



***La régulation des radios associatives  
à travers l'Europe :  
Une diversité d'approches***

***Community Radio Regulation Across Europe :  
A Diversity of Approaches***

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# Roadmap

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2. Transnational level
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4. Legal recognition and distinctive criteria
5. Licensing
6. Requirements
7. Financial support
8. Monitoring and day-to-day interactions
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11. Conclusions



# Context

- European Platform of Regulatory Authorities
- Working Group on Local and Community Media
- Discussing Local and Community Media Regulation issues and best practices
- Information gathering and exchange

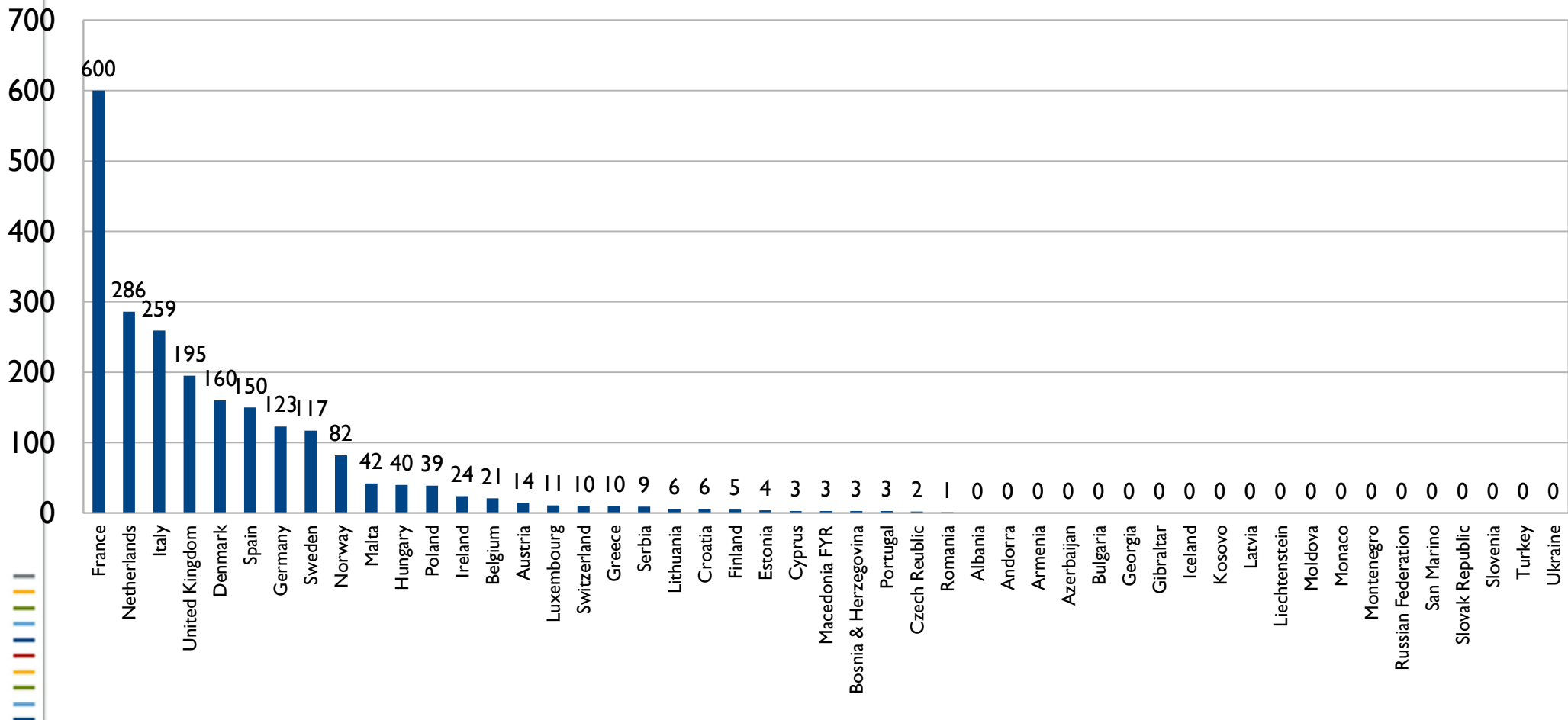


- **European Parliament** resolution of 25 September **2008** on Community Media in Europe
- **Council of Europe** Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the role of community media in promoting social cohesion and intercultural dialogue (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 February **2009** at the 1048th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)



# National Level

- Source CMFE Mapping, 2012



# Legal recognition and distinctive criteria

- Common criteria :
  - Not-for-profit, NGO status
  - Local focus
  - No advertising
  - Controlled by the Community
  - Adds to diversity in the Media landscape
  - Social gain towards the Community
  - Focus on minorities
- Different approaches  
(ex. France vs. Belgium vs. UK)



# Licensing

- Licensing procedure aside from the rest (ex. Montenegro, UK, ...)
- Reserved spectrum
- Acknowledgement by the Regulatory Authority (ex. Denmark, Serbia, Belgium, ...)



# Requirements

- In some countries, the requirements are already very low
- Not necessary lower than other radios, because they need to justify some privileges
- Two types of specific requirements :
  - Structural requirements (ownership, resources, status, ...)
  - Content requirements (programs, content focus, ...)
- Requirements aimed at reinforcing the specificities of CR





# Financial support

- Not all States financially support CR
- Policy-oriented financing : Denmark, UK, ...
- Indirect funding through intermediaries : Bad  
Wurtemberg, Ireland
- Origin of funds can reflect a policy goal :  
Belgium FR
- Diversity of funding sources : local authorities,  
NGOs, advertising, ...
- License fee exemption : Belgium FR, Serbia,  
BH, Montenegro



# Monitoring and day-to-day interactions

- CR are remote actors
  - Regulator has local offices : UK, France, BH
  - No permanent monitoring : archive based and upon request
- CR are small actors, with limited or no staff
  - Regular meetings to « feel the pulse » and keep the radios informed in Switzerland, Belgium, Bad Wurtemberg, ...
- CR may be run by volunteers
  - Meetings on Saturdays



# Federations and intermediaries

- Federations may have those roles :
  - Learning and capacity building
  - Common services
  - Facilitating role between radios and authorities
  - Serving the radios interests at a higher level
- Federations can have a legal role and legal support (Netherlands, Ireland, ...)



# Digital Switch-Over

- DSO of radio isn't planned in all countries
- Only a few have integrated CR in their planning (Ireland, Switzerland)
- Local DAB(+) multiplexes : Switzerland, UK, Denmark
- Digital support funding in rare cases
- CR were not always responsive to public consultations
- DSO perceived by radio as a threat or an opportunity



# Conclusions



**Great diversity**  
of situations and definitions across Europe  
is both a strength and a weakness



**Lack of transnational support**  
reflects European attitude towards  
radio in general



Official **recognition** is essential for  
acceptance, visibility and development  
of Community Radio





Regulating Community Radio  
is more about  
**support and development**  
than  
limits and restrictions



Merci  
Thank you

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