

The background of the entire page is a close-up, artistic photograph of several incandescent light bulbs. The bulbs are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some in sharp focus and others blurred. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sense of depth and texture. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and greys, with the warm tones of the glass and filament providing contrast.

**EBU**

OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

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# PARLIAMENTARY BROADCAST SERVICES IN EUROPE

MEDIA INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

FEBRUARY 2016

## ABOUT THIS PROJECT

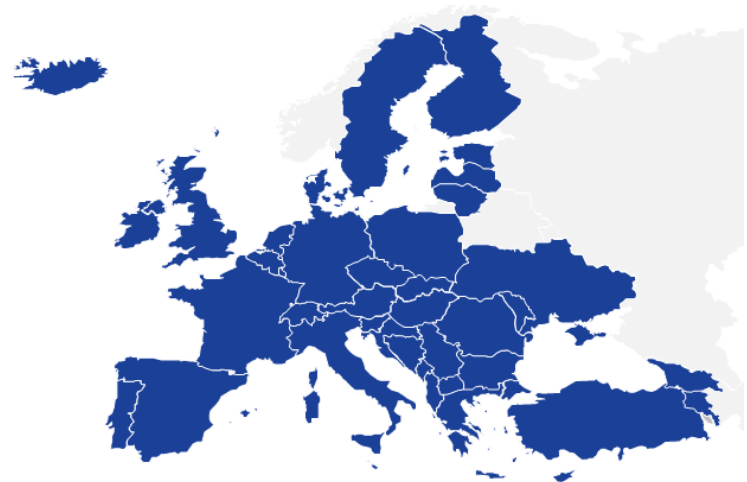
Parliaments are elected bodies of governance, representing citizens and making laws. As such, improving the transparency of parliamentary proceedings is an important aspect of upholding accountability. Parliamentary broadcasts are a very effective way of achieving that, while also bringing citizens and national parliaments closer to each other.

Nowadays in Europe all parliaments have their own websites that provide citizens with information on parliamentary activities. But are citizens able to follow parliamentary proceedings, such as plenary sessions and committee meetings as they happen? Through what services and platforms can they be accessed, and who operates them? Besides national parliamentary coverage, do European citizens have sufficient means to follow Europe-wide political debates?

Building on these questions, the aim of this project was to gain a broad view on how parliaments inform and keep in touch with the citizenry, while also examining the role that public service media has in broadcasting parliamentary activities.

## SCOPE

The EBU's Media Intelligence Service analysed 40 countries: 28 EU Member States + Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine



A complementary survey was sent to parliaments to answer questions on their parliamentary broadcast/webcast services offered to citizens, as well as their social media use.

The project was developed in collaboration with the EBU Partnership Programme.

# KEY FINDINGS



Parliamentary broadcast services are mainly delivered through television in Europe. Radio is less popular for live broadcasts, while web streaming parliamentary proceedings live is a very widespread practice.



PSM has a strong role in providing citizens with parliamentary coverage, both via dedicated and non-dedicated broadcast services.



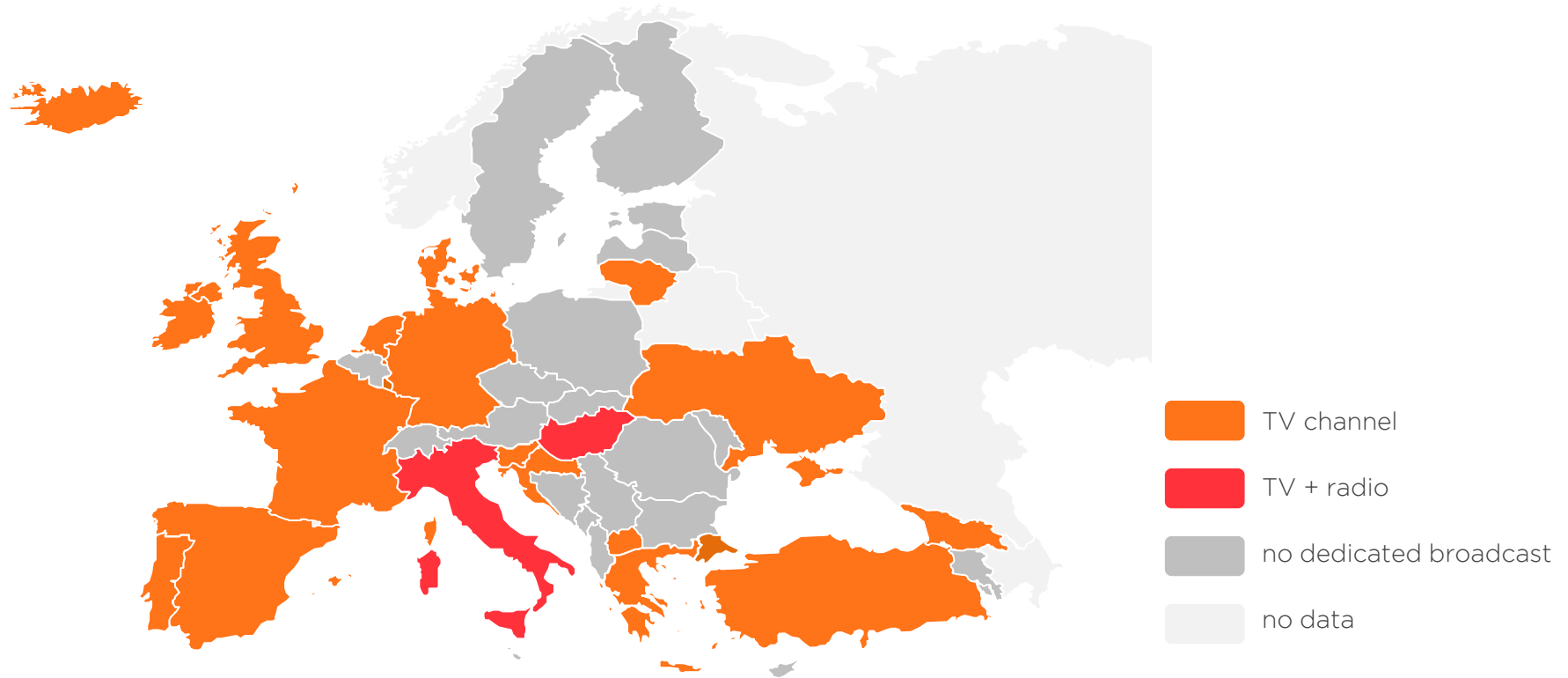
In 20 countries there are dedicated parliamentary broadcast services, mostly operated by the parliament itself.



Social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, are widely used by parliaments to keep in touch with citizens.

## DEDICATED PARLIAMENTARY BROADCAST SERVICES

50% of observed countries have a dedicated parliamentary broadcast service

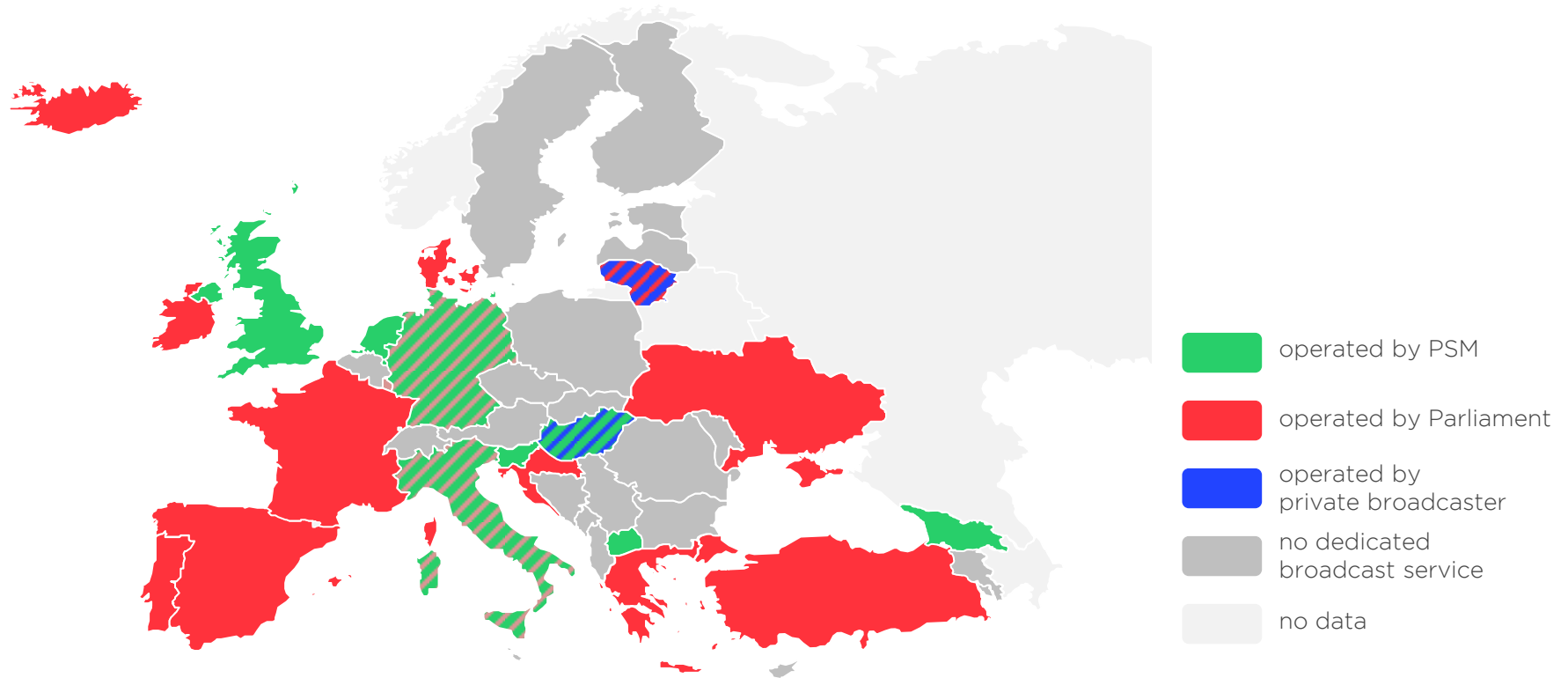


A dedicated parliamentary broadcast service is a broadcast TV channel or radio station, set up specifically to cover the activities of the parliament. Of the 40 observed countries, 20 have a dedicated parliamentary broadcast. All 20 provide the broadcasts on a dedicated TV channel, while two countries, Hungary and Italy, have both a dedicated TV channel and radio station.

Note: In Poland, TVP Parlament is an internet-delivered thematic channel dedicated to covering the work of the Polish Parliament. It is not included here because it is not regarded as 'broadcast'.

# OPERATORS OF DEDICATED BROADCAST SERVICES

40% of dedicated broadcast services are run by Public Service Media organizations

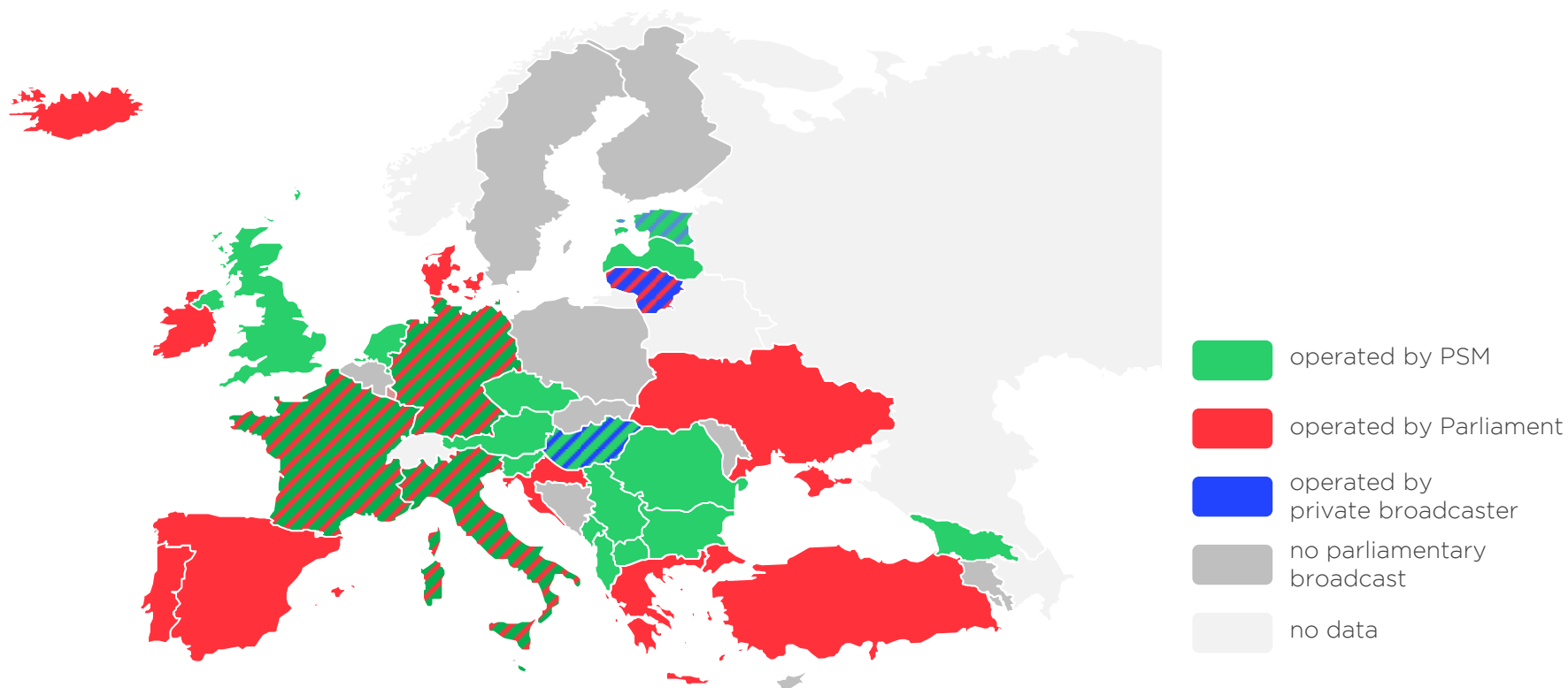


In 8 of the 20 countries with dedicated parliamentary TV channels/radio stations, the service is operated by the Public Service Media organization. In 12 countries, services are run by the Parliament.

There are two countries, Lithuania and Hungary, where there are services operated by private broadcasters. In Lithuania, the parliament outsources the operation of the broadcast service to a private company, but the channel is regarded as the media of a public institution. In Hungary, P+ TV is a privately owned parliamentary television channel, while the local PSM operates a dedicated radio station. Germany and Italy have services operated by PSM as well as the parliament.

## DEDICATED AND NON-DEDICATED PARLIAMENTARY BROADCASTS

In 63% of the countries that offer coverage, local PSM has a role in broadcasting parliamentary activities



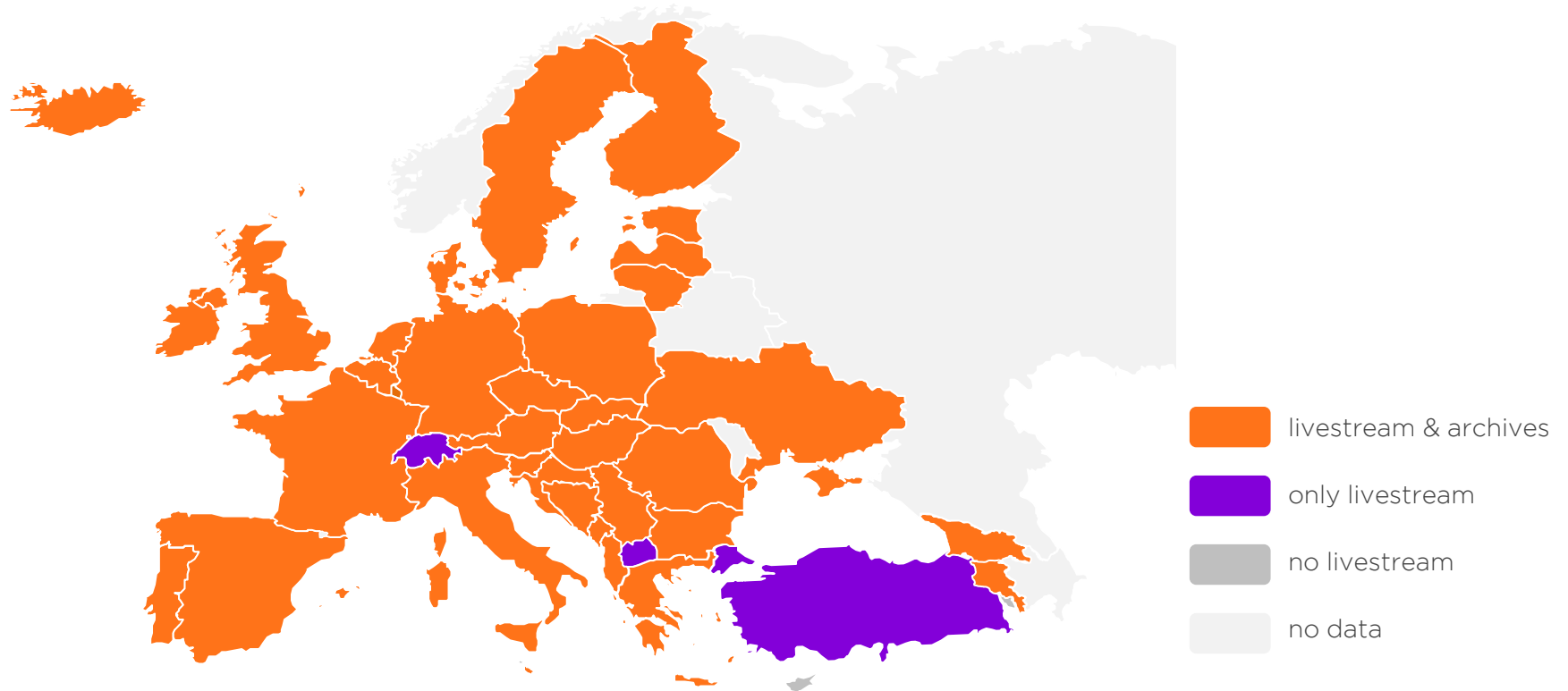
In some countries there isn't a dedicated parliamentary TV channel or radio station, but the plenaries and committee meetings, or at least parts of them, are still broadcast live regularly on an existing TV channel or radio station. There are 10 countries that offer such non-dedicated parliamentary coverage, and most of these other services are operated by PSM.

The map shows that altogether in 19 of the 40 observed countries PSM has a role in broadcasting parliamentary coverage to citizens, either via dedicated or non-dedicated services. This is 48% of all observed countries, and 63% of the 30 countries that offer some kind of parliamentary broadcast service.



## WEB STREAMING

98% of observed countries offer live web streaming of parliamentary activities

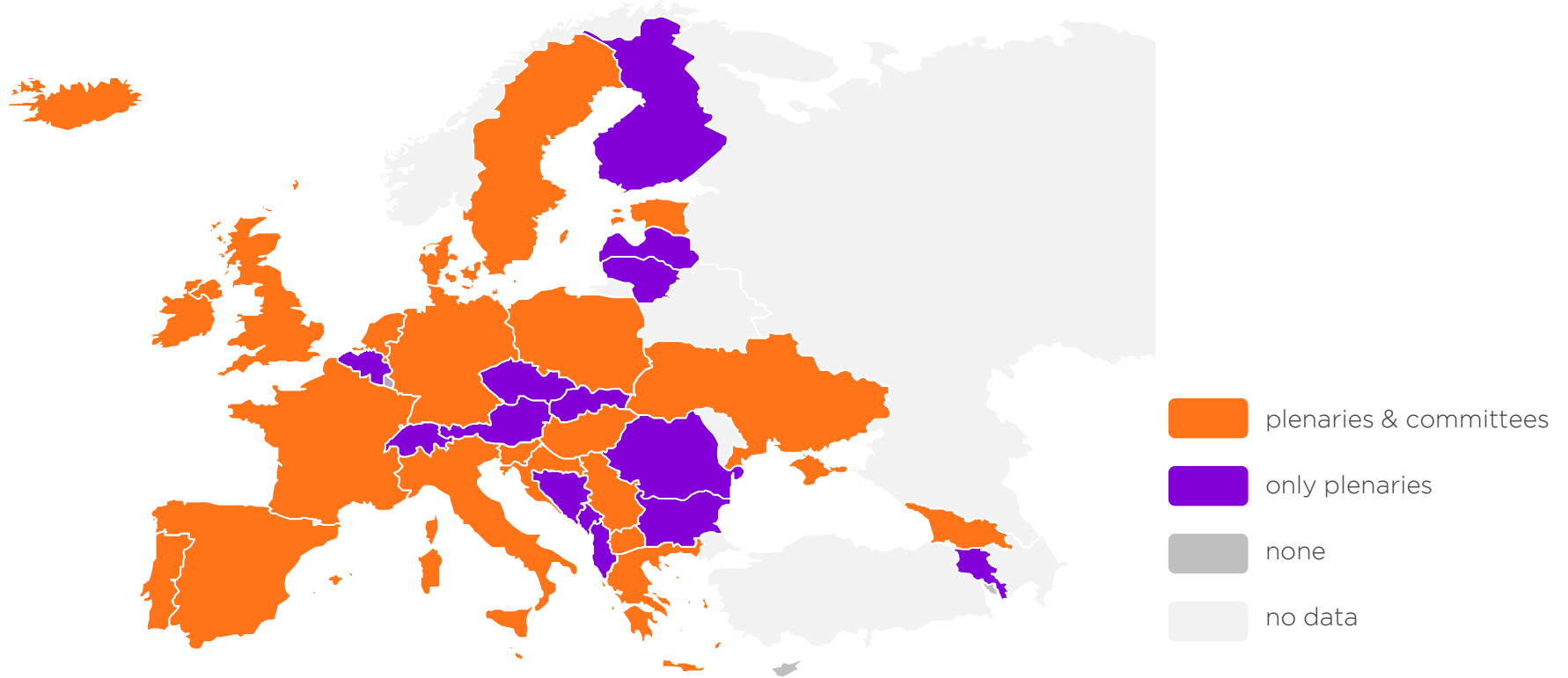


Almost all (39 out of 40) observed countries offer live web streaming of parliamentary activities. The only exception is Cyprus, where web streaming has been suspended due to technical issues. The web stream is usually available on the parliament website, or the broadcaster website (e.g. Slovenia), and in some cases on YouTube as well (Italy).

Most countries also offer online archives of previous sessions along with their livestream. Sometimes these are available via YouTube (Estonia, Montenegro) rather than the parliament website. There are no online archives available in Switzerland, FYR Macedonia, and Turkey.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

58% of observed countries broadcast and/or webcast both plenaries and committee meetings (either on TV, radio, or web)



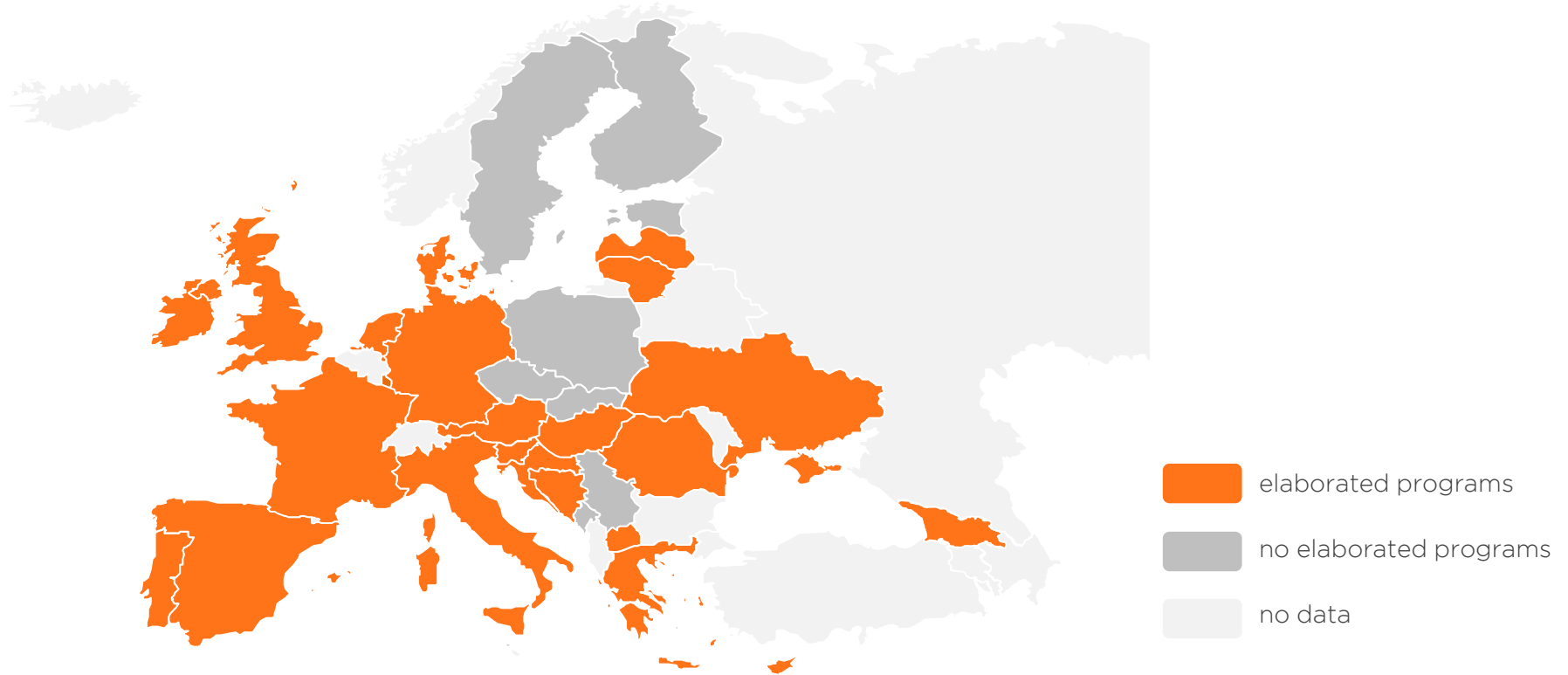
Most countries broadcast the plenary sittings, but in 23 out of the 40 observed countries, both plenaries and committee meetings are broadcast or webcast.

Depending on the country, not all committee meetings are open, and in some countries the committee itself decides whether the meeting should be broadcast or not. In some cases, for instance in Malta and Serbia, plenaries are broadcast on TV or radio, but the committee meetings and other activities are only accessible online via a web stream.



## ELABORATED PROGRAMS

In 60% of observed countries there are elaborated programs that provide background information (either on TV, radio, or web)

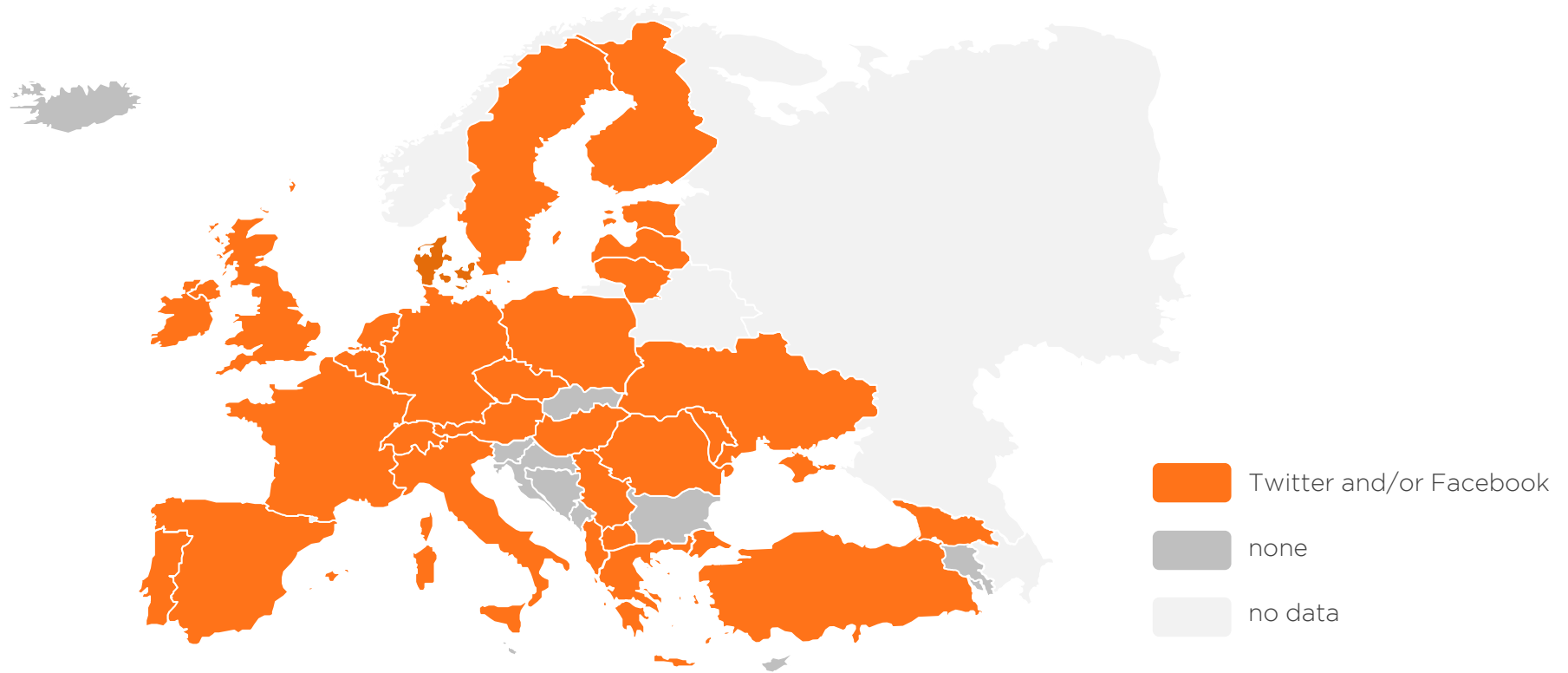


Elaborated programs provide background information on the work of the parliament, as opposed to merely providing the basic live broadcast of sittings and meetings. They can involve discussions, interviews, in-depth reportage, and are regularly broadcast (e.g. daily, weekly, biweekly). Usually where there is a dedicated service, there are also elaborated programs.

Out of the 40 observed countries, in 24 there are elaborated programs, either on TV or radio. Interestingly, in Cyprus there are no 'basic' programs, but the public broadcaster CyBC offers a weekly TV program covering parliamentary activities.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

75% of parliaments keep in touch with citizens via social media



The map shows in which countries parliaments have social media accounts that are run by professional staff, most often employees of the parliament.

Of the 40 observed, in 30 countries parliaments have either Facebook, Twitter, or both (75%). Twitter is more popular, 25 of the observed countries' parliaments use it, while 19 have a Facebook account. Other social media used by parliaments include YouTube, Flickr, Google+ and Instagram.

# EUROPEAN UNION COVERAGE

- The EU has its own parliamentary [web TV](#) called EPTV or Europarl TV. The service includes live streaming of parliamentary sessions and committee meetings, news and debate programmes, and educational videos. Subtitles are available for all videos in all of the EU's official languages.
- The coverage of European Parliament activities is usually not included in the programme of the national parliamentary services, but there are services that offer some form of coverage.
- Greece's parliamentary channel, Vouli Tileorasi (Hellenic Parliament TV), covers the European Parliament's proceedings, with a special emphasis on the activities of the Greek MEPs.



# MEDIA INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

This report has been produced by the Media Intelligence Service (MIS) at the European Broadcasting Union.

The EBU's Media Intelligence Service provides Member broadcasting organizations with the latest market data, research and analysis needed to plan their future strategies and stay ahead of the game.

Our experts cover a broad range of topics, including TV and radio trends, new media developments, market structure and concentration, funding and public policy issues.

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