, Channel 5 and S4C (the Welsh channel).

Among other activities, Ofcom drafts the [annual compliance report on public service](#), annual studies on [the perception of public service among the audience](#) and [strategic plans](#) to guarantee its sustainability. One obligation of the public service in the British regulatory system is 'made outside London production', whose intention is to decentralise production, which is heavily concentrated in the city of London.

Its website includes a [Research](#) section with multisectoral reports and data, surveys and public consultations conducted on the audiovisual industry and the communication aspects of public service.

### **International Association of Public Media Researchers (IAPMR)**

<<https://publicmediaresearchers.org/>>

Previously known as RIPE (Re-invigorating the Public Interest in Media), the IAPMR brings together more than 300 researchers in academia and the profession with expertise in analysing the public media sector. The association's activity has maintained the RIPE format: a biennial conference and a 'conference-less' lecture during the year. Each gathering is organised by a local university and a provider of audiovisual public service.

The [proceedings](#) of the conferences are published by [Nordicom](#) (Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research, a think tank at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden). Likewise, the IAPMR website offers research resources: new publications, dossiers made by other organisations, guides, journals and periodicals, new media policies, reports and information on websites, all collected in a [resource container](#), as well as its own [newsletter](#) and activity on [Facebook](#).

### **AIECS, Public Service Media Policies Working Group**

<<https://iamcr.org/s-wg/working-group/psm>>

The [International Association for Media and Communication Research](#) (IAMCR, AIECS in Spanish and AIERI in French) has a working group on public service media.

The purpose of this working group is to examine and inventory good practices on performance and accountability mechanisms for the public service media in different countries inside and outside Europe in order to research how they work.

### **London School of Economics, Media@LSE**

<<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/medialse/>>

The [Department of Media and Communications](#) at the London School of Economics and Political Science has the Media@LSE think tank organised as a set of blocs that analyse different topics in the audiovisual sector. In addition to academia, the debate in Media@LSE also enlists the active participation of the industry, policymakers, journalists and other important stakeholders in the sector. The prime areas of research and debate are Internet governance, minors and audiovisuals, representation in the media, digital inequalities, political communication, audiovisuals and identity. Therefore, while public service is a cross-cutting notion that does not have a specific entry all its own, it is dealt with in many of these areas.

To illustrate, there are important contributions from [Damian Tambini](#), the current director of the [LSE's Master's in Science in Media and Communications](#), who recently published the article '[Public service media should be thinking long term when it comes to AI \(Artificial Intelligence\)](#)' (May 2021).