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## NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council of 12 and 13 May 2025: Transparency of media ownership and funding – Information from Croatia

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### **Transparency of media ownership and funding**

#### Information from Croatia

The European Union has recognised transparency of media ownership and funding as essential elements for safeguarding media freedom and pluralism, as reflected in the recently adopted European Media Freedom Act (EMFA).

Even before the proposal for the EMFA was presented, Croatia had already integrated these objectives into its National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), through a dedicated reform measure titled “Establishment of fact-checking and a public data disclosure system”.

Recently, Croatia officially launched the platform “Ownership and Financing of Media”, developed with financial support from the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility.

The reform measure includes two key components:

- €5,972,526.38 of EU funding was secured for the "Establishment of Fact-Checking";
- €663,614 was allocated for the "System for Public Disclosure of Data".

The platform (<https://emediji.aem.hr/> - currently available only in Croatian) provides open access to data concerning the ownership structures of media outlets and the details of their sources of funding.

This ensures a higher level of transparency for both ownership and financing, creating a fairer and more equal environment for all actors in the media sector. The platform is publicly accessible and based on open data principles, ensuring that all citizens, stakeholders, and policymakers have free and immediate access to this information.

In this context, Croatia wishes to present this example of good practice in order to highlight the importance of transparent public access to data on media ownership and financing, and to demonstrate how national initiatives can support and complement the achievement of the objectives set at the European level through the implementation of the EMFA.

Croatia remains committed to supporting the development of transparent, diverse, and resilient media ecosystems across the European Union.