

**Costa Rica**  
**ANALYSIS OF WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, STRENGTHS AND THREATS**

<b>WEAKNESSES</b>	<p>The existence of outdated (e.g., the Printing Press Law) or the non-existent regulatory frameworks (e.g., a law guaranteeing access to public information, or the allocation of advertising guidelines) has an impact on the task of communication carried out by both journalists and the media. Also, the lack of plans for the allocation of broadcasting airwaves generates uncertainty and affects the operation of the media currently using such space.</p>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<p>The Legislative Assembly has the opportunity to update the norms that regulate the performance of the media and, through that, favor the creation of plural communicational spaces that adapt to new technological developments and that benefit the exercise of freedom of expression. Likewise, government representatives must encourage democratic dialogue based on respect, and so contribute to the decline of the use of offensive speech.</p>
<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<p>The separation of powers and control mechanisms are one of Costa Rica's main strengths. The decisions of the Constitutional Chamber demonstrated that amparo appeals are an adequate mechanism to protect freedom of expression, while the investigations initiated by the Legislative Assembly demonstrated the need to allow access to public information in order to prevent arbitrary decisions from restricting the exercise of freedom of the press.</p>
<b>THREATS</b>	<p>Attacks against journalists constitute one of the main threats to the exercise of freedom of expression in the country. These situations affect the mental health of those who practice journalism, promote self-censorship and, in some cases, encourage journalists to decide to abandon their profession to avoid being target of attacks. The constant increase in hate speech demonstrates the existence of a hostile situation against journalists and the media that could negatively affect the democratic debate and even deter the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 16.</p>

