

PRESS FREEDOM IN ALBANIA IMPROVES ACCORDING TO REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

According to Reporters without Borders, which has recently published the Worldwide Press Freedom Index 2014, Albania's ranking went down from 102nd in 2013 to 85th in 2014.

In the Balkans Macedonia marked the lowest ranking, in the 123rd position. The Index also noted that the European Union's members are becoming more dispersed in the index, a development accelerated by the effects of the economic crisis and outbreaks of populism. Greece was the most notable example, while Hungary was also noted as an example that is deflecting from EU values in terms of freedom of expression

Excerpt from report on Albania:

New page in Albania's media history

Albania's June 2013 elections resulted in a change of government. The Socialist Party of Albania won clean elections that ended two decades of complicated electoral exercises. Its programme for the Albanian media is ambitious: draft new legislation that improves media ownership transparency, reinforce the Albanian public broadcaster's independence and guarantee media access to information held by state entities. In October 2013, the 11 members of the public broadcaster's board of governors had exceeded their term of office by one year. This gives an idea of the scale of the challenge faced by the new government, which aspires to be accepted as a candidate for European Union membership.