

Media Freedom: Trends in the OSCE

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Media Freedom in the OSCE

- “ **I) Introduction**
- “ II) Regional Overview
- “ III) Selected Case Studies
 - “ Concerns in established democracies
 - “ Countries with limited press freedom
- “ IV) Conclusions and Recommendations



I) Introduction

- “ The ***Freedom of the Press*** index

- “ For past 32 years, has assessed the degree of print, broadcast, and internet freedom in every country in the world, analyzing the events and developments of each calendar year

- “ Methodology: 3 Categories, 109 indicators

- “ *Legal*: laws and regulations, and their use against media

- “ *Political*: editorial pressure, censorship, attacks on journalists

- “ *Economic*: structure, transparency, concentration, etc.

- “ Scores and Status

- “ 0 – 30: *Free*

- “ 30 – 60: *Partly Free*

- “ 60 – 100: *Not Free*

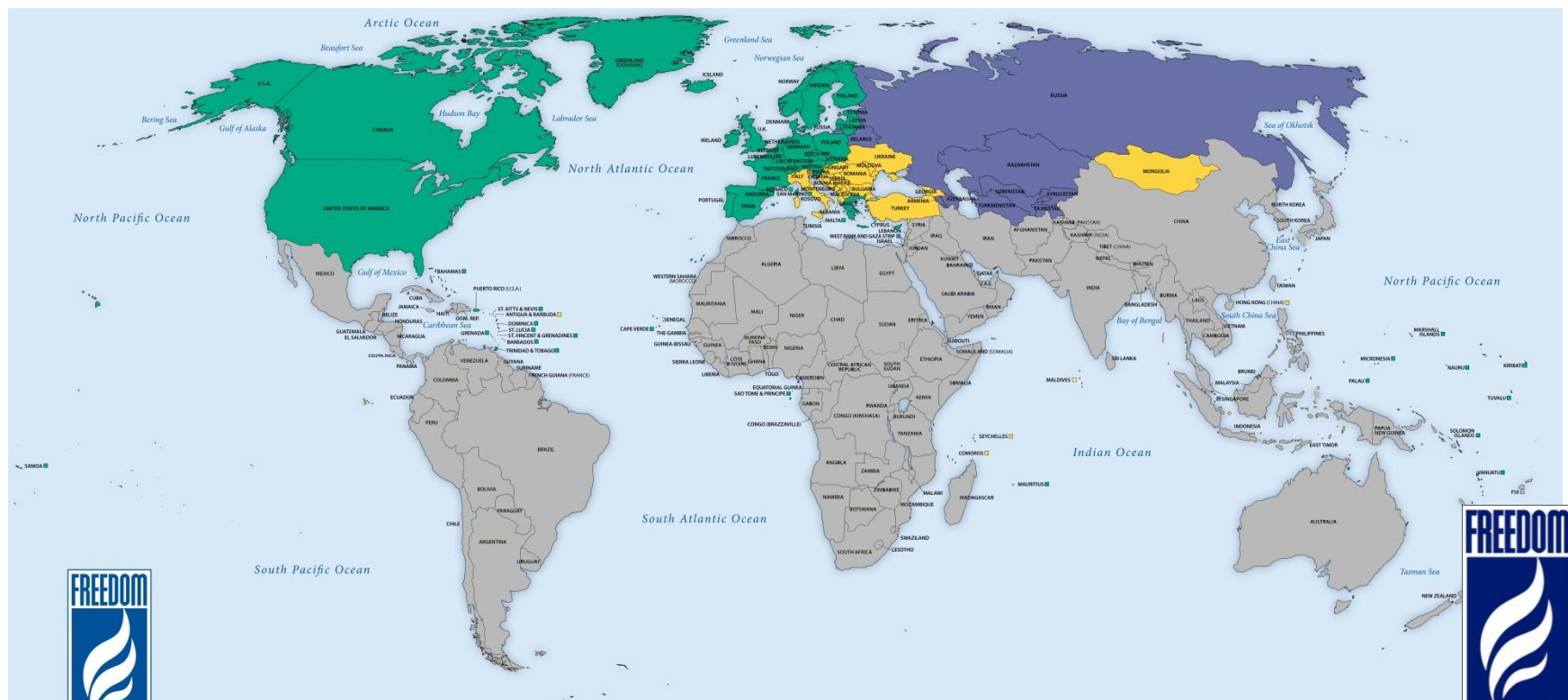


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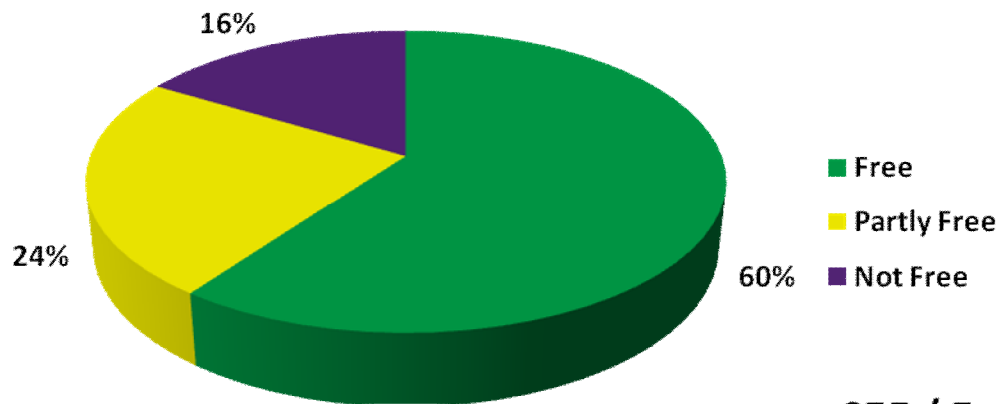


II) Regional Overview

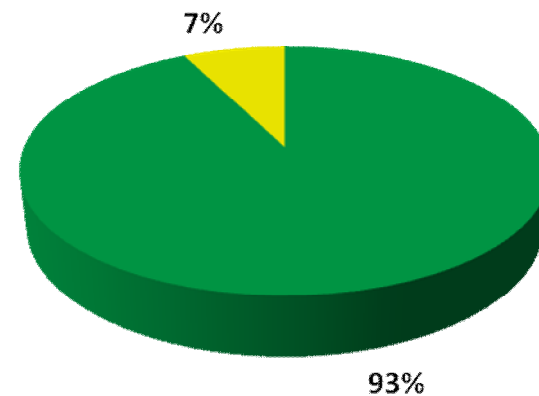


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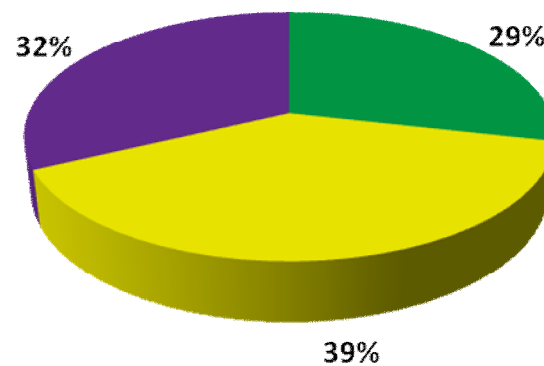
OSCE countries



Western Europe, US, CAN

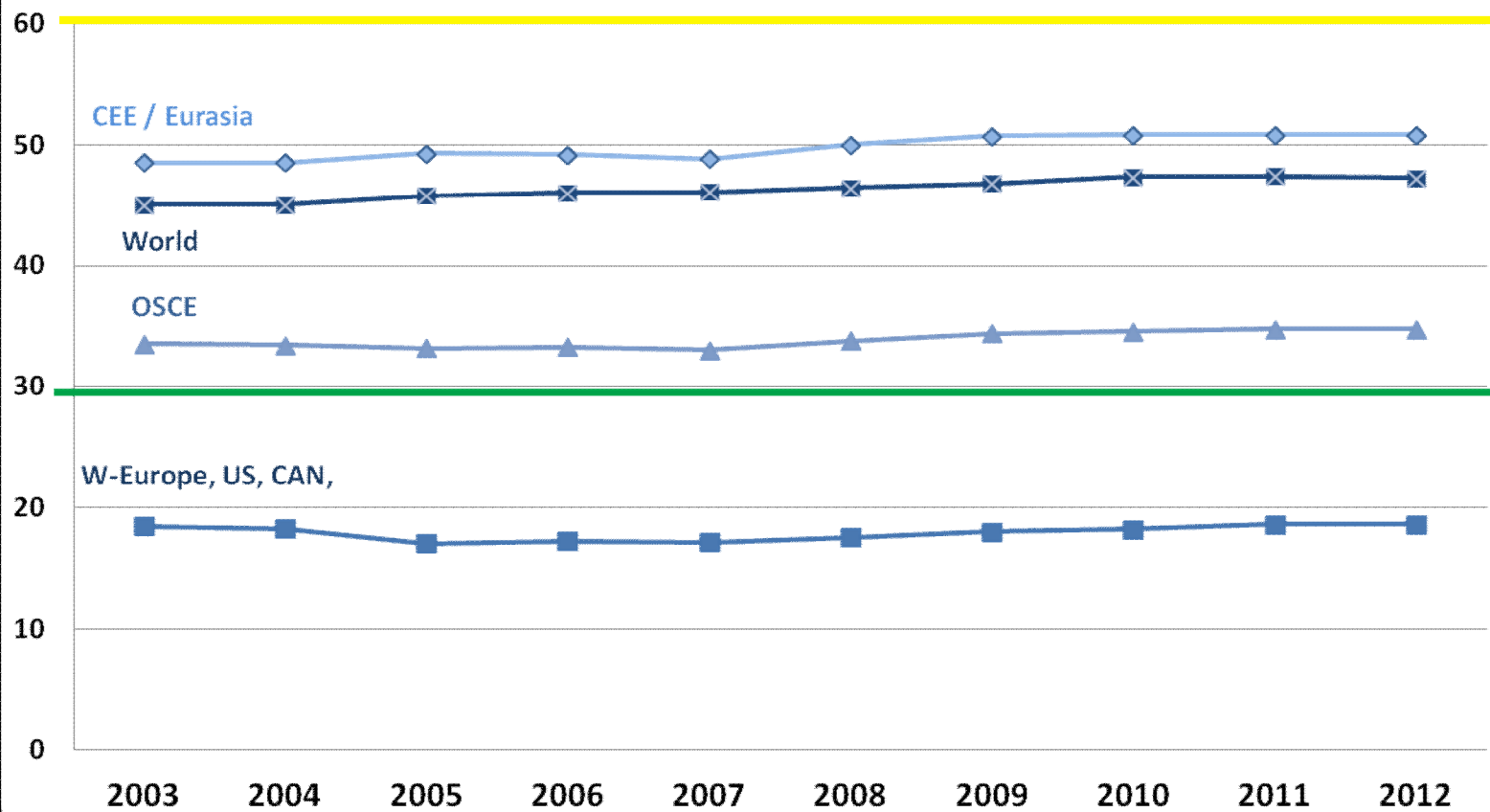


CEE / Eurasia



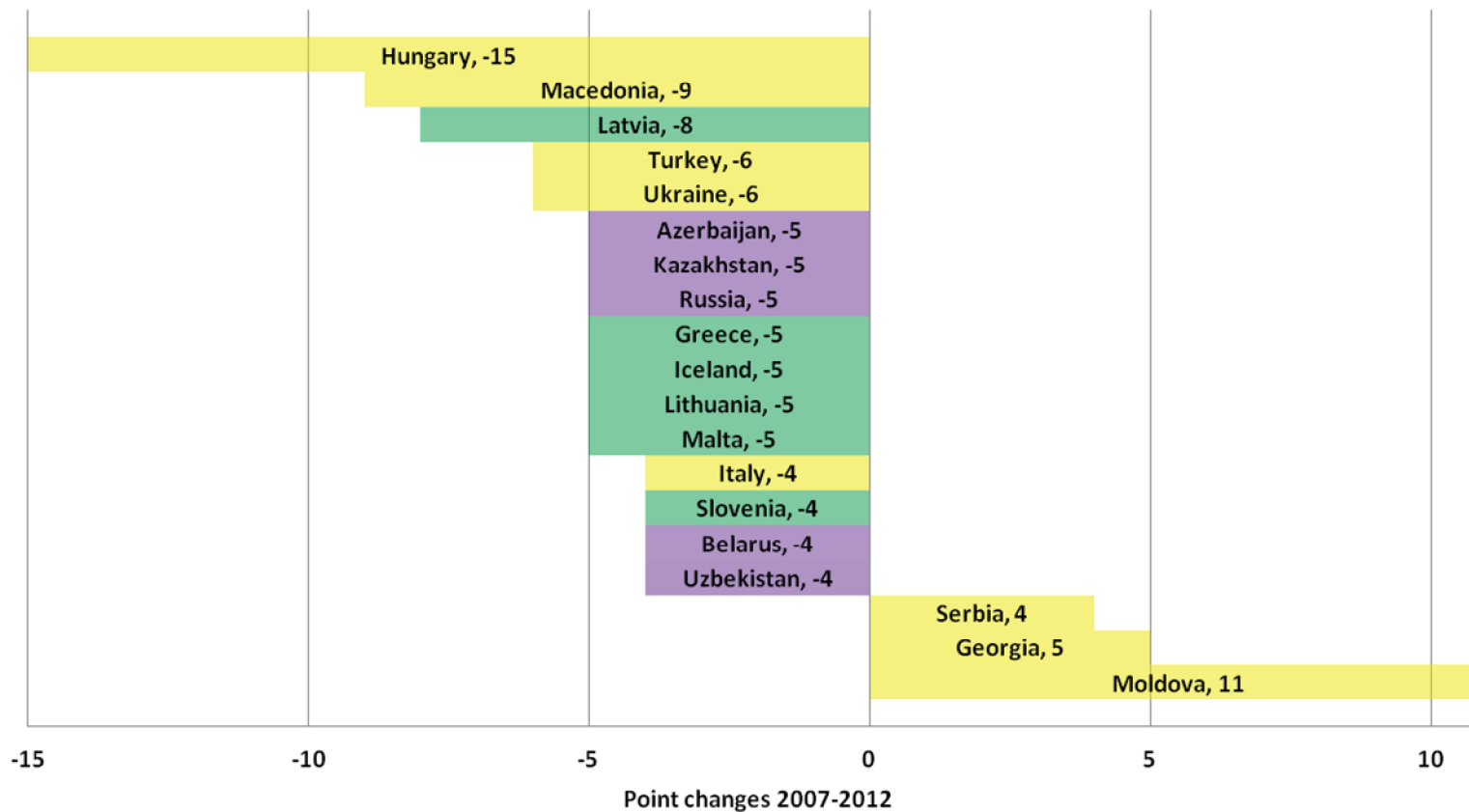
II) Regional Overview

Average press freedom scores 2003-2012



II) Regional Overview

Trends between 2007-2012



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III) Selected Case Studies

“ Concerns in established democracies

“ **United Kingdom**

- “ Expansive libel laws, use of so-called super-injunctions and gagging orders to prevent coverage
- “ Media ethics/regulation and the Leveson Inquiry

“ **Italy**

- “ Significant concentration of ownership and influence under former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi
- “ Use of libel laws to limit free speech



III) Selected Case Studies

“ Concerns in established democracies

“ **Hungary**

“ Unique 13 point decline between 2010-2012

“ New media laws

“ Broad restrictions on content

“ Licensing of print and online media

“ Large fines for unbalanced reporting

“ New regulatory body

“ Increasing political control and influence in public media



III) Selected Case Studies

- “ Countries with limited press freedom

- “ **Turkey**

- “ Use of restrictive laws

- “ Provisions of the penal code and antiterrorism legislation

- “ Highest number of imprisoned journalists in the world

- “ Connected to deep state trials and Kurdish militant groups

- “ Increased self-censorship by journalists

- “ Internet censorship



III) Selected Case Studies

“ Countries with limited press freedom

“ **Russia**

“ Broadcast media ownership firmly under state control

“ Control over television, which is dominant medium

“ Judiciary subservient to the executive branch and use of laws to punish journalists

“ Impunity for harassment and murder of journalists

“ Moves to increase official control over internet



III) Selected Case Studies

- “ Countries with limited press freedom

- “ **Azerbaijan**

- “ Media landscape dominated by the state

- “ Most broadcast media under official control

- “ Legal and physical harassment of journalists

- “ Record high in journalist imprisonments in 2012

- “ High level of physical attacks

- “ Increasing focus on controlling internet

- “ Imprisonment of bloggers



III) Selected Case Studies

- “ Countries with extremely limited press freedom

- “ **“Worst of the Worst”** —3 of bottom 10 worldwide are in the OSCE

- “ **Belarus**

- “ Draconian media laws, intimidation of foreign and local journalists, monopoly on broadcast media

- “ **Uzbekistan**

- “ All local media linked to the state, insult of president punishable by up to 5 years in prison, very few independent journalists

- “ **Turkmenistan**

- “ Absolute monopoly on national media, extralegal threats, harassment of journalists, restricted access for foreign correspondents



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IV) Conclusions

“ **Need for vigilance in established democracies**

- “ Backsliding in democracies: threats to freedom of the press remain a concern
- “ The economic crisis has posed new challenges and threatens print media diversity and sustainability

“ **Methods of control continuously changing**

- “ More subtle methods by authoritarian and semi-democratic governments
- “ Misuse of licensing and regulatory frameworks
- “ Moves to control new media and internet



IV) Recommendations

- ” **Reform of laws in established democracies**
 - ” Decriminalization of libel/defamation
 - ” Encouragement of self-regulation as best practice
 - ” Removal of licensing/restrictions on print and internet

- ” **Increased pressure on governments that restrict media freedom**
 - ” Diplomatic pressure
 - ” Aid conditionality (example of MCA in US)
 - ” Support for independent media and journalists
 - ” Focus on keeping the internet free of state control





For additional information:
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