

## **Report Greece**

### **1. Summary of laws / legal guidelines / legal frameworks**

In the trial phase, the principle, the respect for private and family life, the right to the integrity of the person<sup>1</sup> and the presumption of innocence of the accused<sup>2</sup> apply. "All persons accused of offenses are presumed to be innocent until the legal provenance of their guilt". It is, therefore, necessary to respect the personality of the accused and the name, image or data of his or her private life is forbidden to be published.

The principle of publicity<sup>3</sup> applies during the main proceedings or during the hearing. Especially in case of serious crimes, giving information to the public is prior to the interest of the offender. However, the same legal frame of the principle of publicity<sup>4</sup> provides for the possibility of the proceedings in closed doors if the court considers by a decision that there are special grounds for the protection of the private or family life of the parties. The public character of the trial can be hindered only in order to protect public morals or the personal or family life of the parties<sup>5</sup>. In this case, there is no interest in third-party being informed of events which are not linked to the crime.

#### **The phase of the announcement of the judgment**

At the time of the announcement of the judgment and according to the Greek Constitution all court decisions are pronounced in public. The public character of the trial can be hindered only in order to protect public morals or the personal or family life of the parties<sup>6</sup>.

#### **The stage after the execution of the sentence**

At some point in time and then, crime ceases to matter to public opinion. Specifying this time point is difficult and the seriousness of the crime and the right of the perpetrator to reintegrate should be considered.

#### **More specifically: legal basis in force**

On the presumption of innocence, the prohibition of disclosure of criminal trial correlate with the principle of fair trial and freedom of expression, press and information. The presumption of innocence also concerns the time of the preliminary examination.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Presumption of innocence-principle of a fair trial**

The principle that the accused is presumed innocent until his irrevocable conviction is respected and therefore the outcome of the trial nor the defendants is not presumed and the accused is not referred to, directly or indirectly, as guilty<sup>8</sup>. "The alleged perpetrator must not be referred through demeaning words, nor shall he be referenced by just a single definition of his or her ethnic origin or creed", in order to avoid the rise of nationalism.

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1 (DIRECTIVE (EU) 2016/343 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 March 2016)

2 (art. 6 para. 2 European Convention on Human Rights)

3 (art. 93, paragraph 2 of the Greek Constitution, art. 329 Code of Criminal Procedure)

4 (art. 93, paragraph 2 of the Greek Constitution, art. 329 Code of Criminal Procedure)

5 (art. 93, paragraph 2) of the Greek Constitution, art. 329 Code of Criminal Procedure)

6 (art. 93, paragraph 3 of the Greek Constitution)

7 According to a decision. AG 1 1380/2005 (and Coe 1386/2004)

8 Article 11 8 1 of the Decree 77/2003,

Furthermore, all persons accused of offenses are presumed to be innocent until the lawful proof of his guilt<sup>9</sup> with court's final decision.

In the same way of thinking, article 14 8 2 of Law 2462/1997, which ratifies the DIRECTIVE (EU) 2016/343 in which every person accused of a criminal offense is presumed to be innocent until his guilt is proven in accordance with The Law<sup>10</sup>.

Article 48 8 1 of the Chapter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (which has legal force on the basis of the Treaty of Lisbon, art. 6 TEU) stipulates that each defendant is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty in accordance with the law.

According to greek legislation N. 4173/2013 the national radio and television broadcasts of ERT S.A. as well as the content of its web sites are governed, by respecting the Principle of the presumption of innocence of citizens<sup>11</sup>.

In addition, article 8, paragraph 2 of the Greek Law 3090/2002, which states that the transmission from television or filming or video taking or photographing of

- 1) parts or the whole of a trial procedure of a legal, civil or administrative court
- 2) persons brought before the judge or prosecutor or the police and other authorities

is prohibited, shall be taken into account<sup>12</sup>. According to previous legislation, a court could allow the live coverage of a trial if it is a case of great public interest and all the parts accept it.

Also under article 47 of the ECJ. B ' of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU every person has the right to conduct a trial his case fairly, publicly and within a reasonable time, by an independent and impartial court of law, previously established legally.

### **Secrecy of criminal trial**

According to Article 11 8 6 of the Decree 77/2003 documents or other information which is known to the competent authorities during the preliminary examination, the extraordinary pre-trial and in general the criminal trial is not to be published<sup>13</sup>.

Article 241 of the ECJ is recalled. K.P.D., according to which, questioning is always in writing and without publicity

The opinion 7/1994 of the prosecutor Jury of Athens stating that "... The secrecy of trial is justified by the need to gather evidence and data in general to attest and elucidate the committed crime and discover the perpetrator... With a basic and main concern the search and finding of the essential truth and the attestation in the profession not only of the guilt of alleged as the perpetrator-accused but also of his innocence... The principle that a criminal procedure is being unfolded under the control of public opinion ', but certainly not ' to publicize '... '. Should not be overlooked.

Freedom of expression and of the press-right to information

According to article 14 and 1 of the Greek Constitution, each person can express and disseminate verbally, in writing and by press his ideas, in accordance with the laws of the state, while the 2 par. states that the press is free.

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9 Article 6 8 2 of the ECHR (n.d. 53/1974)

10 Article 14 8 2 of Law 2462/1997 voted by Greek Parliament

11 N. 4173/2013 (as amended by N. 4324/2015-FEK A 44/29.4.2015 for ERT)

12 article 8, paragraph 2 of the Greek Law 3090/2002

13 Article 11 8 6 of the Decree 77/2003

Article 5 paragraph 1 of the Constitution states that everyone is entitled to information, as the law stipulates. Restrictions on this right may be imposed by law only if they are strictly necessary and justified for reasons of national security, the fight against crime or the protection of the rights and interests of third parties.

According to Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which has legal force on the basis of the Treaty of Lisbon, art. 6 TEU), every person has the right to his freedom of expression. This right includes freedom of opinion and the freedom to receive or transmit information or ideas, without the involvement of public authorities and non-discriminatory borders. The freedom of the media and their pluralism are respected.

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which is an internal law because it was ratified by N.D. 53/1974, states in article 108 1 that all persons have the right to the freedom of expression<sup>14</sup>. This right includes freedom of opinion as well as the freedom to obtain or broadcast information or ideas, without public authorities' interference and irrespective of borders. This article shall not preclude the Member States from obligating the broadcasting or television companies in issuing regulations of operating licenses.

The journalist defends the freedom of expression and, in the context of journalistic ethics, has the right to transmit unhindered information and comments to ensure informing the Public<sup>15</sup>.

It takes into account the political declaration of 7/8.11.2013 of the Council of Europe (Conference of Ministers responsible for media and the information Society) on freedom of expression and democracy in the digital age, which in point 1 of the European Union. A ' stipulates that the right to freedom of expression, the preservation of opinion, the reception and transfer of information and ideas, as stated in article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and their consequences for the freedom of Instruments are fundamental prerequisites for a pluralist democracy.

Also in a subsidiary, in accordance with article 1 A ', principles of ethics of journalistic profession (decision of the Esiea Assembly of 20.5.1998) the right of humans and citizens to inform and be freely informed are inalienable. The journalist is entitled and must consider his primary duty to society and himself to publicize the whole truth. If he doesn't comply with that principle, then he could face professional penalties from the judiciary body of Esiea Assembly.

### **Video trial coverage**

It is the jurisdiction of the courts to decide on a case-by-event basis the fragmented coverage of the trial by the media, but the general rule is that it is prohibited, as well as shooting and recording during the hearing process. However, trial material is often given to the media by sources within the law enforcement authorities or by defense-class advocates if this is considered by them to be favorable to the handling of the case. Often the media seeks to display images from defendants in court if there are shocking cases of crime, whether economic or life-related.

In cases where there is no obvious public interest and the need to inform the public – decided by all parts involved in a trial - it is common for defendants to appeal against the media and journalists themselves under law 2328/95, in order to protect the anonymity and privacy of their clients.

There have also been cases where well-known entrepreneurs and strong persons demanded actions against journalists to be taken for damages.

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14 Article 108, European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

15 Article 2 8 2 of the national decree 77/2003

In these cases, journalists are brought to trial within 24 hours, on the basis **flagrante delicto**, after the report has been filed against the journalist. The (special) procedure for flagrante crimes is then automatically activated.

If the prosecutor waits for 48 hours to file a lawsuit, then there's no **procedure for flagrante crimes** for the reporter. So he's at the prosecutor disposal to handle it.

The Greek Constitution Law 2328/1995 called "Press- killing", with the actions of extravagant amounts against journalists is valid, but it was replaced by the law N. 3414/2005, according to which the amount that someone can ask from a media or a reporter is linked to the salary of the reporter and the financial situation of the Media in which he works<sup>16</sup>. The Greek Constitution Law 2328/1995 to administrative penalties of up to 150 thousand euros and to the possibility of removing the Media license<sup>17</sup>. With this as basic legislation, there have been dozens of appeals against journalists and Media Companies from unconvinced persons (mainly public figures) for tax evasion and corruption. The penalties remain high in terms of financial burden, but the provisions for the rebate of the media license which have finally proved that with their publications have harmed the unconvinced persons without evidence. However, the provisions of the delicto have been implemented several times, and journalists and media managers have been arrested and led to the prosecutor for indictment and then detained in prison until their trial in 48 hours.

Recently, the Greek Minister of Defense legally preceded a reporter- Director in a Greek Media Company, for a publication that proved him to living in luxury, in his private moments, during business trips. Another example concerns the implementation of the GDPR 679 EU. Many data subjects, whose identity data have been made public through news articles, demanded to delete them. This has happened in cases where the Personal Data subject was finally convicted for a corruption case that shocked the public but demanded to delete their personal data from news content via the prosecutor's order.

## 2. Summary of journalistic guidelines

These days, in Greece, the professional [journalistic codes](#) of ethics of the Union of Athens newspaper editors, which are commonly accepted by the members of the Panhellenic Federation of Authors and recognized by all the Stakeholders in the press industry. They are also recognized by regulatory authorities such as the **National Broadcasting Council** and the State services relating to the Mass media legislative framework and the security authorities, which accept that they must facilitate access of Journalists in special places, due to their need to perform their duties.

Also in Greece, ethical are ethical principles from the National Broadcasting Council which set out guidelines for the presentation of current news by broadcast media.

At the same time, the self- regulatory framework for publishing **codes of conduct** of digital media OPA Greece is in force, which has been implemented as a project by the research team of Athena Research Centre and binds the members and staff of the Internet Publishers Association. This self-regulation framework was published by ENED (OPA GREECE) in 2016 and incorporates the best practices from Europe and the world. It contains extensive reference and guidance on issues of privacy, child protection and issues concerning disclosure of names of defendants.

In all the frameworks of the guidelines, there is a link to the rules on research and publication of information content. This was also confirmed by the Council of Europe's latest guideline on the issue of good governance practices, which includes all the directives resulting from the

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<sup>16</sup> Greek Law 3414/2005 Act 3414/2005 (Official Journal A' 279 / 10 November 2005)

<sup>17</sup> Greek Law 2328/1995

codes of conduct of Media Companies in Europe and from case law in Specific cases. ([Crime reporting](#)).

However, the Media Companies themselves, with the exception of an inadequate approach to public Media, do not have corporate codes and binding frameworks. Even the ENED (Online Publishers Association) that has a code of ethics that binds its members seems not to protect it in any disciplinary way.

The internal organizational chart and the Media regulation do not foresee the operation of a journalistic council and it remains for the editors and their managers to guide the reporter when handling a case. The level of knowledge of authors either from the educational environment as journalists or from the regulatory codes is not closely monitored and is not an advisory framework. There is also no regular training for journalists in the media to examine educational scenarios and learn new good practices or to be informed about regulatory policies.

The older reporters are not differentiated in the way they practice the profession but they always guide as exemplars. In any case, education and counseling are not in the media culture. Let alone on subjects where the dividing line between story and law is blurred.

The publisher's conservatism and of the Reporters' directors do not allow them to consider the supervisory procedure, or the regulatory procedure by independent bodies and regulators, to be of any use.

The structure of trade unions comprises a PanHellenic Federation of Authors ' associations in which all local and professional press associations are members. In particular, its members are the associations of Macedonia-Thrace, Thessaly, Epirus and Islands, Athens and PanHellenic Union of Periodical Press. The unions interact with each other and with the associations of technical and administrative executives of Media Companies to safeguard the interests of workers in the press industry.

The associations have disciplinary bodies in the first and second degree which take actions ex officio and after a complaint about cases where the journalist or the medium has violated the principles of professional code (known as ESIEA code). The Appellate Body examines as a court of appeal the instance decision of the instance Disciplinary Board and either finds it rigorous and modifies it to a lenient one, or imposes greater disciplinary penalties which may include Exclusion from the union or eviction from its organs for its member or imposing strikes on the Media Companies and castigate the practice of the delinquent media, in public. We note that strike due to a violation of ethics in the field of this investigation has never occurred, but the history includes many cases of violations of journalists ' labor relations and practices of deprivation of Application of the Conscience Clause.

In the practice pursued, notwithstanding the individual cases of unfair and interprofessional management of the content of the category studied in this investigation, the observer could claim, with the presumption the findings of the investigation that Ethics are respected and in cases that the need to inform the public is not wastefully presented as justification, the legislation on the presumption of innocence and the provisions for the preservation of the anonymity of the persons under persecution are respected. Privacy, in general, is respected except in cases of cases that support the public need for justice.

As far as independence as a concept governing the journalistic function and the functioning of Media and the nature of supervisory bodies is concerned, an arbitrary approach is emerging based on political influence. Journalists, as members of society and based on their representation system, cannot avoid the temptation to join political parties. Their disciplinary organs are thereupon labeled under this framework. While the media are not confined (with the exception of a few parties- following media) only to the interests of publishers, they do not succeed in reclaiming the independent character because of their tendency to interweave.

Also, the independent regulatory authorities are inspired by influencing their selection bodies based on always the political party's proportional balance.

However, management of the subjects covered by this research is generally not related to the provision of conscription or interweaving interests as mentioned above.

### 3. Description of the media landscape in the country

The media industry in Greece has been shaken as long as it needed to break its edifice with the outbreak of the financial crisis. As early as the end of 2000, the prints were constantly lost to digital media, and only television had to show resilience. Following the Olympic Games and the beginning of the economic recession (2004-2007), the press seemed unable to survive without borrowing and without public advertising, as the newspaper and advertiser's sales were reduced dramatically to the advertising market.

The cause of the crisis in the press was lackluster, and the thriller was the financial difficulty. The interaction of publishers with political power has led to an even greater lack of confidence.

The first victims were the publications of the largest construction project of public works, Bombala, and the collapse of the publishing empire of Lambrakis Press. The first of these two was to close the television channel he was managing, Mega, which had the biggest television show. This channel was based on the propaganda of political power as denounced by the competitors and the players to be made.

Competition for TV licenses highlights the serious problem with television. Initially, operating costs and the cost of purchasing a license justify the need for funding only from very large entrepreneurs, that is, from the few who could pay to gain influence, because it cannot be considered a TV station property, a business that will be profitable.

The first offers of the auction found that a small contractor does not benefit but has no guarantees. A Russian expatriate businessman, owner of the popular Macedonian football team and a ship-owner of the most popular football team in Greece, ranked next to so-called traditional television publications and shared 7 nationwide broadcast licenses.

Numerous titles were closed in the newspapers, but many tried to open the crisis period, but could not be related to the profitability rationale of sales growth or to increase this offer of interest in the paper.

In a digital environment, the market is at risk, albeit with a lot of competition. Writing and phenomena are the main wounds but it seems that more and more people have been informed by news sites and social media. Many business publishers are authentic digital publishers and are trying to control their advertising market through the association of publishers ENED (Online Publishers Association) and IAB Greece. Many powerful digital players are also the traditional publishers of the press or electronic media but have demonstrated the transition to the new environment.

#### Digital pure players

- DPG owned by Mr. Dimitris Giannakopoulos ([newsbomb.gr](http://newsbomb.gr); [Cnn.gr](http://Cnn.gr); [gossip-tv.gr](http://gossip-tv.gr); [queen.gr](http://queen.gr); [ratpack.gr](http://ratpack.gr); [leoforos.gr](http://leoforos.gr); [Astrology.gr](http://Astrology.gr)).
- 24 Media Group, mostly owned by Dimitris Maris ([news247.gr](http://news247.gr); [huffingtonpost.gr](http://huffingtonpost.gr); [Sport24](http://Sport24); [Contra.gr](http://Contra.gr)).

- Liquid media, owned by Mr. Rudolf Odoni ([Gazzetta.gr](#); [Insider.gr](#), [Jenny.gr](#), [Koolnews.gr](#); [Meteorologos.gr](#); Koolnews.gr (now [Reader.gr](#)); [Meteorologos.gr](#); [Akispetretzikis.com](#), [Spirosoulis.com](#), [Luben.tv](#), [Neopolis.gr](#), [Zappit.gr](#)).
- Attica Media Group, owned by Mr. Theocharis Philippopoulos ([Capital.gr](#); [Missbloom.gr](#); [Playboy.gr](#); [Madamefigaro.gr](#)).

*The results of the crisis are reflected in the table below, which is included at the beginning of the 2010 crisis, group media that do not suffer due to collapse. Only the Alafouzou Group Daily is one of them:*

**Table I: Greece's biggest media companies**

Company	Founded in	Employees	Revenues*	Profit	Debt
<b>Lambrakis Press Group</b>	<b>1922</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>2012: 97.65</b>	<b>2011: 26.1</b>	<b>2011: 209.1</b>
<b>Pegasus Group</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>2012: 93.67</b>	<b>2011: 20.6</b>	<b>2011: 202.2</b>
<b>Teletypos Television</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>2012: 84.63</b>	<b>2012: -8.0</b>	<b>2012: 88.0</b>
<b>Tegopoulos AE</b>	<b>1974</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>2011: 45.95</b>	<b>2010: -3.3</b>	<b>2010: 75.2</b>
<b>Kathimerini AE</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>2011: 62.6</b>	<b>2011: 13.7</b>	<b>2011: 93.9</b>

**\*Sources: Bloomberg.com, FT.com**

In any case, the crisis and the transition to the digital age left behind the failed publishers, the ruins of old publishing emperors, many thousands of redundant workers, whose wealth of journalists, either because of age or lack of opportunity, did not synchronize with the era and they have not been trained in online journalism.

In Public Media, impressive developments took place as the government in 2013 felt that the Greek Broadcasting Television was opposed to it as it did not have to. At the same time, the IMF and European partners and lenders were pushing for at least 2 thousand redundancies. Thus, it closed the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT) and sacked 2600 employees. The workers continued to operate despite the enforcement of the police measures until a civilian mantle of the public instrument called NERIT (New Hellenic Radio, Internet and Television) took the central building with the aid of police violence from the occupiers in order to institutionally. Another government in 2015 again opened ERT without releasing anyone and restored the technical operation of the organization in all the media.

However, the internal normality could not come back, the managers resigned under the rigid pressure of political power and trade unionism that exhibited property behaviors over the operator. The institution was not seriously affected, but the body appears to be unable to regain the social relationship.

**\*BRAND TRUST** according to a recent Reuter's survey.

Brand	Those that are aware of brand	Users of the brand
<b>Kathimerini</b>	5.99	7.16
<b>Real news</b>	5.87	6.76

<b>Alpha news</b>	5.86	6.63
<b><u>in.gr</u></b>	5.85	6.63
<b>Ant1 news</b>	5.76	6.55
<b>To Vima</b>	5.73	6.92
<b>Efimerida ton Sintakton</b>	5.7	6.85
<b><u>news247.gr</u></b>	5.56	6.2
<b>SKAI news</b>	5.49	6.47
<b><u>newsit.gr</u></b>	5.44	6.22
<b>Star news</b>	5.36	6.11
<b><u>Newsbomb.gr</u></b>	5.26	5.99
<b>Proto Thema</b>	5.24	6.61
<b>ERT news</b>	5.19	6.37
<b>tro-ma-ktiko</b>	4.73	5.86

In summary, in Greece: citizens have low confidence in SMEs and journalists, there is a contraction in the program market, a reduction in investment and wages of executives in the media, an even greater reduction in the advertising market, but at the same time more than 750 news sites have been certified by the relevant Ministry of Digital Policy and Media to seek publicity. However, this is also a drop in the ocean.

#### 4. Ratings/reach of selected media outlets

The choice of Mass Media in our research was made under the following conditions and with the following criteria:

Media in Greece are found in the process of digital transformation. The public has selected to be informed in most cases by web and in few occasions by "traditional Media". Prevalent means, however, is still the television and specifically the habit of the watching evening news bulletin in the state channel and in the private channels with Pan-Hellenic scope.

We were extremely watchful to choose Media companies that represent every category of distribution, circulation, and influence, as well as ownership and its features. The dynamics of these Media Companies were taken into consideration, their capacity to influence other Media and their reporters. Last but not least these Media were chosen in our survey because each one of them was very close to complete its digital transformation and offering completed choice to the public.

We did this despite the fact that during the survey, many Media companies changed ownership and video licenses were given to new players, and, at a slow pace, innovative on-demand TV selections such as over the top TV and Hybrid TV began to appear by public media for free.

Lastly, we examined which Media Companies are trying to follow trends in public opinion and refocus their goals, as well as which remain stable in their approaches. This criterion is related to the social change that takes place in the years of the crisis. Under these circumstances, at first, the Media Companies were chosen, and not randomly from the stand - depending on the content each time - to the research to represent all categories, apart from the classical separation (print, web, tv) or secondary one (media groups or pure players - ratings).

#### List of media



- **TA NEA**

The historical newspaper that the Lambrakis group, which collapsed financially after its abandonment from interweaving with politics, is owned by ship owner Mr. Marinakis (Alter Egko A. E.). He won a license for television HSAP nationwide in the recent competition of the GREEK state. The newspaper TA NEA, was the most important of publications of the organization that, due to bankruptcy, was found in the hands of the specific ship-owner. It is the newspaper that traditionally made large - scale sales with centrists and center-left readers. Today, the newspaper presents very low selling numbers, it, has refocused its content on central audiences and limits its potential to influencing other Mass Media companies through its headlines. It maintains a website on which topics not intended to be printed are posted but using this web appearance as a first means of approach, the online public is claimed. So it also develops mobile applications and always makes offers on the printed version, which are advertised on all platforms. This practice provides the media with a greater circulation of content and leads to greater influence. Another important fact is that the Group possesses the "historical" domain [in.gr](http://in.gr), which maintains a significant share of readers and is of great influence, despite the recent change of ownership. The editor finances Mass Media companies under his control by obviously drawing funds from his main activity, ship ownership. It was published, for the first time, on 28 May 1931 using the name ATHENS NEWS and in 1945 it was given its current name. The newspaper was published criticizing yellow journalism, slander, and defamation in the private life of public and private citizens. Another important aspect concerning circulation numbers is that Sunday's newspapers TO VIMA, of the same group, anticipates an increase of readers of the newspaper TA NEA. For example, the daily circulation of the newspaper TA NEA falls to 15 thousand and increases every Sunday at 50 thousand as TO VIMA.

- **ELEFTHEROS TYPOS**

This newspaper is also a transformation of a historical leaf. It is a daily afternoon political newspaper with nationwide circulation. In 2009, the newspaper stopped its release following a decision by Gianna Angelopoulos, and a few months later were sold to D. Mpeneko and Al. Skanavi. It was the second Greek newspaper printed in a small (tabloid) format, after TO ETHNOS in the early 1980s. It started its circulation having an opposition, anti-governmental character. In its history, the newspaper moved from the right to the centrist party for reasons of interweaving in the past decade but returned to the support of the right-wing parties. The value of this information is that its content was suddenly filled with content concerning the love life of the political opponent of the rightwing party, using a kind of journalistic approach that was not common to the specific addition. In the summer of 2006, the stock market package of the newspaper was acquired by Theodoros and Gianna Angelopoulos, former chairman of the Olympic Games Athens 2004. The project failed after a while and the enormous journalistic salaries and infrastructure were violent. The publication of the newspaper was ceased and after some time the titles of the daily newspaper, The Sunday edition (ELEFTHEROS TYPOS, TYPOS THS KYRIAKHS) and the portal of the newspaper were possessed by D. Mpenekoy-AL. Skanavi. The newspaper is officially funded today through advertising revenues. ELEFTHEROS TYPOS sells 8 thousand papers daily and 11 thousand papers every Sunday.

- **KATHIMERINI**

One the oldest Greek newspapers of the center-right wing political spectrum which remains focused on its on producing quality content, despite its digital transition which is estimated to be one of the successful projects of Traditional market. The Editors are the ship-owners ' Alafouzos family who also finances their group of Media: Alafouzos Group: Kathimerini (daily newspaper), and *Kathimerini tis Kyriakis* (Sunday), *Kathimerini*, English edition, SKAI TV, SKAI FM 100.3 Erotikos FM, Melodia FM. SKAI TV and radio belong to Kathimerini group and so the media group can be addressed simultaneously using the same content in different age audiences. At the same time, each distribution of the group has its own website which leads

to increasing the influence it exerts. This mighty newspaper is managed in a way that avoids populism and serious journalism is its main objective, which is maintained during decades since its foundation. This particularity has been taken into account in order to examine whether it is monitoring the subject and methodology of other Media, and in particular how it applies to the codes of conduct, a Media in which strike was not allowed during the previous years. The ownership did not tolerate strikes and General trade union's action in the group. Although involved occasionally in political scandals, it continues to maintain a reputation of being a valid known newspaper with very important articles written by excellent journalists. Today, although it is closer to the right political wing, it is considered to be a multidisciplinary newspaper as it incorporates different political tendencies and opinions.

- **ERT**

The Greek Broadcasting Corporation is the public means of research. Its inclusion is self-explanatory but also justifiable and substantive. This medium has a lot of distributions (3 channels, hybrid channel, 25 radios, 25 sites and WebTV, a magazine) which require many subjects and long hours of content. Ert1, which is the main Media, presents an information-intensive program with information broadcasts that last 10 hours as well as many News bulletins. This distribution ensures monitoring and records the evolution of the published stories.

- **Skai TV**

This is the television channel of Mr. Alafouzou's family, ship-owners, which is owned by Kathimerini. It is characterized by its center-wing approach and exercising very tough opposition. He blames the populism of others but does not manage to avoid populism in video windows. It raises particular political and economic issues, arguing for the country's rigorous lending program even if that means austerity measures for medium and low-income categories. This approach is not consistent with content for large popular mass. In cases of scandals with political-economic aspects, its stories both in the channel and its newspaper are truly admirable.

- **DIMOKRATIA**

A relatively new newspaper which belongs to the right-wing press and addresses audiences that flirt with the approaches of the most extreme ideas on the critical role of the Greek nation and religion. It is quite revealing and often using in-depth analysis to document a story. DEMOKRATIA is a Greek daily political newspaper, launched on December 7, 2010.

Ioannis Filippakis is the editor. Related editions are the SATURDAY DEMOCRACY and Sunday DEMOCRACY. Philippakis Group: Dimokratia, Estia, Espresso (daily papers), Dimokratia tis Kyriakis (Sunday) and Orthodoxi Alitheia (Religion monthly newspaper). The newspaper DEMOKRATIA, according to a self-determining the first editorial, zooms daily to the Greek people who, during this difficult period, attempt to defend the honor and dignity of their country, as well as to the persons struggling, have a vision and the right to hope for a better life. It is a newspaper of anti-systemic, authoritative news, with honest analyses of opinion and knowledge, with a clear way of thinking, incompatible with national issues, but also in matters of ethics and public interest. The newspaper's circulation, both every day and on Sunday, reaches 9 thousand.

- **EFSYN**

The left newspaper, the evolution of the historical newspaper "Eleftherotypia", is what it states in its name. The newspaper works as an association. All employees in the newspaper receive equal pay except the director, who works without being paid. As to its political position, it has been described as a "radical left" newspaper. From Monday to Friday selling a range from about 6,500 to 8,000 copies a day and is 4th in sales distribution. On Saturday, range from 16,000 to 20,000 sheets and it comes 2nd, even 1st on some occasions. It is a cooperative approach between scandal-revealing journalism and the politically almost uncritically supportive on the left. There are, however, cases where criticism towards EFSYN is infinitely more meaningful and documented than the militants in the opposition press and newspapers. Efsyn also maintains a website that has significant visiting numbers. The newspaper sells six thousand sheets daily and reaches 15 thousand every Saturday. The site records 900 thousand unique visitors per month.

- **Alpha TV**

This television station records great success in both information content and TV program and appears to maintain a consistent quality of distribution. Much of its content relates to

scandals, daily stories, and police bulletin. Its ownership is a special case of a trader in the insurance market, who sold it in German interested buyers, bought it again and then sold it to another buyer, a Greek entrepreneur, while he was accused at the beginning of the financial crisis that he took loans without paying them back (they were deleted by the management of the bank) explaining to some extent his interweaving through his channel with the political powered persons. The truth, however, is that the owner has given examples of traditional publisher culture as regards to journalistic presentation. Kontominas Group: Alpha TV, Alpha Radio.

- **STAR TV**

Owned by Vardinoyannis family, ship-owners and oil traders, Vardinoyannis Group: Star TV Channel, Thema FM, Diesi FM. The most powerful businessman in the country owns, besides the specific TV stations very popular site with 1.4 million unique users per month. He was one of the owners of the popular channel of the country named MEGA, which, due to the entanglement of ethics and economic interests, lost the support of political interests since the publishers left it with debts and claimed for a new TV license. As far as TV content is concerned, it is considered to be the channel which has the most numerous every day and lifestyle subjects of all. Most of the times, Police Stories were those which primarily supplied the program. Traditionally the family supported the right political wing but the influence of the channel could be advantageous horizontally for many political figures, independent of their integration into a specific organization. The Vardinoyannis family funds the media they control by their other activities, which are more than the private ones. The channel achieves ratings in the news of more than 15%.

- **PROTOTHEMA**

The most controversial personality of the publishing group is journalist T. Anastasiadis.

Top- selling newspaper and website [protothema.gr](http://protothema.gr) are owned by him, with journalism standing between and scandal- revealing journalism. Scandals and crimes but also verbalisms characterize issues and headlines while the publisher himself has been accused of tax evasion in the past. Proto Thema (Anastasiadis-Karamitsos): Proto Thema (Sunday Newspaper), Neo Xrima Publications Ekdoseis/[Newmoney. GR](http://Newmoney.GR), OLIVE MEDIA SA, Karamitsos and Associates LTD/[Olivemagazine.gr](http://Olivemagazine.gr).

In this case: PROTOTHEMA is a Sunday newspaper, which was first published on 27 February 2005 by journalists Barbershop Anastasiades, Makis Triantafyllopoulos and Tasos Karamitsos. In 2008, Makis Triantafyllopoulos, after having disagreed with T. Anastasiades, due to a case of attempted suicide of a politician, withdrew and until today the newspaper is published only by T. Anastasiades. It's The Sunday newspaper with the highest circulation rates. In January 2008, PROTOTHEMA created its site with very high traffic, [www.protothema.gr](http://www.protothema.gr), as a daily electronic newspaper. The Sunday paper sells over 45 thousand sheets.

## **EVENING PAPERS**

<b>Printed</b>	<b>Current Edition sales</b>	<b>Sales of Previous Editions</b>	<b>Difference</b>
TA NEA	14.520	13.410	1110
DIMOKRATIA	8.630	7.920	710
ELEYTHEROS TYPOS	7.430	6.940	490

EFSYN	6.290	6.290	0
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### SUNDAY PAPERS

Printed	Current Edition sales	Sales of Previous Edition	Difference
VIMA (TA NEA)	47.180	46.520	660
PROTOTHEMA	46.550	45.100	1450
ELEFTHEROS TYPOS	10.930	9.850	1080
DIMOKRATIA	9.540	14.840	-5300

### TV news



MAIN NEWS BULLETIN

22,6%



STAR NEWS

15,9%



SKAI NEWS

14,9%



MAIN NEWS BULLETIN

8,4%

### 5. Identification of and information about keywords, to ensure uniformity

We translated and adapted the English keywords into Greek. Our queries were the following:

"δίωξη" OR "Αστυνομία" OR "δικαστήριο" OR "δίωξη" OR "ποινική δίωξη" OR "εγκληματική ενέργεια" OR "έγκλημα" OR "έρευνα" OR "δικαστική έρευνα" OR "αστυνομική έρευνα" OR "αρχές" OR "διωκτικές αρχές" OR "αστυνομικές αρχές" OR "δικηγόρος" OR "ύποπτος" OR "κατηγορούμενος" OR "εγκληματική υπόθεση" OR "κατηγορίες" OR "συνελήφθη" OR "σύλληψη" OR "συλλήψεις" OR "κατηγορείται" OR "αδίκημα"

Furthermore we did this with addition of the targeted web site or medium for each and every query. For example, when we were searching for relevant articles published at the web site "kathimerini.gr" we added the term "[kathimerini.gr](http://www.kathimerini.gr)" to our search. The search string was then:

"δίωξη" OR "Αστυνομία" OR "δικαστήριο" OR "δίωξη" OR "ποινική δίωξη" OR "εγκληματική ενέργεια" OR "έγκλημα" OR "έρευνα" OR "δικαστική έρευνα" OR "αστυνομική έρευνα" OR "αρχές" OR "διωκτικές αρχές" OR "αστυνομικές αρχές" OR "δικηγόρος" OR "ύποπτος" OR "κατηγορούμενος" OR "εγκληματική υπόθεση" OR "κατηγορίες" OR "συνελήφθη" OR "σύλληψη" OR "συλλήψεις" OR "κατηγορείται" OR "αδίκημα"  
site:<http://www.eleftherostypos.gr/>

## 6. Selected texts

### Chosen sample TV:

- 13 June 2018, Media name: Star TV, duration: 1'30", title: Double murder at Atalanti
- 13 June 2018, Media name: Star TV, duration: 2'05", title: Investigation against the 22-year-old friend of his photographer who committed suicide
- 29 June 2018, Media name: SKAI TV, duration: 42" title: Man arrested for the killing of a 26 years old man at Peristeri
- 16 July 2018, Media name: SKAI TV, duration: 2', title: Mafia like attack at the Urban Planning Service at Santorini
- 16 July 2018 Media name: SKAI TV, duration: 2' 25", title: Confrontation about prime minister's family loans

### Chosen sample Print:

- 21 June 2018, Media name: Eleftheros typos, article title: "Albanian runaways: They locked out the owners and emptied the houses", word count: 647
- 5 Sempember 2018, Media name: Kathimerini, article title: "From hero, accused of trafficking in the Aegean", word count: 764
- 13 Sempember 2018, Media name: TaNea, article title: "Corfu: A nephrologist and a pharmacist in a drug gang", word count: 164
- 20 Sempember 2018, Media name: Dimokratia, article title: "Handcuffs to the mysterious owner of the ERCI NGO", word count: 371
- 29 Sempember 2018, Media name: Eleftheros typos, article title: "This is the reasoning of the judges who left Irianna and Pericles free", word count: 640

### Chosen sample web:

- 2 July 2018, Media name: Dimokratia News, article title: "The Roma cartel in Menidi", word count: 382
- 15 July 2018, Media name: Ta nea, article title: "Human trafficking gang was dismantled", word count: 451
- 2 July 2018, Media name: Ta nea, article title: "Arrest of a gang member who was stealing cars", word count: 156
- 5 Sempember 2018 Media name: Dimokratia News, article title: "Police arrested Escobar of Balkans", word count: 324
- 2 July 2018, Media name: Eleftheros typos, article title: "He killed Dora Zemberi and continued his stealing activities", word count: 612
- 15 July 2018, Media name: DimokratiaNews, article title: "13 months passed to hold Yannis to account", word count: 417
- 21 July 2018, Media name: Kathimerini, article title: "With heavy charges Lafazanis called to Police", word count: 420

Carrying out a comprehensive and accurate sample requires a strictly and methodological approach and committed researchers.

Our team's consistency has been proved by frequent coding, proving the exceptional level of our work. Greek team consisted of two individual coders who were responsible for the final selection.

The first step to start the examination was to translate and adapt the (above mentioned) English keywords into Greek. We selected all the articles written for each date (June, July, September), through a media database ([ArgosTypou](#)) for print, through a specified query google search for the websites and by watching the evening TV News. Our first criteria were the nationwide report. We read every single article and decided which applied better to our context (questioning and keys) filling in our Excel Sheet. We selected 435 articles in total, we archived through print screen, recording and scanning method.

We created a data set in order to achieve a satisfied preparation based on a different type of statistical data analysis. The approach we followed was based on template approached (key code) and immersion approach (merge new insights). For the template approach, we created a context template which summarized themes identified by the coders based on our key codes. For example, we tried to classify the different types of crimes and offenses. The first step before the final selection was to begin reading the articles - report / watch the news, marking those that appear relevant to the research questions. The second step was through the selective code to complete our finalized sample.

The sampling frame was defined by the four defined basic parameters – channels, programs types, sampling times and sampling periods. Our new stories about accused people were conducted simultaneously during the period of 14 days (June 5, 13, 21, 29 - July 2, 7, 15, 16, 24, September 2, 5, 13, 21, 29). Additionally, we conclude extra dates with cases of great interest.

## **Good and Bad articles vs Good and bad cases**

### **Crime related criteria**

During the selection process, we didn't search our sample based on keywords but we asked ourselves if those cases are related or not. This is where the immersion approach applied. That approach ensures that all chosen cases are crime related and not keyword related i.e. some titles included the word crime, but the context was about metaphorically crimes or irrelevant theme (football match).

### **Word counting criteria**

Greek language is rich, so a simple topic' description of a journalist to say "a dead body found" can be expressed with more than 4 words. Thus we set a 100 plus word limit, so the crime-related articles that were clearly too short weren't included in our sample.

Other criteria we concluded were a diversity of good and bad practices as well as typologies. An unbiased journalist should be included in order to prove the existence of impartiality and be used as a local yardstick to measure how the media cover similar cases. That was taken into account when we searched for our cases.

Typology of Greek crimes. We tried to incorporate as many different types of crime as possible, in order to analyze complete different criminal cases.

## **7. Findings**

### **A. General Practices findings**

Weighing between laws with a view to managing these cases of interest to the sample is quite important because each time it seems to be of utmost importance that both Community and national legislation, as well as the Code of Journalism, be taken into account. Most cases that have been studied so as to arrive at conclusions show a pre-conviction prior to trial, as the accusations against the subject on the basis of a specific political line, also due to the

police and prosecution authorities, and the prejudices that exist in a country bearing a decline of values and institutions, due to the social, economic and political crisis in Greece.

This prejudice directly affects how a subject is presented and so accusations are made in the form of a conviction. The public opinion is influenced and forms a certain opinion, while excessive tones tend to justify reporting as a matter of great public interest, as a result of publicity serving the public interest.

On the other hand, aggressive determinations and high tones with severe expressions are not limited through a self-regulating code in Mass Media. A crucial conclusion to search would be, while in the process of weighing, if journalism may pre-judge the defendants or no. It goes without saying laws prevail and there is no other framework that could help to balance between law and freedom of expression concerning major criminal cases, while journalists and the media rush using high tone, fueled by bias, to determine the answer to the question whether the publication is in the public interest. They make a case so important, to allow the disclosure of the accused person to justify their right to investigate and publish it.

Finally, it was noted that the necessary monitoring and disclosure of cases does not always exist and, as a result, acquittance or even the modification of accusations are not considered as important news on issues of major social interest as in the original pre-judicial publications.

If we would like to have a closer look at the findings of the coding procedure, we could identify some of the bad practices which occurred with the biggest frequency of appearance. These are the following:

- the character, credibility, or reputation of a defendant or a person or entity who has been publicly identified in the context of a criminal investigation, or the race, ethnicity, creed, religion, or sexual orientation of such person unless such information is necessary to apprehend a suspect or fugitive - (94%)
- the performance or results of any examinations or tests, or the refusal or failure to submit to an examination or test by a defendant or a person or entity who has been publicly identified in the context of a criminal investigation - (30%)
- the existence or contents of any confession, admission, or statement given by a defendant or a person or entity who has been publicly identified in the context of a criminal investigation, or the refusal or failure of such person to make a statement - (22%)
- the identity, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, or sexual orientation, expected testimony, criminal record, character, reputation, or credibility of prospective witnesses other than the victim, and the race, ethnicity, creed, religion, sexual orientation, expected testimony, criminal record, character, reputation, or credibility of the victim (27%)
- Representation of suspects or accused as being guilty through the use of measures of physical restraints (for instance: handcuffs, cages, leg irons or other means of enclosures, a glass box) 20%
- "presumption of innocence" mentioned in media coverage - (27%)
- public statements of public authorities referring to the suspect or accused person as being guilty until guilt has been proved according to the law (40%)
- the prior criminal record of a defendant or a person or entity who has been publicly identified in the context of a criminal investigation (20%)



## **Politically biased**

Stories involving politicians who have legal issues to deal with, appear to be a particular category. These cases are dealt with the main criterion the political orientation served by each medium. If the political person presented in the story is from the opposing political party, then the article clearly stands in favor of his conviction. This position is reversed to the newspaper or TV station or web site at the opposite political edge.

Also, in a case of political orientation which was about the trial of two persons accused of participation in a so-called terrorist group, we had the personal opinion of the prosecutor as to the guilt or innocence of them. To this specific case, we spotted also the breaching of the obligation not to refer to suspects or accused persons as being guilty.

## **Bad Practices findings**

- **Clickbait Titles**

Media, especially websites, often exaggerate negative news, especially in the titles. Media covers and titles warn about coming disasters and point the guilty before any trial - sometimes even before the publication of official police examinations. 90% of our sample, used clickbait headlines. Specifically:

In "Crimes against Life, Limp and Health" cases, media coverage tends to focus on entertaining aspect rather on informational.

In "Offenses against property" cases, media headlines focus on victims rather on the event

In "Offenses against personal freedom" cases, media use taught words that often are not contextualized.

In "Criminal offenses against health" cases, the headlines are about the victim's or offender's reputation.

- **Rewriting**

A mass reproduction and plagiarism is a common practice in criminal cases' coverages. Since an article about a criminal case is written, internet media ecosystem reposting the same text and content, with clickbait headlines, and without any cross-check. In our sample, we noticed the same writing styles and copy-pasting sentences. Beyond the unethicity of that practice, the consequences are more serious. The lack of credits, the unknown sources and the uncertainty of the information we read, are some of the dangers and the threats that the media face.

- **Character's Representation**

A lot of cases are biased. Media are obliged to include the plea of guilty and cover all views. Circa 80% of our sample pointed the guilty and used names before any trial or any evidence. Media coverages were based on random interviews -especially when is about "Crimes against Life" and the reader is excluded by any information about the offender. Even in cases when the murders are surrounded, media avoid to include any information about but focus on victims.

- **Sources**

Media are referred to unknown sources or they do not mention how they get the information. A very common sentence we read in "Crimes against Life, Limp and Health" cases is "police information mentioned .." without any official report or statement.

- **Cases before trials information**

Articles especially in the web, include information, pointing the guilty before the trials. Additionally, the presumption of innocence is not respected by journalists.

- **Politics**

In cases where political parties are involved or in cases where political activists attack any PM, Greek media are biased. In our sampling, we noticed that the media are negative towards left and far left activists and do not cover the cases by post clues.

## B. Statistical findings

Exaggerated narrations

### TV

**85%** Exaggerated narration on the accused person character

### Websites

**80%** Exaggerated titles (for impressions and views)

### Print

**60%** Exaggerated criminal case description. Focus on the event, not on information  
Political bias

### TV

**65%** Media coverage follow a political line when it comes to cases that involve a conservative political party

### Websites

**87%** Follow political lines

### Print

**90%** follow a political line, using names and posting negative towards the offender, information

## C. Practices Suggestions

- Journalists should balance the importance of the media
- Should mention the sources
- Should cover the plea of guilty
- Respect the presumption of innocence
- Language and information

This research could lead to the conclusion that continuous training of journalists and lawyers on journalistic ethics issues, in general, and in particular through seminars that extensively present guidance and case studies on privacy and the protection of persons under certain categories, is the only one way of confirming proper implementation. This process will make Solon the Athenian, who said: " Each day I grow older, I learn something new", known among journalists in Europe.

The most proper framework is in COE doc for Good Governance Best Practices for privacy policies in the media landscape. <https://rm.coe.int/guidelines-on-safeguarding-privacy-in-the-media-final-r3/168075ac59>

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