

COSTA RICA
SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	The lack of direct or indirect controls over the media is Costa Rica's main strength. The impact of the branches of government on the media is moderate, which encourages the free flow of ideas and opinions, including those that are critical or contrary to the political views of the government. Additionally, the independence of government bodies and legal stability have a positive impact on the exercise of freedom of expression and the press.
WEAKNESSES	Excessive dependence on information published by the Executive negatively affects journalism in the country. Delays and lack of clarity in information output have been constant, and the pandemic has increased the time required for delivering news and responding to requests filed, which undermines access to public information. Finally, the lack of an updated regulation for the media creates legal loopholes that may negatively affect the exercise of freedom of the press.
OPPORTUNITIES	The increase in the Internet penetration rate and the growth of e-commerce offer new opportunities for the media and for society in general. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of digital platforms has increased. Therefore, mainstream media can find in them a space for engaging with their audiences, which allows them to increase their revenue and remain operational. For its part, the Government has the possibility of implementing public policies aimed at ensuring freedom of the press on the Internet.
THREATS	The 2022 electoral process poses a threat to the exercise of freedom of expression. The multitude of candidates and the transition of broadcast television to digital present several challenges that will be difficult for the media to face. In particular, rural areas of the country face the risk of being left out, while community and independent media may be excluded from the Costa Rican media ecosystem. Finally, the national and global economic crisis has an impact on the availability of resources to preserve the pluralistic and independent communication typical of Costa Rican media.

