

Mapping of European OA Journals in Media and Communication Studies

Maarit Jaakkola, Herminder Kaur, Jelena Kleut, Tanya Lokot, Tereza Pavlickova, Andra Siibak & Pille Pruulmann Vengerfeldt

As global publishers play a prominent role in academic publishing, disciplinary European free open access journals are not always easy to identify. The European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) launched in 2025 a task force to map and highlight high-quality publishing venues beyond the major actors, strengthening the visibility of **independent, community-driven, and non-commercial open access (OA) journal development across Europe**. Through this initiative, ECREA aims to promote equitable knowledge sharing and challenge the dominance of large commercial publishing models.

Community-based resource

A list of OA journals was developed as a community-based initiative combining systematic database searches with member input. ECREA members were invited to contribute both before and after seeing the preliminary list, and member checks subsequently refined the resource.

Inclusion criteria

Journals were included if they:

1. fall within **media and communication studies**, broadly defined;
2. are published in **Europe**;
3. operate according to a full **OA model**, with all content made available under a Creative Commons licence by default;
4. accept manuscripts in **English**; and with
5. no **article processing charges** (APCs).

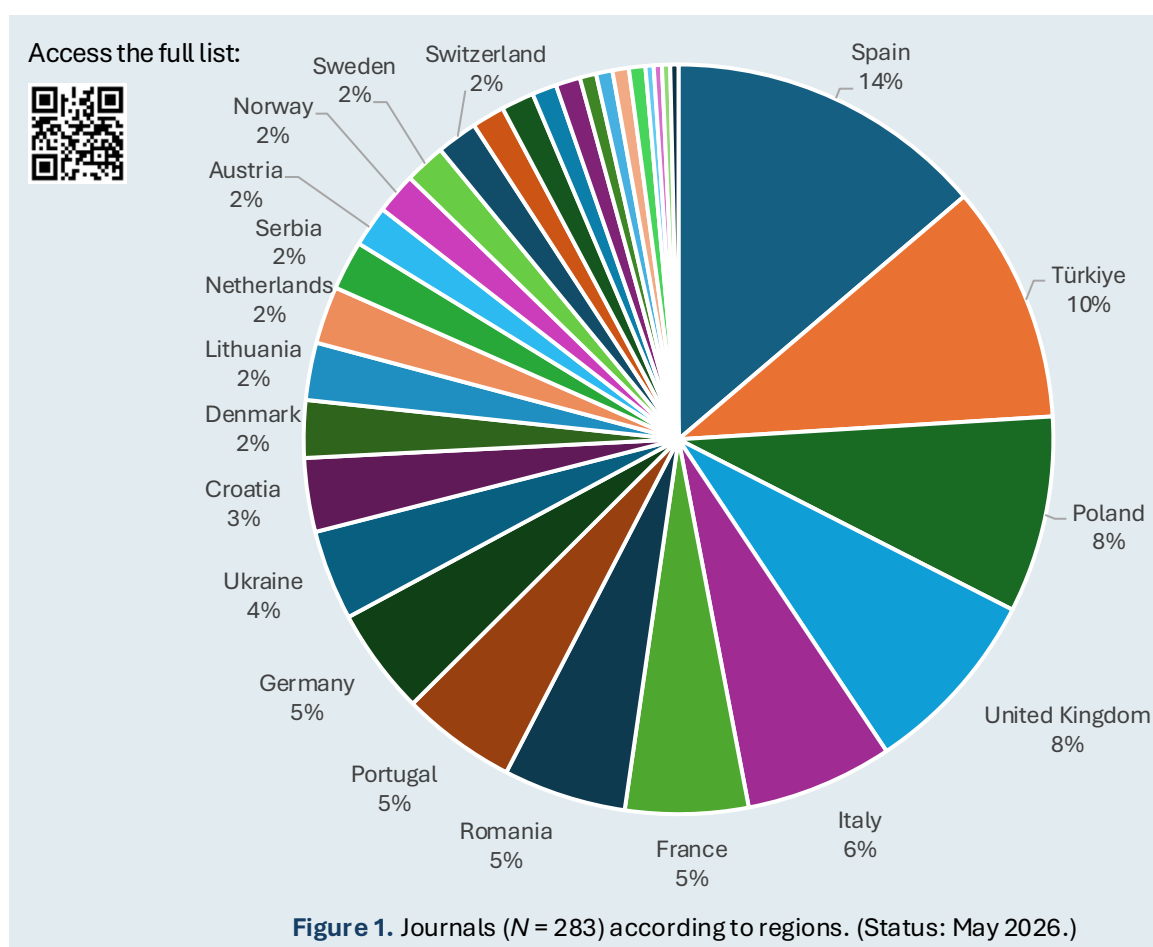
Method

Searches were conducted in DOAJ, ERIH+, Index Copernicus, Ulrichsweb, EBSCO, Scopus Communication, and Web of Science with the following search terms in all fields: journalism, media*, communication, information, digital, cultural, social, cinema*, film*, game*.

The European scope included journals from the UK, Norway, Türkiye, and Ukraine, while Russia was excluded. Professional fields such as logopedics were excluded. Library and information science journals were included only where they had clear links to media (and information) literacy research. General social science, humanities, and methodology journals were excluded unless media- or communication-related topics were prominent in their aims and scope.

Key findings

In May 2026, we had identified 283 journals across 31 countries (Figure 1). Rather than being dominated by Anglophone or



Western European publishing centres, as in the commercial domain, the field shows strong concentrations in Iberian countries (Spain, Portugal), Türkiye, and Poland, alongside Eastern Europe.

About 60 percent of journals were multilingual. The list is especially strong in Romance-language contexts: Spain, Italy, France, Romania and Portugal account for 101 journals (36%). This points to the importance of university- or society-based multilinguistic scholarly publishing ecologies in sustaining no-fee OA journals.

The most common OA license was CC BY (40%), and 53% of journals ($n = 150$) published book reviews.

Member feedback showed that many researchers are not aware of journals from their own regions and were positively surprised by the breadth of the field.

Future plans

The initiative is a work in progress. We intend to develop the list into a searchable online resource updated regularly based on input from ECREA members. The list can support authors in identifying publication venues, provide editors with benchmarking and collaboration opportunities, and offer an overview of European regional diversity in publishing.